

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

397C Private
John Cruickshank

2nd Machine Gun Company



08503111

2nd Battn. H.G.
A.I.F.

CRUICKSHANK
J. 397

"KILLED 18-7-18"

He was 22nd Coy. I did not see the casualty, but he was killed by a shell that landed in a trench close to him and the whole gun crew was killed. He was killed instantly and was very badly knocked.

I saw his grave on the field close to railway embankment at Villers Bretonneux, and grave was marked by a Cross having full details marked thereon.

He came from South Australia.

Informant - Colby. Pte. H. 3388
22nd Coy. 2nd H.G. Battn.
3rd A.A.H.
DAREFORD.

W. Oman
14-11-18
London
22-11-18
H.G.

A.

A.I.F. 2nd M.G. Btn
2nd Aus. Div. M.G.C.

CRUICKSHANK (HQ)
not CRUICKSHANK
J. 397

"K/Action"

Killed in action 18-7-18
ert. by A.I.F. Hqrs 5-9-18.

London
5-9-18

A

2nd Div. M/G. Coy., A.I.F.

Cruickshanks,
J. 397.

Killed in Action 18.7.18.

No. 397. Pte. J. Cruickshanks of my unit. I can supply you with full information of his death and the whereabouts of his burial, but not by letter from here, but I will give you all the information that I can in this letter. I knew Jack from the time he went into camp till he met his death. I was sitting alongside him the night he got hit, and I helped to bandage him up. A piece of shrapnel entered his back just above the kidneys, and it must have travelled towards his heart for he became unconscious while I was bandaging him up, he died a few minutes afterwards, and was dead when the Stretcher Bearers took him to the aid post. From the aid post he was taken to a cemetery on the field and buried close to Villers Bretonneux. A mate of mine put a cross up on his grave a few days later, but I am sorry to say a mistake was made in his number on the cross, and as it was, in a place where it couldnt be altered at the time it had to stay wrong. I conclude that is why you are asking for this information, for I suppose his grave has been registered with his wrong number on the cross. The number on the cross is 315 instead of 397 and if ever I get near his grave again I shall alter it. That is about all the information I can supply you with by letter but if you wish to have fuller details concerning his death and burial I will be able to supply it to you personally as I will be

A

2nd. Div. M/G. Coy., A.I.F.

Cruickshanks,
J. 397.

- 2 -

in England on leave soon so please let me know when you acknowledge this letter.

Informant:- Pte. G. Schultz. 395.
22nd M.G. Coy.,
2nd A.M.G. Bttn.,
A.I.F.
France.

London,
9.11.18.

A.

2nd M.G. Battn.
A.I.F.

CRUICKSHANK
J. 397

"Killed 18-7-18"

I did not see him killed. He was in 22nd M.G. Coy., and refer to Pte. Shultz, 22nd M.G. Coy., now in France, for he saw him killed near Villers-Bretonneux. I buried him in a Cemetery close to Villers-Bretonneux, and marked grave with a Cross having full details marked thereon.

Informant. Scott. Pte. D. 382
22nd M.G. Coy.,
3rd A.A.H.,
DARTFORD.

W. Oman
London
2-10-18
J.E.A.

Note:- Written Shultz. 30-9-18.

A.

ack.
p.c. 24.10.18
J.F.D.

J 397

~~St~~ Cruikshanks
2. Div. M.G. Coy.

Somewhere
19. 10. 1918.

Recd. 18.7.18.

To The Secretary
Inquiry Bureau
A. Red Cross Society

C

Dear Miss.

In answer to your
letter of the 30. 9. 1918. in which you
were making inquiries re number
No 397. The J. British and Foreign
unit.

I am sorry you could not get
information of his death and
the where abouts of his burial
but not by letter from me but
I will give you all the information
that I can in this letter.
I knew Jack from the time he
went into camp till he met his
death. I was sitting along side
him the night he got hit and
helped to bandage him up. A
piece of sharp steel entered his
back just above the shoulder
and it must have wounded.

towards his heart for she became
 unconscious while I was bandaging
 him up, he died a few minutes
 afterwards and was dead when
 the stretcher bearers took him
 to the aid post. From the aid post he was
 taken to a camp in the
 field and buried close to killed
 Patterson.

A mate of mine put a wound
 on his leg a few days later
 but I am sorry to say a wound
 taken was made in the leg
 number on the above and as it
 was in a place where it would
 be allured at the time it had
 to stay there. I consider that
 is not a very good reason for
 other information for I suppose
 his leg has been treated
 much the same way. I am
 not sure.

The number on the above is
 315 instead of 317 and I am
 not sure the grave is not
 shall alter it.

That is about all the information
I can supply you with by letter
but if you wish to have fuller
details concerning his death and
burial I will be able to supply
it to you personally as I will
be in England or leave soon so
please let me know when you
acknowledge this letter.

I remain
yours faithfully

No. 395.

Re J. Schiller

22nd A. 16. 3. 6. 1892

2nd A. 16. 3. 4. 1892

W. F. F.

France.