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

3657 Private
Horace Samuel
Blackburn

55th Battalion



04010016

France.

A.I.F. 55.

Blackburn H.S. 3657. M. 20.7.16.

He was in D.XIII and I saw him in No Man's Land on 19.7.16 about half way between the lines. This was about 150 yards from our trench. I was about 50 yards away at the time but I could recognise him. He was hit, I think, in the shoulder by a M.G. but I do not think it was a very severe wound and he lay down in a shell hole on his way back. This shell hole was about 150 yards from our trenches. He was about 5 ft.6 thick set, dark and came over from Australia as a Rft. to the 17th. Bn.

HSO.

References: Pte.D.L. Gay. 3058. D.XIII.
5 A.D.S.D.
Etaples. 17th.Aug.1916.

23rd A.I.F. Blackburn H.S. No.3657.

K. 20th July 1916.

He was shot in the shoulder in "No Man's Land". He got up and went into a gutter and has not been heard of since. His wound was not very bad and one of the boys attended to him. He may have been hit since.

Informant:- A/M Sergt Wood No.194.
No. 9. Red Cross Hospital.
Calais. 19th Octr. 1916. RAK.

55th Australians

Blackburn, H.S. 3657,
A. Company

(M. July 20th/16)

I know we had several official lists of Prisoners of War from Germany and his name did not appear amongst them up to date of my leaving.

Informant: Sergt. O.P. Martin, 1658,
55th Australians, D. Coy, 13 Plat.,
Brondesbury Military Hospital.

S

Not sent on

8th February 1917.
Henry Constable.

A.I.F. 55. BLACKBURN, H.S. 3667.

M. July 20th 1916.

Blackburn - whom we called Horry - was in my section in D.XIII. The 55th were acting as carriers on July 19th at Fromelles. My section was carrying sandbags. We had just got through our barbed wire when a M.G. opened and got 8 out of 13 men. This was about 6 p.m. Blackburn was shot through the knee and the chest. He said he would crawl back, but I think he couldn't live. He was not seen again. He used to work on trams in Sydney with a mate of his named Ibbot.

Informant: Pte. C. Kents. 252.
No. 14 Gneral Hospital.
BOULOGNE. 4.4.17.

JT

A.I.F. 55

BLACKBURN, H.S. 3657

M. July 20th 1916.

Blackburn, called Harry, was in D.Coy and was killed on July 19th at Bois Grenier. Our Division was in it and the 55th were on fatigue, carrying ammunition etc. I saw Blackburn lying dead in the trench, and afterwards I saw his grave at Sailly, in the cemetery on the right hand side of the road going from Sailly to Estaires.

Informant: Lce.Cpl.C.S.Watson. 3654. D.Coy.
No. B.R.C.S.Hospital.
BOULOGNE. 5.4.1917.

JT

55th A. I. F.

H. S. BLACKBURN, 3657.

Missing 20.7.16

Informant gave Co. as D, Pl. as 14, and initial as H. At Fromelles on the 20th July in the early morning and before the retirement, Informant while fetching up ammunition saw Blackburn in a shell hole. He was lightly wounded and conscious and apparently able to walk.

Reference: Pte. F. A. Patterall, 5354, 14 Pl. D Co.
No.9 General, Rouen. 14.4.17.

DLF.

55th. Battn.
late 17th Bn
A.I.F.

Blackburn.
H.S. 3657

Missing 20.7.16.

A letter has been received from 3415 Pte. A Penny, B. Coy. 55th. Battn, stating that he had seen him wounded in both legs but that Blackburn told him he would be able to get back.

Extract from Sydney letter 30.11.16.

London.
19.4.17.

55th Battn
A.I.F.

BLACKBURN.
Horace Samuel. 3657

"Missing 20.7.16."

Killed in Action 20.7.16. previously reported Missing.
Cert by A.I.F. HdQrts 18.8.17.

O.S. M.

London.
22.8.17.

55th Battalion A.I.F. BLACKBURN H.S. 3657
(late 17th Battalion)

K in A ~~Missing~~ 20.7.16.

I knew Blackburn well-- we left Australia together as 8th Reinforcements to 17th Battalion. He was in D. Co. XIII Platoon in 55th Battalion.

After Fleurbaix, whilst at Harefield, I was told by Sergeant Harrison of D. Co., 55th Battalion, that Mr. Munro and Blackburn were killed at Fleurbaix. Sergeant Harrison knew both these men, and seemed quite certain of what he said. I left Harrison at Harefield, convalescent.

Informant:-- G.H.NEAL, 3588,
55th Battalion, D. Co., XIV Ptn.
A.I.F.
No. 4 Australian General Hospital, RANDWICK.

A careful reliable witness.

H.S.O.
10.7.17.

SYDNEY BUREAU. cd

Not sent to P.I. copy P.I. S ✓

A.I.P.
55th Btn.
D.Coy. late 17th Btn.

BLACKBURN
Horace Samuel 3557

Killed in Action 20.7.16.

No trace Germany.
Cert. by Capt. Mills 10.10.19.

London.
21.10.19.

S & P I.

Oct.6th, 1917.

L/Cpl. G.S. Watson,
14th Training Battalion,
Hurdcott,
Salisbury.

Dear Sir,

We are anxious to find out some further particulars about - No.3657 Pte.Horace S. BLACKBURN - 55th Battalion. who has been missing since 20th July 1916.

We would be very grateful if you could let us have any particulars you know of his fate, as we have never been able to find out what happened to him.

Thanking you in anticipation,

Yours faithfully,

Secretary.

Th. F. W.

R V Blackburn Ans.
No 20. 12th A L H

Somewhere In Palestine

Officer In Charge
Red Cross Inquiry Bureau
London S W

Sir

I am in receipt of a letter from my home - which is in Australia, which advises me that information is came to hand - through your office - re my dear brother H. A. Blackburn 56 Battalion (A A M) who was reported missing 19/7/16. Would deem it a extreme favour if you could put me into communication with the soldier, of his section, who made a statement to the effect of seeming him dead in the trench. Trusting I am not asking to much of your wonderful organisation, and thanking you once again, for your kindness in anticipation of an early reply.

Yours Truly
Trooper R V Blackburn
No 20. 12th L H
Egypt

Pte H. S. Blackburn 3657
5-5-BM.

See under

Pte Th. K. Thorburn 5239.
1st BM.

29.7.17

October 8th, 1917.

No 2 O Trooper R.V.Blackburn
12th L.H.Rgt,
Egypt.

Dear Sir,

In reference to your letter re

3657 H.S.Blackburn,
56th Battalion,
A.I.F.

there are several men who have given us unofficial evidence as follows:-

3058 PD.C.Gay, D XIII, 5th A.D.B.D., Etaples, Aug 17th, 1916 says "He was in D.XIII and I saw him in No Man's Land on 19.6.17 about half way between the lines. This was about 150 yards from our trenches. I was about 50 yards away at the time but could recognise him, he was hit I think in the shoulder by A M.G. but I do not think it was a very severe wound and he lay down in a shell hole on his way back about 50 yards from our trenches".

5354 F.A.Patterell, 14th PL.D.Coy, 55th Battalion, says" he was lightly wounded, conscious and apparently able to walk"

252 Kents, 55th Battalion, says "He was shot thro' Knee

"and chest, said he could crawl back but I think he couldn't live. He was not seen again. He used to work on the trams in Sydney with a man named Ibbot".

3654 L/Cpl. C.S.Watson, D.Coy, 55th Battalion, writes "Blackburn called Harry was in D.Coy. and was killed on July 19th at Bois Glevier. Our Division was in it and the 55th were on fatigue, carrying ammunition etc. I saw Blackburn lying in the trench and afterwards I saw his grave at Sailly in the cemetery on the right hand side of the Road going from Sailly to Estaries".

We have written again to L/Cpl. Watson to see if he can verify his statement and should we get any further particulars we shall be very glad to let you know.

Yours faithfully,

SECRETARY.