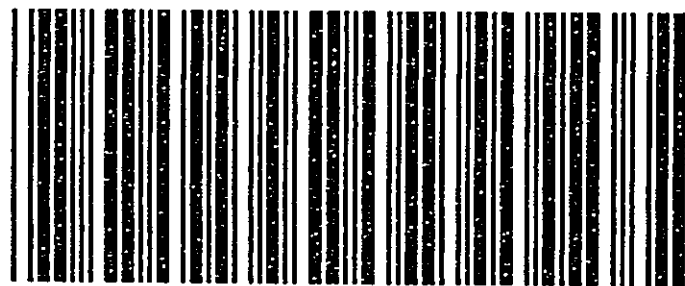


Australian Red Cross Society Wounded and Missing  
Enquiry Bureau files, 1914-18 War  
1DRL/0428

402 Private  
James Joce Delve

33rd Battalion



0910212F

53rd A.I.F.

J. J. DELVE, 402.

D/W. 28.6.17.

I was with him when he got his fatal wound. There were six others asleep in a dug out in the support lines at Messines. I was awakened by an explosion and found Delve pinned to the floor with the galvanized iron inside wall of the dug out the end of which had been blown in. I helped get him out but he was unconscious by then. He had lost a lot of blood from wounds about the head. It was about a quarter of an hour from the time of the explosion to when we got him out unconscious. I fetched stretcher bearers. He was unconscious when they took him away. His initials were J.J. and his No. only had 3 figures. He was in H.Q. Scouts.

Reference: J. P. Maher, 50703.

No. 11 Con. Camp Bucy Nr. Rouen. 19.9.17.

FMP.



33rd Battn.  
A. I. F.

Delve.  
Pte. J. J. 402

"Died of Wounds"

I am sorry there is little I can tell you about the death of 402 Pte. J. J. Delve. He was admitted to hospital dangerously wounded in the skull and face and never regained consciousness after coming to the C. C. Station. He became gradually worse and passed quietly away not very long after coming to us. I was unable to get any address as being unconscious I could not get it from him and he had no pay book with him so I have not written to his relatives. Everything possible was done for him and he had every care and attention, but from the first there was little hope of his recovery. Will you please convey my deepest sympathy to his relatives when you write as having no address I cannot do so myself. He was buried in the cemetery near the C. C. S. but I am sorry I am not allowed to give the name of the place as such information is not allowed.

Letter from:-

London.

4.9.17.

The Sister-in-charge.

31.8.17.

S.

A.I.F. 33rd Btn

DELVE  
J.J. 402

"D. of Wds 28-6-17"

Died of wounds 28-6-17 - @ 4th C.C.Stn  
Cert. by A.I.F.Hqrs 9-8-17.

S

London  
10-8-17

A.I.F. 33.

DELVE, J.J. 402.

D/W JUNE 26th 1917. Dets D/B.

He was wounded in a dugout with Sgt Lind Taylor. A shell dropped on him. I helped to drag him out, he was taken to a D/S right away. I heard he had D/W I think about three days after. Sgt H. Stef Shatwell with C. Coy now could give information, and so could Lt King. Description: came from H.S.W: 5ft 11; smart, fair; clean shaven, 22, parents living.

Inf: W.O. C.J. Lloyd. R.S.M. Ell.  
No. 14 General  
BOULOGNE. 17.10.17.

WG

Written Sgt. Shatwell & Lt. King 29.10.17.

S

A. I. F. 33.

DELVE, J.J. 402.

D/V. June 28th, 1917.

---

I last saw him about June 28th at Messines back in our subsidiary line about 9 p.m. in a dugout. He had then been wounded in head by a big H/E shell and he was being put on a stretcher. I was on guard and unable to speak to him. Aged about 22, 5 ft 10", ordinary build, light complexion, cleanshaven. He was a Battn scout.

PHE.

Reference:- Pte. D.H. Hall. 4301. G.IX.  
No. 1 Can. Gen. Hp.

Etaples  
28.10.17. S

33 A.I.F. Delve, Pte.J.J. 402.

D/W. June 28/17.

" A shell fell on the dugout where Delve was at Messines and he was wounded. I helped him out. It was 2 A.M. I sent him straight to the dressing-station."

Eyewitness:-

Description:- 5'11", very fair, pleasant face.

Informant:- R.S.M. C.J.Lloyd, 211.  
33 A.I.F. H.Q.  
Horton Hosp., Epsom.

Home address:- Horseferry Rd.,

1/11/17.  
P.A.Floud.

S  
Ed  
Luff

33rd Battn.

DELVE, J.J.  
402 Pte

Died of wounds 28/6/17.

I knew Delve personally pretty well. He had been with the Battalion since it was formed and was right through Messines. He was killed in a dug out when we were in supports. A shell blew in his dug out, when he was asleep. He was unconscious when taken away. Sgt Taylor was killed by the same shell. I was there at the time.

Informant: Chandler, Pte 382  
No.4 Australian General Hospital,  
RANDWICK.

S. Co. 244

H.S.N.  
11/12/17.

SYDNEY BUREAU.



53rd Battn.  
A.I.F.

DELVE,  
J.J. 402.

"Died of Wounds 28.6.17."

We were in Messines village in dug-outs in June 1917, had been there for ten days. Delve was killed on the 8th day we were there. It was about 12.30 in the early morning. I was in the next dug-out. I was in Delves dugout about an hour talking to him and others, we had previously been working. He turned in when I left to go to my dug-out. Shortly afterwards about half an hour, I heard a shell it burst about on top of Delves dugout. I went into the dugout Delve was lying in his bunk he was not knocked about but was unconscious, it seemed to be shell shock. He had a slight wound on his upper lip and blood was flowing from his right armpit. I should say that some pieces of the dug-out had caused these wounds. Sgt. Lyn Taylor was killed in the dug-out. I remained for about a quarter of an hour. Two other men from my dug-out tied up Delve, I was tying up Macleroy another man. Some of our Red Cross came along and took Delve down to the Doctor and that was the last I saw of him. I knew him first when I joined up. He was one of my pals. We went through the Messines engagement and this happened afterwards. We were consolidating, the date would be June 28th 1917. We came over together in the Marathan. I knew him as Jimmy.

33rd Battn.  
A.I.F.

DELVE,  
J.J. 402.

- 2 -

Informant:- C.H. Boyen, Pte, 359,  
33rd Battn, B.Coy, VI Pltn,  
3rd Western General Hospital,

Home address:  
Delungra,  
New South Wales.

T.J. Leonard.  
2.11.17.

London.  
14.2.18.

S.

33rd Battalion.  
A. U. F.

DELVE. J. J. 402.

"DIED OF WOUNDS" 28.6.17"

The above soldier was in my platoon from leaving England until he received his wounds which so unfortunately led to his death. He was wounded on the 26th of the June. 1917. great shelling after the third battle of Messines. We were in support lines in the rear of Messines, I had charge of my Battalion Scouts of which he was a most valued member, At that time myself, the Scout Corporal (since returned to Australia) and four men inclusive Delve were living in a concrete dug-out, and had only just turned into our blankets when a Bische 8-9 H.E. shell scored a direct hit on the top of the dugout, Delve was frightfully wounded and quite insensible, we that were left carried him to the dressing Station & from there he was quickly conveyed to C.O.S. at Steinwack, there he died and he was probably buried but it is most certain that he lies in a soldier's cemetery. I wrote to his people in Aust. enclosing a few trifles from of his person on the 1.7.17. I told them that he was one of the best soldiers & men that I had ever had with me, His place was very hard to fill & I who knew him so will mourn not only a good soldier but a true friend. There is no doubt about his identity I am only too sorry to say.

Letter from:- Sgt. H. Shadwell. 867.

Note:- We regret the delay in typing France. 5.11.17.  
the above report, but we have been obliged to hold it up on account of pressure of work and shortage of machines., London. 18.3.18. 5

33rd Battalion . " Died of Wounds"  
28/6/1917.

No. 402,  
Pte. J.J. DELVE.

Informant described Delve as about 6' high, big boned, rather dark and aged about 21. Came from Curlewis.

Informant states that he was in the same Company as Delve and was always with him. On or about 28/6/17 the Battalion was at Messines Ridge, acting as support to another Battalion which was in the front line. About 2 a.m. Delve, Informant and another soldier were in a dug-out when a shell burst right on top of the dug-out, severely wounding Delve in the head, Informant slightly and killing the other soldier. Informant and Delve were taken to the dressing station and subsequently Delve was taken to some other place not known to Informant. Delve never spoke as he was unconscious and Informant subsequently heard that he had died.  
Delve was very popular with his mates.

Informant;- Pte. A.J. McKroy, No. 522, 33rd Battn.  
No. 4 Australian General Hospital,  
RANDWICK.

Private address;-

MERRIWA N.S.W.

W.H.G.  
24.1.18.

SYDNEY BUREAU.

*S. C. V. S. S.*

Aug 31<sup>st</sup>.

D 1

Dear Madam,

In answer to your  
letter of the 23<sup>rd</sup> I am sorry  
there is little I can tell  
you about the death of 402  
Pte J. J. Delve. He was admitted  
to hospital dangerously  
wounded in the knee & face  
& never regained conscio-  
ness after coming to the  
C.C.B. He became fractious  
towards & feared people.

away not very long  
after coming to us. I  
was unable to get any  
address as being unconscious  
I could not get it from  
him & he had no pay  
book with him so I have  
not written to his relatives  
Every thing possible  
has been done for him. He had  
every care & attention  
but from the fact that  
was little hope.

his recovery.

Will you please convey  
my deepest sympathy  
to his relative when you  
write as having no  
address I cannot do  
so myself.

He was buried in the  
Cemetery near the C.C. C  
but I am sorry I am  
not allowed to give  
the name of the place.

as such information

is not allowed

Yours faithfully

John W. C. C.

S

France 5-11-17 402 J. J. DELVE

33 Battalion

8/W 28-6-17

53 (cd)

Dear Miss Deakin

Your inquiry of the 30<sup>th</sup> ultimo has just reached me & I am pleased to be able to say that I can tell you that I am able to supply you particulars

Delve was in my platoon from leaving England until he received the wounds which so unfortunately led to his death

He was wounded on the 26<sup>th</sup> of the 5<sup>th</sup> month of the 1917 great struggle after the third battle of Arras

We were in support line in the rear of Arras, I had charge of my Platoon of which he was a most valued member

At that time myself, the other officers (and related to this) & four men, withdrew of Delve were lying in a concrete dug-out & had only just turned into this place when a British 5-9 H & B shell scored a direct hit on the top of the dug-out

Delve was frightfully wounded & quite unconscious, but that is those of us who were left carried him to the Dressing Station & from there he was quickly conveyed to S.B. at St. Quentin, there he died & this is also probably buried but it is most certain that he lies in a Soldier's Cemetery

I wrote to his people in great haste a few lines from of his person on the 1<sup>st</sup> of

I say words to them that he was one of the best soldiers & men that I had ever had with me, his place was very hard to fill & I who knew him so well more than only a good soldier but a true friend

There is no doubt about his identity I am only too sorry to say I have never such congratulations for your noble & self-sacrificing work

Yours truly

807 100th Lt. Sherrin



9C

867 Sgt. H. Shadwell.  
33rd Battn. A.I.F.,  
B.E.F.

Nov. 9th, 1917.

Dear Sir,

We wish to thank you for your answer to our enquiry concerning - 402 J.J. DELVE - 33rd Battn. A.I.F.

The information and details you have sent will be of much assistance to us and of value to our enquirers. We are very pleased to learn that you wrote to your comrade's people, we know how much these letters are appreciated.

Please accept our sympathy in the loss of your friend.

Yours faithfully,

Secretary.

OS