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

2718 Lance Corporal John Douglas Black

4th Battalion



0400601B

4th Australian Imperial Force. Black, J.D. 2718.

W. July 22nd/16.

Informant states that Pte. Jack Black was blown to bits by a heavy shell in the trenches at Pozieres Village about 24-25 July. Informant was within a few yards of him at the time and saw it happen. Pte. Staples, who was wounded by the same shell, was next man to Pte. Black, and he could give you confirmatory evidence."

Reference:- Pte. Harold J. Gorman, 3763,
4th A.I.F. B.
Bradford Hospital.

Home address:- 11, Taylor Street,
Darlinghurst,
Sydney.

Oct. 19/16.
E. Jeffrey.

Letter Pte Staples 23.11.16

FRANCE.

A.I.F. 4. BLACK, J.D. 2718.

W. July 22-27. 1916.

He came over with the 6th. Reinf. to the 19th. Batt., as a Sgt. He joined up the 4th. Batt. at Tel-el-Kebir, as a L/cpl. He was killed at Pozieres the first time we were in (July 22-27.) Cpl. G.B. King, X Pl, C.Co., gave me this information. King ascertained this as the result of his enquiries. I am sure the evidence is correct.

Reference: Pte. H. Gazeley, 2600. C.Co.
No.1.A.D.B.D. Staples. 21.10.1916.

Letter G King 30.11.16

4th. Battn.
A.I.F.

Black,
J. D. 2718

"Wounded July 22/27- 16"

Corporal King wrote me that Black had died of wounds, that he had inquired for me and got it officially from the Battalion.

Reference: Corporal Perry,
Ward 43,
Harefield Hospital,
18-10-16

. Note;- Wrote to Corporal King 26-10-16.

London,
26-10-16
D. P. Dickson

S.

4th. Battn.
A.I.F.

Black,
J. D. 2718

"Wounded August 22-27/ 16"

At Pozieres first time our Battalion went into trenches, Black was killed by shell in our trenches. He was taken away but died before they got to dressing station. He was one of my Platoon.

Reference: Sgt. Drew,
Ward 36,
Harefield Hospital,
18-10-16

London,
26-10-16
D. P. Dickson

S.

4th Battn. 4.
A.I.F.,

Black.
J.D. 2718

"Wounded July 22-27th 1916."

I saw him and two others killed by a shell, in a support trench at Pozieres on 26-7-16. His leg and stomach were torn, and he ran down the trench dazed, and calling out before he dropped He was a happy sort of chap well liked by us all, a nice fellow.

Reference;- H.Gorman, 3766
4th Battn. A.I.F.,
Harefield. Hospt.
27-10-16.

London
30-10-16.
O.C.Williams.

S.

4th Battn.
A.I.F.,

Black
J.D. 2716

"Wounded 22-27/7/16"

Witness states that he saw the above man in the 3rd Southern General Hosp tal, Oxford on or about 6th October 1916.
Description. About 5ft.6ins, clean shaved, blue eyes, thin, wounded in leg, about 2 0 years old, came from New South Wales.

Reference;- Pte.M.Ribero, 1617
4th Battn. A.I.F.,
Darford.
4-11-16.

Note. Written to O.C. 17-11-16.

London
21-11-16.
W.L.W.B.

S.

4th. Battn.
A.I.F.

Black,
Corp. J. D. 2718

"Wounded 22-27/7/16 - Unofficially Missing"

I received your two letters with regard to my friend and comrade 2718, J. D. Black (L.Cpl.) last night. I am at present with my unit and have made enquiries off everyone I know, knew him but can get nothing definite. So far as I can get he was wounded badly in the stomach and groin during the attack on Pozieres. Some who saw him wounded (still alive but unconscious) say that he could not possibly live long. It is surmised by everyone that he died on the way out on the stretcher, but one cannot ascertain who were the stretcher bearers, etc. etc. as both of them, officers and N.C.O.'s who would know have since been killed. The battalion has no record further of him, and I believe he is now officially posted missing. I am certain he is dead nevertheless because many others have gone mysteriously the same way and I am sure he would have let me know on reaching hospital as he was my bosom pal. I also wrote several letters to him, while I was in England and they were returned marked "Missing". There is only one slight hope - is he a prisoner? And it is certain he was wounded behind our lines that is hardly possible. I feel so certain he is dead that I wrote about a week ago and told

his people so. He was a tall young chap, 5 ft. 11 inches about. Fair hair, blue eyes, and slightly freckled complexion. Biggishly built and active - 18 or 19 years old and lived with his people at "Donside", The Avenue, Granville, N.S.W.

If you do get anything definite about him, I would be glad if you would let me know. Whether he was buried or not, it is hard to say, as there were and still are many men lying about the advance grounds still unburied.

Cert. by letter from:- Corporal George B. King, 75,
C. Coy.,
4th. Battn.
A.I.F.
Somewhere in France,
9-11-16

London,
21-11-16

France.

A.I.F. 4th. BLACK. J.D. 2718.

W. July 22-27th.1916.

Informant says:-
"I knew him. He was a L/C. I saw him last on the 22nd July. He was wounded but got back to hospital. He was afterwards officially reported by the Battn. as died of wounds.

Inf: Sergt.G.L. Scott.
2 nd.Can.Stat.Hosp.
BOULOGNE. 1.12.16. RAOI.

4th. Batt.
A.I.F.

BLACK 2718
Pte. J.D.

"Wounded 22/23-7-16"

I have just received definite news concerning 2718 J.D.BLACK L/CPL 4th. Batt, of whom you wrote me and I replied last week.
The information is from PTE TOM HARRAY of 13th. Batt, Austr. Imp. Forces., who came over with the same unit as myself and L/CPL BLACK, viz (6th. Rifle 13th. Batt.)
PTE HARRAY. T. saw the grave of 2718 L/CPL BLACK, on the Chalk Pit Road, leading up to Pozieres, from Albert, himself. You may write to him and verify this, as he did not give the information to me, but to a friend of mine Sgt. RAYMENT. This information is reliable and I would be glad if you would inform P'E. BLACKS relatives.

Cert. by Letter: CPL. KING. PTE. 2675
4th. Batt.
A.I.F.
Somewhere in France.

S
P.L

London
6-12-16

4th A. I. F. J. D. BLACK, 2718.

Wounded 22/27.7.16.

He was wounded at Pozieres and was later sent to England. Pte Luscombe of the 4th Batt. told me he had seen him in England.

Reference: Cpl. E. S. Foley, 2727

No.1 Australian, Rouen. 11.12.16.

FS.

Not sent on
above report evidently applies to
1913 Herbert Black 4th Bttn

4th Battn.
A.I.F.,

Black
J.D. 2718

"Wounded & Unoff. M. 22-27/7/16"

With reference to your letter of the 21st inst. I have the honour to state that 1913, Pte.Black,Herbert, 4th A.I.F. was a patient in this hospital but was transferred to Horseferry Road on 27-9-16.

This man was the only one of the name of Black in the A.I.F., who has been in this.Hospital.

Cert. by letter from - Lt.Col.
3rd South. Gen. Hospt.
Oxford.
22-11-16.

London
25-11-16.

S.

4th. Batt
A.I.F

BLACK
J.D. 2718

"Wounded July 22-[illegible]7th. 1916"

Witness states that he saw soldier killed by a piece of shell which passed clean through his body, he saw him fall and went to him to try and do something for him, but he died almost immediately.
Description:- 5 ft.6 ins. in height, complexion fair
commonly known as Dusty.
Reference:- F.SHORT, 2750 D.Coy, 4th. Batt
S.W. Wareham
21-12-16

S.W.
London
2-1-17

S.

4th Battn.
A.I.F.,

Black
J.D. 2718

"Wounded 22-7-1916"

Pozieres at Chalk Farm, he was buried by me, I put up a cross and name on it, he enlisted with me, came from Granville, N.S.Wales, I was near when shraphel killed him and being my mate I buried him.

Reference;- Hadway
Harefield Hospt.
29-12-16.

London
5-1-17
D.P.Dickson.

S.

4th A.I.F. Black J.D. 2718,

(W. July 22-27th 1916)

Informant states that on July 25th at Pozieres Black was hit by shell, was taken to dressing station but died on his way there. Was buried in Chalf Pit Road.

Eye-witness: No. Was told by Headaway, 25th A.I.F.

Informant: H.C. Rhynhart 2690,
4th A.I.F.,
3rd London General Hospt.,
Wandsworth.

Home address:
Albury,
N.S.W.

Jan. 6th 1917,
I. Gerrard.

4th Battn.
A.I.F.,

Black
J.D. 2718

"Wounded Unoff. K.in A."

"Wounded & Missing 22-27/7/16" previously reported Wounded.

Cert. by A.I.F. Headquarters 1.B. 125.

London
12-1-17

S.

Copy for Booklet

A.I.F. 4th Battn
B.Coy.

BLACK
L/Cpl John Douglas 2718

"WOUNDED"

Killed in Action 22/27-7-16
Cert. by - A.I.F.Headquarters 21-3-17 Y.B. 187.

London
26-3-17

S & P.I.

ack 17.11.16

RECEIVED
16 NOV. 16

members in France
9.11.16.

British Red Cross Society

Dear Sirs

I received your two letters with regard to my friend & comrade 27.8. L.D. Black. L Corporal Cav. Corps.

I am at present with my unit & have made enquiries of everyone I meet that knew him, but can get nothing tangible.

So far as I can get he was wounded leading his troop & gallantly during the attack on Strazeele. Some who saw him wounded (still alive, but unconscious) say that he could not possibly live long. It is presumed by everyone that he died on the stretcher but one cannot ascertain who were the stretcher bearers, etc etc as both them & practically N.C.O's, who would know, have since been killed.

The battalion has not been

brother of him, & I believe he is now officially noted missing.

I am certain he is dead nevertheless because, many others have gone mysteriously the same way as [illegible] Cyril he would have left me knew in March. Hospital as he was my bosom pal. I also wrote several letters to him while he was in England & they were returned marked missing.

There is still one slight hope — is he a prisoner? + as it is nearly [illegible] months [illegible] lines [illegible] possible.

Cyril, to me, he is dead. But I would almost a year ago & [illegible] he [illegible] so.

He was a tall [illegible] chap. Slightly stout, fair hair, blue eyes & [illegible]

freckled complexion, dark hair, built & active 18 or 19 years old. He lived with his father at "Bonnie" Shelbourne Plantation, V.S.W.

If you do get anything further about it would be well to send it on to me.

Whether he was buried or not it is hard to say as many men after the advance were still unburied.

[illegible]

2/18 Nc [illegible]

IV 22-27-? 16 [illegible]

S 32.

RECEIVED
1 DEC 1916

Somewhere in France
16/11/16.

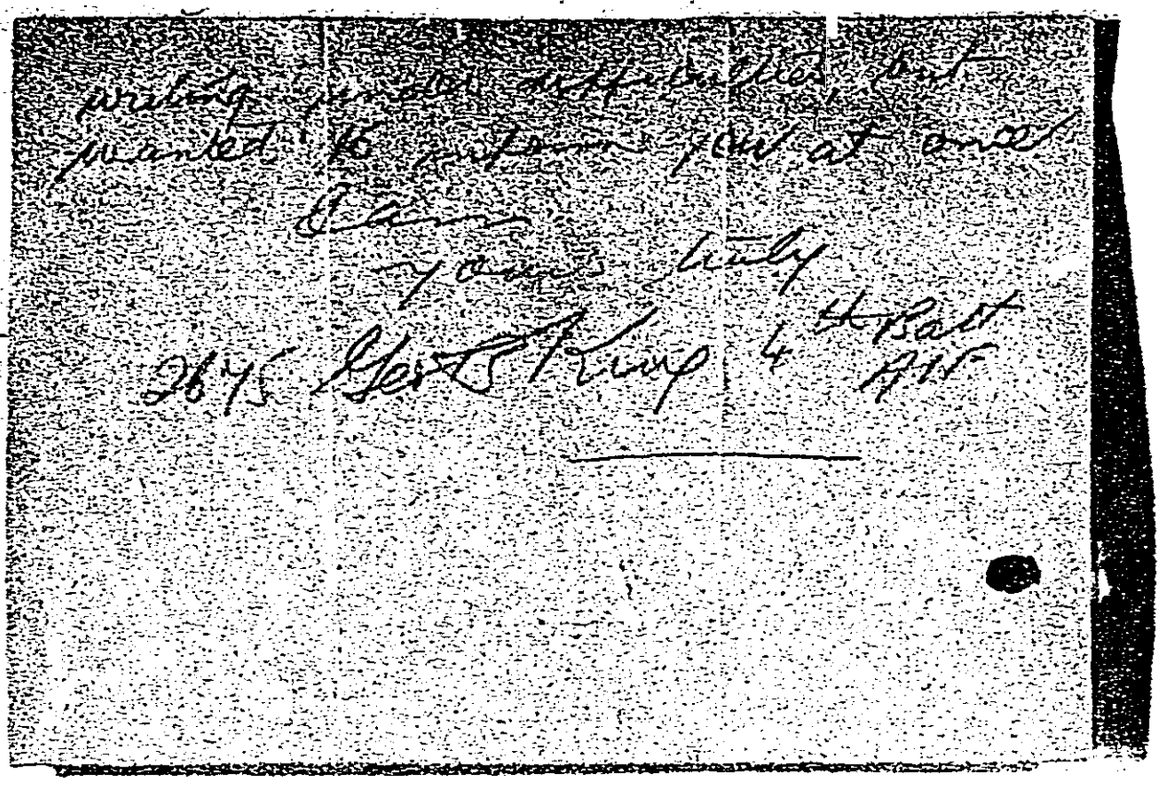
To Secretary
British Red Cross Society
Australian Branch

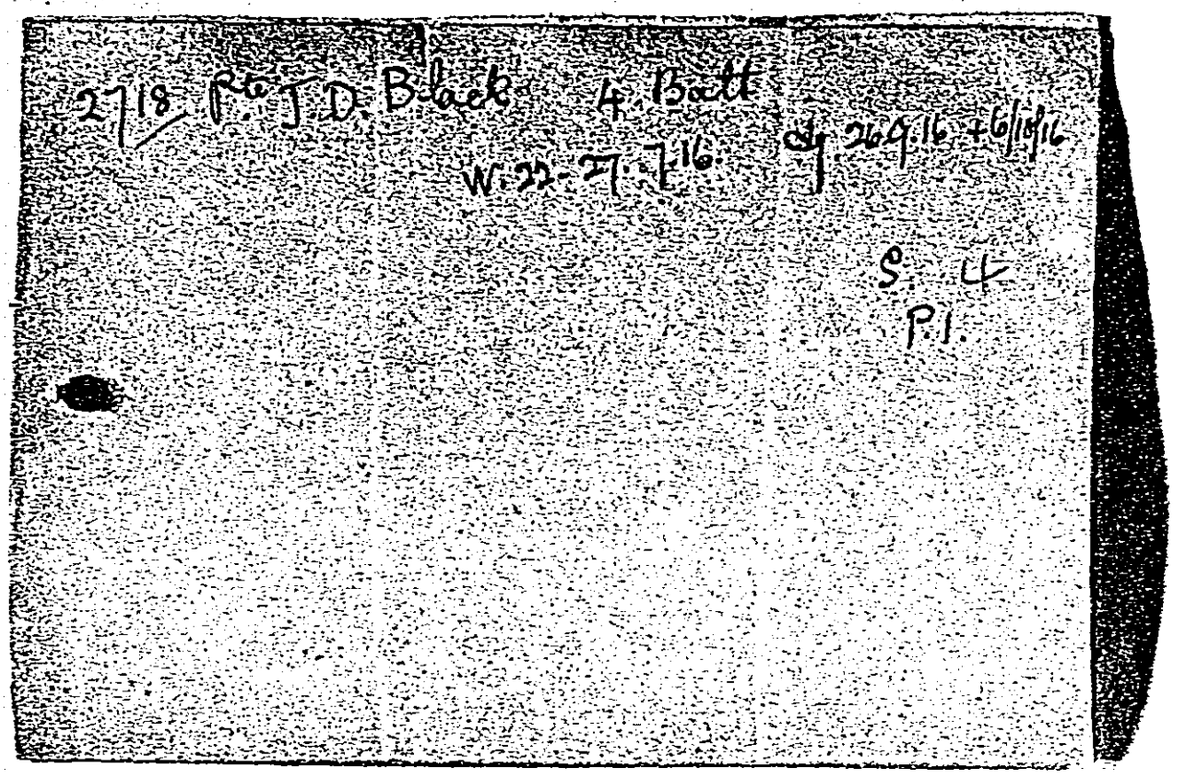
Dear Sir

I have just received definite news concerning 2718. J.D. Black L/Cpl, 4th Batt. of whom you wrote me & I replied last week.

The information is from Pte Tom Hadaway, of 45th Batt, Aust Exp. who came over with the same limit as myself & L/Cpl Black. He (6th Res 17th Batt).

Pte Hadaway saw the grave of 2718 L/Cpl Black, on the Black Pit Road, leading up to Pozieres, from Albert himself, & you may write to him & verify this, as he did not give the information to me, but to a friend of mine Sgt Rymbert. This information is reliable & I would be glad if you would inform Pte Black's relatives. I will write to them again myself when I have time, but cannot as I am at present P.T.O




2718 Re T.D. Black 4 Batt
W.22-27-7-16
dj 26.9.16 + 6/10/16
S. 4
P.1

January 31st.1917.--

Mrs.Green
7.Fairview.
Swinjee.

Dear Madam;

We are in receipt of your letter of 24th inst. re No.2718. Lance Cpl.J.Douglas.Black,4th.Battn. We have already received inquir--ies from Australia about this man, and have Unofficial information from men in the same battalion, that leads us to fear he died of wounds.

The latest official report from Headquarters was on 27.7.16. "Wounded & Missing" We hear unofficially from Sgt.Drew 4th.Battalion "At Pozieres first time our Battalion went into trenches,Black was killed by shell in our trenches. He was taken away but died before they got to Dressing Station. He was one of my Platoon".

Pte.Tom.Hadway.45th.Battn.writes "Lance Douglas.Black, was buried by me at Pozieres,Chalk Farm. I put up a cross and a name on it, he enlisted with me, came from Grenville,New South Wales, I was near when Shrapnel killed him, and being my mate I buried him."

Several pther men verify the above information, so we believe it to be true.

[redacted]

We are extremely sympathic for his people.

Yours faithfully,

Secretary. P.M. for A.C.

Answered
Jan 31st 1917

c/ Fairview
Lewisham
24. 1. 17

27 JAN 1917
CARLTON HOUSE TERRACE.

Dear Sir

Could you obtain any information for us concerning the following

Lance Cpl John Douglas Black 2718
B Coy 4th Batt
1st Infantry Brigade
Australian Forces
On active service Abroad

He was reported wounded on July 23rd 1916, but has not been heard of since, nor can be traced by his Parents (in Sydney) who are naturally very anxious about him. If you can help us in this matter we shall be very grateful.

Yours sincerely
(Mrs T H) A Green

To Capt. King
4th Australian Inf: Bde.
A.I.F.

Dec 26th
Filing Copy

Dear Sir

We have had enquiries from Sydney about 2718 Pte. J. D. Black 4th Bde who is officially reported to have been wounded. We have heard that you have some information as to his fate, & should be most grateful if you would let us have all the particulars that you can. Please add a short personal description of the man so that his relatives may be satisfied that there has been no mistake.

With all good wishes, I am
Yours faithfully.

France.

HOSPITAL Pendlebury Hospi

Did Informant know Christian Name, Initials or No.?	Exactly as in Enquiry List.	Regin
Initials + No	...Jer...Battalion	Man's Nat
Any other man same name in Platoon or Company?	...Jer...Company	Natur

Informant states that :– On

at Fleur Baie. he was v
Nelson of the same Battalio
Pte. J. Murdoch had been kil
He could not remember the n
might that the 32nd Batt. where

NOTE.—Get details and grounds on which this statement is given, as far as is reasonably practicable.

DESCRIPTION OF MAN, Scars, Nickname, &c.	What happened after t

Date of Report and Visitor's signature.	VISITOR'S OPINION OF INFORMANT, intelligent, reliable, unnerved, &c.?
Sept 14th 1916 E. M. Baines	Intelligent.

October 30th.

O.C. 4.B.Zinq.
[illegible]
4th.Battalion.

Dear Sir,

We have enquiries for No.2715. Pte. J.D. Black 4th.Battn. A.I.F. who is reported wounded 22or 27.7.16. and we will be grateful if you can give us particulars, if as we hear Pte. Black is ~~unofficially killed~~ wounded will you please tell us all you can about his death, and if he was buried? Any news will be valued by his people

With best regards.

Yours faithfully,

V. D

Secretary.

per Blomfield

November 21st

2675 Cpl. George B. King
C. Company
4th Aust. Inf. Battn
B. E. F.

Dear Sir,

We have to thank you for the long and detailed reply you sent to our enquiries about your friend L/cpl J.D. Black. 2/7/18. It seems now that there is very little hope of his being alive, but we have filed your name as an enquirer, and should we hear of L/cpl Black either in hospital or as a prisoner we will write to you at once.

With best wishes,

Yours truly

K. D.

Secretary M.S.

21st November

The Officer Commanding,
3rd Southern General Hospital,
Oxford.

Dear Sir,

We are making inquiries for a Member of the A.I.F., who has been reported Wounded - 22-7--7-15, but whose whereabouts we have been unable to trace - 2718 Pte J.D Black, 4th Battalion, A.I.F and have been told by another man of the 4th Battalion, that Black was a Fellow Patient in your Hospital on or about the 8th October 1916.

We should be most grateful if you could let us know whether Black is or has been a Patient in your Hospital, or if owing to a similarity in names the man has confused him with another.

With apologies for troubling you, and thanking you in anticipation,

Yours faithfully,

Secretary

Nov: 24th

Pte. Staples,
4th Battalion,
A.I.F.
B.E.F.

Dear Pte. Staples,

We are making enquirers for a man of your Battalion - 2718 Pte J.D. Black, 4th Battalion, A.I.F., reported wounded 22-7-16 and have been told that you may be able to help us by giving us some information.

We should be most grateful for any details you could send us concerning Pte Black and would also be glad if you could add a short personal description in order that we may satisfy his relatives that no error has been made.

Yours faithfully,

VD

Secretary.

December 5th 1916

No. 2675, Private Geo. B.King,
4th Aust. Inf. Battn.
B.E.F.

Dear Sir,

We have received your letter with the information about No. 2718, L/Corporal, J.D.Black, 4th Battalion, A.I.F., and were very glad to have it.

It was very good of you to send such a clear account about him and his relatives will be pleased to have it.

With many thanks, and best wishes.

Yours faithfully,

V.D.

Secretary.

L Aw.

December 8th.

PTE. TOM HADAWAY,
45th. Australian Inf. Batt.
B.E.F.

Dear Sir,

We are told that you saw the grave of 3718 PTE.J.D. BLACK 4th. Batt. A.I.F., whi is reported as wounded and missing since July 22/27.

We should be most grateful if you will let us know w whether this ststement is correct, as we are sending out the information to Australia and want to have as definite particulars as possible

Are you quite sure that it was his grave.

With best wishes and thanking yuo in anticipation.

Yours faithfully,

V.D
Secretary
A.A.W.

14th January, /7.

Dear Sir,

We have received the unofficial information that -

No.2718 Pte. J. D. BLACK 4th Battalion A.I.F.

was hit by a shell at Pozieres on July 25th. Informant states that he was told by another Battalion man that (Pte. Black) was taken to a dressing station, but died on his way there and was buried in Chalk Pit Road.

We have failed to trace Pte. Black's admission to any hospital and from unofficial information we fear that he must have died before he reached a dressing station.

May we express our sympathy with you in the loss of your friend.

Yours faithfully,

V D.

SECRETARY.

No.2675,
Cpl. George B. King,
4th Aust. Inf. Battn.,
B. E. F.

6th February -7.

J. A. [illegible] Esq.,
Inquiry Bureau.
39 Broad Street.
Bristol.

Dear Sir,

Enclosed please find copies of all the reports we have received about No. 9718. L/Cpl. James Douglas Black, 4th Otgn. A.I.F. for which you were inquiring.

Yours faithfully,

V.D.

Secretary.
L.A.M.

29th March 1917.

Mr J. H. Ian,
Inquiry Bureau.
29 Broad St.
Bristol.

Sir, No. 2718. L/Cpl. J.B. Black, 4th Battalion.
Prev. Rep. Wounded & Missing 22-27.7.16.

Now Killed in action on that date.

Draft. I

29th March 1917.

Mrs Green.
7 Fairview.
Swindon.

Madam,

No. 2710. L/Cpl. J.D.Black, 4th Battalion.
Prev. Rep. Wounded & Missing 22-27.7.16.

now killed in action on that date

Dispr. I