

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

**2nd Lieutenant
Alfred John Hearps**

12th Battalion



1310105B

20-3-57
JCR
F.M. 23.3.57

Pt of the Beard
#3064
A3 Block
Ward Room 99
3rd A 9 H

Brighton

Dear Sir,
In reply to your letters of Dec 15
and January 10 respectively re enquiries about
Cpl H. J. Marks also 3495 Pte J. J. Jockey
~~with 12 other men well known to me~~
that I am able to give you information about
with ~~not~~ having been Lt. H. J. Jockey but
have written down in detail soon after
receiving both letters. I thought I
would call and see you ~~when~~ when
I was over there but instead have been
wounded myself if you could make
it convenient to see me at the above
address I think that we should
both be better satisfied than if I
tried to write about the two cases
and try to describe their personal
appearances as I hope you will see your
way clear to call and see me as soon
as possible from time to time
of the Beard J.C.R.

2 1/2 A. J. HEARPS / 12 Baltham St

M 21.8.16

Off M. (C)

○

R 14?

3/50 J. M. TOOHEY

12 Baltham St

M 19/22.8.16 -

P 3?

Note wrote to Mr. Makeham -

○ Brighton. 23. 3. 14 -

A.I.F. 12th Battn.

HEARPS
2nd Lieut A.J.

"Missing 19/22.8.16"

Pte A.M.Bean was Lieut. Hearps' batman. They were going over the top about 50 yards beyond Mouquet when Lieut. Hearps was hit in the back of the neck by a piece of shell 2" by 3", this paralyzed him, his batman stayed with him for $\frac{1}{2}$ an hour when at the request of Lieut Hearps he returned to get help but was told by Lieut. Roper that Mouquet Farm was then in the hands of the Germans. Therefore impossible to send others to find him at the same time forbad Pte Bean to return, remarking 'how he had got back safely God only knew.' At Roll Call Lieut Hearps was marked missing. Nothing further was heard until about the middle of September when his identification disc was sent in by the 16th Batt. No explanation was given. From this Pte Bean desires you to draw your own conclusion, but he is sure he is dead feeling that no man could live with such a wound. The above information received by Rachel Makeham from Pte A.M.Bean on March 24th 1917, at Kitchener's Hospital.

Reference:- A.M.Bean 3067

Block A-3.Ward 99

Kitchener's Hospital,
Brighton.

London
14.4.17.
R. Makeham.

Off.M.

12th A.I.F.

Hearps 2nd Lt. A.J.,
A. Company.

(M. Aug. 19/22nd 1916)

Informant states that on Aug. 19th 1916 at Pozieres, France I saw him wounded by a machine gun and it was generally supposed in the Battalion that he was killed afterwards. He had risen from the rank of Sgt.

Eye-witness: Yes.

Description: Thin, medium height.

Reference: W. Russell 170,
12th A.I.F.,
5th Southern General Hospt.,
Portsmouth.

Home address:
New Norfolk,
Tasmania.

Dec. 5th 1916,
H.M. Palmer.

France.

A. I. F. 12.

HEARPS, 2nd Lt. A. J.

M/19-22nd. August 1916.

Pte Bean of D. Coy. told me that he saw him lying out dead in front of Houquet Farm. The 24th. brought in his disc.

Reference: Cpl. Robinson, 1473, D. Coy.,
No. 18 General.

Etaples.
4.12.16.
EBA.

Wrote Pte Bean

15.12.16

OK

FRANCE.

A. I. F. 12.

HEARPS, 2nd Lt. A. J.

M. August 19-22. 1916.

Capt. F.W. Green of the same Battalion told me his disc had been handed in by another Division. I also heard he had been seen lying wounded on No Man's Land.

Reference: Horton, A.H. 2926, B.Co. V Pl.
No 22 Gen. Hoop. Etaples.
2 Dec. 1916.

FJR.

France.

A. I. F. 12.

HEARPS, 2nd Lt. A. J.

8/19-22nd. August 1916.

He was in B. Coy. He was killed at Mouquet Farm. Capt. Connell told me six weeks ago at Pontremy that he had got his disc, and that his body was found by the Second Division.

Reference: Scott, 1466, B. Coy.,
No. 1 A.D.B.D.

Staples.
1.12.16.
EBA.

write.

Written Capt Connell 6.12.16

GHM

12th Battn
A.I.F.,

Hearps.
2nd Lt. A. J.

"Missing 19-20/8/16

Corporal Young has just handed to me your letter of 20th inst re Lieut. A. J. Hearps, of this battalion - officially reported "Missing".

I am sorry that our information is so scanty. The facts so far as we can find out, are as follows. Lieut. Hearps was one of the officers who led the first wave of our attack on Mouquet Farm on the evening of the 21st August.

He was severely wounded under a machine gun, right in the Farm, this a little later than 6 o'clock. Our men were forced to retire and had to leave him there.

Later on his identity disc was returned to us by another battalion. The only conclusion is that his body was found by them after the position was finally captured, and buried in the vicinity. I was absent from the battalion at the time, and so can give no definite information as to the place of burial. If though the burial has been reported the Graves Register Office, at the War Office will have particulars of its position.

Cert. by letter from W. K. Douglas, (Chaplain)
12th Battn. A. I. F.,
France.

London
18-11-16.

28-10-16.

Off. M.

12th Australian Imperial Force.

Hearps, 2nd Lieut. A.J.

11 Aug. 19-22, 1916.

Informant states that at Pozieres (Monqust Farm) Lt. Hearps' identification disc returned to the H.Q.

Reference:-- Lieut. A.D. Tynan,
12th Australian Imperial Force,
3rd London General Hospital,
Wandsworth, S.W.

Nov. 17th.
Manning.

AM

12th Battn.
A.I.F.,

Hearps
2nd Lieut.

"Wounded & Missing 19-22/8/16."

The Orderly Room, D. Company, (12th Battalion)
3rd Training Battalion, No. 6 Camp, Perham Downs, have particulars
to this man.

Reference;- Cooper,
12th Battalion,
Ward 27,
Harefield Hospt. 12-10-16.

Note. Wrote to G.R. Sergt. 18-10-16.

London
19-10-16.
D.P. Dickson.

Off. M.

A. I. F. 12th Battn

Hearps
HEAPS
Lieut A. J.

Missing 19-20-7-16

Lt. Hearps was wounded (rather badly) on the evening of August 21st at Mouquet Farm, near Thiepval. He was last seen with his batman but he ordered him to leave him and ~~to~~ go on with the advance. Nothing further was heard of him. It is generally believed ^{in the Battalion} that he was subsequently killed.

Cert. by lettr. received from L. M. V. Newton, Lt.
12th Battn. A.I.F.
Perham Downs.

London
30-10-16

OFF. M.

A.I.F. 12.A.

HEARPS, Lt.A.J.

France.

N. August 19th.-22nd.1916.

Young dark fellow, was Quartermaster of C.Cy, clean shaven, home Tasmania - got his commission in June. On August 20th, the battalion were taking Mouquet Farm. They went through the farm but were forced to retire back as the other battalion which should have ~~been~~ reinforced on their left, couldn't get up to them. Cpl.Young of A.Coy told informant later that during the retirement he saw Lt.Hearps fall mortally wounded in the neck. He couldn't stop as he had to go on in the retirement. Cpl.Young told informant the Lt. couldn't have lived many minutes.

Informant: W.G.Winters. 119. 12 Batt.
Transport.

No. 2 Australian Hospital.
BOULOGNE. 10.10.1916.

JND

*written for you
10.10.16.*

AM

A.I.F. 12th Bn D. Coy.

HEARPS
2/Lieut A.J.

"Missing"

Killed in Action 22-8-16 - previously reported Wded & Missing
Cert. by A.I.F. Headquarters 5-7-17.

London
16-7-17

OFF. M. &
P. I.

F. Cree,
28.10.16

The Secy.

Recd.
2.11.16.

Wounded & Missing Inquiry B.
Australian Branch B.R.C.I.

as to the place of burial. If though
the burial has been reported the
Graves Register Office at the War
Office will have particulars of its
position.

Yours faithfully.

(W.S.P.) Douglas.

Chaplain. 12th Bn.
A.I.F.

Corporal Young has not been handed to
me your letter of 20th Inst. re Lt.
A. J. Harps of this Bn. - officially
reported missing.

I'm sorry that our information is so
scanty. The facts so far as we can
find out, are as follows.

Lt. Harps was one of the officers
who led the first 'wave' of our attack
on Mouquet Farm on the evening of
the 21st Aug.

He was seen lying wounded under a
machine gun sight in the Farm -
this a little later than 6 o'clock. Our
men were forced to retire & had to leave
him there.

Later on his identity disc was returned
to us by another battalion. The only
conclusion is that his body was found
by them after the position was finally
captured & buried in the vicinity.

I was absent from the Bn. at the time
& so can give no definite information

~~SECRET~~
Lieut A. J. Harps.
12 BATTN

M 19/20.8.16.

off M. 4 -

written
Jan. 29th 1917

18 Lancaster Street
Hyde Park W.
Jan 26th 1917

To

Mrs Deacon

Secretary of the Aust. Red Cross Soc

Dear Madam

Can you give me any later information of the undermentioned boys, as I have received letters from their mothers begging for definite news.

Sgt A. J. Hearps

D Coy 12th Batt

3rd Infantry Brigade 1st Aust. Division

Missing between dates 19th & 22nd August 1916

3151 J. Moran A Coy 25th Batt

Missing since July 29th 1916

If they are not already on your list will you kindly make a note of them

yours truly
A. Wheeler

address

Mrs H. G. Wheeler
18 Lancaster Street

1st February 1917.

Mrs. H. G. Wheeler,
18, Lancaster Street,
Hyde Park,
S.W.

Dear Madam,

We are in receipt of your letter of 26th inst, and with reference to the first man mentioned - Lieut A.J. Hearp, 12th Battalion, A.I.F, we can only give you the following unofficial information, some of which, will appear contradictory.

We learn from Corporal Young of the same battalion, but of "A Coy" that Lieut Hearps was a young dark fellow, clean-shaven, whose home was in Tasmania. - On August 20th the battalion were taking Mouquet Farm - They were forced to retire and Corporal Young stated that he then saw Lieut Hearps fall mortally wounded in the neck.

We also received a letter 30-10-16, from Lieut L.M. V. Newton, 12th Battalion, in which he stated the following - Lieut Hearps was wounded rather badly on the evening of August 21st at Mouquet Farm - near Thiepval. He was last seen with his

batman, but he ordered him to leave him and go on with the advance. Nothing further was heard of him. It is generally believed in the battalion that he was subsequently killed".

On 18-11-16 we received the following from Chaplain W.K. Douglas 12th Battalion, A.I.F., - "Corporal Young has just handed me your letter of 20th inst, re Lieut A.J. Hearps of this battalion, officially reported "Missing"

"I am sorry that our information is so scanty - The facts so far as we can find out, are as follows. Lieut Hearps was one of the Officers who led the first wave of our attack on Mouquet Farm on the evening of 21st August. He was seen lying wounded under a Machine Gun, right in the arm. Our men were forced to retire and had to leave him there. Later on his identity disc was returned to us by another Battalion - The only conclusion is that his body was found by them after the position was finally ^{P.L.} captured, and buried in the vicinity, I was absent from the battalion at the time, and so can give no official information as to the place of the burial".

Another man, - Scott of B. Company - writes - "He was in B. Coy. He was killed at Mouquet Farm. Capt. Connell told me six weeks ago at Poutrenny that he had got his disc, and that his body was found by the Second Division"

L/Cpl. A.H. Purton, states - "He is a prisoner of war in Germany I believe. Captain J.A. Foster who is now at Perham Downs Camp informed some of us about three weeks ago that he is know to be a Prisoner in Germany".

- 3 -

On 18-12-16 we wrote to the Captain Foster mentioned above, but received no reply at all. We can therefore place little faith in Lance-Corporal Purton's report

With reference to the other man - 3151 Pte J. Moran, 25th Battalion, we have had no information since he was posted Missing on July 29th 1916. Furthermore, his name has appeared in no official list of Prisoners of War, so we are afraid we cannot believe him to have been captured. We hope to have some more definite news of this man, and should we do so we shall let you know immediately.

Yours faithfully,

Secretary

P. M. for L. A. W. A. C.