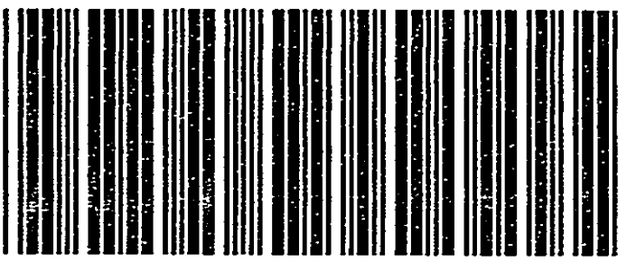
Australian Red Cross Society Wounded and Missing
Enquiry Bureau files, 1914-18 War
1DRL/0428

7213 Private
James Fletcher Bell

11th Battalion



03301029

11th-Btn.
A.I.F.

HELL.
James 7213.

"Killed in Action 20.9.17"

No trace Germany
Cert. by Capt. Mills. 10.10.19.

London.
21.10.19.

P.

11th Battn.
A.I.F.

BELL.
Pte James. 7213.

"Killed in Action 20-9-17"

Re 7213.Pte.J.Bell. I am sorry that I am unable to give you any information in this matter, as I was not with my Unit on Sept 20th 1917. Since I have been in this Camp, I have met a Pte Davenport of 11th Battalion and he told me that he had given information about a Pte Bell and also said he had mentioned my name in the same matter, but as the matter stands, I think he has made a slight mistake as the person he was referring to was a Pte.E.Bell, who was killed same time in March 1918 and this is th only soldier of that name that I could give you any information of

Letter from:- F.I.Jackson. Sgt.
11th Battn.A.I.F.
No. 9 Camp.
HURDCOTT.

London.
7-10-18.

P.

11th Battn:

Bell, J. 7213.

K. 20/9/17.

I was told by stretcher bearer J. O'Shea who is still with the Battn:, that he was with Bell when they met 2 German prisoners carrying a wounded Australian out of the line. The Germans asked O'Shea and Bell to give them a rest and carry the wounded man. They were all sitting down down when a shell landed amongst them, Bell fell backwards in a shell hole, O'Shea examined Bell and found blood flowing from his mouth, O'Shea thought that concussion of the shell had burst his heart.

11th Battn: O'Connor, J.W. Pte. 7194.

A 11. Dartford. 20/8/18.

R.D.B.

J.P.A. P

IIth Batt. A.I.F.

Bell.J. Pte. NO.7213.

C,Coy.

Killed Sept 20th 1917. Det. D.B.

I saw him killed by a shell, he was hit in the head. this happened whilst we were bringing down prisoners, near Clapham Junction, Zonnebeke. I could not say if he was buried. I knew him in the coy, I could not say wherer he came from.

Description. Height. 5'-8. Complexion. Fair. Well Built.

Witness. Pte, Buckley.J. NO.5983. C,Coy. IIth batt.
Pte, Tucker. R,J. NO. 7360. C,Coy. IIth Batt.

Taken at
NO.3.C.D.Hurdcott.
2-7-18.
S,W.

S.Whitmee.
NO.4.Command Depot
Hurdcott.

11th Battn. A.I.F. BELL. J. 7215.

"Killed 20. 9.17."

He was in D.Coy. and was killed by pieces of shell, when death was instantaneous. This happened at Messines, when he was hit in the head about 2 p.m. at which time he was a runner with messages to Coy.H.Q. I knew him fairly well and he came from Western Australia. I did not see casualty, but saw his grave at Wytschaete on the field. The grave was marked by a cross having full details marked thereon. Refer to Sgt. Jacka D.Coy. 11th Battn. who is now in France for he saw him killed.

Inf:-
Pte. Davenport W.J. 5087.
D.Coy. 11th Battn.
No.3 A.A.H.
DARTFORD.

P.

W. Oman,
London,
10.8.18.

HOLL.
Written Jacka,
10.8.18.
J.H.A.

A.I.F. II. BELL, J. 7213.

K. Sept 20th 1917. Det D/B.

I was with him when we were bringing in a mob of prisoners at Lincourbe Wood Ypres about 6.a.m. It was quite light when he was hit by ahs a shell - a direct hit - but it killed a lot of them too. He was buried on the spot and we put a stick up with his I.D. on it for the pioneers and came on. He came from Bayswater nr Perth W.A. We had trained together atb Blackboy Hill and crossed in the Miltrades, a very bad boat of the Aberdeen Line. I knew him in Bayswater as a trainers hand, a well built chap in II platoon married wife lives there still.

Inf. Pte A. Hodge 7340 II.A. IX
No 8 Stat. Hosp.
BOULOGNE. 28.6.18.

RC.

LC

To
Sergt Jacka
D. Co
11th Battn A.I.F

Retd
7213 Pte J. Bell.
D. Co.
11th Battn
A.I.F.

K Sep. 20/17

Written 10.8.18

ML7

HOSPITAL Grovelands. V.A.D.

INFORM

Fill in exactly as List.	SURNAME.	Christian Name.	Regtl.N
	Woodward	E.S.	1428
	SURNAME	Christian Name.	Regtl.N
	Mc. Closkey	J.E.	932

STATEMENT (to be ta

NOTE. In all cases state fully what informant says he saw or heard and give DATE AND PLACE of occurrence.

3

Pte. Woodward & four others g
on Messines Ridge in the even
the beginning of August 1917
a German shell: the rema
he fell.

PLEASE ALSO AN

1. Was Informant Eye-Witness?	Yes	2. I
3. Was the ground held or lost?	Lost now.	4. I
5. Did Informant know Christian Name, Initials or No. of man enquired about?	Yes	6.
7. Give Informant's description of man enquired about—any nickname, marks, scars, etc.	Known as Woodi	
8. *Searcher's opinion of Informant's accuracy and intelligence*	Quite reliable	

Reports should always be written very clearly in ink, or typewritte

No 9 Camp
Hurdcott.
Sept 21st

7213
Pte James Bell
11th Bn
K in R. 209-17.

To Secretary Info Bureau
Amet Red Cross.

P. 2 (cd)

Dear Mess Deakin,

Received your letter of August 10th inst, re enquiries of 7213 Pte J Bell and I am sorry that I am unable to give you any information in this matter as I was not with my unit on Sept 20th 1917. Since I have been in this camp I have met a Pte Davenport of 11th Bn Walton and he told me that he had given information about a Pte Bell and also said he had mentioned my my name in the same matter, but as the matter stands I think he has made a slight mistake as the person he was referring to was a Pte R Bell who was killed sometime in March 1918 and this is the only soldier of that name that I could give you any information of. Trusting that you may be successful in obtaining the information you require,

I am
Yours etc
F S Jacka Lt
1st Can Div AIF