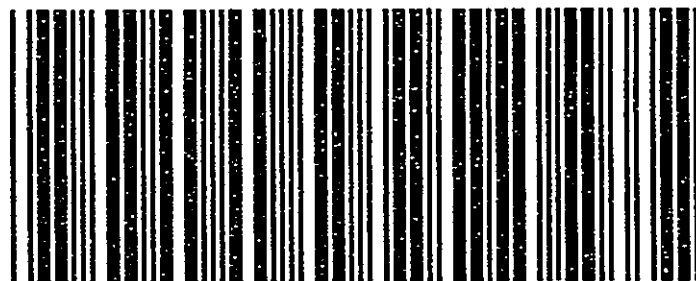


Australian Red Cross Society Wounded and Missing  
Enquiry Bureau files, 1914-18 War  
1DRL/0428

**2768 Private  
Owen Butt**

**3rd Pioneer Battalion**



0660703M

3rd Pioneer Battn

Butt.

C. Coy.

O. 2768

12th Pltn.

A.I.F.

"Killed 2.7.17."

I saw him killed at Messines Hill by a shell which caught him in the body, killing him instantly. I do not know place of burial, but he was taken to the Mortuary, near the corner of Wreilverghin Road. and is sure to have been buried there. I cannot refer to anyone for further details.

Witness:- Pte. T. Cunningham 762  
3rd Pioneers. D. Coy.  
3rd A.A. Hospital,  
Dartford.

W. Oman,  
London.

5.9 17.

S

3rd Pioneer Batt. A.I.F.

BUTT O. 2768.  
"C" Coy., No 12 Platoon

" K. July 2nd., '17. Det D & B "

Rd.,  
" I saw Butt's grave in the Kandahar cemetery, on the Woolbiggin-Messines Rd., alongside the dressing station. Crosses were being erected over a number of graves, Butt's being amongst the number. It is quite easily found. He was in the first German line, and was about to take shelter with several others, and had just reached the doorway of a dug-out, when a shell exploded near by, killing him instantly. "

Witness. Deller J. Cpl 766.  
3rd Pioneer Batt. "C" Coy.

Taken at the Pioneer Training Battalion,  
Hurdcott. J.G.W.  
September 12th., '17.

S. Whitmee.  
No 4 Command Depot.  
Codford.

S.

3rd Pioneers.

2768 BUTT, O.  
Pte

Killed in Action 2/7/17.

I knew Butt his name was Owen, he was a married man and had a farm I believe, he was middle aged, and medium height and a good living chap. I was gassed at Messines, but whilst in Dartford hospital a mate in 3rd Pioneers called Tibby Pratt came and told me that he was alongside of Owen Butt when he was killed as they were going into a dug out on the Messines ridge at a date later than the big attack. Pratt told me this in July 1917. There was only one Butt in the 3rd Pioneers. Pratt knew Butt well.

Informant : Keating, H. Pte 2828  
3rd Pioneers.

No.4 Australian General Hospital,  
RANDWICK.

A careful witness.

H.S.O.  
28/11/17.

S. C.  
SYDNEY BUREAU.

Havre

1st October.1917.

8  
3rd AUSTRALIAN ENGINEERS

3311, C. 2708

K. July 2nd.1917. Det. D/B.

0 I know Pt. Owen Butt of C. Co., 11.11th. He was killed on Messines Ridge in July, 1917, and I was told that he was buried in a Military Cemetery at Zanddhar ? which is near Wolverham.

Informant: Pt. S.H. Haseler, 808

3rd Australian Engineers, C.Co., 11.11th.  
Australian Camp, Bouelios.

0  
8  
RDM. S

3rd Aust. Pioneer Battn.

BUTT, O.  
2768, Pte.

"Killed in Action, 2.7.17".

Informant described Butt as about 5'6" high, medium build, fairly dark, bald head, aged about 40. Believes he came from Victoria.

Informant states that on 2.7.17 the Battalion was doing pioneering work such as digging in, after an engagement near Warneton France. At about 4 a.m. Butt was going into a German dug-out when a shell burst and hit the dug out killing Butt immediately. At the time informant was about 300 yards away.

Informant:- Private J. Goodall, No.2817,  
3rd Australian Pioneers,  
No.4, Australian General Hospital,  
RANDWICK.

Home Address:- O'Briens Estate,  
CESSNOCK.

W.E.G.  
21/1/18.

S. G. 10/18

SYDNEY BUREAU.

Havre

24th Oct. 1917.

PIONEERS BATTN. A.I.F.

BUTT, O. 2769  
3rd Batt.

K. 2.7.17. Dot. D/B.

I knew Pte. O. Butt of C Co., 12th Pltn. He had not been long with us, and was killed at Messines on the Tram Line - blown to pieces by a shell in July, 1917., and I saw his grave in the Military Cemetery at Pont de Cheles, near Steenwerck. There is a cross on his grave.

Informant: Pte. F.G. Reid, 1591  
3rd Pioneer, C Co., 12th Pltn., A.I.F.,  
Australian Camp, Rouelles.

SDM

Sd  
G. 10/18

3rd Pioneers. A.I.F.

Entt. O. Spr. NO.2762.  
X.Coy.

Killed July 2nd 1917. Det. D.E.

I was told that this man was in a dugout which was blown in by a shell  
it is most probable that he was blown to pieces. Full particulars  
may be obtained from Spr. Pratt. W.I. X.Coy 3rd Pioneers.

Description. Height. 5-7. thin face. Slight built. Ginger moustache.

Witness. Spr. Perini. V.G. NO.2871. E.Coy 3rd Pioneers.

Taken at  
NO.4.C.D.Codford.  
25-10-17.  
J.G.W.

S.Whitnee.  
NO.4.Command Depot  
Codford.

S  
6  
11

Havre

14th October. 1917.

3rd AUSTRALIAN PIONEERS

BUTT: C. 2768

E. July 2nd, 1917. Det. D/B.

He came over in a reinforcement. He was killed in action in a German Dugout. His remains were buried in Bulvergham Cemetery, Messines. A cross was erected over his grave.

Informant: P.T. Malthouse, 855

3rd Australian Pioneers, C.Co.

H.S. "Escoquibo" Havre.

RET.

S



3rd Australian Pioneers.

Butt, O. 2768,  
C. Coy.,

K. 2.7.17. Det: D/B.

"Butt was getting into his dug out to escape the very heavy shelling, and got blown to pieces before being able to get shelter."

N.B. Sent to corroborate any other evidence received.

Eye-witness: No, told by comrades.

Description:

Informant:-- Pte. H. Layfield, 2590,  
3rd Aus: Pioneers, C.Coy.,  
St. John's Hosp:  
Cheltenham.

Home address:-- 8, Bethesay Avenue,  
St. Kilda, Victoria.

21.9.17.  
E.E.H. Evans.

S

3rd Australian Pioneers.

2768

BUTT, O.  
Pte

Killed in Action 2/7/17.

I knew Butt personally. He and I and a stretcher bearer were on a working party near Messines building a road from Cutty dump to the first line of trenches. We had just left off work at about day-break when a shell came over and got us all. He died instantly, the stretcher bearer died next day and I was badly wounded. He was married and a very good fellow. He had been with us since March. I should like to see his people.

Informant: Pratt, J. 2881  
No.4 Australian General Hospital,  
RANDWICK.

Private Address:  
Post Office,  
George Street West.

B.N.  
7/11/17.

SYDNEY BUREAU. ✓

3rd Australian Pioneers

Butt O. 2768,

(K. 2.7.17. Det D/B)

"This man was in C. Coy. and I knew him personally. He was engaged on a small gauge railway at Messines. Pratt of C. Coy. who was wounded and I think has gone back to Australia told me he had seen Butt blown to bits as he was walking in a dug-out. He would be buried at Messines, but I have not seen his grave".

Eye-witness: No

Description:

Informant: Pte. E. McGrath 2604,  
3rd Australian Pioneers, B. Coy.,  
2nd Southern General Hospt.,  
Bristol.

Home address:  
Woolamai,  
Victoria.

22.10.17,  
F. Morris.

Sd.  
L. H.