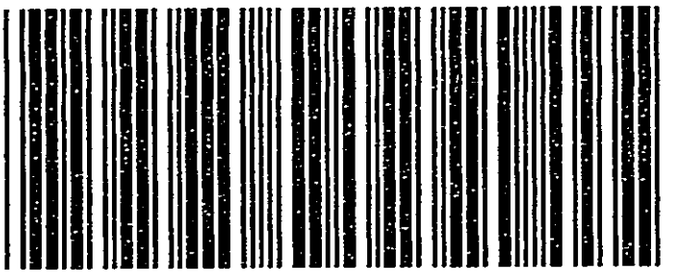
Australian Red Cross Society Wounded and Missing
Enquiry Bureau files, 1914-18 War
1DRL/0428

6426 Lance Corporal Norman Sherman Walter Gale

18th Battalion



1130215D

18th. Battn.
A.I.F. D/y

GALE
N.S.W. 6426.

Killed 20.9.17.

I saw him killed at Anzac House, just on the left of Menin Road. He was hit with shell fragments about the head, and killed instantly. I knew him very well, he came from Sydney, and was a married man who had re-enlisted. I do not know place of burial, and I cannot refer to anyone for details, but we held the ground, and he was sure to have been buried near place of casualty.

Inf: Pte. V. Lee, 4175.
18th. Battn. D.Coy. 13th.Pltn.
3 A.A.Hosp.
Dartford.

W.Oman.
London.
5.1.18.

S.

Havre

18th A.I.F.

12th January 1918.

Gale, E.S.W. No.6426.

K. 20th Septr 1917. Det D/B.
Randall F.B. No. 1267
K. 3rd May 1917. Det D/B.

Gale came from Mosman, Sydney. He was in the campaign in New Guinea in the A.E.C.

I knew Private Randall in D.Co. XIV Pltn - his number was 1267 A - He came from Condoblin, I think, N.S.Wales. His people are farmers.

These two were killed by a shell as they were moving up to Westhoek Ridge on September 19-20 on the Warneton Road - the whole section, Rifle Grenadiers, was blown up - they were all killed outright. I was attached to the Engineers at the time but was told it when I got back. Lieut. Satchell of the 18th A.I.F. blinded on the 28th September last, and who was then Sergeant of our platoon, told us about it. Another killed was Bradford.

Inf:- Pte S. Ibbotson No.6102.
18th A.I.F. D.Co. XV Pltn.
Australian Camp.
Rouelles.

GLT.

Lieut. E.W. Satchell - 16 Batt'n -
3 L.C.H. 1-11-17.
Wrote Lr Satchell.
11-2-18

A.I.F. 18. GALE, Sgt N.S.W. 6426.

K. Sept 20th 1917. Dets.

I knew Gale who came over with me in the S.S. "Servia". He was in D.Co and I was in A. On Sept 20th his company went over for an attack on the German front line trench. I was not in the stunt myself but Pte McQuean, who was in his platoon and saw him killed, would be able to give details of his death and burial.

Inf: O.Walker. 6605. A.III.
No. 7 Stat Hosp.
BOULOGNE. 13.2.18.

HH

S

Letter returned "not with battalion"

Written McQuean 26.2.18

18th Battn.
A.I.F.

Gale.
Sgt. N.S.W. 6426

"Killed in Action 20.9.17"

re 6426 Sgt.Gale. I knew himwith the battalion, he was L/Cpl.Gale coming over with the 19th Rfts. & and as joining the battalion reverted to L/Cpl. I only know he was killed but cannot make any statement re his death. Both he and Pte.Randall 1267 were fine fellows and the type of men we were always proud to have as reinforcement to our battalion.

Letter from:- W. JATEHELL
Lieut.E. ~~Macneil~~
No.2 Officers Mess,
No.1 Command Depot.
Sutton Veny.
13.2.19. S.

London.
19.2.18.

18th Infantry A.I.F.

Gale. Sgt. N.S.W. 6426.

(K. Sept. 20/17.)
Det. D/B.

"At Polygon Wood, Ypres on Sept. 20th, we had taken our objective and were consolidating. Gale was a couple of bays away from me. I saw him hit, sniped through the head and at the same moment another man said "Norman is hit". We had to come out of the line next night, but he is certain to have been buried. Gale was a L/Cpl. at the time of his death, and he belonged to D Coy. XV Pltn."

Eyewitness: Yes.

Description: Dark, medium height, young, first time in line.

Informant: Pte. J.C. Hurstwaite 4305.
18th Infantry A.I.F. D Coy. XV Pl.
5th Southern General Hospital,
Milton Section, Portsmouth.

Home address:
Callins Avenue,
Rose Bay,
Sydney.

3/5/18.
E.C.Hughes.

A.I.F.
18th Battn.

GALE, N.S.W.
6426. Sergt.

KILLED. 20/9/17.

I knew Gale - he was a L/Corporal in D. Co., 14th Platoon, but was with us on 20/9/17 at Polygon Wood. He was short and thickset, and came I think from near Mosman, and left Sydney as a Sergeant. He had returned from Rabaul as a Sergeant.

He was killed on the night of 20/9/17, at Polygon Wood by a piece of shell, which pierced his steel helmet. I ran over to his shell-hole and found him dead. He died instantly, shot through the brain without suffering. We held this position, and he would be buried later by the Pioneers.

INFORMANT:- PTE. V. LEE, 4175,
18th Battn., D. Co., 13th Pltn.,
No.4 Aust.General Hospital,
RANDWICK.

H.S.O.
28/5/18.

Private address:-

77 Bridge Road,
GLEBE.

Sydney Bureau.

18th Battn.
A.I.F.

GALE
Sgt. N.S.W.6426

"Killed 20.9.17. D/B"

Was in D. Coy, called "Norman". He was killed by shell. We were carrying down stretcher cases, and saw his body lying there, as we were passing. We went back later to get his body, but it was not there. He must have either been blown up again, or someone else buried him. He was killed at Passchendaele between Anzac House and Sunken Road on Sept. 20th.

Informant:- W. Gibbons, 1934,
18th Battn.
Harefield.

W.G.J.

London.
5.2.18.

S.

18th A.I.F

Gale Sgt. N.S.W. 6426

(K. Sep 20/17)
Det D & B.

"Gale was killed at Ypry on 20th Sept., by a shell wound on side of neck. He was buried by L/Cpl. White at "Anzac House".

Eye-witness: No.. Told by:- Sgt. Starr.

Description: Fair; medium build.

Informant: Pte. Roy Thompson. 5671.
18 A.I.F. D Coy., 16 Pl.,
Graylingwell Hospital.
Chichester.

Home address:- c/o Mrs. E. Thompson.
234 West Street.
North Sydney.

8 June.
E.H. Lauder.

A I F. 18. Gale,SergtN S W. 6426.

K Sept.20/17. Det.D/B.

He was Serg.on the draft but L/C when he went into action When we went over at Anzac House I passed what was left of his body. He had got a good way over. We did not know for certain at the time that it was him but a man (?) Bte.Aken(not Akin in ~~th~~ the list) got his watch and papers and they were handed into the orderly room. We were brought out the following morning.

I came over with him and the two platoons ~~were always~~ -- XIII & XIV were always together. He was about 22-24. XIV.

Inf:- Hawley. 6430 XIII.
A T '?' to England.
Calais. 27 3 18. CR

written Aken
8.4.18

18th BATTALION. A.I.F.

GALE.
Sergeant N.S.W. 6426

"KILLED. 20.9.17."

Informant described Gale as about 5 feet 7 inches high, medium build, dark complexion, aged about 21. He came from Mosman.

Informant states that they both belonged to "D" Company, No.14 Platoon. On the night of 19.9.17 the Battalion was moving up into the line at Larrington, Ypres Sector, preparatory to hopping over next morning. At about 11 p.m. as they were marching along in files and sections a shell came over, went into the ground, and then exploded, hitting the members of the Section, to which Gale belonged. Informant was just behind and saw the whole occurrence, but as it was dark was unable to distinguish the men. He knew, however, that it was the Section to which Gale belonged. The same shell killed three other members of the Section, viz: Randall (No.1257a), Mainstone (No.6364) and Bradford (No.1620). Informant had to continue marching on, and does not know where they were buried.

According to Informant Gale was well liked by his mates.

INFORMANT:- Private S. Ibbotson, 6102,
"D" Coy, 18th Battalion, A.I.F.

Home address; 599 Bourke Street, SYDNEY.

W.M.S.
No.4 Australian Gen. Hospital, RANDWICK.
3.7.18.

SYDNEY BUREAU.

6426

Sgt H.S.W. Gale

18 Bltn

See Leader

1267 J.B. Randall

18 Bltn

Lt E.W.Satchell
18th Battalion A.I.F.
3rd London General Hospital
Wandsworth

11:2:18

Dear Sir,

We have been making enquiries on behalf of our Sydney Bureau concerning:-

6426 Sgt H.S.W.Gale

And 1267 Pte F.E.Randall

both of your unit; & have been told as you were with these two soldiers when they met their death, you could perhaps give us some information about how it occurred, & when they were buried; we are always very anxious to know if the graves are registered ones. If you can give us a few details & a short personal description of these men we shall be very grateful to you.

We regret to learn that you are in hospital & trust that you are making good recovery.

Yours faithfully

Secretary

OS

Lt.H.Mitchell,
18th Battn, A.I.F.,
No 2 Officers Mess,
No 1 Command Depot,
Sutton Veny, Wilts.

February 20th, 1918.

Dear Sir,

We beg to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of your letter about the deaths of

6426 Sgt.H.S.W.Gale, 18th Battalion, and 1267 Pte.F.B.Randall, 18th Battalion.

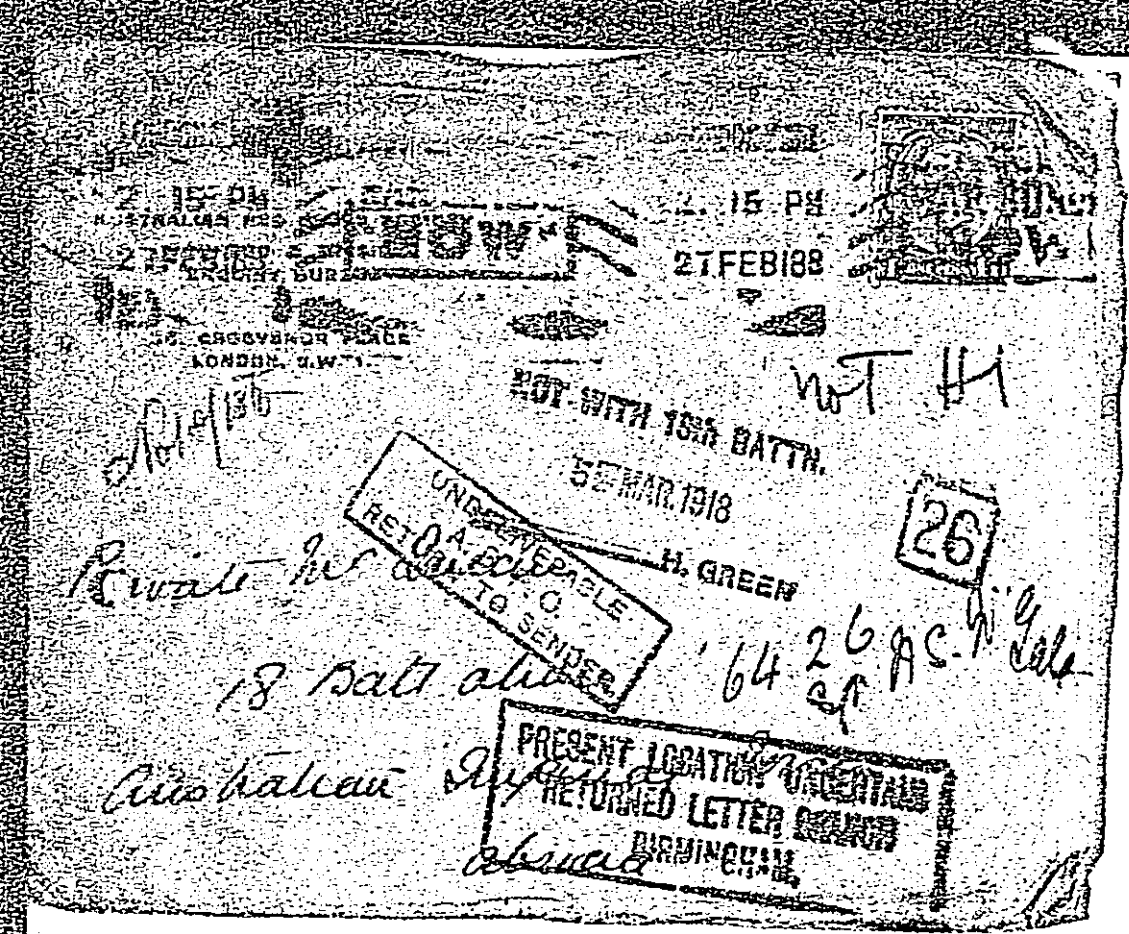
The information you have sent will be very useful to us, and we are much obliged to you for it.

Again thanking you.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs St Gore

SECRETARY.


27 FEB 1918
LONDON, S.W.
H. GREEN
PRESENT LOCATION UNCERTAIN
RETURNED LETTER BUREAU
BIRMINGHAM

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY
(WOUNDED AND MISSING INQUIRY BUREAU).
~~54, VICTORIA STREET,~~
36, GROSVENOR PLACE, LONDON, S.W. 1.

Telephones:
VICTORIA 8576 8577 8578

Telegraphic Address:
"QUESTION, SINDON."

Pte. H.C. Linan 26.2.18
18th A.I.F.
Gabroad.

We are making enquiries for a man of your unit
6426 Sgt. N.S.W. Pals 18 A.I.F. reported
Killed in action 20.9.17.
and have been told that you may be able to help us by supplying some information.

We should be most grateful for any details you can send us concerning Sgt. Pals but our enquirers wish especially to know whether he was buried, if so, whether it was on the field or in a soldiers' cemetery where the grave would be registered. We should also be glad if you could add a short description of his personal appearance or any points that might help us to prove his identity.

Yours faithfully,

(Miss) Vera Deakin.

Secretary.

NOTE In your reply kindly quote name, initials and number of casualty enquired for, as without these particulars delay and confusion is caused in identification of this soldier about whom you are writing.

Pte McQUEAN
18 A. I. F.
abroad

about
6426.

Sgt. N. S. W. GALE
18 A. I. F.
K 20.9.17.
Enr.
26.2.18

Pl. ANEW 9 P.

18 A. I. F.

B.9.7.

about

6426

Sgt. N.S.W. BALE

18 A.I.F.

1920-9-17.

Enl.

8.4.16