

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

**6899 Private  
James Turner**

**23rd Battalion**



2800106H

23rd Battn.  
A.I.F.

TURNER.  
J. 6899.

"Accidentally Killed" 5-2-18.

Re 6899 Pte. J. Turner. During Musketry practice on the morning of the 5-2-18 he was accidentally killed. He was buried in the Churchyard of the Village church at Quesnes near Desvres. His comrades of A. Coy. 23rd Battalion subscribed and a head stone of Belgian granite was erected. His height was about 5 ft 8 ins medium build, *Fair complexion.*

Letter from:- J. Findlay.  
A.I.F.  
FRANCE.

London.  
29-5-18.

M.

23 A.I.F.

Turner, Pte.J. 6899

(K. accid. Feb. 5/18)

"I knew Turner - but was not present when he was killed nor at his burial, but I have since seen his grave. He was killed while at musketry practice - shot through the eye while looking down the rifle; it was loaded with ball instead of blank, by mistake. He was buried in the Cemetery at Quauges, near Boulogne, France, and a very fine tombstone, a cross of gray stone with inscription, was erected by the boys of the Battalion."

Eye-witness:

Description:

Inf:- Pte.F.A.Radcliffe, 3232

23. A.I.F. D.Co.

King George Hospital, Stamford Street,  
S.E.

Ap.17/18  
P. C. Parry

M

A. I. F. 23rd Bn.

J. TURNER, 6899.

Accid. K. 5th Feb/18. Det. D & B. (Accid.).

I have seen his grave. It is in a churchyard at Quesques just about 12 kilometres outside Boulogne. There is a stone memorial put up by the Bn. with name and No. on. I know nothing as to the circumstances of his death except that he was shot accidentally on parade ground, but they have full details at the Bn. I am sure that is his No.

Reference: A. Heathcote, 3549.  
No. 11 Con. Camp Buchy Nr. Rouen. 18.4.18.

FEP.

M

A.I.F. 23

TURNER, J. 6899.

K. Acc. 5.2.18. Det. D & B.

I saw Turner buried at Ques Ques between St. Omer and Boulogne in a French cemetery. There is a granite tombstone over the grave, 6 ft. high, put up by the boys. He was accidentally killed at musketry. I was not there, but the whole Co. (A) was there and it is well known. He was killed instantly. Turner came over with the 19th of the 23rd and had only just joined the unit.

Reference: T. Davenport, 4229.

No. 11 Con. Camp Buchy Nr. Rouen. 18.4.18.

FEP.

M

A.I.F. 23.

TURNER J. 6899.

K. Accid. Feb. 5/18. Det. D & B.

The account of his death was common knowledge, having been read out in Co. orders. I hardly knew him at all, as he had only lately joined us. He came out with one of the 19th Reinforcement lot end of 1917 or early in 1918. I think he was in A Co. While retreating at Verval, near Boulogne, he was at musketry practice, and the Cpl. was showing him how to use the eye disc for aiming. Turner lay down and the Cpl. took the rifle. Turner fixed the disc in his eye as told. The Cpl. fired. By mistake it was live round. Turner was buried in the French churchyard at Verval, and a lovely stone was put up over his grave.

Reference: C. W. Speed, 6467. D Co.  
No. 12 General Rouen. 23.4.18.

AB.

M Cd 20/11

23rd Btn.

TURNER J. J.  
pte. 6899.

Kid. 5/2/18. Result of accid.

"I knew Casualty. He was a short man, medium build, medium complexion, about 20 years of age, known as "Pampus". Casualty was at rifle practice. I was in the next party. He was accidentally killed by a rifle bullet which entered his eye killing him instantly. I saw his body. He was buried at Ques Ques in the Roman Catholic Churchyard and I saw his grave. A stake was placed over the grave by the Battalion."

Informant:- Pte. H. G. Green,  
No. 5357, 23rd Btn.

Private address:-  
181 Pickle Street,  
Port Melbourne.

T.C.F.  
7/2/19.

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS INFORMATION BUREAU-MELBOURNE.

M  
Ed  
R-1

23rd Battn, A.Coy.  
A.I.F.

TURNER,  
J. 6899

"Killed accid. 5.2.18."

I saw him killed at Ques near Boulogne. He was accidentally shot through the head, whilst out undergoing a course of musketry. They were practising rifle sighting and using dummy bullets, but accidentally a live cartridge got into the rifle. The Cpl. who fired the rifle underwent a courtmartial, but was acquitted. He came from Melbourne, but I did not know him very well. He was buried in a French cemetery at Ques, and the grave was marked by a tombstone bearing his full identification particulars. The Tombstone was secured by subscription, which the officers took up. Lt. Finlay, A.Coy, 23rd Battn, who is now in France, can confirm details given.

Informant:- Pte. W. Arley, 6764,  
23rd Battn, A.Coy, 4th Pltn,  
3.A.A.H. Dartford.

W. Oman.  
London.

27.4.18. NOTE Written Lt. Finlay 26.4.18.

M.

drum FINLAY 9.c

A. Coy 23 A.I.F.

B. 9. 7.

about

6899

J. TURNER

23 A.I.F. A. Coy.

IJ

Mild acidity

5.2.18.

W.

26.4.18



Order by P.C.  
28.5.18  
M.J.

6899 (Cd)  
J. Turner  
23<sup>rd</sup> Bata  
Accid killed 5-2-18

France.  
Sunday 19/5/15

M  
3

The Secretary  
Wounded & Missing  
Enquiry Bureau,

In reply to your letter of the  
26/4/15. re No 6899. P. H. J. Turner.

During military practice on the morning  
of the 5/2/18 he was accidentally killed.

He was buried in the churchyard of the  
Village church at Desques near  
Desvres. His comrades of A' Coy 23<sup>rd</sup> Bn.  
subscribed & a head-stone of Belgian  
granite was erected.

His height was about 5 ft 8 ins, medium  
build; fair complexion.

Yours etc.

H. J. Prud'homme