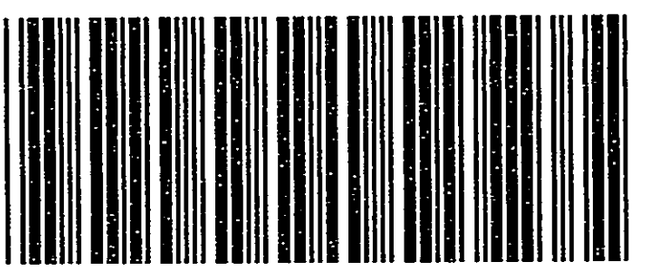
Australian Red Cross Society Wounded and Missing
Enquiry Bureau files, 1914-18 War
1DRL/0428

2376 Private
John Bradney

56th Battalion



0500601C

A.I.F. 56.

Bradley J. 2376
DILWORTH, I.D. 3537.

M. April 2nd 1917.

I knew both these men quite well. It was during our attack on the village of Loverval. We took and held the village and all the men who went missing were recovered afterwards and these were the men whi were buried by shells and killed and they were identified by their discs. Bradley and Dilworth were the only two that were not recovered and all the chaps said that they were taken prisoner during the attack. They are both generally recognised in the Battn as P/W.

Inf: Sig. H. Jeans. 2032.
No. 7 C.C.
BOULOGNE. 10.7.17.

RAOI

S.

56th A. I. F.

J. BRADNEY, 2376.
A. E. DURKIN, 2643.

Missing 2.4.17.

I was in the Quartermaster's Stores and had to mark their letters "Deceased".

Reference: Pte.J.G.Jameson, 3151, A.Coy.

No.12 General, Rouen, 6.10.17.

GLA.

RIS.

56th Australian I.F. Bradney J. 2376, C. Coy.

(M. April 2nd 1917)

"Informant know all the Bradneys who come from his native town of Coolamon N.S.W. (quite a small place). He showed me a newspaper cutting from a local paper (dated before July 20th when his people enclosed it in a letter) "Mrs. W.H. Patticon of Lysterfield has "received word that her brother J. Bradney 56 A.I.F. is a prisoner of war."

Eye witness:
Description:

Informant: Fred Farrell 55 A.I.F. C.Coy. 1647
Fulham Military Hos. B.3.

Home address: Coolamon, N.S.W.

14.10.17.
A. Urlin.

P.1

Will Sydney please investigate.
No trace as P/W to date. 18.10.17.

A.I.F. 56th Btn
5th Rfts

BRADNEY
J. 2376

"M. bel: K. 2-4-17"

Killed in action - previously reported Missing believed Killed
Cert. by A.I.F.Hqrs 25-10-17.

S & P.I

London
29-10-17

56 A.I.F. Bradney, Pte J. 2376.

M. Apr.2/17.

" I was with the battn. on Apr 2nd, last, when an attack was made and Louisville taken by us. Bradney and I were in the advance.

On the 5th or 6th April I was told by pals in the Co. that Bradney was killed by a shell. The burial party reported his body could not be found. I was with the battn till Sept 26 and all the men said he was killed."

Eyewitness:- No, told by men in the Co.

Description:- Called "Jack", a private, lived at Wagga, stout, clean-shaven.

Informant:- Pte. Edward Sweeney, 2490
56 A.I.F., B Co., VII Plat.
1st. Southern Genl Hosp., B/ham.

Home address:- Bougendone, N.S.W.

29/10/17.
J. Lassey

P.1
S

56th Batt. A.I.F. Bradney. J. 2376.
A Co.
K
M 2.4.17.

"On April 2nd we attacked Louvreville. I saw Bradney blown to pieces by a shell at 2.30 p.m."

Eye-witness: Yes.

Description:

Informant: Pte Sid Day, 2401,
56 A.I.F. A Co. III Pl.
Southmead Hosp.
Bristol.

Home address:

30.10.17.
C.W. Winnington-Ingram.

P.1
5

56th Battn.
A.I.F.

BRADNEY.
J. 2376

"KILLED 2.4.17"

I knew Bradney well. His brother was Lieut, in one of the A.I.F. Battn. He was very keen and fine soldier. He was shot throught the heart I heard this afterwards, It made a particular impression on my mind because he had been detailed for special duty & need not have joined in the attack. Just before going over he said to me"I wonder if I shall come out of this" I think he was buried behind the lines. It was during the taking of Bullecourt that he was killed. ground held.

Eyewitness;- No.

Home Address.
Masonic Club.
Sydney. N.S.W.

Description;-

Informant;- F.C.C. Dind. 4397. Pte. reliable.
55. A.I.F. B Coy. 8th Pltn.
Tent N.L.
Bath. Hospital.

Note;- discrepancy in dates as given in list and by Dind.,

Note;- we regret the delay in typing the above report, but wenhave been obliged to hold it up on account of pressure of work and shortage of machines.,

A.I.S. F.J. Kingsley.

London. 14.5.18.

56th Battn.
A. I. F.

Bradney J. 2376	Killed in Action 2.4.17.
Dilworth.L.D. 3537	Died of Wounds 2.4.17.
Durken. A.F. 2643	Killed 2.4.17.
Hibbert. R.T. 3566	Killed in Action 3.4.17.
Leadnell. W.E. 1684	Killed 2.4.17.
McConagh.W. 4849	Missing Bel.Killed 2.4.17.
McDonald.R.W. 3842	Killed 3.4.17.
Owen. J.H. 2238	Killed 2.4.17.
Roberts H.V. 2468	Killed 2.4.17.
Warren. H.3141.	Killed 2.4.17.

Refer to Sgt.W.Hurley and Lieut.Davies 14thTraining Battalion - No.12 Camp, Hurdcott, England, who were both at Louverval at time of casualty which happened during a charge there on this date and I feel sure will be able to give full particulars of all these men.

Witness:- Pte.C.Bryant 3243
56th Battn.A.Coy.4th Plt'n.
3rd Aust.Aux.Hospital.
Dartford.

W.Oman.

London.
14.11.17.

Note Written Sgt.Hurley & Lt.Davies 14.11.17.

S.
S.
S.
S.
P.I.
S,
S.

56TH BATTALION. A.I.F.

BRADNEY, J.
2376. Pte.

KILLED. 2/4/17.

Informant described Bradney as about 5ft.8 inches high, medium build, very fair complexion, wore a fair moustache, aged about 43-44. Thought to have come from Wagga, and left Australia with Informant per 'Aenaeus' in July, 1916.

Informant states that on or about 2/4/17 the Battalion was at Louvreville in action. They hopped over at about 5-30 a.m. Informant saw Bradney before the hop-over and was speaking to him. He and others also saw him for about half-an-hour after the hop-over. He then disappeared, and no one seems to have seen him afterwards. After reaching their objective they had to retire about half-way on account of a counter-attack by the Germans. No further information of ~~Bxx~~ x Bradney was obtainable.

Informant added that Bradney was a very good tempered and generous chap, and very popular with everyone.

INFORMANT:- Pte.R.F.Pearce, 2461,
"A" Co., 56th Battn.,
No.4 Aust.General Hospital,
RANDWICK.

W.E.G.
24/5/18.

Home address:-
c/o Mrs.E.H.Barber,
"Warrawini", YASS.

SYDNEY BUREAU.

A.I.F.56th Bttn

BRADNEY.
John.2376.

Killed in Action.2.4.17.

No trace Germany.
Cert by Capt.Mills.10.10.19.

London.
24.10.19.

S.

GC

Sgt.W.Hurley,
26th Battn, A.I.F.,
14th Training Batta,
No 12 Camp, Hurdcott,
WILTS.

November 15th, 1917.

Dear Sir,

We have been making enquiries on behalf of our Sydney Bureau concerning several men of your unit.

2376 J.BRADLEY, "KILLED in Action 2.4.17"
3557 L.D.DILWORTH, "DIED of Wounds 2.4.17"
2643 A.F.DURKIN, "KILLED in Action 2.4.17"
3566 R.T.HIBBERT, "KILLED in Action 3.4.17"
1664 W.C.MEADWELL "KILLED in Action 2.4.17"
4849 W.McCONAGH, "Missing bel.Killed 2.4.17"
3848 R.F.McDONALD "KILLED in Action 3.4.17"
2238 J.A.OWEN, "KILLED in Action 2.4.17"
2468 H.T.ROBERTS, "KILLED in Action 2.4.17.
3141 H.WARREN, "KILLED in Action 2.4.17"

and have recently been told that if we applied to yourself or to Lt.Davies we should probably be able to obtain some details concerning any or all of these soldiers that would be of value to our enquirers.

We should be very grateful for any information you could send us, and also if you could supply in each case a short personal description or any point that would satisfy our enquirers as to identity.

With apologies for troubling you and thanking you in anticipation.

Yours faithfully,

SECRETARY.

V. D. Glu.

GC

Lieut.Davies,
26th Battn, A.I.F.,
14th Training Bttn,
No 12 Camp, Hurdcott,
WILTS.

November 15th, 1917.

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3842 R.W.McDONALD, "KILLED in Action 3.4.17"
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5141 H.WARREN, "KILLED in Action 2.4.17"

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Yours faithfully,
SECRETARY

1620
2

No 1260 Pte.W.F.Bradney,
54th Battalion,
A.I.F., B.E.F.

November 12th, 1917.

Dear Sir,

In further answer to your inquiry for your brother

No 2376 Pte.J.BRADNEY,
56th Battalion,
A.I.F.

we very much regret to inform you of unofficial evidence given by men of his unit which only confirms the official report of his death in Action.

No 2401 Pte.Sid.Day, when in the 2nd Southern General Hospital, Southmead Section, Bristol, reported that he saw your brother killed instantaneously by a shell at 2.30.p.m. on April 2nd, when they attacked Louverval.

No 2490 Pte.Edward Sweeney, when in the 1st Southern General Hospital, stated that He was with your brother in the advance on Louverval on April 2nd, when they captured the village, and he was told by friends in the company that Pte.Bradney has been killed by a shell. He adds that your brother who was called Jack lived at Wagga and was stout and clean shaven.

We are continuing the inquiry and will let you know as soon as we receive further news as we fully realise how anxious you must be about him.

Yours faithfully,

SECRETARY

Enquiry for

2376 J. BRADNEY A Co.
56 Batt AIF

M. bel K. 2.4.17

white card

Enquirer's brother

1620 pte W. E. Bradney
B. Co
54 Batt AIF
BEF

F.M.
11.8.17

T. Matthews and 2233 Pte. G, Noble, and also your letter (undated) about Lieut. W.E.O'Halloran. We regret that indistinct handwriting made Pte. Noble's name read Roble, and so caused you unneccessary trouble.

With regard to the request that you make in each letter, that we in future address all enquiries to the Battalion and not to individual soldiers, - this is of course quite out of the question. We (as a last resource) address our requests for official information to the Adjutant of the unit concerned, but the greater part of our work deals with unofficial information received direct from the men and naturally not within the scope of a battalion orderly room.

It ~~naturally~~ does happen that we sometimes address a man who can give little or no news, but these instances

Tel.: VICTORIA 8858.

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

TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS:
"QUESTMAN, LONDON."

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY.

54, VICTORIA STREET,
LONDON, S.W. 1.

November 18th, 1917.

No 1260 Pte.W.F.Bradney,
54th Battalion,
A.I.F., B.E.F.

Dear Sir,

In further answer to your inquiry for your brother

No 2576 Pte.J.BRADLEY,
56th Battalion,
A.I.F.

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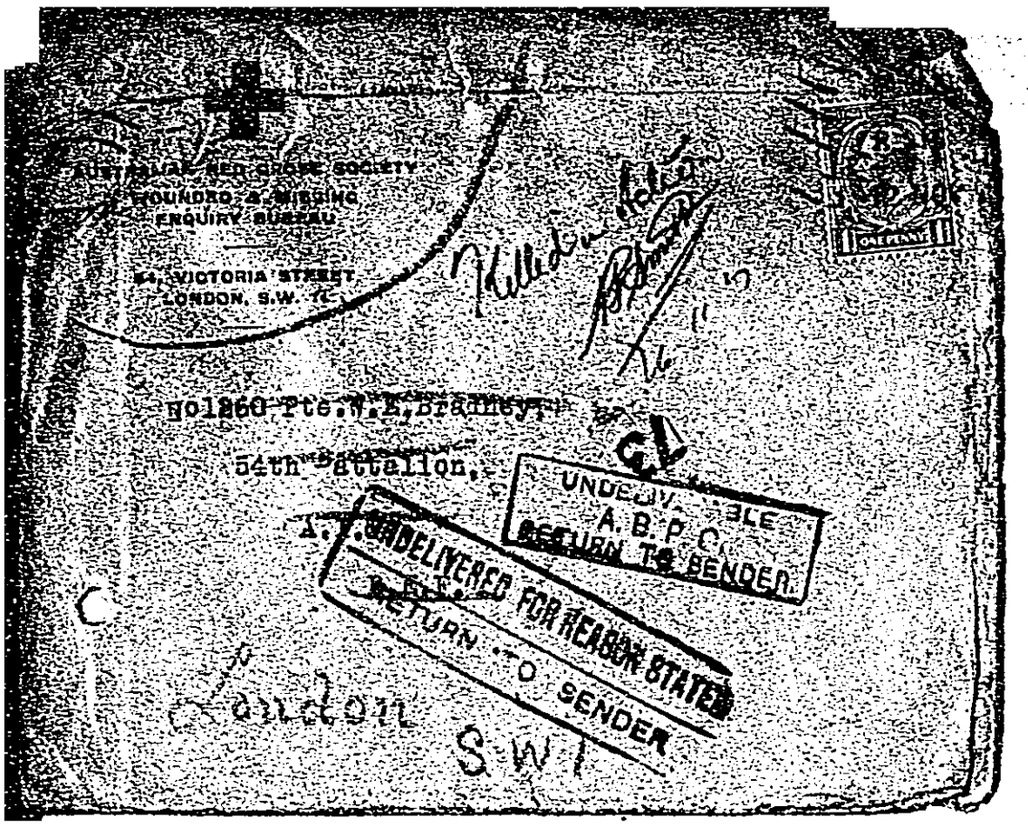
Yours faithfully,

Vera Deakin

SECRETARY (LAW)


AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY
WOUNDED & MISSING
ENQUIRY BUREAU
54, VICTORIA STREET,
LONDON, S.W.
No1260 Pte.W.E.Bradley.
54th Battalion,
A.I.F.
UNDELIVERABLE
A. B. P. C.
RETURN TO SENDER.
UNDELIVERED FOR REASON STATED
RETURN TO SENDER
S W 1

November 5th, 1917.

No 1620 Pte. W.E.Dreadney,
B.Coy, 56th Battalion,
A.I.F., B.E.F.

Dear Sir,

Re 2376 J.BRADLEY, 56th Battalion, A.I.F.

We deeply regret to inform you that the above soldier who was previously reported Missing is now reported Killed in Action on 11.-.17.

We are making further inquiries in the hope of learning full details of his death and will immediately forward to you any information that we receive.

Assuring you of our sincere sympathy in your loss.

Yours faithfully,

VD

SECRETARY.