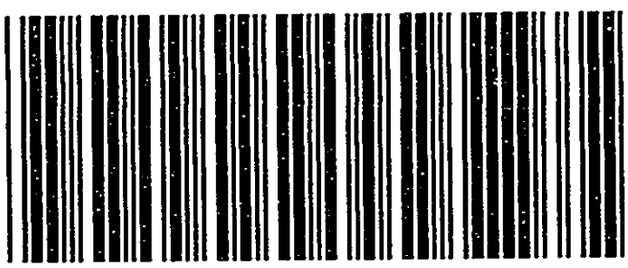
Australian Red Cross Society Wounded and Missing
Enquiry Bureau files, 1914-18 War
1DRL/0428

# 6457 Sapper John Thomas Donohue

## 1st Field Company Engineers



0940207M

A.I.F. 1st Fld. Coy. Eng.
late 4th F.C.S.Eng.

DONOHUE
Sapper J.T. 6457

"D. of W. 25-2-17"

Died of wounds 25-2-17 - Buried at Small Burial ground by X (Cross) Roads ½ mile N.N.W. of Fleurs 3¾ miles N.N.W. of Combles
Cert. by A.I.F.Headquarters 8-6-17.

London
8-6-17

H.

Havre 8th August.1917.

DONOHUE, J.T. 6457

1st FIELD CO.
AUSTRALIAN ENGINEERS
D/W. Feb. 25th. 1917. Det. D/B.

I knew Donohue well. I saw him wounded at Yellow Bank on the 24th ot 25th February. He was wounded in the hip, legs and left arm; his fingers were blown off his left hand; he was very bad. I saw him carried out to the Dressing Station by his own mates:-Sgt. J. Geldart and L.Cpl. H. Geddes of the 1st Field Co., who were both up with the Battalion when I left on the 14th July. I do not know where he was buried.

Informant: 2nd Corpl. A.E. O'Brien 165
1st Field Co.
Australian Engineers.
Australian Camp, Rouelles.

H.G.

M.

written Sgt. Geldart 18.8.17.

1st F. Co Engineers.
A.I.F.

Donohue.
Spr. J.T. 6457

"Died of Wounds 25.2.17."

Re 6457 Spr. J.T. Donohue 1st F.C.E. I was with him when he received his wound and carried him to the dressing station but after transfer from there he died on his way out and was buried in a small burial ground at the cross roads ½ mile N.N.W of Flers and 3¾ miles N.N.W of Combles Somme. Re hisdiscription height 5'10" medium build clean shaven, hair, mixed dark and grey. He was for some time a reinforcement Sergeant prior to joining this Unit. He enlisted in Western Australia and has two sisters there to whom I would have written had I had their address. Direct information re. his grave number or Photo of grave may be had from "The Graves Registration Office". I shall be pleased to give his friends any information about his death.
P.S. If communicating with the Graves Registration people mention Bull Road cemetery.

Letter from:- H.S. Giddes.
1. F.Co.E.
France 24.8.17. M

London.
6.9.17.

1st F. Co. Engineers.
A.I.F

Donohue.
J.T. Sapper. 6457

"Died of Wounds 26.2.17."

Re 6457 J.T. Donohue 1st Fld. Coy. Engineers was wounded by a shell at a point known as "Yarra Bank" just in front of Bapaume about the 24th of 25th of Feb 1917. He was very severely wounded in the lower part of the body and legs one leg almost being severed at the knee. I assisted him to the aid post and left him there. He was conscious when I left him but I gave him no chance of living, and I heard afterwards that he died being taken to the rear. I am sorry to say that I am unable to state the exact place of burial but I understand that it was in one of the numerous soldiers Cemeteries about that part . I have lft the Egnrs. and am at present in the 4th Battn Infantry but when next I meet any of my old comrades and I will try and get further particulars and will be only too pleased to forward them on to you. As to his personal appearance he was a man of medium height and well built. reddish complexion, and with grey eyes, and hair just showing traces of grey. I would say he would be about 35-40 years of age and had lived a very stremuous life. From what he told me he had spent a good deal of his time on the gold fields of Western Australia and his religion was R.C.

Letter from: Lt. J. Geldart 327a

London.Lo.9.17. France 24.8.17. M

FRANCE

AUST. R.E. 1st FLD Co. DONOHUE. J.T. 6439.

D/W Feb 25th.1917. Det D/B.

He was in 1 Section and I was in 3 Section at the time. He was mortally wounded at the same time that eight other men were killed, by a shell while digging a trench on the Somme. It was to the right of the Butte of Warlencourt which part Fritz was evacuating at the time. He was carried down to a dressing-station near Bazentin where he died. I saw him being carried away from the trench. B/Cpl McClintock was badly wounded by the same shell and has lost a leg and is somewhere in England. WSI

Ref ---L/Cpl L.Johnstone. 130.
No 16 Gen. Hospital

Le Treport. Sept 4th.1917

acd 4/4
P.C. 30.8.17.
P.L.

6457 Sapper J. T. DONOHUE
T.F.C. Engrs

Somewhere in France
24/8/17

Dear Madam, D/W. 25.2.17.

Your Letter of the 20th to hand. 6457 Sap. J. J. Donohue, 2nd Co. Engrs was wounded by a shell at a Joint known as "Yarra Bank" just in front of Bapaume, about the 24th or 25th February. He was very severely wounded in the lower part of the body & legs, one leg being amputated at the knee. I assisted him to the 1st field & left him there. He was conscious when I left him & gave him an dose of drug. I heard afterwards that he died [illegible] before he reached [illegible]. I am very [illegible] unable to [illegible] but I understand that [illegible] the numerous splinters [illegible] part, I have left [illegible] am in the [illegible] I meet any [illegible] buy & read [illegible] only the [illegible] eyes, & the [illegible] a man of medium height [illegible] reddish complexion, small grey eyes & fair

that showing traces of grey. I should say he would be between 55 & 60 years of age I had lived a very strenuous life. I can what he died of. He had spent a good deal of his time on the gold fields of Western Australia & his Religion was R.C.

I am Yours Faithfully.

Wm A. J. Goddard Esq.

4 Balmoral

ACR
Lybc
FM. 1.2.17

6454
Spr J. T. DONOHOE 24th & 17.
1 F. Co Lusty France.

Deceased
W.3.11.18.

DW 25.2.17. M 3

Near note of the 24th ult Land this day
re 6457 Sapr J. T. Donohoe 10th F.C.E.

I was with him when he received his wounds
and carried him to the rear but after
transfer from where the dead are buried
and was buried in a small Military Ground
at the cross-roads 2 miles N.N.W. of ETRES and
3½ miles N.N.W of Lombez. Somme.

He was a Corporal, height 5 ft. 10" medium build
dark brown hair, mixed dark & sal grey
Eyes. was for some time a Reinforcement Sergeant
prior to joining the Unit.

He enlisted in Melbourne Australia and has
also relatives there & in Sydney. I should have written
that I had these notes ...

Penal information re the grave number & exact locality of
grave may be had from "The Graves Registration
Officer"

I take the pleasure to give the ...

any information I can about this death.

Yours faithfully

H Stuart Fenton.

P.S. Lepl IFG 8.

If communication with the graves
respecting people, may Kind
Rull Road cemetery.