

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

5539 Corporal  
Frederick Robert  
Deans

28th Battalion



0900908Q

28th A.I.F.

F. R. DEANS, 5839.  
J. D. Plummer, 4789.

Missing 3.5.17.

Deans was acting as stretcher bearer at Bullecourt on May 3rd. I made enquiries about him after the fight when he was missing, ~~was~~ and was told by the C-S-M. of D Co. that Deans and Plummer had both been killed by the same shell.

Reference: Cpl. H. J. Kelly, 4148, D Co.

No. 11 Con. Camp Bucy Nr. Rouen. 6.7.17.

EMM.

Written C.S.M. D Co 17.7.17

Off. M.

Harre

18th July, 1917

28th AUSTRALIANS

DEANS, F.R. 5539  
Plummer, J.D. 4789

M. 3.5.17

These boys had only arrived from England and were in Details Camp on May 2nd, 1917 when Stretcher Bearers were called for and they volunteered. Pte. Jones, of the 28th battalion, A Co., Stretcher Bearer, was with them at Bullecourt on the morning of the 3rd May, 1917, and told me that he had seen them killed. Jones was with his unit on the 10th June, 1917 when I left.

Informant: Pte. R.B. Etherington, 5591  
28th Australians, D Co., att. H.Q.  
as Runner,  
Australian Camp, Rouelles.

Written Pte Jones 2.8.17

RDH

28th A. I. F.

Deans, F.R. 5539,

(M. May 3rd 1917)

"During a big action on May 9th or 10th Deans acted as Stretcher bearer, he took shelter with Plummer in a shell hole when a shell burst there and killed them both."

Eye-witness: No, told by Pte H.G. Sharpe, 28th A.I.F.,

Description: Informant can give no accurate description of Deans but knows that he was a photographer in Boulder City, W. Australia.

Informant: Pte Agmont Beckner, 6139,  
28th A.I.F., A. II,  
No. III Military Hospital,  
Exeter.

Home address:  
48, 2nd Avenue, Inglewood,  
Mt. Lawsey,  
Perth, Australia.

28th July 1917.

CH M.  
Written Pte Sharpe 6.8.17

28th Battn,  
A.I.F.

BEANS,  
F.R.  
5539

"Missing 8.5.17."

Refer to L/Cpl. Hansen Enarhoi. 6056, C. Coy. 28th Battn.  
who is still in France and who can give particulars of his death  
and burial.

Witness. L/Cpl. B.C. Wilson. 6055  
28th Batt. D. Coy.  
3rd A.A. Hospital,  
Dartford.

W. Oman,  
London.

20.8.17.

Note written L/Cpl. Hansen  
Enarhoi. 20.8.17.

Off. H.

28th Bn  
A.I.F.

Deans.  
F.R. 5559

"Missing 3.5.17."

Re Pte. F.R. Deans 5559 28th Bn A.I.F. joined up this battn on April 28th last. On May 4th Pte. Deans in Coy. with three others volunteered for stretcher bearer and whilst on said duty was killed by bursting shell at Bullecourt. The deceased was of a short thick set build about 5'7" Dark complexion, clean shaved and of bright disposition. I may add that pte. Deans left Australia with the same reinforcement as myself as a sergeant his Regimental No 5559 being the same as your enquiry. Pte. Deans in civil life was by trade a photographer in Boulder City West Australia his private address was 99 Pierre Street Boulder. Hoping the above information may be of some assistance to your enquiries.

Letter from:- Pte. J. Gresson.  
Stretcher Bearer.  
28th Bn

A.I.F. France 18.8.17.

London.  
7.9.17.

Off. M.

Havre

25th Sept. 1917.

28th AUSTRALIANS

DEANS, F.R. 5539.

K. 3.5.17.

I do not know his company but there was a Deans who was blown to pieces by a shell while out in the open with a man called Plumer. They both volunteered to do stretcher bearing. Deans came from Western Australia. The number is about correct, and the date is also right.

Informant: Pte. R.T. Franklin, 6518  
28th Australians, 3 Co.  
H. S. Warilda.

RBS

AUSTRALIANS. 26th

DEANS, F.R., 5539.

M. 3.5.17.

After the attack at Bullecourt there was a call for stretcher bearers and Deans volunteered. At the time he was a Cpl., but for some reason his rank was disregarded and in the meantime he went on with the work, and while so engaged he was killed by a shell. I did not see him fall or lying dead, but I saw the notification of his death on the Battn. books. Deans was of medium height and build and 34 years old. He was a married man with one child. He was a photographer at Boulder, W.Australia. His parents live in Geelong, Victoria. I think he was Church of England.

Informant: Cpl.A.C.Braham, 9536.  
No.57 Gen.Hpl.  
Boulogne. 29.9.17.

HR.

*See  
Pte Sanderson's log for 472974, 1.10.17*

*Written Act: 12.10.17*



28th Batn  
A.I.F.

DEANS  
F.R. 5639

"Missing 3.5.17"

Concerning No 5639 F.R. Deans of this Batn. The man was one of a party of 25 who volunteered for stretcher bearing during the operations at Bullecourt on May 3rd/4th last. Most of the party became casualties and some of the survivors could give any information concerning Deans who was therefore reported Missing. A few days later his pay book and effects were forwarded to us they having been obtained from his body. He was then shown by us as Killed in Action. I regret very much not being able to give you any further details but in such cases as this they are very difficult to obtain.

Letter from:-

J. Roydhouse Captn.

Adjutant.

28th Bat n France.

London.  
29.10.17.

off M

28th Battn  
A.I.F.

DEANE.  
S 5539

"Missing 5.3.17."

Regarding the whereabouts of S Deane 5539 F.R. Deane and in reply I have to inform you that I never actually saw him killed but regret to say that I have every reason to believe he was killed as a shell exploded amongst a party of men of which Deane was one. At the time of the explosion of the shell I was about 100 yds away and was unable to go up and see what damage had been done but as far as I can ascertain nothing has been seen or heard of Deane and others of the party since. The nearest description I can give of him is:- about 5'10" in height well built, Dark, clean shaven, and rather a jovial disposition, and well liked amongst the men. In civilian life he carried on business on his own account as a photographer in Boulder, Western Australia. I think this is about the only information I can give you, but if you have heard anything of him I would be very glad to hear of him. letter from Pte. H.G. Sharp.  
France. 12.8.17.

London.  
30.8.17.

Off. M.

28th Htn.  
A.Y.F.

DEANS  
Frederick 5539  
Robert

~~Missing 3.5.17~~

No trace Germany

Cert. by Capt. Mills. 10.10.19.

MISSING

CONF

CONFIRMED

Cause of capture

London.  
28.10.19

ANALYTICAL FILE

CONFIRMED OFFICE

ackd by  
P.C. 24.8.17  
E.L.

France

18-8-17

Miss Vera Deakin

Dear Miss

In reference to your enquiry  
re Pte. F. R. Deans No 5539-28 Batt A.I.F.

Pte F. R. Deans joined up this Batt on  
April 28<sup>th</sup> last. On May 4<sup>th</sup> Pte Deans in  
company with three others volunteered for  
stretchier bearer + whilst on said duty  
was killed by bursting shell at Bullecourt.  
The deceased was of a short thick set  
build about 5 ft 7 Dark complexion  
clean shaved + of bright disposition.

I may add that Pte Deans left Australia  
with the same Reinforcement as myself as a  
sergeant his Regimental No 5539 being  
the same as your enquiry. Pte Deans in  
civil life was by trade a Photographer in  
Boulder City West Australia his private  
address was 99 River St Boulder.

Hoping the above information may be of  
assistance in your enquiries.

5539 F.R. DEANS Sincerely yours

28 Batt A.I.F.

Pte. J. H. Gibson

M/Sir

OFF 14

Stretchier Bearer

28 Batt  
A.I.F.

Adjutant  
repl: h. Tansum: -

5539 F. R. DEANS.  
28 Belton  
M 3. 5-17

off m.  
H.

The Secretary

Memorandum for the Secretary

23 2 1917

cc: Mr. Tansum.  
cc: Mr. Deans.

OFF 4

ple *g. l. a. r. d.*