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

6719 Private
Duncan James Beaton

3rd Battalion



0300602B

Lieut. BUTLER

3 A. I. F.

B. 9. 7.

about.

D. J. BEATON

6719

3 G. I. R.

A 23-9-17.

9w
8.1.18

3rd Btn

BEATON
B.J. 6719

"MISSING"

Killed 23-9-17
Cert. by A.I.F.Hqrs 5-11-17

S

London
5-11-17

[redacted]

FRANCE.

3rd BATT. A.I.F. BEATON. D.J. 6719.

E.Sept 23rd.1917. Det.

He was in D.Coy, XIV Platoon. It is practically certain that he was killed by a shell explosion in a trench in which we were making strong-points, behind our 1st line in Polygon Wood. The work was just finished late in the evening when a shell came over and burst near him. The man with him at the time was not a very sensible sort of chap and never looked properly for him after. Some said Beaton was only wounded, but others said he was killed and our officer told me that he had reported him to be dead. But there seems to be some doubt about it. A different Battalion occupied the trench immediately after and they may have found him and if he was only wounded he might have passed through a dressing-station unknown to us. If dead, he would be buried by them and we would now know about it.

WSI

Ref ---Pte W.G.H.Forsyth. 6746.
No 2 Can. Gen. Hospital.

Le Treport. Nov 21st.1917

A. I. F. 8. BEATON, D.J. 6719.

K. September 23rd, 1917.

With reference to Pte D.J.Beaton, XIV pl.D.Coy,I did not know him porsonally but on October 24th,1917,at the 20th General Hospital I was speaking to a man wounded in the leg that I believed to be Beaton.

(Signed) M.D.Gray. XVI pl. D.Coy.

He was hit on September 21st,1917, at about 5.30 p.m. Wewere relieved the same night. He was on a fatigue party on the Ypres front at the time. I do not know what became of him after he was hit.

8A.

Eye Witness:- (Signed) L/C. H.Elvin. D.Coy.

Cert. by Adj. 3rd Battn. Hallingham.

H.I. No Race Hospital Judes 7-12-17 S Etaples 28.11.17.

[redacted]

3 Batt: Beatpn, D.J. 6719.

K. 23/9/17.

He and 4 others were placed at a post at extreme end when Fritz started shelling very heavily. One man was killed outright and one wounded and one blown out of all recognition and who we premumes was Beaton and he was the only man unaccounted for.

3rd Batt: Ryan T. Pte. 131.

15 A. Dartford. 18/12/17. R.D.B.

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A.I.F. 3. BEATON, D.J. 6719.

K. Sept 23rd 1917. Dets

He was in my platoon and on about the 22nd Sept our platoon went up with the 1st Divisional Engineers on fatigue at Polygon Wood, and we arrived at support lines in the early morning. Beaton was missing that night during the German barrage when two engineers and one other man were killed by a shell. The two engineers were identified but they could not identify the third man, but from the description of him by one who was close by at the time I feel certain it was Beaton. He said it was an elderly man with a moustache, about 40 years of age and short. Which would describe Beaton, and he was the only man in the platoon unaccounted for. We were only there for 24 hours and his body was never buried so far as I know. He was married and joined the Battn about the 1st May 1917, but I only knew him from being in the platoon.

Inf: Pte A.S.Murray 2851. D.XIV.
No. 1 C.C.
BOULOGNE. 19.2.18. FD

[redacted]

3/ A.I.F. Beaton, Pte.D.J. 6719.

K. Sept.23/17. Det. D/B.

" I was informed by Lieut Butler that Beaton was wounded & in coming back to the dressing station was killed by a shell on Sept.23/17 near Polygon & Glencorse Wood. I do not think there was any burial as nothing but a few papers could be found belonging to him."

Eyewitness:- No, told by Lieut Butler, 3rd A.I.F.

Description:- Short, thin fellow. " Scottie".

Informant:- Pte Francis Wm.Perrott, 6868.
3 A.I.F., C Coy.
Edmonton Hosp., Mary East No.II.
Home address:- Condor St.,
Burwood,
Sydney, N.S.W.

22/12/17.
Lydia I.Exeter.

Written Butler 8.1.18

3rd Battalion, A.I.F.
"A" Coy, 22nd Reinforcements.

BEATON.
Private D.J. 6719.

"KILLED. 23.9.17."

Informant described Beaton as about 5 ft 4 in.high, medium build, dark complexion, about 30, and married. Thought to have been a carpenter or engineer in civil life.

Informant states that they both belonged to "D" Company, No.14 Platoon. On the 22nd or 23rd September,1917, a half company of the Battalion,including Beaton and Informant, were attached to the 1st Field Company Engineers, putting in strong posts just behind the front line at Polygon Wood. Beaton had been working alongside Inform -ant all the morning,but just after dinner,an officer took Beaton and half a dozen others to another position about 50/100 yards away. At 3 p.m. the Huns started shelling heavily. Informant could see - Beaton's head and shoulders while he was digging. A good many shells were dropping round, also bombs from aeroplanes. At 9 p.m. the Half Company were relieved and it was then discovered that Beaton was missing". A chap named Oates, told Informant that he had been work- -ing alongside Beaton,and that two of the party had been hit,one of them being killed. It was considered that Beaton was the one killed as he was the only one in the Half Company "missing".

Informant added that Beaton was a very fine fellow.

INFORMANT:- Private T. Ryan, 131,
"D" Coy, 3rd Battalion.

SYDNEY BUREAU.

W.E.G. Home address:- 57 Victoria St, LEWISHAM.
No.4 Australian General Hospital, RANDWICK.
3.5.18.