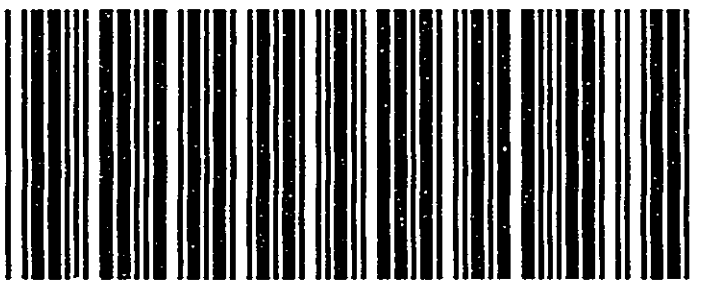
Australian Red Cross Society Wounded and Missing
Enquiry Bureau files, 1914-18 War
1DRL/0428

1904 Private
Joseph Felix Eaton

34th Battalion



0981016P

34th A.I.F.

Eaton. Pte: J.F. 1904.
C Co: XI Pl:

(K. June 7/17)
Det D/B.

"Pte. Eaton was killed at Messines on June 7/17 and was buried in "No Man's Land" by Pte. P.M. Long."

Eye-witness:

Description:

Informant: Pte. J.T. Byrnes. 2443.
34th A.I.F. C Coy: XI Pl:
4th Northern Gen: Hospital. Lincoln.

Home address: Barraba.
N.S. Wales.
Australia.

27.10.17.
E.E. Mounsey.

written Long
9.11.17

A.I.F. 34. EATON J.F. 1904.

K. 7.6.17.

Place of burial, a spot 1 mile S.S.E. of Messines Village. (Map reading, U.9d.6.8.)

Cert.by: Div. Burials Officer.
Fauquembergues. 30.10.17.

SA.

2 copies. S

34th Battn.
A.I.F.

Eaton.
J. F. 1904

"Killed 7.6.17"

Rev.Osborne the C. of E. Chaplain reported to me that he buried Eaton on the Messines Field near what was known as the 2nd Mine Crater. If written to Chaplain Osborne doubtless could give all particulars.

Witness:-
Capt.Chap.McCook
Formerly Chaplain D.P.D. 9th Bgde,
now The Chaplain
No.3 Command Depot,
Hurdcott.

G.W.Griffiths.

London.
31.10.17. Note Written Rev.Osborne 31.10.17. S.

Havre 10th Nov. 1917.

34th AUSTRALIANS EATON, J.F. 1904

K. 7.6.17. Det. D/B.

He was in C Co., 11th Pltn. I knew him well. We called him Joe. He was a carpenter at I think Sydney before the war. We knew he was missing, and information came through to the battalion that he was officially killed. At this date, June 7th, the battalion was at Messines (Plugstraet). I am pretty certain that he was buried with several others in Plugstraet Wood. He was found in a shell holewith Pte. J.L. Sullivan of the 34th battalion. Pte. Davis, H.H. of C Co., 11th Pltn. was a great friend of Eaton. They came over together in the same reinforcement. I believe he is wounded and in England. He would give further information.

Informant: Pte. J.E. Kirk, 1416
34th Australians, C Co., 11th Pltn., L.G.S.,
No. 7 Amb. Train, Havre.

JTK

Dec. Despatch 1-2-17. A.I.

Written Pte. Davis 20.11.17.

34th Battn.
A.I.F.

Eaton.
J. E. 1904

"Killed in Action 7.6.17"

re J.F.Eaton. I am able to inform you that Pte.Eaton was buried by men on the battlefield on or about June 8th 1917. I read the burial service of the Church of England over the body and erected one of the G.R.U.crosses on the spot a few days later. I cannot now give you any facts to prove his identity but there was no doubt about it at the time. In all probability he had his pay-book and disc on his person. On 18.6.17 I wrote to Pte.Eaton's wife notifying her of the fact that I had buried her husband's body.

Letter from:-
The Chaplain,
France 8.11.17.

London.
22.11.17.

S.

34th Battn.
A.I.F.

Eaton.
J.F. 1904

"Killed in Action 7.6.17"

Concerning Pte.J.F.Eaton. He was killed in action on the 7th of last June and buried on the Field on the right of Messines and a wooden cross marks his grave. Description - He was of middle age, height about 5'6", dark complexion , and partly baldheaded. He was in the same platoon as I am and I knew him well.

Letter from:-
Pte.P.M.Long,
France
13.11.17.

London.
26.11.17.

S.

34th Battalion.

EATON, J.F.
1904 Pte

Killed in Action 7/6/17.

Informant states that he enlisted with Eaton at Sydney, they were originally in the 3rd Reinf. of 53rd Battalion and were transferred together to 34th Battalion at Salisbury Plains about August 1916., and were both in the lines together on June 8th at Messines when Eaton was killed by machine gun fire during an attack about 7 a.m. while advancing over No mans land towards the pill boxes. Informant was wounded about an hour afterwards. The attack succeeded and took all the objectives. Informant was about 20 yards from Eaton when he was hit and saw him fall but did not see him again. Eaton was married informant believes and came from Waverley and had one child. He was a builder by profession.

Informant: Mason. J. Pte No.1941
34th Battn.
No.4 Australian General Hospital,
RANDWICK.

SYDNEY BUREAU.

H.E.W.
28/12/17. X in C Co. They went to France together were in

GC

November 19th, 1917.

Captain J. E. Norman Osborn,
C. F.
34 Batt'n. A.I.F.
B. E. F.

Dear Sir,

We have to thank you very much for your letter in answer to our enquiry concerning 1904, J. F. Eaton, 34 Batt'n. A.I.F.

The information you have sent will be of assistance to us and of value to our enquirers.

We regret having troubled you in this case when you had already written to Mrs. Eaton, but our enquiry came to us by mail from our Agency in [illegible], probably on his wife's behalf, under date of 24.8.17. There is the possibility that your letter may have been amongst the many mails lost through enemy action, in which case, as we always endeavour our reports in duplicate, by succeeding mails, we trust that Mrs. Eaton will learn through us that you had written her at the time of her husband's death to give her all details.

With repeated thanks.

Yours faithfully,

VD

Secretary.

Glu

Arch
P.C. 20-11-17

1904. J. F. EATON
34 Batt
K/A 7-6-17 S 3
France November
13th 1917

Dear Miss Deakin

In reply to your enquiry concerning Pte J. F. Eaton of C. Company No 11. Platoon, he was Killed in action on the 7th of last June and buried on the field, on the right of Meesines. and a wooden cross marks his grave.

Description

He was of middle age
Height about 5 Ft 6 in.
Dark complexion
And partly bald Headed
He was in the same Platoon as I am and I Knew him well.

Yours Faithfully
Pte. P. McLong