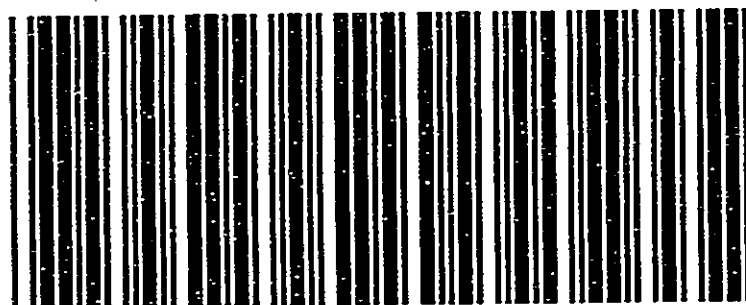


Australian Red Cross Society Wounded and Missing
Enquiry Bureau files, 1914-18 War
1DRL/0428

**3777 Private
Verner Murray Ellis**

55th Battalion



1010512A

A.I.F. 55th Battn.

ELLIS
V.M. 3777.

"Killed 2.9.18."

Of C. Company. On the 2nd September at Peronne, during our attack, was killed outright by machine gun bullet, hit through forehead. I did not see it happen. 3 or 4 men out of our Company told me particulars. Know nothing of burial. Came from Country District, New South Wales.

Informant:- Pte. J.S. Franklin, 3602,
55th Battn. C. Coy,
Anzac Buffet.

A.D.G.
London
19.12.18.
E.G.

S.

Havre

Australians. 55.

16th Decr 1918.

Ellis V.M. No. 3777.

K. 2nd Sepr 1918. Det D/B.

I saw him killed by a bullet through the head at Peronne.
He died in the trench. I can't say where he was buried. He came
from N.S.Wales.

Inf:- Sergt J.W.Dent No. 3599.
A.I.F. 55. C. IX.
Austra. Conv. Depot.

CRR.

S
PP.

A.I.F. 55th Battn.

ELLIS
V.M.3777

"Killed 2.9.18"

55 - C - 10 - 5/8 fair, 24. At Peronne on 2/9/18 at 8 a.m. in the attack he was killed instantly by Machine Gun fire. He was buried in Herbecourt Military Cemetery near Peronne. And a cross was erected.

Informant:- W. Garney 1628,

NOTE:- M.H.Cant 2133 gave similar evidence of the casualty and burial.

London
26.3.19
JEA

2

A.I.F. 55th Btn

ELLIS
Verner Murray 3777

"Details: D/Burial"

Killed in action 2-9-18 - buried Herbecourt Com: Gem: Ext: 4 $\frac{1}{4}$
miles West of Peronne D.G.R.E. L.S. 5.2950
Cert. by A.I.F.Hqrs 26-3-19.

London
27-3-19

P.I.

S.

65th Btn.

ELLIS.
V.M. 3777.

Killed 2.9.18.

55th Btn. C.Coy. 5/8 in height, fair, aged 24 yrs. I do not know from what state he came. At Peronne on Sept. 2/18 at 8 a.m. in the attack Ellis was killed instantly by machine gun fire. He was buried in Herbecourt. Mil. Cemetery behind Peronne. The Btn. Cross was erected.

Informant:- S/B. F.G. Hobbs. 3410.

55th Btn. C.Coy.

A.I.P. Sanfin. 8.3.19.

W.H.K.
London.
31.5.19.
J.P.A.

S.

5TH BATTALION A.I.F.
C. Company.

ELLIS V. M. Private...
No. 3777.

Killed 2/9/18.

Informant described Ellis as about 5 feet 7/8 inches high, stout build, reddish complexion, aged about 19/20.

Informant states that they both belonged to C. Company No. 10 Platoon. On 2/9/18 the Battalion was in Action at Peronne. They hopped over at 7 a.m. About an hour afterwards while they were still advancing, Ellis was badly wounded, probably by machine gun fire and died less than an hour afterwards being unconscious the whole time. Informant saw him lying dead on the ground at about the expiration of that time when he was coming out wounded. He was subsequently told that Ellis was brought in that night and buried, but could not say where.

According to Informant Ellis was a well liked chap.

Informant:- Private A. E. Rooney, 1171,
C. Company.

Home address:- Post Office Villa, Marabou River, N.S.W.

A.E.C.

No. 4 Australian General Hospital, BANBICK,
18/2/19.

ROONEY BUREAU.

S

P.1

3/1/19

W. H. C. P.

55th BATTALION, A.I.F.
"C" Company.

ELLIS, Private
V.M. No. 3777.

"Killed 2-9-1918".

Informant described Ellis as about 5ft.8" high, fairly heavy build, fair complexion, aged 20/25, was a farmer in civil life. Informant states that they both belonged to "C" Coy.

On 2-9-18 the Battalion was in action at Peronne. They hopped over at 6 a.m. and about 1/2 an hour afterwards, before the objective was reached, Ellis was killed outright by machine gun fire. Although Informant was only 20 or 30 yards away he did not see Ellis hit. Informant was wounded about 1/2 of an hour later, and on his way back saw Ellis lying dead on the ground where he fell. He was told that Ellis was buried near to where he was killed.

According to Informant Ellis was a good lad and well thought of by his mates.

Informant:- No. 3602, Private J. Franklin, 55th Battalion.

Private address:- 119 Denison St., CAMPERDOWN.

W.E.G.

Anzac Buffet, Sydney.
16/5/1919.

SYDNEY BUREAU.

✓
S. P. 1
e. 2. 5. 11

**NAVAL AND MILITARY HOMES
AND HUTS**

94, 96, 98 Victoria Road, Aldershot
Camps: S.A. Hut, Gun Hill, Aldershot
S.A. Hut, Martinique Barracks, Bordon,
Hants.
Brook, Chatham—Tel. 549
11 and 12 Catherine Street, Devonport. Tel. 293
132 Snargate Street, Dover
32 Queen Street, Portsea, Portsmouth
Tel. 125
27 Church Street, Harwich
Governor Street, Gibraltar
12 Piazza Maggiore, Floriana, Malta
Calcutta and Bombay

NAVAL AND MERCANTILE HOMES

West Indies: Trinidad
S. America: Buenos Ayres, Bahia Blanca
Monte Video, Ensenada

Founder: WILLIAM BOOTH



W. BRAMWELL BOOTH,
General

EDWARD J. HIGGINS,
Commissioner

THE SALVATION ARMY

Naval and Military League

INTERNATIONAL HEADQUARTERS,
101 QUEEN VICTORIA STREET,
LONDON, E.C. 4

Thursday.
20th March 1919.

Ans 25.3.19.

Dear Sir:-

RE:- 3777. Pte. W.M. Ellis.
C. Coy. 55th Batt: A.I.F.
Killed 2nd Sept: 1918.

Will you kindly make some enquiries for news
of the death of the above soldier, or some particulars
of his burial.

Thanking you in anticipation,
Yours faithfully,

MARY MURRAY,

Lt. Colonel.

TO:- The Secretary.
The Australian Red Cross Society.
36, Grosvenor Place,
S.W.

Lt. Col. Mary Murray.
Naval & Military League
Salvation Army.
101 Queen Victoria St.
E.C.4.

March 25th, 1919.

Dear Madam.

With reference to your letter of 20th March 1919 enquiring for 3777 Pte. V. M. ELLIS, 55th Battalion. A.I.F. We beg to inform you that we have an unofficial report concerning him from 3602 Pte. J. S. Franklin of the same Unit who states that Pte. Ellis was killed instantly by a machine gun bullet through the forehead during the attack at Peronne on 2nd Sept. 1918. This report is confirmed by 3599 Sgt. J. W. Dant, but neither informants could give us any information about Pte. Ellis' burial.

We have placed his name on our enquiry list, and will immediately advise you of any further details which may reach us.

Yours faithfully,

(Miss) *h. Griffiths*

SECRETARY. —

Lt.Col. Mary Murray
Naval & Military League.
101 Queen Victoria St.
E.C.4.

May 9th, 1919.

Dear Madam.

With reference to your enquiry for 3777 Pte.

VERNER MURRAY ELLIS. 55th Battalion. A.I.F. We beg to inform you that he is officially reported to have been buried at Herbecourt Com.Cem. Extension $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles west of Peronne, the map reference being D.G.R.F.L.S.5. 2950. We have also received an unofficial report concerning his death from 1171 Pte. A.E. MACKNEY of the same Unit who has now returned to Australia., and who states that Pte. Ellis was severely wounded at Peronne on 2.9.18 by machine gun fire, in the early morning. He never regained consciousness and died on the field about an hour after the advance. The informant says that Pte. Ellis was very well liked in the regiment.

We fear there is little chance of our obtaining further details, so we are now closing our enquiries.

Yours faithfully,

(Miss)

SECRETARY. *G. R. G.*