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

4348 Private
John Charles Burgess

2nd Battalion



0630606L

2nd Battn.
A.I.F.

Burgess,
J.C. No. 4348

W.recently:

Admitted Military Hospital,Edmonton, 4/8/16, with shell wound to left arm.

Cert. by - Hospital Index.

Up and about.

Cert. by - Telephone Message 22/8/16.

London,
22/8/16.

S.

2nd Batn
A. I. F.
Late 4th/13th

BURGESS
John Chas. 4348

"Killed in Action"

Buried Polygon wood. Brother wishes father to be informed. adr. Mr. J. Burgees C/o A. Wilson William St. Stockton Newcastle. N.S.W. Killed in Action 21.9.17. cabled by HdQtrs 14.11.17.

S.P.I.

London.
15.11.17.

2nd Batn.
A.I.F.

BURGESS
J.C. 4348

"Killed 21-9-17"

He was killed outright by the shell ~~of~~ which I was wounded at Zonnebeke, as we were going up to the front lines from supports. I can't say anything as to his burial.

Informant. Brown A.T.W. 4146
2nd Batn., D.Coy.,
Hut 21,
WESTHAM.

W. A. Rand
London
6-3-18

S.
P.I.

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.

2nd A.I.F.

Burgess. Pte. ~~G.L.~~ J. L.
4348. D Co. 5B Pl;

(K. 21/9/17)
Det D/B.

"We were going into the front line at Polygon Wood on the 21st Sept. Burgess was next but one to me when a shell came and killed Burgess and another and wounded me and several others. It was about 9 p.m. "

Eye-witness: Yes.

Description: Very short, stout man, medium complexion, wounded in arm previously at Pozieres.

Informant: Pte. G.A. McIlveen. 4366.
2nd A.I.F. D Co. 5B. Pl.
Norfolk War Hos; Norwich.

Home address: Totterville.
Byron St.,
Campsie. N.S.W.

20.12.17.
Edgar Rice.

P. I.

2nd Battn.
A.I.F.

BURGESS
J.C. 4348

Killed 21.9.17. Det. D/B.

I think that L/Cpl. J.Mackie (2D.XVI) could give particulars about Burgess. L/Cpl. Mackie knows everyone in the Battalion and if anyone wants information they always go to him. He is a good man and very well liked. He would be sure to take a great deal of trouble for the Red Cross.

Eye-witness:- No.
Informant:- Nicholson, James, 1066a..Pte.
2nd Bn. A.I.F. 3rd Sn. Gnl.Oxford
Home Address:- 127, Alice Street,
New Town, Sydney..

Note:- Written L/Cpl. Mackie 22.12.17

London.
11.1.18

5
P.1

2nd Battn.
A.I.F.

Burgess. J.C. 4348	Killed in Action	21.9.17.
Cox. J.W. 4168A	" " "	3.10.17.
Crockford. C.C. 7100	" " "	4.10.17
Powell. H.S. 6811	" " "	17. 9.17
Richardson P.H. 7032	" " "	17. 9.17.
Shipp J. 6582	" " "	17. 9.17.
Turner E.C. 4599	" " "	17. 9.17.

Pte.Burgess was about 5'3" in height and very ~~strong~~ stout. He had dark hair and rather a large mouth. I am afraid I have not given you a very good description of these men, but I hope that it will be sufficient to satisfy their relatives. I cannot give you any information of Pte.Crockford, but the other 5 were all buried in the field. I happened to be holding Pte.Shipp when he was killed He was first wounded in the arm and I had just bandaged it up and was still holding him and a shell came and killed him, Pte.Richardson and Pte.Powell together, you can be safe in telling their people that they were all buried. Don't think you are imposing on me in any way, as it is only a pleasure to me to be able to give you any information of mates in my Company.

Letter from:- J.R.Mackie
16th Pltn. D.Coy. 2nd Battn.

London.
16.1.18.

S.

2nd Battn.
A.I.F.

BURGESS J.C, 4348

"KILLED 22.9.17"

I saw him badly blown up in the centre of Polygon Wood. as we were going in at nightto take over the line. There was no possibility of burial. He was a Stretcher bearer of.D.co. Ptn.16. I knew him well..

Informant;- Mc Knezie.W,731.
2nd Battn.
Dartford.,
10.1.18.

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.,

L.P.J.
London.
27.2.18.

S.

2nd BATTALION A.I.F.

BURGESS J.C. Private
No. 4348

"KILLED 21-9-17"

Informant described Burgess as about 5 ft 4 inches high, heavy build medium complexion aged about 25. Left Australia with Informant per "Aenaeus" in December 1915.

Informant states that they both belonged to D. Company and were both stretcherbearers. On 21-9-17 the Battalion was going into the front line at Polygon Wood. Six Stretcherbearers including Burgess and Informant were marching along together when a shell landed right in the midst of themwith the result that Burgess and another chap were killed instantly and Informant and the remaining three wounded. Burgess was alongside Informant just before the shell burst, but on account of his own wound Informant was not able to distinguish him after he was hit. There was no doubt, however, that Burgess was killed.

Informant added that Burgess was well liked by his mates.

INFORMANT:- Private G. A. McIlveen No. 4366
D. Company 2nd Battalion
Home Address:- "Tottieville" Byron Street, Campsie.

W.E.G.
No. 4 Australian General Hospital
Randwick 7-9-18.

---------- SYDNEY BUREAU.

2nd. BATTALION
D. Company.

Private J. C. BURGESS,
No. 4348.

"Killed in Action 21/9/17".

I knew the above Soldier well - He was in D. Company with me. He had just taken on stretcher bearing the day he was killed. We were just outside Polygon Wood. It was about 9 o'clock at night and we were just relieving the 13th. Battalion, when 3 shells came over, two dropped to our right and the third caught nine of us. I was wounded by it and Burgess was killed outright and one other killed - was named Wilkie. I was taken back behind the lines and so I can't say whether Burgess was buried. Burgess was a short stout fellow - skin freckled, medium complexion about 23 years of age. If Informant has time, he will call and see Burgess' people.

Informant:- Private G. A. McIlveen, 4366,

Private Address:- Gladstone,
Byrne Street, Campsie.

W.M.J.
4 Australian General Hospital, RANDWICK.
10/11/18.

SYDNEY BUREAU.

6
6d
Left

A.I.F. Send Con.

BURGESS
John Chas. 4346

"K/A.21-3-1"

No trace [illegible]
Cert. by Capt.Mills 10-10-19.

London
13-10-19

Mr. McKenzie,
Wounded & Missing Dept,
No 4 Branch, B.R.C.S.,
B. E. F.

November 15th, 1917.

Dear Mr. McKenzie,

Regarding 4348 (not 4438) Pte.J.C.BURGESS,
2nd Battalion,
A.I.F.

We have ascertained from Head Quarters that an official cable has already been sent, notifying Mr.Burgess of his sons death, so we shall not duplicate the information but are adding Pte.Burgess's name to our inquiry list, and will endeavour to obtain full particulars.

We shall send all information both to the brother and Father.

Yours sincerely.

SECRETARY.

November 23rd, 1917.

No 3078 Pte.J.V.Burgess,
3rd Battalion,
A.I.F., B.E.F.

Dear Sir,

We beg to inform you that A.I.F. Head Quarters have cabled to the Defence Department in Australia that your brother

4348 Pte.J.C.BURGESS,
2nd Battalion,
A.I.F.

was Killed in Action on 22.9.17, and we have sent the information of his burial at Polygon Wood by post to your father, Mr.J.Burgess C/o A.Wilson, Esq, William St, Stockton, Newcastle, N.S.W.

We have also added his name to our inquiry lists and as soon as further news is received we shall advise you.

Assuring you of our sincere sympathy in your loss.

Yours faithfully
Law.
SECRETARY.

December 22nd. 1917.

L/Cpl. J. Mackie,
16th. Pltn.
D.Coy.
2nd. Inf. Batln. A.I.F.
Abroad.

Dear Cpl. Mackie,

We have been making enquiries for several men of your unit and a man of the 2nd. Batln now in Hospital in England suggested to one of the Red Cross Searchers that it would be wise to yourself - we should be able to obtain some information.

As he said," L/Cpl. Mackie knows every one in the Batln. and if any one needs information they always go to him."

We are not sure whether we are not trespassing on your kindness by enclosing the list of names: but for the sake of our enquirers we should be very grateful for any details you could send us concerning any or all of these men. We should also be glad if you could add a short personal description or any points that would satisfy the relatives as to identity.

With all good wishes for a cheery a time as possible this Christmas Season and a happier year in 1918.

Yours faithfully,

Secretary.

4348. J. C. Burgess, D.Coy. 2nd. Battn. A.I.F. K.A, 21.9.17.

4168 J.W. Cox " " " " " 3.10.17.

7100 C.C.Crockford " " " " " 3. 10. 17.

6811 N.S. Powell " " " " " 17.9.17.

7032 P.H.Richardson " " " " " 17.9.17.

6562 J. Shipp " " " " " 17.9.17.

4099 E.C. Turner " " " " " 17.9.17.

4348. J. C. Burgess, D.Coy. 2nd. Battn. A.I.F. K.A. 21.9.17. S.

Was about 5 ft 3 ins in height & very stout. He had dark hair & rather a large mouth.

✓ 4168A J.W. Cox " " " " K/A 3.10.17. S 3

was a small featured chap, fair with reddish hair. I he left Australia with the 13th Rfts to the 2nd Bn about Xmas time 1916.

✓ 7100 C.C.Crockford " " " " K/A 21. 10. 17. S. 3

I knew Pte. Crockford but I could not give you any particulars of him as he was not in my company

✓ 6811 N.S. Powell " " " K/A 17.9.17. S 3

Was rather tall, slight built, very dark complexion, dark eyes & came from Australia with the 22 Rfts to the 2nd Bn.

✓ 7032 P.H.Richardson " " " " K/A 17.9.17. M.3

Was tall, slight built, auburn hair & had rather a gentlemanly appearance. He left Australia with the 22nd Rfts to the 2nd Bn.

✓ 6582 J. Shipp " " " " K/A 17.9.17. S 3 (a)

Was medium height, very dark complexion & had rather a fast looking mien.

✓ 4099 E.C. Turner " " " K/A 17.9.17. S. 3

Was of medium height, ~~Sandy~~ Black hair & had one facetious eye. He was also a great footballer.

ack letter O.S. 11-1-18

Dear Miss Deakin

I am afraid I have not given you a very good description of the man, but I hope that it will be sufficient to satisfy their Relatives. I cannot give you any information of Pte Crockford, but I think I have a friend in the field

I happened to be holding Pte Shiefs when he was killed. He was first wounded in the arm & had just bandaged it up & was still holding him & a shell came & killed him, Pte Richardson & Pte Powell together You can be safe in telling their people That they were all buried.

Don't think you are imposing on me in any way, as it is only a pleasure to me to be able to give you any information of mates in my Company.

I will now conclude wishing you the compliments of the Season

Yours faithfully

J.R. Macrae

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY.

TELEPHONES
VICTORIA 8578.
VICTORIA 857d, 3577 & 8578.
ALL COMMUNICATIONS
TO BE ADDRESSED TO
THE COMMISSIONERS,
AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY.
TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS:
"QUESTMAN, LONDON."

36, GROSVENOR PLACE.
54 VICTORIA STREET,
LONDON, S.W. 1.

December 22nd. 1917.

L/Cpl. J. Mackie,
16th. Pltn.
D.Coy.
2nd. Inf. Battn. A.I.F.
Abroad.

Dear Cpl. Mackie,

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With all good wishes for a cheery a time as possible this Christmas Season and a happier year in 1918.

Yours faithfully,

Vera Deakin

Secretary.

per Hu.

2nd Battn.
A.I.F.

BURGESS
J.C. 4348

"Killed 21-9-17"

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Informant. Brown A.T.W. 4146
2nd Battn., D.Coy.,
Hut 21,
WESTHAM.

W.A.Rand
London
8-3-18

S.
P.I.

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9C

L/Cpl. J.R.Mackie,
16th Pltn, D.Coy,
2nd Infantry Battn,
Aust. Imp. Force, B.E.F.

January 15th, 1918.

Dear L/Cpl. Mackie,

We wish to thank you for your letter in answer to our enquiry concerning

4348	J.C.	BURRESS.	)
4168A	C.C.	CROCKFORD.	)
6811	J.S.	POWELL.	) all of the 2nd Bttn.
7032	P.H.	RICHARDSON.	)
6582	J.	SHIPP.	)
4599	E.C.	TURNER.	)

The information and respective description you have given of these men will be of much assistance to us, and of value to our enquirers. It is very good of you indeed to be so willing to help us in our work and as you have assisted us once, we have taken the liberty of entering your name on our list, and if occasion arises we shall come to you again.

Again thanking you and with all good wishes.

Yours faithfully,

SECRETARY.