

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

1076 Private
Joseph Henry Burns

19th Battalion



0641203G

Red.

A.I.F. 19.

Burns J.H. 1076.

Unoff. R. 18.12.15.

I know Burns, he was in the original Bn. and was in C.Co. His initial was J. and his number about 1076. I saw him a few days ago in the 5th. Training Bn. at Belleston Camp, Salisbury, England. He was then quite all right. He had been rejected from the 19th. Bn. last Mar. owing to being deaf, but rejoined in Egypt about April in the 5th. Training Bn. and has been with it ever since. He is about 5 ft. 7 in. inclined to be dark, very slim build and came from Surrey Hills Sydney. He was slightly wounded in the head in Sept. 1915, but did not leave the Peninsula. He is about 25 or 27.

H30.

Reference: L.P. Falls. 850. C.Co.
Confirmed by: F. Baldern. 1701. C.Co.
2 A.D.B.D.

Staples. 12th. Aug. 1916.

S
C

A.I.F. 19th Bn

BUKNS
Joseph Henry 1076

"MISSING"

Trace in Germany
Cert. by Capt. Mills 10-10-19.

S

London
15-10-19

A.I.F. 19th Btn.

BURNS.
Joseph Henry. 1076.

Killed in Action. 14.11.16

No burial report.

Cert by A.I.F. Hdqrs List of verification for Capt. Mills.

NAME

UNIT

GRADE

DATE OF SERVICE

London.
19.9.19.

VERIFICATION LIST

8.

OFFICER

A.I.F. 19.

REP.

BURNS J.H. 1076.

Unoff N. 18.12. 1915.

I saw Burns a month ago, in the camp at Salisbury Plains; when I was on leave in England. He was then all right, except that he was deaf. He was with us at Messena Egypt, and was sent from there as unfit, on account of deafness. I know him quite well. He comes from Curry Hills Sydney, N.S.W.

reference: L/Cpl. E.B. Dickson, 8.8, C.Coy 19. Batt

No 2 A.D.C. Staples. ~~XXXXXXXX~~

19.6.1916.

SA.

5.

19th A.I.F

Med Cas

Burns Pte. J.F. 1076.

(Unoff. V. Dec. 18/'15)

Informant states that in March 1916 in Egypt, Burns left the Battalion and talked ~~of~~ getting his discharge.

Reference: Pte. Atkin 2103,
19th A.I.F.,
Northants War Hospt.,
Duston.

Aug. 22nd 1916,
W.N. Dawson.

Med. Reg.
France.

A.I.F. 19. B.

BURNS, J.H. 1076.

Unoff.M.Dac. 18 1915.

Informant gave initials correct. 5ft 10ins, dark, clean shaven, very bony thin man. At Walkers Ridge near Anzac Beach during a charge, Burns and informant both got wounded. Burns not very badly wounded in the shoulder. Both came back together on H.S. Mauritania to Southampton, England. Both sent to 3 Southern General Hospital, Oxford. When well, both went on furlough to London. Informant last saw Burns three or four months ago at Montyvidor Camp, Weymouth. Informant went back to rejoin his Unit, and Burns was left at Weymouth. Informant is almost sure that Burns rejoined his Unit later at Etaples.

Informant: J.Hagan.1920. 18. A.I.F.
No. 8 Stationary Hospital.
BOULOGNE. Aug.29/16.

JND

A.I.F. 19th Battn

BURNS
J.H. 1076

"MISSING"

Missing 14-11-16

Cert. by A.I.F. Headquarters List 22-12-16 & 1-3-17

London
9-3-17

OO

19th A.I.F.

Burns J.H. 1076,

(M. Nov. 14th 1916)

Informant states one of the boys told me that the body of Pte. Burns 19 C. XIII (?) was found this Spring, 129 were found and buried. He was killed at Flers on Nov. 14th 1916. We took our line of trenches and held it. This is probably correct. He rejoined us at Ypres after being away either sick or wounded."

Eye-witness: No, but he was there, was told by one of the Batt.

Description: Slightly deaf, we called him "Deafie Burns".

Informant: Pte. G. Bishop 1078,
19th Australian Imperial Force, C. Coy., IX P.
3rd Southern General Hospt.,

Home address: Oxford.
Regimental address only.

April 25th 1917,
J.M. Payne.

A.I.F. 19

BURNS, J.H. 1076

M. November 14th 1916.

I knew a private J.H. Burns who was in my company, and had known him two or three months. He was of medium height, rather stout, fair, aged about 30, and came from North Sydney. I saw this man last at the end of January at Victoria Station. We had a drink together, and he was then all right.

Informant: Pte H. Miller. 6105. B.8.
No. 3 Gun. Gen. Hospital.
BOULOGNE. 4.5.17.

RHL.

not sent on

A.I.F. 19

BURNS, J.H. 1076

M. Nov.14th 1916.

He was missing at Flers during a charge, and we gained our objective, but thirty six hours later we were forced to retire. I was told by Pte Hancox, 875, 19th Battn. C.Coy, that he saw the body of J.H.Burns and he stated that it was consequently buried. Pte Hancox is still with the battalion.

Informant: Cpl. Saltern. 1761
No.8 Stat.

BOULOGNE. 5.5.17.

*written by Hancox
15-5-17*

FD

A. I. F. 19.

BURNS, J.H. 1078.

M. November 14th, 1916.

His body was found in March of this year lying in a shell hole near Guendecourt. I am certain of this since his name came through records to that effect. I saw the records. The effects were recovered from his body and it was buried somewhere near where it lay. L/Cpl. H. Soper, XII pl. C.Coy. saw the body and spoke to me about it. Burns came from Harrickville, Sydney. He was very deaf. He belonged to XII pl.

SA.

Reference:- Sgt. W. Huxley. 2504. C.Coy.
No. 51 Gen. Hosp.

Etaples
9.5.17.

Written L/Cpl Soper 22.5.17

19th Battalion.
A. I. F.

Burns.
J. H. 1076.

"Missing 14.11.16."

L/Cpl. Soper when on leave in London called in to answer our enquiry concerning the above soldier. He regretted he could not give any but hearsay evidence, as he was absent from the Battalion and had only been told by others of the finding of Pte. Burns' body. He did not know any ~~one~~ were of the burial party, but believed about 70 of the Battalion were buried at that time and thought the graves would be merely shell holes. He had known Pte. Burns from enlistment only, and did not know his people or anything of his civil life. He was very deaf and had been for some months at Weymouth for treatment, but was no better on rejoining the Battalion.

Informant:- L/Cpl. H. A. Soper 2474.
19th Battn. A.I.F.
29.6.17.

London.
10.7.17.

S.

19th Battn.
A. I. F.

Burns.
Pte. J. H. 1076.

"Missing 14.11.16."

I was not with the Battalion on 14th Nov. but knew Burns and was told on my return he was missing. When Fritz evacuated the Butte a 4th Battalion man (name unknown) brought me a photograph which he had found on a body on the German side of Gurd Trench near Butte de Warlencourt. I went back with him and saw the body which was badly mutilated and quite unrecognisable. In a pocket was a packet of letters (which I think the 4th Battalion man destroyed) and it was from amongst these the photo was taken. This is a copy of same photo given me by the other man in the photo, J. Clark, C. Coy. XII Platoon who is standing beside Burns who is sitting down. They were both in XII Platoon with me. I was to be in XII but was not in XI. The body was buried by a fatigue party with about 50 others where they lay. I do not know if the graves were marked. We looked for numerous men and officers who were thought to be there, but could find no satisfactory identification for any others. Possibly the Clark in the photo is the J. C. Clark 4678 in your book his no. 3.5.17. I value the photograph very much and am sending it to Sydney to identify Burns - but I wish it sent on to Mrs. Skinner, Vista Street, Mosman, Sydney - to keep for me, unless Burns' people

19th Battn.
A. I. F.

-2-

Burns.
Pte. J.H. 1076.

particularly wish to keep it. I do not know what became of the copy the 4th Battalion man found.

Informant:-

875 Pte. H. E. Hancock.
C. Coy. 19th Battalion.
3rd London General Hospital.

M. I. S.
17.6.17.

London.
10.7.17.

S.

A.I.P. 19th Batt.

MED

BURNS J.H. 1976

Unoff. R. 18.12.15.

There was a Burns with us in Egypt. He was cook to C. Coy of the 19th Battn. I saw him in January of this year. When we left Tel-el-Kebir to go to the Canal he was left behind on account of deafness. He is a medium sized, dark man and has a brother in the 6th Light Horse.

Reference: Pto. E. Downs, 30, C Coy, stretcher-bearer
19th Batt.

26 Gen. Staples. 31.7.16.

S.

19th Batt. A.I.F.

BURNS
Pte. J.H. 1076

(Hospital & Condition.)

Was slightly wounded. Discharged to Unit, 17/9/15.

*entry cancelled
4/11/15*

Cert. by:-

Australian Intern. Base,

Cairo, 4:11:15.

19th Battn
A.I.F.,

BURNS,
Pte. J. H. 1076

"Rejoined Unit 17-9-15."

Embarked Overseas with 5th Training battalion, 27-5-16.

Cert. by Alexandria cable 25-8-16.

London
4/9/16

S.

A.I.F. 19th Bn

BURNS
Pte J.H. 1076

"MISSING"

Killed in action 14-11-16. - previously reported Missing
cert. by A.I.F. Hqrs 8-1-18.

London
14-1-18.

S

A.I.F. 19th. Batt.

HKD:

Burns J.H. 1075.

En. off. M. Dec: 18. 1915.

Burns is in camp at Salisbury Plains in England.
I saw him there a few days ago. He is awaiting court
martial for some offence. I knew him in Egypt. I am sure
of his identity.

Reference: Lt. F. Saldern. 1961 C.Co.
No 2 A.D.B.D. Starles
Aug. 12. 1916.

S.A.

France.

A.I.F. 19.

Burns J.H. 1076.

Unoff.M. 18.12.15.

This man was drafted as unfit owing to deafness and left the Bn. while we were in Egypt and after that I do not know what became of him.

GSP.

Reference: Pte. Wholohan. 805. C.
L.M.G.S.

Staples. 13th. Aug. 1916.

19th Batt. A.I.F.

BURNS
Pte. J.H. 1076

(Hosp.&Cond.)

Received slight scalp wound whilst on duty in a trench at
"Pope's Post" about the middle of September. He continued his
usual duties and was well when last seen by witness on 1st of
October.

Ref:-

Pte. S. Rosenberg, 969,
C. Coy. 19th Batt.
Luna Park Hospital,
Heliopolis, Cairo.

A. Hordern,
Cairo,
29/10/15.

*Sydney
Cairo, Cairo*

To: P/Lt HANCOX 8715.
C. Coy - 19th Batt.
Q. I.F. B.G. 7.

To: J. H. BURNS
~~1076~~
19th Batt. Q.I.F.

Missing 14.11.16.

EW.
15.5.17.

54, Victoria Street ,

LONDON ,S.W.

August , 10,1916.

XXXXXXXXXX
XXXXXXXXXX
XXXXXXXXXX

XXX
Victoria 8858.

To No. 1076,
Pte. J.H. Burns,
19 A.I.F. B.E.F.

Dear Sir,

We should be very glad if you would communicate with us at your earliest convenience and let us know whether you have rejoined your unit ,and how you are. We have had anxious inquiries about you from your friends through our Sydney Bureau . It seems that they have not heard of or from you for some considerable time , and are worried in consequence.

It would be a great relief to them to hear from you personally,we are sure. You will write to them again very soon will you not? and at the same time write to us.

With all good wishes,
believe me,

yours faithfully,

V.D. (RH)

Secretary.

August 31st, 1917.

TO:-

The C.C.,
Room B.3, Non Effectives Department,
A.I.F., Headquarters, 130, Horseferry Rd,

Dear Sir,

I regret the error made in turning over the files this morning in regard to the statement made by Pte. A.Cash. His report applies to another Burns, so probably you are in possession of all our information regarding 1076 Pte. J.H. Burns, 19th Battalion, A.I.F., which is really very little and certainly not definite proof of the latter's death.

I am sorry I did not notice the mistake this morning ^{when} and the error occurred in turning over the pages of the file too quickly.

Yours faithfully,

TS

SECRETARY.

FINISHED:

Called
S. 41.115
written 6
10.5.16.

BURNS

1076

John J. H.

19 A.I.F.

25/8/16

Hosp. cond. Slightly wounded
rejoined Unit 17/9/15

HQ 13.7.15.
12.5.16.

"No news since sep. 6"

no-yp. H 21.5.16.

Sydney cable 19-10-15
letter 29.5.16

P.F.O

Bel with unit

Embarked 5/3 with 5th training
battalion 27-8-16.

Misc. 25-5-16.

K. i. G. 14. H. 16. Prev. rep. m. H. G.

8.1.18. J. B.
392.



Ltjrl H. SOPER

11 Pat.

C. Co

19 Battalion AIF

BEF

109

1076 J. N. BURNS

19 Battalion AIF

M. 14. 11. 16

[Handwritten signature]

8.6.17

F.M.

22.5.17

HOSPITAL

3rd London General

Fill in exactly as List.	SURNAME.	Christian Name.	Regtl.No.	Ra
	<i>McPhail</i>	<i>W.</i>	<i>2740</i>	<i>A</i>
	SURNAME	Christian Name.	Regtl.No.	Ra
	<i>Hobbs</i>	<i>N. H.</i>		<i>Cap</i>

INFORMATI

GIVEN

STATEMENT OF

(to be taken in

NOTE.
In all cases state fully what informant says he saw or heard and give DATE AND PLACE of occurrence.

7

18th Battalion A. I. F. H. 2.
I have seen these records.

PLEASE ALSO ANSWER

- | | |
|--|--------------------------------|
| 1. Was Informant Eye-Witness? | 2. If not, of the |
| 3. Was the ground held or lost? | 4. If Informant was de the bod |
| 5. Did Informant know Christian Name, Initials or No. of man enquired about? | 6. Was the name |
| 7. Give Informant's description of man enquired about—any nickname, marks, scars, etc. | |
| 8. Searcher's opinion of Informant's accuracy and intelligence } <i>Reliable</i> | |