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

5357 Private
William Donohue

55th Battalion



0940209O

Havre 11th December 1918.

Australians. 55. Donohue W. 5357.

K. 30th Septr 1918. Det D/B.

I knew him well. He came over with me in the 17th reinforcement to the 3rd in the 'Ceramic' sailing in April 1916 from Sydney. About the 30th Septr we were near Bellicourt and were attacking. We had casualties, and volunteers were asked for to get them in Donohue volunteered to help, and while getting out of the trench he was hit through both legs by a M.G. Bullet. He was bandaged up, and put on a stretcher till we could get him away. Meanwhile the Germans had driven us out of that part of the trench but we recovered it shortly afterwards and found Donohue still there, but he apparently had been hit, and died there about 2 hours later. His body was taken to Battn H.Q., but I don't know about burial.

Inf:- Corporal T.C. Henry No. 4933.
A.I.F. 5G. A. I.
Austrn. Conv. Depot.

CWSG.

PP.

A.I.F. 55th Battn.

DONOHUE
W. 5352?
not 5377

"KILLED IN ACTION" del. D/B

Killed in Action 30.9.18 No further report
Cert. by A.I.F.Hqrs List 21.11.18

London
22.11.18

S

A.I.F.
55th Bttn.

DONOHUE.
W. 5357

Killed 13.9.18.

55th Btn. A.3. 5/3 in height, red hair. aged 30. Came from Surrey Hills. Sydney. Enlisted Sydney. Embarked Sydney. April 14/16.SS Ceramic. At Bellecourt on Sept.30th'18 at 2 p.m. we were holding our objective when Donohue was killed instantly by a shell. He was buried at Hesbecourt (Hot Herbecourt) which is behind Peronne) behind Bellecourt in Military Cemetery and a cross was erected.

Informant:- Cpl. A.H. Emerson. 2648
55th Bttn. A.I.F.
Santin. 8.3.19.

W.H.K.
London.
26.3.19.
J.H.A.

S.

NOTE:- F. Buckley. 3/B 1625. Gave similar evidence.

A.I.F. 55th Btn.
late 3rd

DONOHUE
Wm. 5352?7

"K/A.30-9-18 dtls D/B"

Buried Hesbecourt Com: Cem: extension 8 miles E.N.E. of Peronne
Lt. Speddings list.

S

London
13-5-18

A.I.F.
55th Bttn.

DOCUMENT.
W. 535\7

M. 30.9.18.

During early morning of 30.9.18. at Hindenburg Support Line, just near Villecourt, during an enemy attack on positions just gained, he volunteered to act as stretcher bearer to an urgent case, and in performing duties was also wounded both legs just above the knees. I saw that he was immediately bandaged but owing to the heavy bombing by the enemy he was left in safety for removal later. (I understand I should like to add died from the above wounds during the bombardment. He was taken away on a stretcher but died in the ambulance on the journey.

Encl. Cpl. C. Brady 4633.
Adjt. 55th Bttn. A.I.F.
"55 Diary Article" A.I.F.

W. Mitchell Esq.
London.
S.C.19.

A.I.F.
55th Bttn.

DONOHUE.
W. 5352

Killed 30.9.18.

I saw Donohue's (A.Co) body after he was killed by machine gun bullet through knee (severed an artery) at Bellicourt abt 11 a.m. after we had reached our objective-Fritz was counter attacking. Donohue was S/Bearing and jumped out of the trench to get a case and got hit himself. He was conscious for about ½ hour but they couldn't get him out. He was buried by the Americans.

Donohue - abt. 5'6", fair, abt.30 yrs. came from Surrey Hills. Sydney.

Informant:- L/Cpl. R.H. Bishops, 5328
55th Battn. B.Co.
A.I.F. Le Havre 12.4.19.

Confirmed by Pte. A.V. Harris 5379, 55th Bttn. A.Co. who saw Donohue's body on the stretcher after it was brought out.

H.F.H.
London.
28.4.19.

S.

J.F.A.

55th Battn. A.I.F.

DONOHUE

Pte. W. 5357

Killed 30/9/18

Buried Roisel Communal Cemetery Extension, 6¾ miles E.N.E. of Peronne, 6.5E., SSP. 4838/1

Extracted from Capt. Spedding's List of 16/10/19

Melbourne

29/12/19