

Australian Red Cross Society Wounded and Missing
Enquiry Bureau files, 1914-18 War
1DRL/0428

**2154 Private
Michael William Collins**

52nd Battalion



0771004J

52nd Battn.
A.I.F.

Collins.
M.W. 2154

"Killed 19.10.17"

My mates told me that Collins was killed outright between Hell
Fire Corner and Anzac House whilst on a fatigue, but I did not
hear if he was buried. Pte. Joe Masterton 52nd D.Coy. (Lewis Gun)
was one who told me. He is still with Coy. as far as I know.

Informant:- A. Warner 2271
52nd Battn. D.Coy.
Westham.

W.A. Rand

London.

28.2.18. Note Written Masterton 27.2.18.

P.I.

52nd Battn.
A.I.F.

Collins.
H.W. 2154

Perrin.
C. 3218

"Killed 19.10.17"

They were going along the duckboards at about 6.a.m. on Oct.19th when they were both killed outright by the same shell. I was about 8 mile away and did not see it happen. They were buried on the spot which is between Anzac Ridge and the front line (at Tokio trench) about 1/2 mile in front of Anzac House. Lieut. Mitchell of D.Coy. was present when they were killed. Both belonged to D.Coy. XIII Pltn. and were the only men of their names in the Coy. Collins was about 20 and Perrin about 30. Both medium height and colour.

Informant:- Pte.F.H.Rogers
52nd Battn. D.Coy. XIII
Wartford.

A.G.Campbell.

London.
6.3.18.

Note Written Lieut. Mitchell 6.3.18.

P.I.

52nd batt. A.I.F.

Collins, M.W. Pte. NO. 2154.

NO. 13. Plat. D. Coy.

Killed Oct 19th 1917. Det. D.B.

I saw him lying dead in front of Anzac House. Later on he was buried where he fell by a chap named Briggs. There was another chap named Perrams buried on the same spot. Collins hat and pipe was placed over the grave so as to mark the spot. I knew him well in the coy, I could not say where he came from.

Description. Height. 5-10. Complexion. Fair. Medium built.

Witness. Pte. Shardlow, F.M. NO. 3348 D. Coy. 52nd batt.

Taken at
NO. 3. C.D. Hurdcott.
II-3-18.
S.W.

S. Whitmee.
NO. 4. Command depot
Hurdcott.

Written by Briggs 19.3.18. letter returned not with 1214

Har re

12th March 1918.

52nd A.I.F.

Collins M.W. No.2154.

K. 19th Octr 1917. Det. D/B.

He was in D.Coy, came from Queensland, married. He got killed outright by a shell while on ration fatigue just going up to the front line at Passchendaele in the morning about 5.30 He was buried at the same spot and I do not think his grave was marked.

Inf:- Pte A. McKellan No.2034.
52nd A.I.F. D.Co.
No. 38 Amb.T.

RBS.

P.1

A I F. 52.

Collins, M W. 2154.

K Oct. 19/17. Det. D/B.

I was one of the party that buried him on Westhoek Ridge, about half a mile (towards the line) from Anzac House. Briggs of D Co was one of the party and he wrote to the Red Cross about it. Collins was S/B XIII at the time and had got killed going to bring a man out. He was tall, slim, dark, 26-28 and married.

Inf:- Partel 2595. XIII.

A T "Stad Antwerpen"

Calais. 8 4 18

CR

P. 1
21
3/6

52nd Battn.
A.I.F.

Collins,
M.W. 2154

"Killed in Action 19.10.17"

re Pte.M.W.Collins. The man was killed by an enemy shell on the morning of the 19.10.17 while on a fatigue party carrying up provisions to men in the front line trenches. He was buried on the field. No.2134 Pte.M.W.Collins was a dark man, clean shaven height about 5'8". Came from Bundaberg, Queensland. Was married and believe his wife is a resident of Gladstone Queensland.

Letter from:- A.Briggs 3108
D.Coy. 52nd Battn.
30.4.18.

London.
10.4.18.

P.I.

Col. W. Haine,
O.C., Salvation Army,
A.P.O. 3, B. E. F.,
FRANCE.

11th March, 1918.

Dear Sir,

In further answer to your enquiry for - 2154 Pte. H.F.

COLLIN, 52nd Battalion, A.I.F., we regret to inform you of an unofficial report given by a man of his unit when in the 3rd Australian Auxiliary Hospital, Dartford, recently. He stated that when going along the duck board about 5 a.m. on Oct. 19th, Pte. Collins, was killed instantly, his burial taking place on the spot between Anzac Ridge, and the front line about half a mile in front of Anzac House.

We are writing to Lt. Mitchell of D.Coy, who was present at the time of his casualty and as soon as further information is received we shall ad-vice you.

Yours faithfully,

W. Haine LAW

SECRETARY.

THE SALVATION ARMY
WITH THE
BRITISH EXPEDITIONARY FORCE,

11th January 1918.

ARMY POST OFFICE 3
B.E.F.

The Secretary,
Australian Red Cross Society,
36 Grosvenor Place, S.W.1.

Sir,

2154 - Pte. M.W. Collins, D. Coy.,
52nd Infantry Battalion, A.I.F.
Killed in action 19th October '17.

Would you please institute enquiries with
a view to ascertaining particulars as to how this man
met his death?

Thanking you in anticipation,

I am, Sir,

Yours faithfully,

(Signature)

O.C.

Salvation Army with B.E.F.

February 28th, 1918.

Col. William Haines,
Officer in Command,
Salvation Army, A.P.O.3,
B. E. F. FRANCE.

Dear Sir,

With reference to your enquiry for :-

2154 Pte. H.F. COLLINS, 52nd Battalion, A.I.F.

who is officially reported killed in action on 19-10-17,

we are forwarding unofficial report given by 2271 Pte.

A. Warner, of the same Battalion. He states :+ "My mates told me that Collins was killed outright between Hell Fire Corner and Anzac House whilst on a fatigue but I did not hear if he were buried."

We are doing our utmost to obtain further and more definite information concerning Pte. Collins and will advise you as soon as we succeed.

Yours faithfully,

SECRETARY.

WHR



2154
M. W. Collins
In the Field, 52nd Battalion
K. A. 19-10-17
30 191
Pl. 2.

O

3108 Pte. A. L. F.

St. George's

52nd Battalion

A. L. F.

Dear Madam

In reply to your
enquiries about Pte. M. W.
Collins No. 3154 the same
man was killed by an
enemy shell on the
morning of the 19-10-17
while on a fatigue
party carrying up
ammunition to the front.



In the Field,

191

in the front line trenches
He was buried on the
field. At 2134 P.M. W.
Ballin was a dark
man clean shaven
height about 5 ft 8 in.
came from Bundaberg
Queensland was
married and before
his wife is a resident
of Gladstone Queensland.
Yours respectfully
O. A. Knight

16th April, 1918.

Col. W. Haines,
O.C.
Salvation Army,
A.P.O. 3
B.E.F.

Dear Sir,

We beg to inform you that we have received another unofficial report respecting:

2154 Pte. M. W. Collins, 52nd Battn., A.I.F.

which differs slightly from those already sent you, although it confirms the statement as to his burial.

2595 Pte. Partel, of the same unit, who was interviewed on a hospital ship at Calais, stated that he was one of the party who buried him on Westhoek Ridge, about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile from Anzac House.

Pte. Collins was a stretcher bearer at the time, and had gone to bring out a wounded man when he was killed. Pte. Partel describes him as tall, slim, and dark, from 26 to 28 years of age.

We have also received two unofficial reports respecting:

3126 Pte. Thomas J. Dickson, 53rd Battn., A.I.F.

3247 Pte. R. Mason, of same unit, interviewed at Napsbury Hospital, states that he was killed near Polygon Wood, he, Pte. Mason and three others were together in a dug-out, upon which a

-2-

shell fell, killing Pte. Dickson instantly, and mortally wounding another. He was buried about 100 yards from where he was killed.

5655 Pte. H. Bruce, of same unit, confirms this statement. Pte. Mason adds that he had known Pte. Dickson well, as they had come together from Armidale, N.S.W.

We are continuing enquiries, and will at once advise you of any further information we may obtain.

Yours faithfully,

(Miss) *F. J. George*
SECRETARY.

M.B.

23rd March 1918

Col. William Haine.
O.C.
Salvation Army.
A.P.O.3
B.3.F.

Dear Sir,

With reference to your inquiry for 2154 Pte. M.W. Collins
52nd Batt A.I.F. we beg to inform you that we have received the
further unofficial information given by 3348 Pte. Shardlow 5th
Batt., who says:

" I saw Pte. Collins lying dead in front of Anzac House.
Later on he was buried where he fell by a chap named Briggs.
There was another chap named Perrams buried at the same spot.
Collins' hat and disc was placed over the grave, so as to
mark the spot. I knew him well in the Coy."

We shall continue our inquiries, and should we get further
details we will forward them on to you.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs Baker
SECRETARY.

Col. W. Haine,
O.C., Salvation Army,
A.P.O. 3, B.E.F.

2nd April 1918.

Dear Sir,

In further answer to your enquiry for - 2154 Pte.

M.W. COLLINS, 52nd Battalion, A.I.F., - We beg to inform
you that we have received the following unofficial information

from 2034 Pte. A. McKellan, of the same Battalion. He informs
us that Pte. Collins who was in D. Coy. was married and came from
Queensland. He was killed outright by a shell while on ration
fatigue just going up to the front line at Passchendaele about
5.30.am. and was buried at the same spot but informant does not
think the grave was marked.

We shall continue our enquiries and will send you any
information we may receive.

Trusting that it will be some consolation to his relatives
to know that his death was instantaneous.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs Baker

SECRETARY.

Col. W. Haines, O.C.
Salvation Army, .P.O. 3,

B. E. P.

12th April, 1918.

Dear Sir,

We beg to inform you that we have received another unofficial report respecting - 2154 PTE. H. W. COLLINS, 52nd Battalion, A.I.F. which confirms those already sent you. 3108 Pte. D. Briggs of same Coy states that he was killed by an enemy shell, while on a fatigue party carrying provisions to men in the trenches on 19-1-17, and was buried on the field. Pte. Briggs describes him as dark, clean shaven, and about 5'8" in height, and adds that he came from Bundaberg, Queensland.

We have now closed our enquiry, but will at once advise you if any further information is received.

Yours faithfully,

F. J. George.

SECRETARY.