

BATTLE OF MURDY-AYOUN

Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Unkles, of Port Fairy, have received a letter from Padre F. Kellow, 2/2 Pioneer Battalion, A.I.F. Abroad. It reads as follows: "It is with great regret that I write to confirm the news of your son's (Pte. A. Unkles) death. Early in the campaign our forces met with very strong resistance by the French at Murdy-Ayoun. It was on the morning of June 17th that our battalion went into action against the fort, and your son was a member of A Company who were in the vanguard. With great courage they penetrated to within a few yards of the fort when your boy was severely wounded. It became impossible to hold the position, so the men close up to the fort were taken prisoner by the French. We cannot speak too highly of the treatment our men received at the hands of the Vichy forces, particularly our wounded. They were taken to a hospital at Bierut, where everything possible was done for them. Your boy appeared to be getting along very well, but I am sorry to say he had a relapse and slipped away very quickly. He was laid to rest in the grounds of the Carmelite Monastery at Bierut. Please accept from his comrades and myself our most sincere sympathy in your loss, and may God give you comfort and strength."