

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

1284 Corporal
William Edgar Walsh
Porter

14th Battalion



21806011

14th Battn.
A.I.F.

Porter.
W.E.W. 1284

"Killed in Action 21.10.17"

re 1284 E.W.Porter D.Coy. 14th Battn. I may state that I was with him at the time of his death which occurred on Oct.21st, 1917. 1284 Cpl.W.E.W.Porter M.M. was his correct number & initials. He was a fairly tall man, with dark features and was loved and esteemed by all the men in this Coy. He was killed instantaneously by enemy shell and never moved afterwards. He was buried behind our support line on Zonnebeke Ridge on the field.

Letter from:- 1326 J.Stone
7th D.Coy. 14th Battn
France 20.3.18.

London.
26.3.18.

M.
P.I.

A.I.F. 14th Btn

PORTER
Wm. Edgar Walsh 1284(HQ)
1184

"Wded June-July"

Wded 2nd occasion 5-7-17 - No Hpl admission
Cert. by A.I.F.Hqrs 18-8-17

Adm:

Trans - 2nd Sth Gen.Hpl Bristol 2-5-17 - G.S.W.R.Hand

Trans - Dartford 14-5-17

Discharged - furlough and report Ferham Downs 29-5-17
Cert. by Hpl Index

Rejoined Btn from Hpl 6-7-17 - awarded Military Medal 19-6-17
London Cert. by A.I.F.Hqrs 28-8-17.
29-8-17

M

9.6
PATRICK

NAME

Pl- STONE

UNIT

J. Coy 14 A. I. F.

DATE

B. G. 7.

C

about

1284

W. E. W. ^{as per} PORTER

J. Coy 14 A. I. F.

INVEST. BY

DATE

21.10.17.

REMARKS

INITIALS

Sw.
15.3.18

HOSPITAL Burn Military Sanitary

INFORMATION

Fill in exactly as list.	SURNAME.	Christian Name.	Regtl.No.	R
	Edwards	C C	2nd	Se
	SURNAME	Christian Name.	Regtl.No.	R
	Gorda	T W.	378	Se

GIVE

STATEMENT O

(to be taken

NOTE.

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

3// 2nd Sient Edwards was kil
on Oct 9th, he was of if
I do not know where
wounded next day my
wounded

PLEASE ALSO ANSWER

1. Was Informant Eye-Witness? } yes
2. If not of t
3. Was the ground held or lost? } held
4. (Infor was of the b
5. Did Informant know Christian Name, Initials or No. of man enquired about? } I know him well.
6. Was t 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 } intelligent + reliable

Plt CONNORS

9c

14 A.I.F.

C

alive

about

1284

W. E. W. PORTER

14 A.I.F.

K21-10-17

SW.
1-3-18

24th December, 1917.

Sister Lyla Stewart,
Australian Army Medical Corps,
A. I. F.
No. 2 Australian Casualty Clearing Station,
France.

Dear Madam,

Porter Wm Edgar Walsh

In answer to your enquiry for :-

*128. PRIVATE E. W. PORTER,
14th Batt. A.I.F.*

we deeply regret to tell you he is officially reported to have been
killed in action 21st October, 1917.

His name is on our Searchers' List, and we will do all we
can to obtain further details which we will send you.

With our most sincere sympathy,

Yours faithfully,

Blue

Porter

Wm Edgar Walsh

Sister Lyle Stewart

9-8-18

A.F.M.C.

No 2 Australian Casualty Clearing Station
France

Dear Madam,

We regret to send you the following unofficial report as to the death of 1284 Pte ^WE.W. Porter, 14th Battalion D. Coy. from an eyewitness. 7128 Pte J. Cherry, 1st A.I.F. No V. War Hospital, Reading. He states that Porter was killed by a shell and buried on the battle-field near Ypres. Hoping that it will be some comfort to his friends to know that he was killed instantly and assuring you that as soon as we obtain further news we shall advise you.

Yours faithfully

Secretary

F. K. P. J. Geary

5th March, 1918.

Sister Lyla Stewart,
A.A.H.C., No 2 Aust.
Cas. Clear. Stn,
FRANCE.

Porter

Wm. Edgar Walsh

Dear Madam,

We are sending you an unofficial report which we have
just received concerning :-

1284 Pte. E.W. PORTER, 14th Battalion, A.I.F.

Our informant 1945 Cpl. C.H. Goddard, at present in 53rd

General Hospital, B.E.F., states as follows :-

"I have a note in my diary of this man's death on Oct. 21st. We went in on this night and while on the duck-boards were shelled. Most of us took cover but Porter and a Pte. Connors, still with the Battn, went on and reached the front line by mistake. We got up to supports and he was sent back to us. He had only been with us five minutes when a shell came over and buried him. I was near and helped to dig the body out and with others buried him behind the trench. I do not think a mark was put on his grave. Porter was tall and dark, his number 1284. He was a very quiet man and had I think been some sort of Missionary."

We have written to Pte. Connors hoping to receive more definite details, and will write to you as soon as we receive his reply.

Please accept a renewal of our sympathy.

Yours faithfully,

L. H. C. C.

SECRETARY.

1284 W.E. W^W Porter M.M. 14th Bth

K/A 21-10-17 M.P.I

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(cd)

France

20/3/18

To Secretary

Gen. W.C.
26-3-18

W & A. Enquiry Bureau

Red Cross Society

Dear Madam

In answer to your enquiry re;
1284 W.E. W. Porter D. Coy 14 Bth. I may state
that I was with him at the time of his death
which occurred on October 21-17.

1284 bth W.E. W. Porter M.M. was his correct
number & initials. He was a fairly tall man
with dark features & was loved & esteemed
by all the men in this Coy. He was killed
instantaneously by enemy shell & never moved
afterwards. He was buried behind our support
line on Gornalbecq Ridge on the field.

Trusting the same will cover the required
information. I remain Yours Sincerely

1326 J Stone

D Coy
14 Bth A I F

21st March, 1918.

Sister Lyla Stewart,
A.A.H.C., No 2 Australian
Casualty Clearing Station,
B. E. F.

Dear Madam,

We regret to inform you that in answer to our enquiries for
- 1284 Pte. E.W. PORTER, 14th Battalion, A2Coy, A.I.F. - We
have received an unofficial report from 972 Cpl. C. Davis, of the
same unit who states that he was killed in supports at Monnebeke,
and buried near there. Cpl. Davis was not an eye-witness, but was
told of it by those who were. 6322 Pte. A.E. McCarthy, also of the
same unit states:- "He was in my Coy. He was one of the finest
Christian men ever there, and every night, before going to bed, you
would see him reading his Bible to himself. He had been with the
Battalion from the start, and was all through the Peninsula. He
came from Victoria. In supports up at Passchendaele he got a
piece of shrapnel through the head clean through his steel helmet.
I saw him killed, and death was absolutely instantaneous. We dug
his grave ourselves just behind supports, and I helped to bury him.
Cpl. Boyd took his pay-book, there was nothing to mark his grave when
we left but our support line was at sunken road, and it was just behind
that."

We hope that it may be some comfort to his friends to know
how his comrades appreciated him. We are continuing enquiries and
will advise you at once of any information we may obtain.

Yours faithfully,

F. J. G.
SECRETARY.

2nd April 1918.

Sister Lyla Stewart,
A.A.H.C., No 2 Australian
Casualty Clearing Station, B.E.F.

Dear Madam,

We beg to inform you that we have received an
unofficial report respecting - 1284 Pte. W.E. WALSH, PORTER.
14th Battalion, A.I.F., which confirms the official report
that he was killed in action.

1326 Pte. J. Stone, of the same Coy, states that he was
with Pte. Porter when he was killed, instantaneously by a shell.
Oct 21st, 1917, and that he was buried behind the support line on
Zonnebeke Ridge. He describes him as fairly tall and dark, and
adds that he was beloved and esteemed by all who knew him.

We have now closed our enquiry, but should any further
information be received will at once advise you.

Yours faithfully,

F. J. Geary
SECRETARY.