

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

**3946 Private
William Ernest Sellens**

22nd Battalion



2450803M

France.

A.I.F. 22.

3946
SELLENS W.E. 3495.

E. 5.8.16.

Chas. Whitburn, of the same Bn. saw him in a dying condition in a trench at Pozieres, having been struck by shrapnel. Sallens handed Whitburn his pocket book to send to his wife.

FJB.

Reference: Pto. J.M. Gosdon. 3033. B.Co.
St. John's Hosp.

Etaples.
31.11.16.

*Written by Whitburn
5.12.16.*

France.

A. I. F. 22.

SEILENS, W. E. 3946.

1/August 5th. 1916.

My mate, L/Cpl. H. Witner, O.Co., att. L.M.G.S.,
22nd. Batt., buried his body at Pozieres after the
action. The Grave is in No-man's-land, near where he
fell. ^{Witner} Witness is still with the batt.

Reference: Pte. A. Davis, 3823, O.Co.,
No. 2 A.D.B.D.

Staples.
2.12.16.
SA.

Written Repl Witner 17/12.16 M

22nd A. I. F.

W. E. SELLERS. 3946.

Killed 5.8.16. Details D & E.

Cpl. L. Maine told me he had seen Sellers killed at Pozieres. I know no further details. He belonged to B Co. Cpl. Maine has since been wounded and has not rejoined.

Reference: Pte. E. S. East, 3960.

No. 12 General, Rouen. 5.12.16.

PS.

Written Cpl Maine 19.12.16

22nd A. I. F.

W. E. SELLENS, 3946.

Killed 5.8.16. Details D & B.

Sellens was a great friend of mine. His No. was 3946. I was told by Sgt. Bodinnar of the 22nd Batt. that he was standing close to Sellens when a shell exploded and killed Sellens and wounded some of the others. This happened in the early part of August at Pozieres.

Reference: Pte. F. S. Schleebs, 3921. D Co. 16 Pl.

No. 9 General, Rouen. 12.12.16.

AGL. ✓

Written Sgt Bodinnar 19.12.16

22nd Batt.
A.I.F.,

3946

SELIANS

W.E.

"Killed in Action 5.8.16"

I deeply regret to say that I am sure he was killed on the night of Aug. 4th about 11 p.m. Regarding his identity he was about 5 feet 6 ins in height, fair complexion, and was of English birth, he was a married man I believe and was a corporal in reinforcements 9th Batt. X X X
Any further information his friends may desire I shall be pleased to give for an old pal.

Cert. by letter from 3869 Len C Ulains,
22nd Batt. A.I.F.
France,
3/1/16.

X Please put in all

London this part.
18.1.17

H.

22nd Batt.
A.I.F.,

3946 SELLENS

W.E.

"Killed 5.8.16"

I regret to have to say that there is no doubt of his being killed. He was with me in the trench in the morning of the 5th of August at about 8.30 when a piece of a shell hit him in the centre of the back and killed him almost instantly. He and Sellens went to camp on the same day and have been all the time together. He was about 5ft 2ins or 5ft 3ins fairly solid build, a reddish moustache and blue-greenish eyes.

Cert. by letter from Cpl Whittner,
C.Co. L.H.G.S.
22nd Batt. A.I.F.
France,
11.1.17.

London
22.1.17

H.

22nd. Batta.
A.I.F.

Sellens.
W.E. 3946.

"Killed in Action. 5.8.16."

In answer to your enquiries about W.E. Sellens, No. 3946, reported killed 5.8.16. This is quite correct, I saw one of his comrades to day, who saw him killed, and indeed buried him.

This was, Machine Gunner Wittner, of the 22nd. Batta. I am answering the enquiry for Cpl. C. Maine, who passed your note on to me and asked me to answer the same.

Reference:- Letter from F.H. Wenford. Chaplain. A.I.F.
22nd. Batta. 6th. Bde. 2nd. Aust. Division.
1.9.17.

NOTE:- Written. H. Gunner. Wittner. 2.1.17.

London.
25.1.17.

H

3946

W. E. Sellers

22 Batt

KA 5-8, 16

M 2

ack
Thu. 15.1.17

L. Kansas

3-1-16 17?

Dear Sir

In your enquiry
concerning Pte W. S. Bellows,
I deeply regret to say that I
am sure he was killed on
the night of Aug 4th 17th about
11 p.m. Regarding his identity,
he was about five feet 6 inches
in height, fair complexion, and
had of English birth. He was
a married man & his name was
a Corporal in the 1st Regiment
of the 1st Battalion. I have
been personally & was with

him at the time of his
death which came ~~very~~
suddenly. For further
particulars I have referred
the matter to our Chaplain
and you should receive
them in due course of time.
Any further information
his friends may desire I
shall be pleased to give
you as soon as possible.

Cpl

Yours sincerely
Wm L. Haines
1st Battalion

A. J. F.
I have been unable to reply earlier.

ack
Dec 17 1917

3946 W.E. Sellens

22 Batt AIF

K. 5.8.16

M2.

France 15 January 1918

To "The Secretary"

War and Missing Inquiry Bureau

Australian Branch of R.C.S.

London S.W.

Dear Sir,

I received your letter dated 29th Dec.
making inquiries about 3946 Pte W. E. Sellens and
request to have to say that there is no doubt of
him being killed. He was with me in the trench
in the morning of the 11th of August at about 5.30. when
a piece of a shell hit him in the centre of the back
and killed him almost instantly. He and Sellens were
in Camp on the same day and have been all the
time together. He was about 5 feet 2 inches or 5.3.
fairly solid build, a reddish moustache and blue
greenish eyes. By his request I have written to his
Wife and handed his things to the Blue Cross.

I am Sir, Your very truly

J. L. Williams

Witness
C. G. L. M. G. S.
22 Batt.

25th January 1917

Machine Gunner Wittner,
22nd Aust. Inf. Batten:
S.E.F.

Dear Gunner Wittner,

Sellens
We are making enquiries for our Melbourne Bureau for -
3946 W. E. Sellens, 22nd Battalion, A.I.F., reported Killed in
Action 5-8-16, and have to-day heard from Capt. Chaplain Winford,
that you would be able to supply details of his death and burial.

We should be most grateful for any information you
could send us concerning Pte Sellens, and would also be glad if
you could add a short personal description or any points that
would satisfy his relatives that no error has been made.

With best wishes,

Yours faithfully,

Secretary *P. M. for his father*

5th December,

Dear Sir,

We are endeavouring to obtain all possible information as to the fate of -

No. 3496. Pte. W.E. SELLENS, 22nd Battalion. A.I.F.
who is reported at Headquarters as "Killed 5-8-16".

We have received unofficial reports which lead us to fear that he was killed about that date, and we have been told that you might be able to give us some information concerning the above. The slightest details regarding a man's last hours, or the action in which he made the supreme sacrifice for his country are of such comfort to the bereaved relatives. We realise how much we are asking, but trust that you will forgive us.

With best wishes,

Yours faithfully,

Charles Whitburn,
22nd Aust. Inf. Batta.,
B. E. F.

V.D.

SECRETARY.

m. 24.

Dec-
22nd November,

Dear Sir,

We are making enquiries for a man of your Battalion -
No. 5496. W. E. SELLENS 22nd Battalion. A.I.F.
reported "Killed 5-3-16", and have been told that you may be
able to help us by giving us some information.

We should be most grateful for any details you could
send us concerning WE Sellens, and would also be glad if you
could add a short description of his personal appearance, or
any points that would satisfy his relatives that no error has
been made.

With best wishes,

Yours faithfully,

- V. D.

Sgt. Bodinmar,
22nd. Aust. Inf. Bn.,
E. H. F.

SECRETARY.

Flu

22nd December,

Dear Sir,

We are making enquiries for a man of your Battalion -
No. 3946 W. E. SELLENS 22nd Battalion. A.I.F.
reported "Killed 5-8-16", and have been told that you may be
able to help us by giving us some information.

We should be most grateful for any details you could
send us concerning W.E Sellens, and would also be glad if you
could add a short description of his personal appearance or any
points that would satisfy his relatives that no error has been
made.

With best wishes,

Yours faithfully,

- V. D.

Cpl. L. Maine,
22nd Aust. Inf. Batta.,
B.E.F.

SECRETARY,

He

December 29th

L/Cpl. H. Witner
C. Company
U.S. 82nd. Battn. A.I.F.
B. H. F.

3946. ~~U.S. 82nd. Battn. A.I.F.~~ 2nd. Battn. A.I.F.
reported Killed 5-8-16;

U.S. Sellens,

10
Lu.

17th January. /71

Dear Cpl. Haine,

Very many thanks for your letter of January 3rd. in answer to our enquiry re -

No.3946 W. E. SELLENS 22nd Battn. A.I.F.

It was exceedingly good of you to refer the matter to your Chaplain, whose letter we shall no doubt receive later, and your offer to give any further information they may desire to the relatives of your friend will - we are sure - be welcomed by them. We shall send your address to the Melbourne Bureau to be forwarded to Pte. Sellen's people, and no doubt in due course you will hear from them.

With best wishes,

Yours faithfully,

V. D

No.3869.

Cpl. L.C. Haine.
22nd Aust. Inf. Battn.,
B. E. F.

SECRETARY.

Lu

18th January

-7.

Corporal Witner,
C. Company.
L.H.C.S.
22nd Australian Infantry Battalion.
B.E.F.

Dear Corporal Witner.

Mary thanks for your letter of Jan. 11th, in answer
to our enquiry for:-

5946. W. E. Sollons, 22nd Battn. A.I.F.

and for the information you have given us. We are glad to
know that you, his personal friend, wrote to his relatives and
gave them all details and that his effects would be sent to them
through the Battalion Chaplain.

Please accept our sincere sympathy in the loss of your friend.

Yours faithfully,

H. Deakin

Secretary.

per Hu

24th January 1917.

Captain Chaplain Winford.
26th Aust: Inf: Battrn
B.E.F.

Dear Sir,

We have to thank you very much for your letter of January 9th, in answer to our enquiry re - 3946 E.E. Sellens, 22nd Battalion, A.I.F., written at the request of Cpl. Maine.

We are very grateful for the name and address of M. G. Wittner, and are writing him to-day for particulars for Melbourne enquirers.

With repeated thanks,

Yours faithfully,

Secretary *Rh for Mrs Miller*

Check
Ltr. 22.1.17

On Active Service



WITH THE BRITISH
EXPEDITIONARY FORCE



22nd Battalion
6th Brigade
2nd Australian Division

// In answer to your inquiries about W. E. Sellens
No 3946. reported killed 5-8-16.

This is quite correct. I saw one of his comrades 6
days who saw him killed, and indeed buried
him.

This was Machine Gunner Withner of the 22nd.

I am answering the Enquiry for
of C. Maine who passed your note on to me
and asked me to answer the same.

I am yours a devoted

F. H. D. Worford 21.1.17
Chaplain.

3946 W. E. Sellens

22 Batt. AIF

R. A 5-8-16

Note written M. Gunner Withner 22.1.17

M-2