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

11827 Gunner
Sidney Donohue

4th Field Artillery Brigade



0940208N

A.F.A. 4. Bde 10 Bty DONOHUE, S. 11827

D/W April 7 1917 Det:

I knew him. We were in front of Vaux. He was in a gunpit and a shell came over and he got badly mauled. His body was brought down alive, to a hospital or C.C.S. just behind Vaux, but he died after having reached the hospital. He is buried close there and there is a cross put up with his name on.

Informant: Gunner V.Peerman. 1411
No.7 C.C.

BOULOGNE. 20.8.17.

RAOI

AUST. FLD. ARTILLERY. 4.10. DONOHUE,S.11827.

D/W. April 7th, 1917.

He was a fine man. He was my great chum in the batty.His name was Sid. He would be about 20a He lived in Melbourne. Whilst at Vraucourt just before the Bullecourt stunt a shell burst 500 yards past him. It was a 5.9 One could say he was as safe as a house but an exceptional thing happened. The entire base of the shell flew back and hit him in the thigh making an enormous wound from which he died. He was cutting up meat at the time. Cpl.Conacher,DCM. was with him at the time. I was not there but came up about half an hour later and heard all the details from those who saw it. He was buried at Vaulx. We sent up a cross for his grave on which were the words "loved by all". He was very popular indeed. He always said he would be killed. MC.

Reference:- Peel,R.W. 28419.
A. F. A. 4.10.
No. 11 Gen. Hosp.

Etaples
21.8.17a

4th Bgde: A. F. A., Donohue, Pte. S., 11827,

D/W Apl. 7/17. Det: D. & B.

"I knew S. Donohue personally (Sidney by name). No other Donohue. I saw him killed, outside Vauax. He was hit in the hip, a great wound (the base-plate of an 8 inch shell blew back 500 yards). He died ten minutes after. He was quite conscious all the time and he never murmured or complained. Dr.Capt.Mack was with him. He died on the way to the dressing station. He is buried in "Death Gulley" between Vauex and Morreul, with cross, name and number. Sgt. Marmo, 10th Batt: also knows everything about the matter."

Eye Witness: Yes, also Sgt.Marmo, 10th Batt:
Description:

Informant:-- Pte. C. McCallum, 6981,
4th Bgde: A. F. A.,
Bethnal Green Hosp:
Innocence Ward. E.

Homeaddress:-- Police Station, Swan Hill, Victoria.

21.8.17.
G.L.Ashworth.

10th Bty. A.I.F. Field Artillery. Donohue, Pte. S., 11827,
4 Bgde:

D/W Apl. 7/17. Det: D. & B.

Informant states that in April at Vaux, Pte. Donohue was killed instantly by base of a shell case and was buried at Vaux. Informant was at his funeral.

Eye Witness: Yes.
Description: Cannot give it, cannot remember.

Informant:-- Bmr. David E. Dalton, 1867,
A.F.A., 4th Bgde:
No. II Pennsylvania Hosp: Exeter.

Home address:-- 130, Horseferry Rd.,
22.8.17. The Batt:
H.K.Cornish.

A.F.A. 4 Bde. 10 Bty DONOHUE

Donohue, S. 11827

D/W Apl.7th.1917. Det D & B

I know that he was killed on this day. I was with him when he got killed. A piece of shell took both his legs off and he died an hour afterwards. I also saw his dead body. This was at Bullecourt. He is buried at B Vaux and there is a cross put up with his name on it.

Informant: Sgt.F.C.Marchant. 6374.
No.1 C.C.
BOULOGNE. 24.8.17.

RAOI

Australian Field Artillery,
4 Bgde: 10th Bty.

Donohue, S. 11827,

D/W April 7/17. Det: D. & B.

"It is known all through the Battery that Gnr. Sidney? Donohue (4.10) wh was wounded by a piece of shell about April 7th while he was getting the dinner ready, near Vrancourt between Papaume and Bullecourt and that he died a few hours later. He was buried some distance back from Vrancourt. His Uncle, Gnr.Wm.Sullivan (.4.10) was there and attended the funeral. I was at the wagon line and came up to the gun position the day he was killed, and heard what had happened."

Eye Witness: Gnr. Charles Williamson, 10478,
A.F.A. 4 Bgde: 10th Battery,
3rd Southern General Hosp:
Oxford.

Home address:-- Inglenook,
East Camberwell, Victoria,
Australia.

27.9.17.
H.W.P.Cambridge.

10th Batty
A.F.A.

DONOHUE
Gr.S. 11827

"Died of Wounds 7.4.17."

ReGnr. S. Donohue 11827 who died from wounds received on the 7.4.17 at Vaulx Vraucourt from an 8 in. shell that burst some 400 yds away from the gun.pit in which Sid Happened to be at that time. After his death a cross was made and erected over his grave in the soldiers cemetery just behind the village of Vaulx and we also placed a small fence round about it. I may say here that I remember well when Sid joined us at Armentieres last year, and was attached to our sub-section B, and during the time he was with us (nearly 12 months) we never found him anything but a fine manly young fellow always cheerful under adverse circumstances and a companion whom to know as we knew him was to admire him, and a deep sense of loss was conveyed to us all by his absence from amongst us. Up to the time of his death he was in good health and looking real well, perhaps a little tired as we had been having plenty of moving about after the evacuation of Bapaume by the Germans. I may say here that Sid's uncle is also attached to this battery and was at the burial but he is at present in England on leave but I will pass this note on to him when he comes back. I will also if fortunate enough to get back to Melbourne be only too pleased to pay a visit to Northcote where I understand his parents reside

M

dendm.
8.10.17

10th Batty
A.F.A.

BONCHUE
Gnr. S. 11827

"Died of Wounds "

666

and give them any personal information that I can- this will be quite an easy matter as my private address us 186 Scotchmor Street. North Fitzroy. I was keeping a ~~utter~~ bottle belonging to Sid but it was blown up at Lagnicourt. I intended trying to keep it but it was decided otherwise.

Letter from:- Gnr. S.B. Barker 6313
10th Batty A.F.A.
A.I.F.

London.
6.10.17.

H

4th Bgde,
10th Batty.
A.F.A.

Donohue.
Gnr.S. 11827

"Died of Wounds 7.6.17"
4

I was at the left of Vaux and saw him being taken away wounded. His uncle Gnr.Sullivan of the 4th Bgde.10th Batty.was with him at the time and could give all information.

Witness:-
Bombdr.A.McDonald 10449
14th School.
Southall.

R.D.B.

London.
1.10.17.

M.

A.I.F. 4th F.A.B.
[illegible]th Bty.

DONOHUE
Gunner S. 11827

Died of wounds 7.4.17

Buried Vaulx Australian Cemetery 2¾ miles N.E. of Bapaume.
Cert. by A.I.F. Hdqrs List for Capt. Spedding.

London
31.[illegible].19

M

Havre 28th July, 1917.

AUSTRALIAN F.A. DOROHUE, S. 11827, 4th Bge., 10th Bty.

D/W. 7.4.17. Dot. D/S.

I knew him well. His initial and number are as stated. He was struck by a piece of shell in the hip and carried to the Dressing Station: he died that day. Pte. Spence a gunner of the same battery, Sub Section, will I think be able to say where he was buried. Spence is in camp with me now.

Informant: Pte. S. Morgan, 6583
4th Bge., 10th Bty., A.F.A.,
Australian Camp, Rouelles.

M. Written to Spence 1.8.17

L de D.

Havre

1st Aug. 1917.

AUSTRALIAN F.A.
4th Bde.

DONOHUE, S. 11827
10th Bty.

D/W. 7.4.17. Det. D/B.

I knew him well. He came from the state of Victoria. He was a turner. We were between Noreuil and Vaucourt on the 7th April. Donohue was hit by part of a shell which blew his leg off. I saw him carried down. He died about ½ an hour after. He was dead before he got to the Dressing Station. I have seen his grave. There were about 30 men buried at the same place just behind Vaux in an open bit of ground. A nice cross was put up with his name etc. on it, and the grave was railed round with timber.

Informant: Gunner F.O'B Spence, 1450
4th Brig., 10th Bty., A.F.A.,
Australian Camp, Rouelles.

HFG

A.F.A. 4. 10. DONOHUE, S. 11827.

D/W April 7th 1917. Dets D/B.

He was killed in a dugout at the battery position behind the village of Ecoust near Bapaume. He was alone in the dugout at the time and asleep. The shell burst about 150 yards off and the ~~xx~~ base came back in one piece and crashed into the dugout cutting off his leg. He was carried to a D/S and died there, I believe that night. He was buried in the open and his grave is marked with a cross which was erected by his mates ~~xx xx~~ in the same section I saw the cross but not the grave. He was a good soldier and very plucky even after he was so terribly wounded.

Inf: H.G.Morgan. 26437.
No.2 Aust General
BOULOGNE. 2.8.18.

FD

Havre

8th Aug. 1917.

AUSTRALIAN F.A.
4 Bde 10 Battery

DONOHUE, T. 11827
10th Bty.

D/W. 7.4.17. Det. D/B.

I knew him by sight. He was fairly tall and cleanshaven. He was on Cook's fatigue at Noreuil Gully on April 7th, and a shell burst about 100 yards away. The base of the shell blow off one of his legs. He was taken to the Dressing Station near by and died there. He was buried at the other side of Vaux and a cross erected on the grave with his name. Sergt. Barker who was present gave me the above information but he himself has since been killed. Gunner Bill Kellow of the 4th Bde. 10th Bty. (a reinforcement) was on Cook's fatigue with him and could give details. (still with Bty)

Informant: Dvr. O. Johnson, 6362
4th Bde., 10th Bty., A.F.A.,
Australian Camp, Ronelles.

Written by Mr Kellow 20.8.17.

M.

OLT

Ack. 13.9.17

11827 Pte S. DONOHUE 10 Batty A.F.A.

Belgium

P/W.7.4.17.

1-9-17

H 3.

Miss Vera Deakin

Your letter of the 28-8-17 to hand re Pte S. Donohue 11827 who died from wounds received on the 7-4-17 at Vaulx-Vraucourt from an 8 in shell that burst some 400 yds away from the gun-pit in which Sid happened to be at that time, after his death a cross was made and erected over his grave in a soldiers cemetery just behind the village of Vaulx and we also placed a small fence round about it; I may say here that I remember well when Sid joined us at Armentieres last year and was attached to our sub-section B and during the time he was with us (nearly 12 months) we never found him anything but a fine manly young fellow always cheerful under adverse circumstances and a companion whom to know as we knew him was to admire him and a deep sense of loss was conveyed to us all by his absence from amongst us, up to the time of his death he was in good health and looking real well perhaps a little tired as we had been having plenty of moving about after the evacuation of Bapaume

by the Germans, I may say here that Didi Smole is also attached to this battery and was at the burial but he is at present in England on leave but I will pass this note on to him when he comes back, I will also if fortunate enough to get back to Melbourne be only too pleased to pay a visit to Northcote where I understand his parents reside, and give them any personal information that I can this will be quite an easy matter as my private address is 186 Scotchmer St Nth Fitzroy I was keeping a water bottle belonging to Didi but it was blown up at Dagnicourt I intended trying to keep it but it was decided otherwise,

Trusting this will help you

I remain yours sincerely

On behalf of B. Sub Section Per

Gnr S. B. Barker 6313
10th Battery F.A.
A.I.F.