

No. 6074 Private A. E. Downton

27th Battalion.

No. 6074. NAME A. E. Downton.

REG. & C. 27th Battalion RANK Pte.

ADDRESS

NEXT OF KIN

ADDRESS

M^{rs} E. M. Downton
High Street
Queenstown.

FILE NO.

7	9	17	1/4	Letter acknowledged.
20	9	17	further 1/4	" "
4	10	17		P/cable forwarded Comms London.
22	10	17		Reply from Comms. Information sent Inquirer.
11	12	17		Letter from Inquirer. Answer forwarded Inquirer.
2	3	18		Further letter from Inquirer. Acknowledged.
-	-	-		Letter forwarded Comms. London.
15	5	18	1/4	Letter acknowledged.
20	5	18		P/cable confirmed - forwarded Comms London.
21	10	18		"Slips" received from Comms. Information therein sent Inquirer.



No.	Surname.	Christian Names.	Date.
6074	DOWNTON	A. E.	20-9-17

Rank.

Regiment, &c.

File No.

Private

27th Battalion.

C/
/L

OFFICIAL REPORTS :

Other Information :

No official notification received, but a letter received from another soldier, Private E. M. O'Carroll, 17th Rfcts., 27th Batt., dated 26th March, 1917, in which he stated that Private Downton was too ill to write - was at the time of writing in the Fargo Hospital.

returned Australia September 1917.

Inquirer's Name and Address.

Relation.

Mrs. E. M. Downton,
High Street,
QUEENSTOWN.

Instructions :

Cable Commissioners.

Call Again.

YES.

NO.

Cost of Cable, &c.

X
September 9th
High St.
Queensstown

Dear Friends

I now sit down to write a few more lines
I wrote a about 6 week ago to ask you if
you could find out anything about the brother
& not heard from you perhaps you were too
busy just then I would be very please if you
would try & ear us a little the last we
heard of him his mate rote & told me
he was in the Vargo Hospital in England
with his nerves gone this was in march
& we havent had a line since I have enquire
ed to all that I knew had boys go the same
time but in vain he left last November
His name & number Private A E Downton
No 6074 ~~27~~ 27 Batalion
17 Reinforcement

Trusting you will oblige soon

I will remain Yours Truly

W. E. M. Downton

High Street

Queensstown

--
Soldier's name.

17th September, 1917.

Mrs. E. M. Downton,
High Street,
Queenstown,
SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

Dear Madam,

No. 6074 Private A. E. Downton, 27th Battalion.

We are in receipt of your letter relative to the above soldier.

We note therein that you wrote to us some six weeks ago, but apparently the letter went astray as it has never reached this office.

We have searched the official casualty lists, but can find no mention of Private Downton's name appearing therein, from which we gather that you have received no official notification of this soldier's illness. As apparently his casualty is unofficial, we would be glad if you would forward to us the letter received by you from his mate, giving particulars regarding his sickness or any other information in your possession, and on receipt of same, should the case warrant it, we will institute enquiries regarding him.

Awaiting your reply,

Yours faithfully,

352 b.

September 18th
Hugh St
Dunbarton

Dear Friend

I am very pleased to forward the letter if
it will bring any luck the last one I had
as I told you & I hope you will be able to under-
stand it for I think his mate must have been
very weak him self so I think he must be
in a terrible state, He told me to write to
his wife as you will see, I did so twice &
she said she didnt know anything about him
or know why I went. In trying to hear from
you soon I will be very glad to know where
he is or if he is well, I am ever best myself
so kindly excuse this being done in pencil

I remain Yours Truly

Wm. C. M. Dunbarton

Hugh St

Dunbarton

AUSTRALIAN



RED CROSS.

Targo Hospital

Salisbury
Plains

2.6th March 1914

Dear Mrs

I am writing to
you for Bert he is very weak
and shaky yet and I think
his nerves are gone he
shakes like a leaf so I
am trying to write to you
for him. I am in the hospital
too and I am only out of
bed so I am not strong
but ever so much strong for
Bert. We have had a

will always find her. She
has got Bert Photo then so
will know you mean because
I always tell her how he is.
Well Mrs we dont see or hear
much in the Hospital. But I
hope you are all well

I remain

Yours Respectfully

P. E. M. O'Barroll

14/27/14 B.

an doctor abroad

—

are very Dear, you have to pay
 for all you get in this ~~long~~
 country Well Mrs if you dont
 hear from Bert you will always
 hear if you go to my wife she
 is always at ~~at~~ Home and write
 regular every week and she will
 always be glad to tell you
 my home is at Hectorville just
 about one mile from Payneham
 and I am well known so you
 will have no trouble to find out
 my wife address if you write is
 Mrs & Mr. O'Barroll

Payneham Road
 Glynede
 Hectorville P. O.

in England it has settled
 hundreds of Australians
 it is so very cold. Bert
 wanted to know if you
 received your little Girls'
 Doll he sent from London and
 the Photos and post cards
 he sent Home. Well Mrs I dont
 think Bert will see the Foreing
 line he is to shaky I think he
 will be Home soon than you expect.
 and I will have to ^{go} without a
 mate but I hope he will soon be
 well. He is a good mate and
 always the same. Well Mrs I suppose
 you would like to know how things
 are going in England there is a
 very gloomy out look and things

No. 3526.

20th September, 1917

Mrs. E. M. Downton,
High Street,
Queenstown,
SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

Dear Madam,

No. 6074 Private A. E. Downton, 27th Battalion.

We are in receipt of your further letter with enclosure, and beg to advise that we have included your son's name in our cable of enquiry to the Commissioners, London, and will again communicate with you on receipt of their reply.

Yours faithfully,

Honorary Secretary.

QUESTAN

LONDON

OCTUPLARAN FOLLOWING UNOFFICIALLY REPORTED HOPRAKERS
SIXZERO SEVENFOUR DOWNTON ELPVE ILL TWONINENINETHREE
TAYLOR HADJELSEN WOUNDED LATEST REPEDATION STOP
FOURTHREZZEROSEVEN JOHNS HADJELSEN NO LANTERNJAW
MOONSTRUCK MGTHER ANXIOUS LEVATION THREE

REDCIB

Red Cross Information Bureau,
Verco Buildings, North Terrace, ADELAIDE.
OCTOBER 4th 1917.

A.I.F. 27th Btn

A.E.

DOWNTON
6074

"ILL"

3526

Adm. Fargo M.Hpl 10-3-17 -"Laryngitis"

Discharged to depot 2-4-17 P.U.O.
Cert. by Hpl Index

Trans - 10th Conv; Dep: Ecablt 30-8-17
Cert₁ by A.I.F.Hqrs 17-10-17

London
17-10-17

A

22nd October, 1917.

No. 3526.

Mrs. E. M. Downton,
High Street,
Queenstown,
SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

Dear Madam,

No. 6074 Private A.E. Downton, 27th Battalion.

We are in receipt of a cable, dated London, 17th inst., from the Red Cross Commissioners in response to our enquiry relative to the above soldier, in which they notify that Private Downton had recovered sufficiently to be transferred to a Convalescent Depot on August 30th last.

Yours faithfully,

Honorary Secretary.

December 9
High Street
Queenstown

Dear Sir

I am now writing to you about our brother
Private A & Downton^{No 6094}, I wrote to you some
time ago asking you about him &
I have received your reply saying that he was
overlesant & have not heard anything of him
or had a letter from him I would be very
thankful to you if you could find out for us
whether he has gone to the front yet or if
he is still if it does seem terrible to have
them away like this & not hear how they
are, I always look on Albert as one of our
own he is my husband's brother & lived with
us for years until he went away with the
rest he has neither mother or father he
is my worry now so I would be very
thankful if you could find out for his
Brother & I.

I remain Yours Truly
Mrs E. M. Downton

11th December, 1917.

Mrs. E. M. Downton,
High Street,
QUEENSTOWN.

Dear Madam,

No. 6074 Private A. E. Downton, 27th Battalion.

Your letter relative to the above soldier is to hand.

Since our last favorable report notifying that Private Downton had been transferred to a Convalescent Depot, which we forwarded to you on the 22nd October last, no further reports have reached us, nor has he been officially reported, we can therefore only presume that he has continued to progress. Our cables are so very heavily laden at present that we regret, under the circumstances, we are unable to ^{again} include this soldier's name, but as time goes on and you are still without news of this soldier, if you will so advise us and our cables are less heavily utilised we will endeavor to assist you.

Yours faithfully,

Honorary Secretary.

Hugh Street
Queensdown
Feb 25th

Dear Sir

No 6074

I am still anxious about Private A C Downton

We havent heard a word of him since you notified him of being convalescent in August last I would like you to try & find out for me how & where about's he is, you know twelve months last november since he left Australia & not a word only what you kindly let us know so would be very thankful if you could find a little information out for us trusting you will oblige

I remain yours truly

Mrs C J Downton

3526
X

2nd March, 1918.

Honorary Secretary,
Australian Branch,
British Red Cross Society,
32 Grosvenor Place,
LONDON, S.W.

Dear Sir,

No. 6074 Private A. E. Dewnton, 27th Battalion.

We cabled you on the 4th October last re the above, who was unofficially reported sick, and you advised by cable that he had been transferred to a convalescent depot on August 30th, which information we forwarded to our enquirer, the soldier's brother.

We are in receipt of a further letter from our Enquirer dated 25th February, stating that they are still without letters from the soldier, and will be glad if you will communicate with Private Dewnton, suggesting that he should write to his brother at High Street, Queenstown, South Australia, who is most anxious not having received a letter from him for twelve months or more.

Thanking you in anticipation,

Yours faithfully,

Honorary Secretary.

2nd March, 1918.

Mrs. E. J. Downton,
High Street,
QUEENSTOWN.

Dear Madam,

No. 6074 Private A. R. Downton, 27th Battalion.

We beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the
25th ult.

As advised previously this soldier was at a Convalescent
Depot on August 30th last, and there is, apparently, no reason why he
should not have written. We have, however, written to our Commis-
sioners requesting them to make enquiries re the soldier and to ask him
to write to his brother.

Trusting our efforts will be successful.

Yours faithfully,

Honorary Secretary.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN DIVISION

FORM C.



No.	Surname.	Christian Names.	Date.
6074	Downton	A, E.	18/5/18
Rank.	Regiment, &c.		File No.
Private	27th Battalion		

C/
/L

OFFICIAL REPORTS :

"Killed in Action 17th April, 1918"

Other Information :

Inquirer's Name and Address.	Relation.
Mrs. E. M. Downton, (Sister) High Street, Queenstown, SOUTH AUSTRALIA	Mr. J. J. Downton, High Street, Queenstown, SOUTH AUSTRALIA BROTHER (Father - Next- of-kin)

Instructions: Cable Commissioners for all available particulars relative to the death and burial of the above soldier - Photograph of grave desired by next-of-kin as above.

Call Again.

YES.
NO.

Cost of Cable, &c.

3526

No 6074

Pte A & D

27th B

Rm A 17-4-18

May 12th
High St
Greenstown

Dear Sir

Brother Wm 89 D. Street, Greenstown

I am just writing a few lines today, if you will remember me writing several times to see if you could find out about our brother Private A. C. Downton, well we never heard anymore of him untill we was just lately 17 April notified of him been killed in Action do you think that you could help us to know how he was killed we would like others like to know, My sister tells me that the Red Cross Information surprise those battalion bars if so would you oblidge me with the papers to fill in I have been going about one for some ^{times} but have not had the chance I think I shall be entiteled to one because I was almost his mother

Trusting you will Oblidge
Yours Truly Wm C M Downton

18th May, 1918

No. 3526

Mrs. F. M. Downton,
High Street,
Queenstown,
SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Dear Madam,

No. 6974 Private A. E. Downton, 27th Battalion

We are in receipt of your letter relative to the above soldier, and in reply would advise that we are cabling to our Commissioners in London, requesting them to obtain all available information concerning Private Downton's death and burial. On receipt of their reply, which will reach us by letter, we will again communicate with you.

In the meantime, may we extend to you our sincere sympathy in your great sorrow.

Re your enquiry as to Battalion Bars. We would advise that you write to the League of Loyal Women, Gawler Chambers, North Terrace, Adelaide, for application papers to be filled in for these bars, as they supply these bars to the relatives of soldiers.

Yours faithfully,

Honorary Secretary.

A.I.F. 27th Btn

DOWNTON

A.E.

6074

"WHEREABOUTS"

Killed in action 17-4-18

ert. by A.I.F. Eqs 27-5-18.

3526
400-1 Km A
17/4/18

London
28-5-18

A

27 Aus. Inf:

Downton Pte. A.E. 6074

(K. Apr. 17/18.) Det. D/B.

On April 17th we were at Buire outside Amiens and entrenched just outside the old C.C.S. A shell landed and a piece of shrapnel hit Downton right in the heart, killing him instantly. They buried him in a Cemetery just outside Buire. Several of his Company told me the details. Pte. Downton belonged to D. Co.

Eye Witness: No.

Description: Had been a farm labourer, medium build, very dark young, single, known as "Bert".

Informant: Pte. W.H. Herring 6094

27 Aus Inf: A.Co 11 Pl.

5 Southern Hospital

Fawcett Road, Portsmouth

Home address:
Glencee East
S.Australia.

19.6.18.

Elsie C. Hughes.

Sent 21/10/18

Havre

21st June 1918.

A.I.F. 27.

Downton A.E. 6074.

K. 17th April 1918. Det D/B.

He was in D.Coy. came from Alberton, S. Australia. He was killed on the spot by a piece of shrapnel from one of our aeroplanes near Boeur. He was struck in the head. He was buried but I do not know where.

Inf:- Pte L.C. Gatts No. 2633.

A.I.F. 27. D.

H.S. 'Grantully Castle'.

RBS.

Sent 21/10/18

27th A.I.F.

Downton Pte. A.E. 6074 D Coy.

XV Pltn.

(K. April 17th 1918. Dets. D/B)

"I certify that on April 17th 1918 at Buire Pte. A.E. Downton 6074 was hit by a splinter from a bomb from an aeroplane and died. He was buried on the Albert Road.

Cpl. Tornitch, D Coy., 27th Battn. could give all particulars.

Eye witness: No, but when carried out.

Description: Dark, 5 ft. 7. nicknamed "Bert."

Informant: Pte. A.J. Nelson, 2404,
27th Battn. A.I.F., D Coy.,
Kitcheners Hospital, Brighton.

Home address: Kenneth St., Port Adelaide,
S Australia.

21.6.18.

D. Fazakerley-West.

Sent 21/10/18

Havre

22nd June 1918.

A.I.F. 27.

Downton A.E. 6074.

K. 17th April 1918. Det D/B.

This man was with me in the Trench at Brier(?) when a German ^{Ruine} aeroplane bombed us. Downton was hit by a bomb and killed outright. He was carried by S/Bs to the back of the line. S/B Treager of D.Coy. (now with the Battn) could give more information. Downton came from Port Adelaide and used to work on the Wharf. Single, dark, medium, well built.

Inf:- Pte C.A.Wall No. 6340.
Australian Conv. Depot.
Rouelles.

WHB.

Written S/B Treager 3.7.18.

Sent 21/10/18

27th Australian I.F.

Downton Pte. A.E. 6074,

(K. April 17th 1918 Dets. D/B.)

"I remember Downton was killed at Buire-sur-Aigre near Albert on April 17th 1918 by a bomb of ours that fell short."

Eye witness: Yes.

Description: 5'6" dark, clean-shaven, about 25.

Informant: Sgt. Walter Broughton Wilson 966,
27th A.I.F., D Coy. XIII Pltn.,
Christchurch Red Cross Hospital.

Home address: C/o Mrs. G.M. Wilson,
Clement's Gap,
Crystal Brook
S Australia.

24.6.18.
F.J. Lord.

3526 - 1K ~ cd
400 - 17/4/18

Sent 21/10/18

Havre

24th June 1918.

A.I.F. 27.

Downton A. E. No. 6074.

K. 17th April 1918. Det D/B.

I knew Pte Albert (Bert) Downton of D.Co. XV Pltn, he came from Adelaide (Rosewater) in the 17th to the 27th Reinforcement in November 1916. I was right alongise him at Buire Rest Camp about the middle of April 1918 when he was killed instantly by a bomb accidently dropped from one of our own planes. He is buried near Ribermont. I did not see the grave but he was buried by men of our unit. He was a very fine fellow and the unit were very sorry at losing him.

Inf:- Pte A.W.L.Lawson No. 6567.
A.I.F. 27. D. XV.
Australian Camp.
Reuelles.

RDM.

Sent 21/10/18

27th A.I.F.

Downton Pte. A.E. 6074.

(K. Apl. 17th 1918. Dets. D/B)

"He was killed by a bomb from Aeroplane. This was at Buire. He was buried in a cemetery just off the Albert Road. I knew him well as I used to work with him before we joined up."

Eye witness:

Description:

Informant: Pte. L. Thompson 5404
27th A.I.F.,
Napsbury Hospital, St. Albans.

Home address: Northcote St.,
Chicago,
Australia.

June 24.6.18.
Albert Hill.

Sent 21/10/18

23rd Battn.
A. I. F.

DOWTON.
A. E. 6074.

"Killed 17.4.18."

He was a pal of mine and was on the next listening post to me at about 10 a.m. in April when he was killed by an Aeroplane bomb. Sgt. Young of D XVI 27th Battn. A. I. F. told me that he was killed instantly by a piece of bomb which passed right through his body. I have seen his grave which is on the Suiere side of the Amiens-Albert road just off the road and close to the Ribemont Aerodrome. We called him Bert. He came from Alberton near Port Adelaide. Was about 28 & had a small moustache. Very cheery and well liked. He was in B. Co. XV. The only Downton in Co.

A. C. Campbell,
London,
4.7.18.
J. B. A.

Informant:-

Hapscott, Pte. W. R. 4765
27th Battn. A. I. F.
D XV.
DARTFORD.

A

Sent 21/10/18

27th Battn.
A.I.F.

DOWNTON.
A.E. 6074.

"Killed 17-4-18"

Off.D.Company. About middle of April. In lines at Buire near Railway Station. Hit in head by fragment of aeroplane Bomb. Died within 2 minutes - was unconscious. I did not see him killed. I had to render casualties report of Company. Was buried at Cemetery in Buire - cross made by Battn Pioneers - Christian name Alf. (known as Darkie).

Informant:- S/M. G.A.Edwards. 534,
27th Battn.D.Co.
HAREFIELD.

A.D.C.
London.
5-7-18.
H.G.

A.

Sent 21/10/18

27th A. I. F.

Downton, Pte Albert, ^E 6074,
D. Coy, 15 Pltn.

(K. 27.4.18. Dets: D & B)

"Downton was killed instantaneously by an enemy bomb from an aeroplane near Baire? on Somme on April 17th 1918. I saw his grave which had his name and a cross on it. He was buried by Albert on Amiens Rd."

Eye-witness: No, told by his Company

Description:

Informant: Pte Wesley Curnow, 6061,
27th A.I.F., D.Coy, 13 Pltn,
Graylingwell Hospital,
Chichester.

Home address:
Paskeville,
S. Australia.

13th July 1918.
Billy M.S. Howard.

*Sent
21/10/18*

27th A.I.F.

Downton.Pte. A.E. 6074.
D Coy. 15 Pl.

(K. April 17/18*)
Dets. D/B.

"Downton was killed by a piece of a bomb dropped from an Air machine. He was buried near Edgahill dressing station, Buire, near Albert. I saw him buried, not sure of date, middle of April."

Eyewitness: Yes.

Description: Short, dark.

Informant: Pte. J. Moloney. 4158.
27th A.I.F. D. 15.
Cambridge Hospital,
Aldershot.

Home address:
163 Halifax St,
Adelaide.

19.7.18.
D.N. Bethune.

Sent 21/10/18

M

21st October, 1918

No. 3520

Mrs. E. M. Downton,
High Street,
Queenstown,
SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Dear Madam,

No. 6074 Private A. E. Downton, 27th Battalion

Our Commissioners have now forwarded to us by mail several reports relative to the above soldier, which have been supplied to them by some of his comrades. We would advise that although these statements have been carefully tested, we cannot guarantee their absolute accuracy, but forward them on to you in order that you may have all the information that reaches us.

No. 6094 Private W. H. Herring of the 27th Battalion, states that on 17th April they were at Buire outside Amiens and entrenched just outside the old Casualty Clearing Station, when a shell landed and a piece of shrapnel hit Private Downton right on the heart, killing him instantly. He was buried in the Cemetery just outside Buire.

Another soldier, No. 6061 Private Wesley Gurnow also of the 27th Battalion advises that your brother-in-law was killed instantly by a shell from an enemy aeroplane near Buire on the Somme on April 17th last. Our informant had seen his grave, upon which a cross had been erected, bearing his name etc.

No. 4158 Private J. Moloney also reports that Private Downton was killed by a piece of a bomb from an aeroplane. He had seen him buried near the Edgell Dressing Station, Buire, near Albert.

No. No. 4765 Private W. R. Fapscott states that he and

the above soldier were "pals", and Private Downton was on the next listening post to our informant when about 10 a.m. on April 17th last, the former was killed by an aeroplane. Our informant heard this from a sergeant in the Battalion, who also told him that Private Downton was killed instantly, the piece of bomb passing right through his body. Private Tapscott had seen Private Downton's grave, which was situated on the Buire side of the Amiens-Albert road just off the road and close to the Ribemont Aerodrome.

Still another report has been supplied by No. 6587 Private A.W.L. Lawson, who advises that he was right alongside Private Downton at Buire when the latter was killed instantly by a bomb from an aeroplane. He was buried by men from the unit, and our informant speaks of him as follows:- "He was a very fine fellow and the unit was very sorry at losing him."

Similar information has also been supplied by the following:-
No. 2404 Private A. J. Nelson, No. 5404 Private L. Thompson,
No. 534 Sergeant Major G. A. Edwards, No. 6340 Private C. A. Wall,
No. 2633 Private L. G. Eatts, No. 966 Sergeant Walter B. Wilson,
all of the 27th Battalion.

Should any fuller details reach us at a later date, we will again communicate with you.

Yours faithfully,

Honorary secretary.