

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

2383 Private  
Robert Oliver Bowness

4th Pioneer Battalion



0480803N

4th Pioneers

Bowness, R.B. 2383.

K. 5/7/18.

Pte. R. Thompson (14th Platoon, D. Company) told me he assisted to bury Bowness. Thompson is at present with the Battn: and could give information.

4th Pioneers.

Hughes, W.Pte. 4815.

11 A. Dartford. 24/9/18.

R.D.B.

B

*M.S.*

*See Thompson's report.*

4th Pioneer Battn.  
A.I.F.

BOWNESS  
R.O. 2383

"Killed 5-7-18"

I did not see the casualty, nor can I refer to anyone. He was in D.Coy., and I saw his grave at Hamel on the field. It had been marked with a small piece of wood and I was sent up with Crosses and marked his grave with one, having full details marked thereon.

Informant. Thompson. Pte.R. 2949  
D.Coy. 4th Battn. Pioneers,  
3rd A.A.H.,  
DARTFORD.

W.Oman  
London  
5-10-18  
M.I.S.

B.

4th Pioneer Battn.  
A.I.F.

BOWNESS  
R.O. 2383

"Killed 5-7-18"

Casualty happened on 5-7-18 about 9 p.m. at which time we were going up in parties of 7 men each to dig a trench on the right of Hamel. I saw a shell land among party of 7 men he was amongst, and looked for him and 2 others, who had been killed also. We could find no trace of him nor the others, and tried next morning again, but failed. We were going through a hay crop, and with the heavy shelling it was difficult searching. We went on a good distance further and I heard nothing more. I knew him fairly well, but can give no further details.

Informant. Humphries. C/S/M 2526  
D.Coy. 4th Pioneer Battn.,  
3rd A.A.H.,  
DARTFORD.

W.Oman  
London  
22-10-18  
J.E.A.

B.

FRANCE.

4th AUSTRALIAN PIONEERS.

BOWNESS. R.O. 2383.

K. July 5th. 1918. Det.

He comes from Brisbane and was in my company, D. Coy. On July 4th we had a stunt at Hamel and the following night there was a heavy barrage. A party tried to pass through it and Bowness together with Armour and Anderson disappeared and were missing for two days. They were then found and buried by the 43rd Battalion. There was some difficulty in recognising Bowness since there were no discs or papers to be found on him. But he had been tattooed and one of our men was able to swear to the mark.

J.H.A.

Ref -- L/Cpl W.C. Morley. 1893.  
No 47 Gen. Hospital.

Le Treport. Nov 1st. 1918