

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

1236 Private
James Alexander
Blackney

39th Battalion



0410503D

A.I.F.
CANADIANS 39.

BLACKNEY. J.H. 1236.

K. May 25th 1917. Dets. D/B.

On May 25th 1917 Blackney was in a working party in our front line trench at Ploegsteert Ypres sector and was killed outright by a Boche shell and was no doubt buried at Ploegsteert Cemetery.

Inf: H.J. Delahoye. 60019.
57, Gen. Hosp.
BOULOGNE. 19.10.17.

HH.

M

39th A. I. F.

J. A. BLACKNEY, 1236.

Killed 25.5.17. Det. D & B.

He was killed whilst with a working party at Ploegstreet Wood, Armentieres Sector, by a shell. Pte. Tom Edwards, D.Co. was with him and saw him killed. It was in the morning about 11.0 o'clock, he was killed on the spot. I believe he was buried in the Cemetery just behind the Wood. I knew him well as we came over from Australia together on May 27th, 1916. He was aged about 27, tall, dark, thin face, came from Hamilton District, Victoria.

Reference: Pte. O. Stone, 1403, D. Coy. XIV.

No. 1 Aust. General, Rouen, 23.10.17.

WS.

Walter Edwards M
2.11.17.

Havre

27th Oct. 1917.

39th AUSTRALIANS

BLACKNEY, J.A. 1236

X. 25.5.17. Det. D/B.

I knew Pte. James A. Blackney of D Co., 13th Pltn. He came from Hamilton, Victoria. He was an original man. I was with him when he was killed instantly by a shell in our own lines while on a working party on May 25th, 1917. I saw his grave in the Military Cemetery at Plugstreet Wood - a new Cemetery.

Informant: Pte. A.E. Driscoll, 6138
39th Australians, D Co., 13th Pltn.,
Australian Camp, Rouelles.

RDM

M

Havre

1st November.1917.

39th AUSTRALIANS

BLACKNEY, J.A. 1236

X. May 25th.1917. Det. D/B.

I knew Pte. James Blackney of D.Co., XIII.Pltn. He came from Hamilton, Victoria. I was told that he was buried in the Strand Military Cemetery at Plugstreet Wood.

Informant: Pte. J. Gypott, 999
39th Australians, H.Q.
Australian Camp, Rouelles.

RDM.

M

Havre

1st November.1917.

39th AUSTRALIANS

BLACKNEY, J.A. 1236 & 16 others
(for full list see report of
Anderson, F.P. 9.)

K. May 25th.1917. Det. D/E.

I was batman to Church of England Padre, Capt. J. Best of the 39th Batt.. (now With Machine Gun Co., Grantham, England), and accompanied him with the burial parties at Messines in May, June, and July. He has a complete record of all the men buried, and the location of their graves. Church of England Padre, Capt. Heyden of the 38th Batt., who is still with his Batt. assisted, and also has a record.

Informant: Pt. A.H. Dalamaro, 430
39th Australians, B.Co., VIII. Pltn.
Australian Camp, Roules.

RDM.

Written Capt Best 10.11.17

39th A. I. F.

J. A. BLACKNEY, 1236.

Killed 25.5.17. Det. D/B.

I had the following from Pte. Allan Driscoll of 39.D.XIII. (wounded Oct.4th) and others who were there at the time. He was killed at Ploegsteert Wood about the end of May. He was on a working party fixing up emplacements for Trench Mortars etc. for a big kick off, when a shell landed near and buried him. When they dug him out he was dead and so badly knocked about that he must have been killed instantly. Blackney's name was Jim, No. begins 12-, came from Australia with me in the "Ascanias" leaving Melbourne on 27.5.16. We went into Camp the same day at Ballarat show ground on 21.3.16. He lived at Hamilton.

Reference: J.S.Crosthwaite, 1253.

No.11 Con.Camp, Bucky nr. Rouen, 6.11.17.

FEP.

*Written Driscoll
13.11.17.*

39 A.I.F.

Blackney. Pte J.A. 1236

K. May 25/17 Det D/B

"I knew Blackney, who came from my town Hamilton. My brother Corp. J.D. Sanders of 3 Divisional Supp. Column. Motor Transport A.I.F. No. 11812, told me that he helped to bury him. He was killed outright at Bullecourt and was buried there."

Eye-witness: No, see above.

Description: About 5'6" to 8", dark, clean shaven, age about 24.

Informant: Pte. Alex Sanders, 3127
37 A.I.F.
Colmore Rd Hosp.
King's Heath,
Birmingham.

Home address: Brown St, Hamilton, Victoria.

12 Nov. 1917.
W.F. Aurdry.

M
C d
Luff

89th Bata
A.I.F.

BLACKNEY
J.A. 1236

"Killed May 25th 1917"

I did not see him actually killed, but saw his body immediately after. In fact his flesh was twitching. He was killed by concussion and there was not a mark on his body. It was in the Only Way Trench at Ploegstreet Wood and I saw his grave in Charing Cross Military Cemetery in Ploegstreet Wood with a cross on it. He had a good funeral most of the Platoon lined up at the grave. I was not present. We were in the same Coy., and platoon and section from Oct. 1916. He was called "Lochie".

Informant:- A. McKenzie. 6078
D. Coy., 13th Bn 89th Bata
No 3 Command Depot.
Harrold.
8.11.17.

G.W. Griffith
London. 14.11.17.

11

39th Batta.
A.I.F.

Blackney.
J. A. 1236
(& 16 others, for full list
see Anderson.F.P.)

"Killed 25.5.17"

Killed by shell 25.5.17. Ploegsteert Wood. Buried in Strand Military Cemetery Ploegsteert. Those buried "in the field" at Messines were buried in definite localities properly marked, but the places had no names. There is some doubt as to whether some of the lads were killed on June 7th or 8th. It is a question whether they were killed before midnight or after. If you have the 8th down and my date is 7th, keep to your date.

Letter from:-
Chaplain J. Best.
"E" Lines.
Aust: Officer & Mess
Belton Park.
Grantham. 11.11.17.

London.
19.11.17.

M.

39th Btn.

BLACKNEY, J. A.
Pte. 1236.

"Killed in action 25/5/17."

"Casualty was killed under my eyes by a H.E. shell whilst on a working party digging a track to an ammunition dump at Ploegstratt Wood on or about 25th May, 1917. There were 10 of us in the party and 7 were buried by the shell including Casualty. They were all dug out but Casualty was dead when rescued. He was buried near the Dressing Station at Messines Ridge a short distance from Ploegstratt Wood."

Informant:- J. Deary,
No. 6008, 39th Battalion.
Private address:-
Houston Street,
Stawell.

H.A.B.
6/12/17. "I confirm the above report."
Private address:- 7. Hartwick
Hamilton, Vic. No. 6144, 39th Battalion. *M. Cd. Aug.*

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS INFORMATION BUREAU-MELBOURNE.

39th Btn.

BLACKNEY, J.A.
Pte. 1236

Killed in action 25/5/17.

"I knew Casualty. I was out with a wiring party at Houplines, Armentieres, when a shell exploded near by and knocked us all over. Casualty included. I thought he had shell shock but on examining him the stretcher-bearers found he had a machine gun bullet through the heart. I was about 10 yds. away. He was buried at Steenwerk Cemetery. We subscribed and got a wooden cross for his grave."

Informant:- Pte. A. Lowe,
No. 1343, 39th Btn.
Private address:-
Wandin Vale,
Casterton. *M. Cd. Aug.*

H.A.B.
2/12/17.

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS INFORMATION BUREAU-MELBOURNE.

9C
PG ALLAN DRISCOLL

D. Wey

39A. 1.F

B. 9. 7.

about

J. A. BLACKNEY
1236

39A. 1.F

Killed 25. 5. 14.

Sw.

17. 11. 17.

39th Battn.
A.I.F.

BLACKNEY,
J.A. 1236.

"KILLED IN ACTION" 25.6.17

Regarding Pte. J.A. Blackeny 1236, The only information I can give you that I was with him when he met his death, and seen him carried out, by the stretcher bearers. The following day he was buried by the Rev. Captain Best. in a soldiers' cemetery, below Ploeg steert Wood, whether his grave (~~is~~ grave) was registered I could not say. His appearance was fair complexion, stout build and about 5-6 in height. Further particulars I cannot state.,

Letter from. Pte. A.E. Driscoll.
D. Co. 13th Platoon.
39th Battn.

France. 18 .11.17.

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

London.
19.11.18.

3

M.

Acce
by
FM 27.11.17 1236 J. A. BLACKNEY
KA. 25.5.17 39/Ball
France. M.C.
Nov. 18th 1917.

To Secretary Aus. Red. Cross.

Your.
Letter to hand received
Yesterday, regarding 39
Pte. J. A. Blackney. No. 1236.
The only information I can
give you, that I was
with him when he met
his death. And seen him
carried out by the S. Beane.
The following day he was
buried by the Rev.
Captain. Best. in a
soldiers cemetery. below
Plugstreet. Wood. ~~to~~
Whether his grave (is grave)
was registered I could not
say.

His appearance was fair
complexion. stout build.
& about 5-6 in height.
Further particulars. I cannot
state.

O

Yours faithfully.

Pte A. C. Driscoll.

DCs 13th ~~Regt~~
39 ~~Batt~~

Ref

Plt Tom EDWARDS

D. Coy.

39 Batt. A.I.F.

B.G. 4.

about

J. A. BLACKNEY

1236

39 Batt. A.I.F.

Killed 25.5.14.

Enr.

2.11.17.