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

1657 Private Albert George Bannister

19th Battalion



0220503C

19th BATTALION.
A.I.F.

BANNISTER - Private
A.G. No. 1657

"Killed 7/4/18".

Informant described Bannister as about 5'7" high, stout build, aged about 30. They both belonged to "B" Company.

On 7/4/18 the Battalion was in action outside Hangard Wood. They hopped over early in the morning and about ½ of an hour afterwards, before the Wood was reached, Informant saw Bannister crawling out towards our line wounded. Informant spoke to Bannister and asked him how he was and Bannister replied "Not too bad". Informant had to go on in the advance and never saw Bannister again. Bannister was reported "Missing" and Informant was called upon to give evidence at the enquiry.

Informant added that Bannister was well thought of by his mates.

Informant;- No. 570, L/Corporal R.J. Honey,
"B" Company - 19th Battalion.

Private address;- 8 Isabella Avenue, NORTH SYDNEY.

W.E.G.
Anzac Buffet, Sydney.
31/5/19.

SYDNEY BUREAU.

A.I.F.
19th Btth.
A.Coy.

BANNISTER
Pte. A.G. 1657

Killed in Action 7.4.18.

During hop over at Hangard Wood on morning of April 7th about 7 o'Clock he was hit in the thigh by machine gun bullet and said to informant will crawl in here for a while meaning the edge of the wood, and from that out I nor anyone else in the Btn saw him again. Was a big man, stout, brown hair, about 27 to 30 years of age. Left Australia as original 19th Btn man. Fancy came from New South Wales. Informant was only about 6 yards away when he was hit.

Informant:- Cpl. Jones 4457
19th Battn.

Home address:-
Gladesville P.O.
Sydney.

(P.S. Dead. was a Lewis Gunner)

E.S.
London.
26.9.19.

J.E.A.

S & P.I.

19th BATTALION. "A" Company
A.I.F.

BANNISTER, Private
A.G. No. 1657

"Wounded & Missing 7/4/18".

During hop-over at Hangard Wood on morning of April 7th about 7 o'clock he was hit in the thigh by machine gun bullet, and said to Informant "I will crawl in here for a while", meaning the edge of the wood, and from that out I, nor anyone else in the Battalion, saw him again. He was a big man, stout, brown hair, about 27 to 30. Left Australia as original 19th Battalion man. He was a Lewis Gunner. I fancy he came from N.S.Wales. Informant was only about 6 yards away when he was hit.

Informant;- 4457, Corporal Jones,
19th Battalion.

Private address;- Post Office, Gladesville, Sydney. N.S.W.

E. Swane,
Troopship "Mahia" 16/7/19.

SYDNEY BUREAU.

19th BATTALION.
A.I.F.

BANNISTER, Private
A.G. No. 1657

"Killed 7/4/1918".

Informant states that Bannister was Lewis Gunner In No.7 Platoon. He was badly wounded by machine gun bullet and only lived a few minutes after he was wounded. Informant helped to carry him to Lone Tree near Hangard Wood where he was buried. Informant knew Bannister and covered him up before burial. Informant was Lewis Gun Instructor in the Battalion. Bannister was one of the best of the Lewis Gunners. He was killed during our attack on Hangard Wood.

Informant;- No. 4457, Corporal S.A.B. Jones,
19th Battalion.

Private address;- C/o Post Office, GLADESVILLE.

C.E.W.
21/7/19.

SYDNEY BUREAU.

A.I.F. 19th Battn.

BANNISTER
Albert George
1657

K/A. 7/4/18

No trace in Germany
Cert. by Capt. Mills 10/10/19

London
16/10/19

P.I
S.

19th Battn.
A.I.F.

BANNISTER.
A.G. 1657.

"Killed in Action 7-4-18"

I saw Bannister of B.V. wounded alongside of me at Hangard Wood by machine gun bullet about 4 or 5.a.m. - through the hip - he did not seem to be badly wounded but he fell and I saw nothing more of him. It was about half way between our line and Fritz's and we had to go back to our original trench. Bannister was short, dark, about 28/30.

Informant:- Pte.J.Jones. 5659.
19th Battn. B.Coy.
BELGIUM.

Bannister. A.G. 1657. M. Hangard Wood. No pass.
(late) 19th Battalion. B.Coy. Orderly Room.

H.E.H.
London.
8-2-19.
J.E.A?

S & P I.

A.I.F.19th Battn.

BANNISTER
Albert George 1657

"WOUNDED & MISSING 7/4/18"

Killed in Action 7/4/18 - previously reported Missing
Cert. by A.I.F.Hqrs 30/9/18.

London
4/10/18.

P.I.
S.

19th. Battn: W.& M. 7/4/18. Bannister. A.G. 1657.

We had just attacked at Villers-Bretonneux, when Bannister was hit and wounded on both legs. As we were returning I spoke to him, I told him we would do our best to get him in, I could not carry him by myself, and the Germans were immediately behind us. He replied, "Both my legs are broken", he said also he would try and get into a shell hole.

Not more than 10 minutes could have elapsed from the time I was with him to when Fritz must have been up to him. He was in quite good spirits, and the upper part of his body was uninjured. It would have taken 4 of us to carry him, the risk being of course much too great.

19th. Battn. O'Neill, H. Sgt: 733.

12.A. Dartford. 8/8/18. Now added to date as P/W 15.8.18

R.D.B. N.W (I do not think they know him) S.P.1

Hevre. 20th. July. 1918.

19th. Australians. Bannister, A. S. 1657.

1657

W. & E. April. 7/1918.

There was a Bannister in B. Company, 5th. Platoon. I used to know a 'George' he originally came from England & enlisted in Australia. Fair hair & complexion, very blue eyes, short to medium, well built, about 20, clean-shaven. We were attacking at Hangard Wood. This man had his leg broken as far as I know with a M. G. Bullet. Bannister was a Lewis Gunner & when wounded gave up his gun to A. Bond, B. Company. 5th. Platoon. who is in England wounded.

Inf:- D. G. Henderson. 6327.
H. S. 'Gloucester Castle'.

S
P.1

WHB.

2a

Bond is Pl. but have written asking him to verify above statement
2-8-18 CP.

A.I.F. 19th Btn

BANNISTER
Albert Geo. 1657

"WOUNDED"

Wded & Missing 7-4-18 - previously reported Wounded
Cert. by A.I.F.Hqrs 10-6-18.

S & P.I.

London
15-6-18

[redacted]

19th Battn.
A.I.R.

BANNISTER
Albert George 1657

"Wounded & Missing 7-4-18"

Re 1657 Pte.A.G.Bannister. He was the man on my right when we were attacking on April 7th,1918, near Villers-Bretonneux, in front of Hangard Wood. We had gone about half way across "No Man's Land" when George was wounded. As I was the nearest man to him I took the gun from him and asked - "Where are you hit George?". He replied "In the leg", I'm alright, you go on with the others, which I did. When I got into the Wood I was wounded myself, and as I crawled back over "No Man's Land" I looked round for him, but could not see him. So I came to the conclusion that he had gone back to the Regt. Aid Post. As we were the best of pals, the first thing I did in England was to enquire his whereabouts from you. He often spoke to me about his brother, (a storekeeper) in Leytonstone; the address I don't know, also about a Miss Frost, of Roehampton Court, Roehampton, the exact No. I don't know, but I fancy it was 42 or 43, I can't say for certain. Miss Frost was lady's maid for some of the Wilson family of the Wilson Line of Steamships. Perhaps this will help you to trace his people. One thing I must say, he was very cheerful when I saw him last, and I can't see how he would be taken a prisoner of war, as we were not then inside the German lines, and if he should be dead, I know he had heaps of things by which he could be identified. One in particular was a Bible which he always carried, and instructed me to send on to Miss Frost if anything happened to him, he said the address was always in it, so I never troubled to put the address down.

London
8-6-18
N.T.

Letter from:- Pte. C.A.BOND 5969 4th. Coy
Lay. C.D. Hundred. [illegible]

A.I.T. 19th [illegible]

Albert Sec. 1557

"Wired 7-4-18"

No report received.
Cons. by A.I.T. [illegible]

Wired 7-4-18 "No further report
Cons. by Bonsal letter 10-4-18.

P.I.

London
18-4-18

pc. 15. 4. 15.

AUSTRALIAN

RED CROSS.

April 13th. 18

Ward 6.

British Military Hospital

Rotherham.

Dear Sir

or Madam:

Would you kindly give me any information about

friend of mine who was wounded on Sunday last

April 7th. 18. in the leg.

No. 1657 Pte

ed 4 Battalion

B. Coy 16th Battn

A.I.F.

If you would possibly
give me his present
address I would be
really pleased.

Thanking you
in anticipation
I'll Remain
yours sincerely
G. A. Bond (Mr)

5-9-69.

Late of B. Coy.
19th Battn
A.I.F.

5969 Pte.C.A.Bonds

19th Bttn, A.I.F. Ward 6, Military

Hospital Colchester.

25th April, 1918.

Dear Sir,

In reply to your enquiry respecting - 1657 Pte.ALBERT G. BANNISTER, 19th Battalion, A.I.F. - We regret to inform you that he is reported to have been wounded on April 7th, ~~but no further report has been received on April 7th,~~ but no further report has been received for him. We are making enquiries for particulars and will advise you of the result, but it is as yet difficult to obtain information as to recent casualties.

With good wishes.
Yours faithfully,

(Miss) F. F. Q.

SECRETARY.

1657 NN
Albert George Bennister Hut 22. - E. - Coy
19 Batt W+M 7-4-18 No 4. Command - Depot
3-9-17. S. Hundredth Willis
Rec'd 3.9.17
Rec'd 3.9.17
Rec'd 3.9.17

One thing I must say, he was very cheerful when I saw him last, and I can't see how he could be taken a prisoner of War as we were not then inside the German lines, and if he should be dead I know he had heaps of things by which he could be identified. One in particular was a "Bible" which he always carried, & instructed me to send on to his Aunt if anything happened to him, he said the address was always in it, so I never troubled to put the address down. Hoping this little information may help you in the good work you are carrying on. With Best Wishes.

I remain,

Yours Truly

H.J.

C. A. Bond. (Pte)

5469.

A.I.F. RECEIVED 3 MAY 1918 CENSOR'S DEPARTMENT

R. J. BANNISTER.
2 OAKDALE ROAD.
LEYTONSTONE.

Dear Sir, p.c. May 2nd. E 11

Could you by any means get me any information of my Brother
Albert George Bannister No 1657
B. Coy 19th Batt
Australian Inft.

The last I heard from him was dated 4th April. He was reported to me as being wounded on the 14th April. The report reaching here on 23rd coming from Australian Hd Qrs 130 Horseferry Rd Westminster nothing more has been sent on from there. The just wounded is very vague so naturally I am very anxious for further news. If you can in any way get it shall be very grateful.

From Yours Sincerely
R J Bannister

Enquiry.

Bannister 1657
A.S 1712.

engr Capt Nicholson
adj. Queen Mary's Hosp
Rochampton
Home
Rochampton SW 15

Pulney 1674 ex. 3

4 5 18

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN DIVISION

FORM C.

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY

No.	Surname.	Christian Names.	Date.
5414.	McLEOD	G. K.	10/1/17.

Rank.	Regiment, &c.	File No.
Private	17/10th Battalion	

C/
/L

OFFICIAL REPORTS:

"Died of Wounds," September 28th, 1917.

R.J. Bannister, Esq,
2, Oakdale Road,
Leytonstone, E.11.

7th May, 1918.

Capt. Nicholson,
Adjutant, Queen Mary's Hospital,
Roehampton House, Roehampton,
S.W. 15.

Dear Sir,

With reference to your enquiry for -

1657 Pte. A.G. BANNISTER, 19th Battalion, A.I.F.

We much regret to inform you that he is officially reported to have been wounded on 7-4-18.

Up to the present there has been no official record of his admittance to Hospital, and from this we very much fear that he may prove to be Missing as well as Wounded, - though there is as yet no official report to this effect.

We are doing our utmost to trace him and will advise you as soon as any news of him is received.

Regretting we should be unable to send you more satisfactory information.

Yours faithfully,

(Miss) Mrs. Ryan

SECRETARY.

R. J. Bannister Esq.,

8, Oakdale Road,

Leytonstone,

E.11.

25th June 8.

Re 1657 Albert Geo. Bannister - 19th Battn.,A.I.F.

Dear Sir,

We regret to inform you that the above soldier who was previously reported wounded is now officially reported as Wounded and Missing since 7/4/18.

We are making further enquiries in the hope of obtaining more definite information as we fully realise your anxiety about him.

Assuring you of our sympathy.

Yours faithfully,

(Miss)

Secretary.

[redacted]

Capt. Nicholson,

Adjutant Queen Marys Hospital.

Roehampton House,

Roehampton, S.W.15.

25th June 8.

Re 1657 Albert Geo. Bannister - 19th Battn.,A.I.F.

Dear Sir,

With reference to your enquiry for the above soldier who was previously reported Wounded, we regret to inform you that he is now reported Wounded and Missing since 7/4/18.

Further enquiries are being made and we hope soon to send you detailed information.

Yours faithfully,

(Miss)

Secretary.

A.I.F. 2. POUPARD, L.F. 682

K. Nov. 6th 1917. Det D/B.

Poupard was in my platoon X. and was killed in support trenches on the ridge just behind Passchendaele, on the night of either 5th,6th, or 7th Nov. I was just round the corner of the trench when a shell lobbed up in, and killed Poupard and my Sergt. Lambert, and several others. They were buried by the trench where they were killed. Though not present when they were buried I have seen the grave.

Inf. L/Cpl. H.G. Hartnett 4539 C.X.
No 54 Gen Hosp
BOULOGNE. 27.4.18.

JT.

[redacted]

A.I.F. 2. POUPARD, L.F. 682

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Inf. L/Cpl. H.G. Hartnett 4539 C.X.
No 54 Gen Hosp
BOULOGNE. 27.4.18.

JT.

5069 Pte.C.A.Bond,

19th Battn.,A.I.F.,

No. 3 Command Depot,

Hurdcott, Wilts.

25th June

Dear Sir,

Re 1657 Gilbert Geo. Bannister, 19th Battn.,A.I.F.

With reference to your enquiry for the above soldier who was previously reported Wounded, we regret to inform you that he is now reported Wounded and Missing since 7/4/18.

Further enquiries are being made and we hope spon to send you detailed information.

Yours faithfully,

(Miss) M

Secretary.

Havre 27th April 1918.

1st A.I.F. Joynson K. No.3838.

K. 17th Septr 1917. Dat D/B.

I knew L/Cpl K. Joynson of B.Co. VII Pltn. he came from Sydney, about 19, medium height and build, fair, clean shaven. I saw him killed instantly by shell at Clapham Junction on the 17th Septr 1917. I was about 2 yards from him in daylight. I saw his grave with a cross on it in the open near where he was killed, near a big tunnel. I could point out the spot. There are a number of other graves round it.

Inf:- Pte T. Burt No.168.
A.I.F. 1. B. VI.
Australian Camp
Rouelles.

RDM.

R.J. Bannister. Esq. (Brother)
2 Oakdale Road. " "
Leytonstone. E. 11.

Capt. Nicholson.
Adjutant. Queen Mary's Hospital. August 13th, 1918.
Roehampton House. Roehampton.
S. W. 15.

Dear Sir.

In further answer to your enquiry for 1 London

1657 Pte. A.C. BANNISTER. 19th Battalion. A.I.F.

We beg to inform you of unofficial evidence given by 3969 Pte. C.A. Bond of the same unit who wrote to us from Hurdcott.

He stated that Pte. Bannister who was his great friend was the man on his right when they were attacking on April 7th near Villers Brettoneux in front of Hangard Wood. They had advanced about half way across No Man's Land when Pte. Bannister was wounded and as he was nearest to him took the gun from him. He was wounded in the leg and told informant to go on with the rest as he was alright. When Pte. Bond reached the wood he was himself wounded and made his way back to our lines looking for Pte. Bannister as he did so. He could not see him so concluded that he had gone back to the regimental Aid Post and he heard nothing more of him.

We are continuing our enquiries in the hope of obtaining definite information of Pte. Bannister's fate and will advise you as soon as we succeed although we fear that some further casualty must have happened to him on the way out from the line under heavy shell fire for Pte. Bond says there was no chance of his being taken prisoner.

With our sincere sympathy in your loss

Yours faithfully,

(Miss) Lord

Secretary.

Capt. Nicholson.
Adjutant. Queen Mary's Hospital.
Roehampton House.
Roehampton. S.W. 15.

5969 Pte.C.A. Bond.
19th Bttn. A.I.F.
No 4 Command Depot.
Hurdcott.

August 20th, 1918.

R.J. Bannister. Esq.
2 Oakdale Road.
Leytonstone. E. 11.

Dear Sir.

In further answer to your enquiry for your brother

1657 Pte. A.G. BANNISTER. 19th Battalion. A.I.F.

We regret to inform you of another unofficial report given by a man of his unit when in the 3rd Australian Auxiliary Hospital, Dartford. He stated that they had just attacked at Villers Bretonneux on 7-4-18 when Pte. Bannister was wounded in both legs. As they were returning after the attack informant spoke to him and said that they would endeavour to bring him in. Pte. Bannister was then in good spirits. The Germans came over the ground a short time afterwards and they were unable to get out to his assistance. His name has not appeared on any lists of Prisoners in Germany and we fear that there can be no hope of his having been captured for he would surely have availed himself of the opportunity, afforded every man on being taken prisoner of advising some one by letter.

We are continuing our enquiries and as soon as further particulars are received we shall advise as we realise how great your anxiety must be.

With our sincere sympathy.

Yours faithfully.

(Miss) LAM

Secretary.

4C No 4 Command. Depot.
1657
Albert George Bannister Hurdcott.
19 Batt
WFFn 7.4.18 Wilts.
21-8-18 5 for 3

To the Section Secretary.

Your letter to hand dated 20-8-18 for which I thank you. I note you have had an unofficial report re Pte Bannister. Personally I would attach no importance to it because I was not back over the ground until 10 A.M. & not till then the Germans had not advanced beyond their old lines. There is a young fellow here who was on my left when I took the gun off Pte Bannister & he was right through the stunt without a scratch, & he states that the Germans did not come over the ground while he was there, (three days after the stunt.) His name is Pte J. J. Jones No 5659. 19th Batt. We are both anxious to know who put in the last report as we would not like you to get any misleading statements. Thanking you for any trouble you have been put to.

I am. Respectfully Yrs.

P.T.O. No 5969, Alan. Bond.

Pte Jones address in

5659.

Pte J. J. Jones.
19th Batt.
No. 3 Command Depot
Hurdcott.

9C

August 23rd, 1918.

5969 Pte.Alan Bond.
19th Inf. Bttn.
No 4 Command Depot.
Hurdcott. Wilts.

Dear Sir.

We thank you for your letter received today in answer to our enquiry about -

1557 Pte. A.G. BANNISTER. 19th Bttn. A.I.F.

His name has not come through to us as a Prisoner of War, but 733 Sgt.H.O'Neill says in one part of his report that "The Germans were immediately behind us", When he spoke to Bannister and later in the report Sgt.O'Neill says "Not more than 10 minutes could have elapsed from the time I was with him to when Fritz must have been up to him."

We think your letter makes it clear that Sgt.O'Neill was mistaken - we are continuing our enquiries and will send you any further information we receive.

With best wishes.

Yours faithfully,

(Miss)

Secretary. per h.J.

October 7th, 1918.

R.J. Bannister, Esq.
2 Oakdale Road.
Leytonstone.
E. 11.

re 1657 ALBERT GEORGE BANNISTER. 19th Bttn.A.I.F.

Dear Sir.

We deeply regret to inform you that the above soldier who was previously reported Missing is now reported Killed in Action on 7-4-18.

We are making enquiries in the hope of learning full details of his death and will immediately forward to you any information we receive.

Assuring you of our sincere sympathy in your loss.

Yours faithfully,

(Miss) [illegible]

SECRETARY.

October 7th, 1918.

Capt. Nicholson.
Adjutant.
Queen Mary's Hospital.
Roehampton House.
Roehampton. S.W. 15.

re 1657 ALBERT GEORGE BANNISTER. 18th Bttn. A.I.F.

Dear Sir.

We regret to inform you that the above soldierwho was previously reported Missing is now reported Killed in Action on 7-4-18.

We are making further enquiries in the hope of learning full details of his death and will send you any information we receive.

Regretting the distressing character of this news.

Yours faithfully,

(Miss) [illegible]

Secretary.

October 7th, 1918.

5969 Pte. C.A. Bond.
19th Bttn. A.I.F.
No 4 Command Depot.
Hurdcott.

re 1657 ALBERT GEORGE BANNISTER. 19th Bttn. A.I.F.

Dear Sir.

We regret to inform you that the above soldier who was previously reported Missing is now reported Killed in Action on 7-4-18.

We are making further enquiries in the hope of learning full details of his death and will send you any information we receive.

Regretting the distressing character of this news.

Yours faithfully,

(Miss)

Secretary.

2 Oakdale Rd
Leytonstone

Dear Miss Deakin. Nov 21st -E 11

Please accept my sincere thanks for the trouble you have taken in trying to find out what did realy happen to my dear Mother 19th Nott.
v of J Bannister no 1657 ~~1st Lan~~ 1st Lan Inft
I had thought he might possibly have been a prisoner but still not news after eleven days of the Armistice I cannot but think he was killed on the date reported April 4th 18. but I feel sure should you get any further particulars you will let me know them.

Yours Sincerely
R J Bannister