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

14 Private
John Ayre

9th Light Trench Mortar Battery



0170802I

9th Light Trench Mortar Battery. AYRE, J.
late 35th Battn. 14 Pte

Killed in Action 1/6/17.

I was in the same section with Ayre and knew him well. On the 6th June, not the 1st, as stated, we were preparing ammunition at Ploegsteert Wood near Messines. When one of our own shells burst and struck the Dump and blew up 400 shells. Ayre was preparing the Dump and part of one of the shells hit him and he was killed right out. He was buried in Ploegsteert Cemetery the same day. He was about 5ft 10 dark complexion- slight build- and very delicate. He was late of 35th Battn.

Informant: Cook, H.H. Gunner 5002
Trench Mortar Battery.
No.4 Australian General Hospital,
RANDWICK.

W.H.J.
29/12/17.

S. Q. SYDNEY BUREAU

[redacted]

Hayre 7th August.1917.

35th Australians. AYRE, J. 14

K. June 1st. 1917. Oct. D/B.

He was in A. Co., 11th Bltn. He came from N.S.W. I had known him for about 2 Month years, and I knew him well, and was a personal friend. His christian name was Jack. His number was 14. I saw his grave between Regent Street and the Strand in Hyperstraat Wood. There was a cross with his name, Battalion and number on it. I could point out the place.

Informant: A.T. H.J. Hayre, 107
35th Australians, A.Co., 11th Bltn.
Australian Camp, Rouelles.

Cl.

S.

35th Battn.
A. I. F.

Ayre.
J. 14.

"Killed 1.6.17"

Killed Ploegsteert Wood by bomb. Buried Cemetery Ploegsteert Wood Cross erected. I saw his grave, he was my cobber in Battalion.

Witness:-
Harvey 102
W.40. Harefield.

D. P. Dickson.

London.
9.8.17.

S.

[redacted]

35th A. I. F. J. AYRE. 14.

Killed 1.6.17. Det.D/B.

I was told by Lewis Gunner C.J.Eyre, No.67, 35th A.I.F. A.Coy. 1 Plat. who is, I think, wounded, that he was with Pte.J.Eyre when he was killed. He gave me no details. Ayre's name was Jack and his No.14 (this was unprompted).

Reference: Wm.Brown, 36.

No.11 Con.Camp, Buchy nr. Rouen, 15.8.17.

FEP.

S

35th A. I. F.

Ayre, Pte John, 14,
Trench Mortar Co.

(K. June 1/17. Det: D & B)

"I was with the transport of my Battalion in June 1/17. I had seen Ayre and talked to him in the day of the occurrence or the day before. When I came back to the dump I heard of the explosion from which Ayre died. I was informed of the details but was not there at the time. The Pioneers were digging the graves of the men. Ayres was buried between Weverley Dump and the dressing station I could easily identify the grave."

Eye-witness: No

Description: Dark complexion and hair, dark eyes, used to be on the Ry.

Informant: L/Cpl John Beecham, 35th A.I.F.,
1st Southern General Hospital,
Monyhull Hall Section, Birmingham.

Home address: Penn St,
Islington, Newcastle, N.S.W.

18th Aug. 1917.
W. Shortman.

S.

[redacted]

AYRE.
J. 14

35th Battn
T.M. Batty
A.I.F.

Killed 1.6.17."

He was killed by an explosion in an ammunition dump, which was caused by a pin coming out when unloading shells There were several of the ,killed and he was amongst the number. I did not see the casualty, but I saw his grave at Pount-de-Nippe, and it was marked by a cross hearing his number, name, and Unit.

Witness:-
Pte. C.T. Eyre. 67
35th Battn. A. Coy. 1st Eltn.
3rd A.A. Hospital,
Dartford.

W. Oman,
London.
29.8.17.

S.

Trench Mortar Battery.
9 L.B. late 35th Battn.

AYRE, J.
14

Killed in Action 1/6/17.

I knew Ayre personally. He was killed just before the big stunt at Messines. A dump between the waggon lines and the gun pits was blown up. It was in the day time about 3 o'clock. A pin dropped out of one of our own shells which went off and caused the explosion. Our infantry men saw it but did not know what to do. The battery buried Ayre and put up a cross with his name on it.

Informant: Cooke, Pte 5022
No.4 Australian General Hospital,
RANDWICK.

H.S.N.
4/12/17.

SYDNEY BUREAU.

S Ca Sup

[redacted]

35th Batt. A.I.F.

AYRE, J. 14.
(Trench Mortars.)

" K. June Ist., '17. Det D & E ".

" I saw Ayres' body in the graveyard, waiting to be buried, and later on saw his grave. It had a cross erected over it, bearing his name, number, and battalion. The cemetery is at Plug St Wood, near Armentieres, and easily traceable. We came over together on the "Benalla", and knew each other quite well."

Description. Hgt 5ftIO. Dark complexion.
Slight build.

Witness. Stapleton F.J. 210.
35th Batt. "A" Coy.

Taken at Hurdcott.
No 3 Command Depot,
September Ist., 1917.
S.W.

S. Whitmee.
No 4 Command Depot,
Codford.

Havre 3rd Sept. 1917.

35th AUSTRALIANS AYRE, J. 14

Killed K. 1.6.17. Det. D/B.

Pte. Jack Ayre of the 9th Brigade Light T.M. Battery was killed at Campagne Camp, Hill 163, and buried in Armentieres Cemetery. He had originally been in the 35th battalion, A Co. and I think the 2nd Pltn.

Informant: Pte. R. Williams, 244
35th Australians, A Co., 4th Pltn.,
Australian Camp, Rouelles.

S. RDM

Id.
Aug 11.

35th Batn
A.I.F

AYRE
N. 14.

"Killed 1.4.17."

I saw him killed at Ploegstreet Wood by an explosion death was instantaneous. He was buried at the rear of Ploegstreet Wood I did not see the grave. I knew him well, he was attached to the 9th L.T.M. Batty.

Witness:- Cpl. A.E. Fraser 1647
9th L.T.M. Batty
3rd A.A. Hpl.
Dartford.

W. Oman
London.
4.10.17.

S