

KEEGAN, W.

Although very little has yet been found about his family, W Keegan is believed to be Walter William Keegan.

Just a year after he enlisted, Walter was reported missing, and it was another year before he was officially declared as 'Killed in Action'.

A letter included in his NAA file gives insight into the role of clergymen in notifying a soldier's next of kin. Mr Good, Mr Wenzel and Mr W Hudson were Church of England ministers in Carlton, Abbotsford and Clifton Hill, trying to contact Walter's aunt (his current next of kin).

AIF Project Entry

Walter William KEEGAN

Regimental number	3141
Place of birth	Bendigo, Victoria
Religion	Church of England
Occupation	Bootmaker
Address	c/o Peddie Bros, Boot Factory, North Fitzroy, Victoria
Marital status	Single
Age at embarkation	30
Height	5' 5"
Weight	140 lbs
Next of kin	Friend, Herbert R Rayner, c/o Peddie Bros, Boot Factory, North Fitzroy, Victoria
Previous military service	Nil
Enlistment date	3 July 1915
Date of enlistment from Nominal Roll	5 July 1915
Place of enlistment	Melbourne, Victoria
Rank on enlistment	Private
Unit name	22nd Battalion, 7th Reinforcement
AWM Embarkation Roll number	23/39/2
Embarkation details	Unit embarked from Melbourne, Victoria, on board HMAT A73 <i>Commonwealth</i> on 26 November 1915.
Rank from Nominal Roll	Private

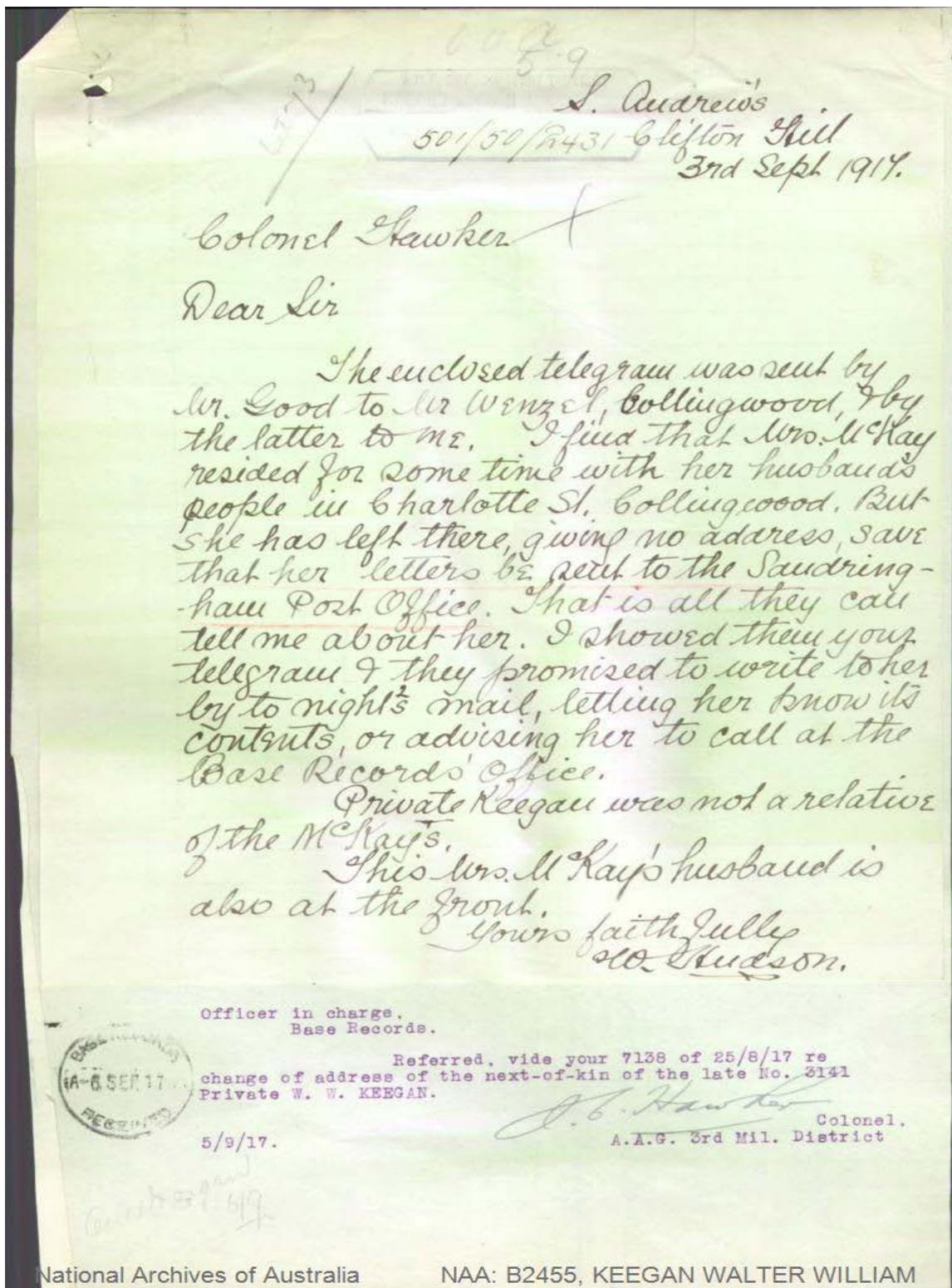
Unit from Nominal Roll	60th Battalion
Fate	Killed in Action 19 July 1916
Place of burial	No known grave
Commemoration details	V.C. Corner (Panel No 21), Australian Cemetery Memorial, Fromelles, France
Panel number, Roll of Honour, Australian War Memorial	170
Other details	<p>War service: Egypt, Western Front Allotted to and proceeded to join 57th Bn, Tel el Kebir, 23 February 1916. Transferred to 60th Bn, 20 March 1916. Admitted to 14th Australian field Ambulance, 14 May 1916 (not yet diagnosed); transferred to Australian Casualty Clearing Station, 15 May 1916 (left renal colic); to 3rd Australian General Hospital, Abbassia, 15 May 1916 (gastritis); discharged to duty, 29 May 1916; rejoined Bn, 30 May 1916. Embarked Alexandria to join the British Expeditionary Force, 18 June 1916; disembarked Marseilles, France, 29 June 1916. Reported Missing, 19 July 1916. Court of Enquiry, held in the field, 4 August 1917, pronounced fate as 'Killed in Action, 19 July 1916'. Note, Red Cross File No 1480507: 'No trace Germany. Cert. by Capt. Mills. 10.10.19.' Medals: 1914-15 Star, British War Medal, Victory Medal</p>
Sources	NAA: B2455, KEEGAN Walter William Red Cross File No 1480507

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NAA: B2455, KEEGAN W W, SERN 3141

BDM VIC

Extract from Walter Keegan Service Record, SERN 3141, p. 27/35.
Letter re: tracing next of kin



Extract from Australian War Memorial: Red Cross Missing and Wounded File

60th Battn.
A. I. F.

W. W. Keegan. 3141.

"Missing 19.8.16."

About Pte. W. W. Keegan 3141, 60th Battn. Pte. Keegan was batman to Capt. E. A. Evans up to July 19th on which date he was missing. Capt Evans was killed also and body found. He is missing as far as I know from Regt. Records and my own knowledge and I fear the worst. I saw him a few minutes before the actual attack, but never saw him or heard of anyone who did afterwards. So few escaped that day that it is hard to get details of all the missing. Please convey my sympathy to those inquiring for Keegan was worthy of his native land and a credit to those who loved him.

Letter from:-

O.C.

B Coy.

France. 17.5.17.

London.
30.5.17.

Off.M.