

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

**18948 Gunner**  
**Harry Twyford Truman**

**5th Field Artillery Brigade**



2780802R

13th Battery. Fla Art.  
A.I.F.

TRUMAN  
Gnr.H.T. 18948.

NO ENQUIRY.

Killed in Action" 19-4-18.

I have merely taken a record of his burial at  
Frenchencourt Civilian Cemetery. A cross is erected by  
2nd Div.

Informant:- Rice.H.G.141.  
42nd Battery.  
Hut 21. WESTHAM.

Memo Produced.  
W.A.Rand.  
London.  
4-6-18.

*See list of graves in M.  
Frenchencourt Cemetery under  
Lt J.L. Harrison's name  
4th Surrey Co.*

Havre

26th August 1918.

Australian Field Art. 5.

Truman H.F. 18948.

E. 19th April 1918. Det D/B.

He was in the 13th Battery. He had people in S. Africa, single. I think he enlisted in H.S. Sales. He was killed by a shell while in a house at L'Abbeville, during the morning, being hit in the head. He was buried in the cemetery in a village just close to Beaucourt. I helped to carry him out.

Inf:- Pte A.B. Stubbings No. 9412.  
Australians. 5. 13. Art.  
No. 2. Amb. Train

RES.

P.1  
21  
PP.

Havre

16th August 1918.

A. Field Art. 5.

Truman H.F. No. 18948.

E. 19th April 1918. Det D/B.

I knew him well. The people live in S. Africa. He was quite a boy, short and fair. On the 19th April we were at Larreville in action. Truman was in the Battery position in a room in an old house in the village. This was hit by a shell, and he was killed outright. I saw the occurrence. The body is buried in the Cemetery at Beaucourt.

Inf:- Sergt. H.L. Elton No. 7189.  
A.F.A. 5. 13.  
Australian Conv. Depot.  
Ropelles.

CHEG.

P.1  
21  
PP.

A.F.A. 5th Bde.

TRUMAN, H. T. 18948.

K. April 19th, 1918.

I didn't see Gunner Truman killed by a shell which exploded landed on the house on the outskirts of Lavieville where they were having dinner about mid-day, but I was told about it by Sgt. K. Kelton (of the same 5th Bde. 13th bty. as Truman and myself), who, I think, was there at the time, and would be able to give information. I saw the body when it was brought back in a G.S. wagon the next afternoon for burial. The face was nearly unrecognisable. He was buried at a place  $1\frac{1}{2}$  or 2 miles from Behencourt in a M/C.

Truman was a young chap of 22 or 23 years, very slight, was a S. African originally, but I don't know where he came from in Australia. He was a bright, high-spirited chap, and had not been long back from Blighty when he was killed.

Inf. Fitter B. Shanahan, 2224, 5 Bde. 13 Bty.  
No.2. Stat. Hosp.  
ABBENVILLE. 8.8.18. HHH.

P.1  
G.1

13th Batty. A.F.A. A.I.F.

TRUMAN.  
H. T. 18948.

"Killed 19.4.18."

He was of 5th Bgde. about Middle April in afternoon at Lavieville. He was in his billet at time, near Batty. position was killed outright by shell. I did not see it happen, saw him later, was hit in head. Buried in Freshencourt Military Cemetery, cross was erected by Batty. I have not seen grave myself, as was on duty at time of burial.

Christian name Harry, knew him in Batty.

Inf:-

Driver M. Farley 7173,  
13th Batty. 5th Bgde.  
ANZAC BUFFET.

A.D.G.  
London,  
7.8.18.  
H.G.

P.I.

5th Bde.  
A.F.A.

TRUMAN  
H.T. 18948

"Killed 19-4-18"

He was in 13th Bty., and I saw him wounded at Lancuville on the Somme, when he was hit by pieces of a shell all over the body and head. He was taken away to the 6th F.Amb. at once, and was then conscious. He died there the same day. There were 9 of us in a room above a cellar waiting for dinner when a shell landed on top of roof, killing one and wounding we eight others. I was the only one practically unhurt. Casualty happened about mid-day on 19-5-18. I knew him well, his people live in South Africa, but I'm not sure where he enlisted. I assisted to bury him at Frenchencourt about 20 miles from Amiens. He was buried about 100 yards from the village church. The grave was marked by a Cross having full details marked thereon.

Informant. Prior. Cnr.L.H. 3471  
13th Bty. 5th Bde.,  
3rd A.A.H.,  
DARTFORD.

W.Oman  
London  
7-8-18  
H.G.

P.I.

Harro

5th August 1918.

A.P.A. 5.

Truman R.T. No. 18948.

K. 19th April 1918. Det D/B.

I knew him but not well. I think he came from a riverside suburb of Sydney. He was about 18 or 20, fresh complexion, shortish, always lively. On the 19th April we were at Larriville in action. Some of the men were billeted in a cellar, Trower being one of them. They were having a meal when the place was hit by a shell and Trower was killed. I saw his body being taken back to the Cemetery at Franciscourt. The Padre officiated and quite a lot of chaps were there. The buglers attended and sounded the 'last post'.

Inf:- Gunner W. Farns. No. 11471.  
A.P.A. 5. 13.  
Havre Hospital.

CHSG.

FP.

5th Bgde.

Truman, H.T. 18948.

K. 19/4/18.

We were at Lavieville and were sitting round a ~~camp~~ fire in a cottage when a shell burst on the ceiling. Harry Truman was hit on the head and died at once. I do not know for certain where he is buried.

5th Bgde.

Davis, H.S.Gnr: 7747.

4 A. Dartford. 27/7/18.

R.D.B.

P.1



5th Bttn.  
A.I.F. CA.

TRUMAN.  
H.T. 18948.

"Killed 19-4-18"

He was having dinner in billets in a house at Laveville at about 12:30 midday when he was killed outright by a shell which slightly wounded Cnr "Yerky" Dunhill (5 Bn. 13 Brgde. F.A.A.I.F) in the shoulder. I was at the waggon lines and did not see it, but Dunhill is I believe in England, and could give details. Truman was in the 13th Battery, and was about 5ft 6ins and was the only man of the name in the Battery.

Informant:- Cnr P.C.A. Willis. 22970. Bde.  
13th Battery. 5 Bttn.  
F.A. A.I.F.

A.G. Campbell.

London.

30-7-18.

H.G.

Note:- Written Dunhill. 29-7-18.

*marked*  
*Letter returned "not with unit" P I.*  
*Mag reports. D of W 26-10-17*

South African Hospital and Comforts Fund.

Non-Contingent Committee.

39, Grosvenor Place,

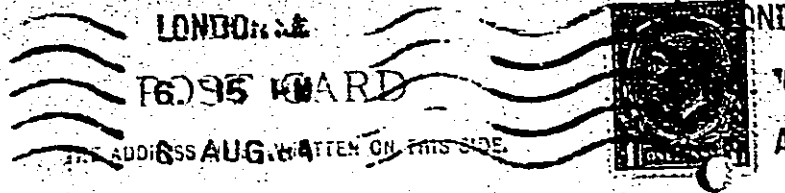
London, S.W. 1.

6... Aug. 1918

Dear Mr. McLean 18948. 13/10/18 - 7. a  
18948  
The funeral of H.T. Tindall. A. S. T. (deceased)

We beg to thank you for your letter  
of the 5th inst. giving us particulars as to  
the death of the above, which we are  
sending on to his next of kin. Any  
further information you can let us  
have will be appreciated.

(Miss) D. ROGERS, <sup>RS</sup> Secretary.



Acc. Aus. Ret +  
36. Grosvenor Place.  
London. SW  
1

15th August 1918.

Miss D. Rogers,  
South African Hospital & Comforts Fund,  
39 Grosvenor Place, S.W.1.

Dear Madam,

We beg to inform you of further unofficial evidence  
given by men of his unit about the death of -

18948 Gnr. H.T. Truman, 13th Battery A.F.A.

No. 3471 Gnr. L.H. Prior, when interviewed in the 3rd  
Australian Auxiliary Hospital Dartford, stated that he saw Gnr.  
Truman wounded by pieces of a shell at Lavieville on the Somme and  
removed in an unconscious condition to the 6th Field Ambulance, where  
he died the same day. Nine of them, including informant, were  
sitting in their billet in a cellar awaiting dinner when a shell  
fell on top of the roof, killing one man and wounding the other  
eight. The casualty occurred at midday and informant helped  
to bury him at Frenchencourt about 20 miles from Amiens, about  
100 yards from the village church, the grave being marked by a  
cross.

This evidence is confirmed by three other men of the  
unit, one of whom stated that the padre officiated at the burial,  
at which a number of the men of the battery were present and the  
buglers sounded the "Last Post".

Trusting that these details will be of some assistance  
to you,

Yours faithfully,

(Miss)

SECRETARY.

*L.H.V.*

We have

8377 Geoffrey Gordon  
Dunhill MIA

6<sup>th</sup> Army Bde AFA

NED

8377

Dunhill

"Jockey"

Sumner.

Geoffrey Gordon.

Address Wanted

G. Army Bde  
a.f.a.  
5 Battery  
a.f.a.

D/H 26.10.17. H.Q 23.9.18

File under

18948 H. W. Hummer

5th Batty. a.f.a

Repts Sect 18.9.18

If not delivered, please return to:  
The British Australasian (1918) Ltd.  
115, High Holborn, London, W.C.



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A

ALL COMMUNICATIONS  
TO BE ADDRESSED TO

"THE SECRETARY."

WOUNDED AND MISSING

— ENQUIRY BUREAU —

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY.

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY.

36, GROSVENOR PLACE.

LONDON S.W. 1.

29.7.18

*"Jockey" Dunhill*  
*Summer*  
*5th Batty 13th Brigade*  
*A.F.A.*  
*A.I.F.*  
*B.E.F.*

Dear Sir,

We are making enquiries about a man of your unit,  
*18948 Pte. H. Y. Truman - 5th Batty - A.F.A. - A.I.F. -*  
*who was reported killed - Apr 19. 18*

and have been told that you may be able to help us by  
supplying some information.

We should be most grateful for any details you can  
send us concerning him, but our enquirers wish especially  
to know whether he was buried, if so, whether it was on the  
field, or in a soldiers' cemetery where the grave would be  
registered. We would also be glad if you could add a short  
description of his personal appearance or any points that  
might help to prove his identity.

In your reply kindly quote name, initials and number,  
as without these particulars delay and confusion might be  
caused in identifying the soldier about whom you have  
written.

Yours faithfully,

(Miss) *Vera Dextine*

Secretary.

*Per. M. 2.7.*



# South African Hospital and Comforts Fund.

Chairman :

The Rt. Hon. VISCOUNT GLADSTONE, G.C.M.G.

Cable address.  
"Elfrick, London."

Telegram.  
"Elfrick, Seewest, London"

Tel-VICTORIA 2875.

39, GROSVENOR PLACE,

LONDON, S.W. 1.

## Non Contingent Committee.

Chairman: SIR HERBERT SLOLEY.

Reply to  
Secretary: Miss D. ROGERS.

19th June 1913

191

ack. 21. 6. 18

Dear Maum

Would it be possible for you to find out any details for  
us as to the death of

Gunner E. W. Truman, 18943  
13 Battery  
5 Brigade  
2 Division  
F. Artillery  
A.I.F.

We have received a letter of enquiry from Mr. Truman's  
parents in South Africa asking us to let them have any particulars  
available. (Turner Truman was a S. African)

Thanking you in anticipation.

Yours faithfully

Dorothy H. Rogers.

21.6.18

To The Secretary,  
South African Hospital & Comforts Fund  
39. Grosvenor Place  
London. S.W. 1.

Dear Madam

With reference to your enquiry  
concerning No. 18948. Pr. H. T. Truman  
13th Battery, Australian Field Artillery, <sup>who was killed in action on 19-9-18</sup> we beg  
to inform you that we have received the  
following unofficial report from No. 141.  
Pte H. G. Rice, 42nd Battery, A.F.A., Det 21.  
Exetham, Weymouth, who states: —

"I made a record of his burial in the  
Freckenhook Civilian Cemetery, & a cross  
was erected to his memory by the 2nd  
Division".

We are continuing our enquiries, & hope  
to send you further particulars of his  
death & burial at a later date.

Assuring you of our desire to help his  
father as far as it is possible.

Yours faithfully,

**LIGHT HORSE REGIMENTS A.I.F.**

### 1st Regiment.

D/W. Nov. 4/17. Det.D./B.  
M. Jan. 20/18.  
D/W. Oct. 31/17. Det.D./B.  
D/W. Nov. 4/17. Det.D./B.

Durham, G. T. 735.  
Freestone, F. W. 537. (M.G.S.)  
Pickering, A. 95.  
Swanston, Lieut. W.  
Weeks, S. R. 1445.

K. Oct. 31/17. Det.D./B.  
K. Nov. 10/17. Det.D./B.  
D/W. Dec. 10/17. Det.D./B.  
D/W. Nov. 1/17. Det.D./B.  
K. Oct. 31/17. Det.D./B.

—Merritt, C. C. 318.  
B. 1 Bde. Noble, G. 3299.  
—Rodgers, A. C. 1493.

D/W. Nov. 1/17. Det.D./B.  
K. Nov. 14/17. Det.D./B.  
D/W. Nov. 3/17. Det.D./B.

Reardon, J. 3637.

M. Dec.—Jan., Egypt.

Blackshaw, W. E. 5759.  
Kelleher, J. 1687.  
Morley, 2nd Lt. C. R.  
Sheridan, H. B. 3379.  
Westaway, W. H. 1088.

K. Oct. 8/17. Det.D./B.  
D/W. Nov. 9/17. Det.D./B.  
D/W. Nov. 8/17. Det.D./B.  
D. Jan. 24/18. Det.D./B.  
D/W. Dec. 4/17. Det.D./B.

†Bradshaw, A. 226.  
†Burlace, W. H. 233.  
†Clarke, R. 3048.  
†Crockett, A. 858.  
†Crozier, S. J. 759.  
†Donnison, G. F. 1492.  
†Farley, H. E. 257.  
†Fischer, L. M. 2330.

M. Mar. 28/18.  
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.. Mar 28/18.

GC

To

Mr. J. J. "Dunhill"  
Gunnar -

5th Batt. 13th Brigade  
A. F. A.

A. J. F.

B. S. F.

Colonel Sir

Mr. H. Y. Yerman  
1894-8.

5th Batt. A. F. A.

A. J. F.

B. S. F.

K Ap 19. 18

Willeta 29. 7. 18

M. S. F.

5th August 1918

Miss D. Rogers,  
Secretary,  
South African Hospital Comforts Fund,  
39 Grosvenor Place,  
S.W.1.

Dear Madam,

In further answer to your inquiry for -

18949 Pte H.T. Truman, 5th Fld. Art. Bgde, A.I.F.,  
we beg to inform you of an unofficial report given by No. 22970  
Gnr. P.C.A. Willis of the same unit, who was interviewed in  
the 3rd Australian Auxiliary Hospital Dartford.

He stated that Gnr. Truman was killed instantly by  
a shell while he was having dinner in billets in a house at  
Laureville about 12-30 p.m. on 19-4-18. Informant was at the  
Waggon lines at the time and knows nothing of his burial.

We are continuing our enquiries as we realise how  
anxious his relatives must be and as soon as we obtain further  
particulars we shall advise you.

Trusting that it will be some consolation to his  
relatives to know that his death was instantaneous.

Yours faithfully,

(Miss) *L.A.S.*

SECRETARY.