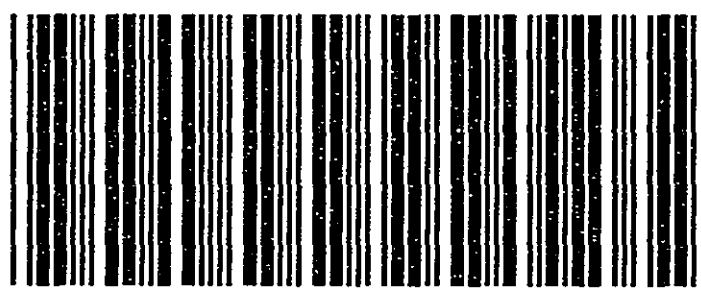
Australian Red Cross Society Wounded and Missing
Enquiry Bureau files, 1914-18 War
1DRL/0428

1877 Private
John Thomas Bryant

34th Battalion



0600702F

34th Battn.
A. I. F.

Bryant.
J. T. 1877

"Killed 9.6.17"

I saw him dead at Messines on the morning of the advance. We held the ground and he was buried there but I did not see his grave and cannot refer to anyone for further particulars. I knew him well.

Witness:-
L/Cpl.F.Cummins 44
34th Battn.A.Coy. 1st Pl.
3rd Aust.Aux.Hospital.
Dartford.

W.Oman.

London.
25.9.17.

S.

34 Australian I.F. Bryant. J.T. 1877.

K. June 9/17. Det D/B.

"I believe that Jim Bryant (34. A. II) went out on a raid about June 9th at Messines, just after an attack had taken place. He was shot in No Man's Land and I believe killed instantaneously. He was brought back but I do not know where he was buried. He was a friend of mine, and I made special enquiries."

(another wounded man in the same hospital confirmed this report but could give no further particulars)

Eye-witness:-- No, heard in company after making enquiries.

Description:-- 3 reinforcement fr. 34 Bn. I can give no particulars as to home etc

Informant:-- Pte. Ernest Beatty, 1885.
34 A.I.F. A.Co. II Plt.
3rd Southern Gen.Hos.
Durham Buildings, Oxford.

Home address:-- Post Office, Brewarrina, N.S.W.
19th Oct 1917.
Hilda M. Pickard Cambridge.

Havre

1st Nov. 1917.

34th AUSTRALIANS BRYANT. J.F. 1877

K. 9.6.17. Dot. D/B.

He was in A Co., and was a single man. He was killed by a rifle bullet during a night raid at Hessines. His body was brought back and buried in a cemetery near by.

Informant: Pte. G. Anderson, 2018
34th Australians, A Co.,
H. S. Carisbrook Castle.

RBS

S

34th A. I. F.

Bryant, Pte J.T. 1877,
A.Coy, 2 Pltn

(K. June 9th/17)

"Bryant was killed on No Man's Land in the advance to Messines June 8th. My brother (same Regiment) saw him killed, a bullet in the heart killed him. He was in a kneeling position at the time, and remained in same position. Our Coy was relieved next day and I don't know who buried him, we had gained 2 lines of the Huns. This was at Gray's Farm."

Eye-witness: No, my brother was and he told me, Cecil Benton, 1884

Description; Stout, stooped, dark, cross-eyes, nicknamed "Keystone"

Informant: Pte Benton, 34th A.I.F., A. S,
1st London General Hospital,
Camberwell, S.E.

Home address:
54, West St,
N. Sydney, Australia.

5.10.17.
Alicia Adelaide Needham.

Written Pte. Benton 17.11.17.

A.I.F. 34. BRYANT, J.T. 1877.

K. June 9th 1917. Dets D/B.

He was in my company and I knew him first in Dubbo Camp, N.S.W. and we came across together as Reinf. for the 54th Battn and transferred to the 34th at ~~La Hill~~ Larkhill, Salisbury Plain. We left England for France on the 21st Nov. 1916. He was killed by a sniper during the daytime, shot through the head and died instantly, during a raid on Pattery Farm at about 4.30. in the afternoon. He was with me and three other men acting as scouts. This occurred at 400 yards from our own lines and quite close to the German front line. It was impossible to bring his body in, and we were relieved that night by the 36th Battn. Pottery Farm was taken by them I believe the following night. He was my great friend and much liked by all.

Inf: Sgt. H.T.Hilder. 1935. A.Coy.
No. 2 Aust Gen Hosp.
BOULOGNE. 15.10.17. FD

5

Havre 19th November.1917.

34th AUSTRALIANS BRYANT, J.T. 1877

K. June 9th.1917. Det. D/B.

He came from near Inverell, N.S.W. He had three brothers in the Battalion at one time. He came to us from the 33rd Battalion. He was dark, and about 5ft. 9" in height. He was killed just on the left of Messines, in the trench, about July 9th - it could not have been in June - it was after we came out after the June stunt. He was killed outright by a pineapple. Pt. Walsh was killed by the same bomb. I saw Bryant buried in a shell-hole, just behind where he was killed. I did not see anything put on the grave to mark it.

Informant: Corpl. Hoy, W.J. 1139
34th Australians, D.Co., XV.Pltn.
Australian Camp, Rouelles.

Rob Scott Dec

OLT.

34th. A.I.F. Bryant J.T. 1877.

K. June 9th, 17.

"I went over with Pte.Bryant at Hessines on June 9th. 17. and he was killed by a sniper and buried about 200 yds from Grays Farm Hessines, onthe Battle field. He belonged to A Coy. 2 Plat."

Eyewitness: Yes.

Description: Middle aged man, darked skinned.

Informant: Pte. L. Glen 76.
A Coy. 1 Plat.
34th. A.I.F.
Wellington Rd.Military Auxilary Hspt
Home address: Liverpool.

Nov.21st. 17.
H.E.Phillips.

34th Batn
A.I.F.

BRYANT
J.T. 34 1877

"Killed 9.6.17."

We were both wounded at Plugstreet on the same night and both in the same ward at 2nd C.C.S. at Steenwercke. He died about two days after admission being unconscious all the time. Buried in the Cemetery there. We were in same Platn 15 of D.Coy., Cpt. McCook Batn Chaplain will confirm re burial.

Witness:- Sgt. J.A. Corbett 1091
34th Batn

London.
28.11.17. Note written Cptn. McCook 17.11.17. S

34th Battn.
A.I.F.

Bryant.
J.T. 1877

"Killed in Action 9.6.17"

re Pte.J.T.Bryant. I regret to say that I have no information to give. He was included among the missing in our offensive in the Messines area which began on June 7th, but so far as I know there is nothing on record as to what happened to him. I think there is no doubt that he was killed and afterwards buried by shells.

Letter from:-
A.S.McCook C.F.
No 3 Command Depot.,
Hurdcott.
1.12.17.

London.
11.12.17.

S

34th Battalion.
Pale 5-4-B

BRYANT, J.T.
1877 Pte

Killed in Action 9/6/17.

Bryant was in A.Co. and came from the 53rd or 54th Battn. and joined us at Lark Hill. I called him Keystone, he and I were cooking together at Lark Hill and he was cooking until just before Messines. He was about 13 stone dark complexion, he seemed short sighted. He, Pte Spinks, I and about 22 others went out on a raid at Messines at about 4 a.m. on 8th or 9th June last. Bryant and Spinks were the only men of the 25 who did not return, from this raid. The same day, at dark, some stretcher bearers went out and recovered his and Spink's bodies and told me that Bryant had been shot dead by a sniper through the head. Their bodies were brought in and they would be buried later in the Cemetery just out from Armentieres.

S. Casualty

Informant: Mooring, H.A. Pte 133
34th Battn. A.Co.
No.4 Australian General Hospital,
RANDWICK.

H.S.O.
11/12/17.

A Reliable witness.

SYDNEY BUREAU.

12.11.17

9C.

Capt. McCook

34th Battn. Chaplain

B.F.F. A.I.F.

abt.

1872 Pte. J.T. Bryant

34th Battn. A.I.F.

K. 9-6-17.

Ew.

19.11.17

17.11.17

9C

1884

Pte. Cecil Benton

34th Battn. A.I.F.

B.E.F.

abt.

1872 Pte. J.T. Bryant

A Coy. II Pltn.

34th Battn. A.I.F.

K. 9-6-17.

19.11.17

Cef
F M 6.12.17

1877 J.T. BRYANT 34 Batt
KA. 9.6.17

S. 3

No 3 COMMAND DEPÔT.
HURDCOTT. Eng.
1/12/17

Miss ~~Vera~~ Deakin
Secretary
Austr. Red Cross Society
London

Dear Miss Deakin

I am in receipt of your letter making inquiry about 1877 Pte J. T. Bryant of 34th Bn., and regret to say that I have no information to give. He was included among the missing in our offensive in the Messines area which began on June 7th, but as far as I know there is nothing on record as to what happened to him.

I think there is no doubt that he was killed and afterwards buried by shells.

I wish to add that I have been transferred from 34th Bn. to the above Depôt, & am in touch with your Mr Griffith. My Successor in France is Capt. Chaplain J. Calder.

Yours faithfully
A. S. McCook
C.F.

GC

December 8th, 1917.

Capt.A.S.McCook,
G.F., No 3 Command Depot,
Hurdcott, Wilts.

Dear Sir,

We have to thank you very much for your letter in answer to our enquiry concerning

1877 J.T.BRYANT,
34th Battalion,
A.I.F.

We have noted your change of address and also that you are in touch with Mr.Griffiths

With repeated thanks.

Yours faithfully,

SECRETARY.

V.D

J.M.