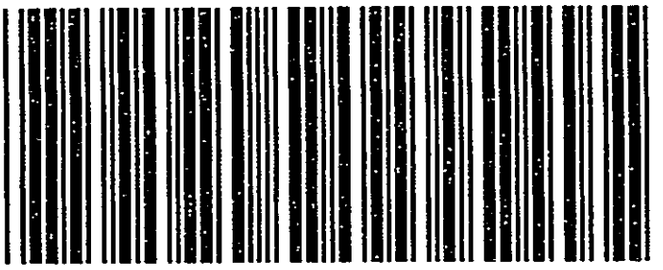
Australian Red Cross Society Wounded and Missing
Enquiry Bureau files, 1914-18 War
1DRL/0428

2581 Private
Fred Hampton

43rd Battalion



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Havre 4th October 1917

43rd AUSTRALIANS HAMPTON, F. 2581

K. 3rd July 1917 det. D/B

Hampton was in A. Company. He was a personal friend of mine and came from Belle Vue, Perth, W.A. A married man, he was a brickmaker in civil life. He was killed by a shell while on a carrying party at night behind our line ~~kyxx~~ at Gapaard. I do not know where he was buried.

Informant J. Scott 2404
44th Australians B.Co.
H.S. "Grantully Castle" Havre

RBS P

Havre 15th Oct. 1917.

43rd AUSTRALIANS HAMPTON, F. 2581

K. 3.7.17. Det. D/B.

He was killed with a shell while on a fatigue party at night time just behind the supports at Messines. His body was buried but I do not know exactly where. He came from West Australia, and was a married man, either one or two children. He was in A Co.

Informant; Pte. J.W. Martin, 2367
43rd Australians, A Co.,
H. S. Panama.

P

NBS

A. I. F. 43. HAMPTON, F. 2581.

K. July 3rd, 1917.

He was killed in our section N.W. of Warneton on July 3rd. His body is buried at a spot 1 mile S.E. of Messines Village.

SA.

Cert. by Adj. 43rd Bn.
Avroult. 7.11.17.

P

Etaples
8.11.17.

FRANCE

43rd. BATT. A.I.F. HAMPTON. F. 2581.

K.July 3rd.1917. Det.

He comes from Western Australia and came out with the 5th reinforcements. He was in A.Coy. He was one of a working party behind the support line to the right of Messines carrying wire and sand-bags etc, when Fritz put over a fairly heavy bombardment. He was struck by a piece of shell which carried away the lower part of his face. He lived only a few minutes. I was close to him at the time and saw it happen. I can't tell you where he was buried.

WSI

Ref ---Pte R.Errington. 2439.
No 3 Gen. Hospital

Le Treport. Nov 9th.1917 P

43rd A.I.F. Fred. HAMPTON, 2581.

K. 3.7.17. Det. D & B.

Hampton was killed at Warneton when digging in. Cpl. Lee of the 43rd Bn., 11th Training Battn. in England, was with him at the time and can give full information. Cpl. Frank Rowan, same address as Lee, was also with him at the time.

Reference: Pte. Hodgson, 2661. D Co.

No.6 General, Rouen. 9.11.17.

ABC.

P

written Lee & Rowan
20.11.17

Havre 16th November.1917.

43rd AUSTRALIANS HAMPTON, F. 2581

K. July 3rd.1917. Det. D/B.

He came from Western Australia. He came over in the 5th to 43rd reinforcement. He was short, stout, dark and about 33 or so years of age. He was killed on a working party in supports on the right of Messines, about 3rd July. I was on the same working party. The chaps alongside him told me he was killed; a shell blew away the lower part of his face. He only lived a couple of minutes. A party was sent out to bury him. Nine were killed on the same working party that night. Some were carried down to a Cemetery behind supports, and some were buried where they were killed.

Informant: R. Errington, 2439
43rd Australians, A.Co., III.Pltn.
Australian Camp, Rouelles.

GLT.

P
Cd
Suff

43rd. Battn.
A.I.F.

HAMPTON
F. 2562.

Killed 3/7/17.

He was on a carrying party to the front line trench was hit by a shell and knocked unconscious he was taken to a dressing station where he died about 30 minutes after. It was at Hessines where he was hit. I saw him on his way to the advance dressing station. I do not know where he was buried. He was short, medium build and fair. He was English.

Inf: L.Cpl. R.W. Masters, 2437.
C.Coy. 43rd. Batt. A.I.F.
France.

War Chest.

F.Mackay.
London.
22.11.17.

P.

43rd Battn.
A.I.F.

HAMPTON.
Pte.F. 2581.

"KILLED IN ACTION 8.7.17."

Well I am sorry I cant' give you any tidings of him, I am doubtful wether I have ever heard of him before, but I made enquiries from others in my Battn that are here, some of them knew him but knew nothing of his death. One of them told me that a chap named Martin of the 43rd Battn.A.Coy might enlighten me about him, but he is at Hurdcott some-where and will not be here for some weeks yet, I shall ask him as soon as he gets here and let you know.

Letter From. Cpl.F.Lee.
A. Coy.2.O.T.B.
Sand hill Camp
Longbridge Deverell.
Warminster.

Note;- We regret the delay in tying the about reports, but we have been obliged to hold it up on accou t of pressure of work and shortage of machines.,

London.
26.2.18.

P.

6/43rd Battn.
A.I.F.

HAMPTON.
F. 2581.

"KILLED IN ACTION" 3.7.17.

Re 2581. Pte. Fred Hampton.43rd Battalion A.I.F. reported killed in action 3/7/17. Well first of all I am not too sure of the date above because I was under the impression that he met his death in the Battle of Messines, which took place early in June. Still I may be wrong. and our battalion were in the lines on 3/7/17 in front of Warneton therefore it is quite possible that I am wrong in my estimation of this date of his death . The fellow I am referring to, was from the state of Western Australia. and as to whether he was buried on the field or in a military cemetery I cannot say for certain. but it is nearly certain that he would be buried on the field, because in engagements like those referred to, it's quite impossible to get the bodies back to the cemeteries and in most cases where it is done the graves are unrecognisable owing to the damage caused by shell behind the lines.,

Letter from;- Cpl. Rowan. G. 373,
43. Battn. C. Coy.
10th Training Btt.
Wilts.

Note;- We regret the delay in typing the above report, but wehave been obliged to hold it up on account of pressure of work and shortage of machines.,

P.

London,
11.3.18.

Ack. F.M. 27/11/17 2581

F. HAMPTON
5/43 Batt
KA. 3.7.17
P. 3 (cd)

Reply to 573 Cpl. F. Rowan
43rd Battalion
C Company
10th Training Battn
Sutton & Tanderville
Wilts

Dear Madam

25/11/17

In answer to yours of the 20/11/17 asking information concerning 2581 Pte Fred Hampton 43rd Batt. A.I.F. reported killed in action 3/7/17.

Well first of all I am not too sure as to the date above Because I was under the impression that he met his death in the Battle of Messines which took place early in June. Still I may be wrong. And our Battalion were in the lines on the 3/7/17 in front of Warneton, therefore it is quite possible that I am wrong in my estimation of the date of his death. The fellow I am referring to, was from the state of Western Australia, And as to whether he was buried on the field of in a Military Cemetry I cannot say for certain, But its nearly certain that he would be buried on the field, Because in engagements like those referred to. Its quite impossible to get the bodies back to the cemetrys And in most cases where it is done, the graves are unreconiseable, owing to the damage caused by shell fire behind the lines. To expressing sorrow at not being able to furnish you more definate information I will close Yours truly Cpl. F. Rowan

Ack
F.M. 26.12.17

2581 Pte F. HAMPTON 43 Batt
K/A 3.7.17
P
3

Name of Unit Cpl F Lee.
Camp A Coy No 2 6 F B
Address Land Hill Camp
Date Longlands Dunrell
Warminster

Dear Miss Deakin 21.12.17

I have received a letter from you this week for information of 2581 Pte Fred Hampton, of the 43 Battalion Killed in action 3-7-17.

Well I am sorry I cant give you any tidings of him, I am doubtful whether I ever heard of him before.
But I made enquiries from others in my Batt that's here some of them knew him but knew nothing of his death.
But one of them told me that a chap named Barton of the 43 Thos. A Coy, might enlighten me about him.
But he is at Hurdcott some where I shant be here for some weeks yet but I shall ask him as soon as he gets here & let you know, I remain Yours F. Lee,

G C

December 26th, 1917.

Cpl. J. Lee,
4Srd Battn, A.Coy,
No 6 Train.Bttn, Sandhill Camp,
Longbridge, Deverill, Warminster.

Dear Cpl. Lee,

Very many thanks for your letter in answer to our enquiry concerning

No 2561 T. HAMPTON, 4Srd Battalion, A.I.F.

We wrote you because a man of your unit told one of our Red Cross Searchers in French Hospitals that you were with Hampton at Warneton when he was killed; and we were anxious to obtain for the relatives some details that would be of value to them coming from an eyewitness.

Evidently our informant was mistaken, but we thank you for the trouble you have taken to obtain information for us.

With all good wishes for luck in the New Year.

Yours faithfully,

V. D

SECRETARY.