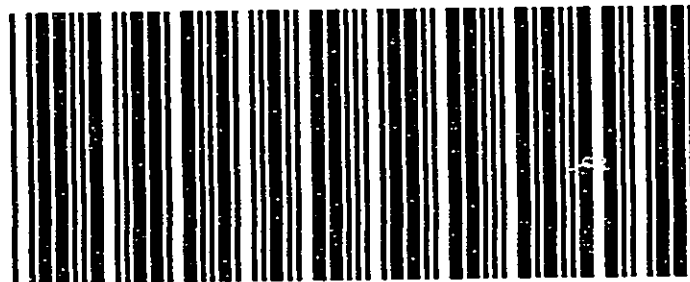


Australian Red Cross Society Wounded and Missing
Enquiry Bureau files, 1914-18 War
1DRL/0428

**2142 Private
Herbert Thomas
Skehan**

29th Battalion



2510704J

A. I.M.F. 29.

Skelam. H.T.
SKELAM, 2142.

H. September 27th, 1917.

This should be Skelam, number as given, initials H.T.
He was killed at Polygon Wood on September 27th.

SA.

Reference:- E.P.Juliff. 1148. D.Coy.
Devres.

Cert. from Battn. records.

M. d. P.I.

Etaples
15.1.18.

Havre.

6th. March 1918.

29th. Australians.

Skehan, H. T. No. 2142.

K. 27th. September 1917. Dets. D/B.

I knew Skehan for six months; he was small, medium build, smart, dark, and about 25. On September 26th. 1917. the Battalion was at Polygon Wood and in action. He was killed by shell explosion, and was dead when we got to him, two minutes after. We had to carry on, and I did not see him again or hear of burial.

Inf:- L/Corporal Stevenson,
27th. Australians.
B. Company. H. Q's.
Australian Camp.
Rouelles.

PM.

M
21

Havre.

26th. April. 1916.

29th. Australians.

Skohan, H. P. 2142.

K. September. 27/1917. Dets. D/S.

He was in B. Company, and the 5th. Platoon. I saw Skohan lying dead in Polygon Wood during the hop-over on September 26th. He was left in the rear of our objective and was buried. Skohan was about 5 feet 7 $\frac{1}{2}$, light hair, very well educated, about 25.

Inf:- Corporal, W. J. Martin. 6779.
29th. Australians. C. 11.
H. P. "Gravely Casual".

OWS.

M
PI

ALL COMMUNICATIONS
TO BE ADDRESSED TO
"THE SECRETARY."
WOUNDED AND MISSING
— ENQUIRY BUREAU —
AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY.



AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY.

Tel.: VICTORIA { 8576
8577
8578

36, GROSVENOR PLACE

(NEAR VICTORIA STATION)

LONDON, S.W. 1.

August 14th, 1918.

5367 S/Sgt. J.W. Cumberland.
7th Battn. A.I.F.
C/O Sergeant's Mess.
8th Camp. 3rd Command Depot.
Hurdcott.

Dear Sir.

With further reference to your enquiry for -

2142 Pte. H.T. SKEHAN. 29th Battalion. A.I.F.

We regret to inform you of another unofficial report which we have received from one of the men in his unit.

6779 Cpl W.J. Marshall interviewed recently in No 4 Command Depot, Hurdcott stated that Pte. Skehan was killed by a shell at Polygon Wood. Our informant saw his body, which was buried by a party from the company in a shell hole near the place of casualty. Pte. Marshall described him as aged 27, 5'7" in height, well built and of medium complexion, he further stated that he was a machine gunner and had been a clerk in the tobacco trade in Melbourne before enlisting.

We have now closed our enquiry as we feel that further enquiries would not lead to any more definite information but should we receive further particulars we shall advise you.

Trusting that this report may be of some assistance to you.

Yours faithfully,

(Miss)

V. Deakin
Secretary. per D.S.

29th. Battn. A. I. F.

Skehan, H. T. Pte. No. 2142.

Killed. Sept. 27th. 1917. Det. D/B.

He was killed by a shell at Polygon wood, I saw his body soon after. He was buried in a shell hole near where he fell by a party from the company. No cross was erected at the time. He was a machine gunner, and was in No. 5. Platoon, B. Company. He was a clerk in the tobacco trade in Melbourne before enlisting.

Description. Age. 27. Height. 5-7. Medium Complexion. Well Built.

Witness. Cpl. Marshall, W. J. No. 4779. C. Company. 29th. Battalion.

Taken at.

No. 4. C. D. Hurdcott.

-6. S. 18.

T. C. O.

T. C. Osborne,
No. 3. Command Depot,
Hurdcott.

ONS. 7/11

15-11

UG. 18

WAR BONDS
NOW

1897

15 PR

24 AUG 19



5367 S/ 30
7th Battalion
o/s Se. 1000
6th Camp
Ord. Goods and Depot
Barracks

SENDER

*Field
work*

*Recd 9/18/19
15*

P.C.
26.12.17

c/o Sgt. Moss,
#8 Camp #3 Command Depot,
Hurdcott, Eng.
24th December 1917.

Dear Miss Deacon,

Will you please send me any particulars
you can gather of:-

2142 Pte. H. J. Skehan,
29th Battalion, A.I.F..
Enlisted in Victoria.

Thanking you in anticipation,
I remain,

Yours sincerely,

367 Lc. Sgt. J. W. Cumberland
(7th Battalion A.I.F..)
above address.

5367 Sgt. J.W. Cumberland,
5th Bn., A.I.F.,
C/o Spts. Mess, 8th Ca B.,
3rd Command Depot, Hurdcott.

December 27th, 1917.

Dear Sir,

In answer to your enquiry about

^{H.T.}
No 2142 Pte. SEENAN, 29th Bn., A.I.F.

We regret to inform you that he is officially

reported to have been killed in Action 27.9.17,

We are doing all possible to ascertain full details

of his death and directly we obtain them we shall

at once send them on to you.

Yours faithfully,

Secretary.

L.B.

21st March, 1918.

5367 L/Sgt. J.W. Cumberland,
7th Battn, A.I.F., C/O Sgts' Mess,
8th Camp, 3rd Command Depot,
HURDCOTT.

Dear Sir,

We beg to inform you that we have received an unofficial report respecting - 2142 Pte. H.T. SKELHAN, 29th Bttn, A.I.F. - which confirms the official report of his being killed in Action.

L/Cpl. Stevenson, 27th Battn, states that on Sept. 26th, 1917, he was killed by shell explosion, being dead when informant reached him, two minutes later. He can give no particulars as to burial.

We are continuing enquiries, and will at once advise you of any information we may receive.

Yours faithfully,

F. S. G.

SECRETARY.

August 14th, 1918.

5367 S/Sgt. J.W. Cumberland.
7th Bn. A.I.F.
C/O Sergeant's Mess.
8th Camp. 3rd Command Depot.
Hurdcott.

Dear Sir.

With further reference to your enquiry for -
2142 Pte. H.T. SKEHAN. 29th Battalion. A.I.F.

We regret to inform you of another unofficial report which we have received from one of the men in his unit.

6779 Cpl W.J. Marshall interviewed recently in No 4 Command Depot, Hurdcott stated that Pte. Skehan was killed by a shell at Polygon Wood. Our informant saw his body, which was buried by a party from the company in a shell hole near the place of casualty. Pte. Marshall described him as aged 27, 5'7" in height, well built and of medium complexion, he further stated that he was a machine gunner and had been a clerk in the tobacco trade in Melbourne before enlisting.

We have now closed our enquiry as we feel that further enquiries would not lead to any more definite information but should we receive further particulars we shall advise you.

Trusting that this report may be of some assistance to you.

Yours faithfully,

(Miss) *DS*

Secretary.



29th Btn