

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

1801 Lance Corporal
Robert Steel Boyd

38th Battalion



0490302I

38th A.I.F.

L/Cpl. R. S. BOYD. 1801.

K. 9.6.17. Det. D & B.

He was out in front of the Battn. carrying with others portions of a foot bridge, preparing for an advance across the Douve River, to attack Messines Ridge, when he and 3 of his mates were killed by a large shell outright. I saw it happen but did not know what became of him, so went back to the place some time after and found their grave. He is buried in the open beside the Messines Road at the back of Hyde Park. The 4 men are buried together with a wooden cross on which I saw his name. He was a great friend of mine and well known to us all in the Bn. and greatly esteemed by everyone.

Reference: Pte.H.R.Taylor, 2405.
No.11 Stationary, Rouen. 24.10.17. ABC.

Havre

31st Oct. 1917.

38th AUSTRALIANS

BOYD, L/Cpl. R.S. 1801

K. 9.6.17. Det. D/B.

He was in my platoon, D Co., 16th Pltn., and was killed on the morning of June 7, 1917 at Messines, and I saw his grave in the open at the foot of Messines Ridge, not far from the bridge on the main road. There was a stick there, with his name on a piece of paper stuck on the stick. I could point out the spot.

Informant: Pte. M.J. Slade, 1173
38th Australians, D Co., 16th Pltn.,
Australian Camp, Rouelles.

RM

A.I.F. 38.

BOYD, L/Cpl.R.S. 1801.

K. June 9th, 1917.

Place of burial, a spot $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile S.S.W. of
Messines Village and 40 yards west of Messines Road.
(Map reading U.8a.)

Cert. by Div. Burials Officer,
Fauquembergues. 30.10.17.

SA.

Etaples
1.11.17.

A. I. F. 38.

BOYD, L/Cpl.R.S. 1801.

K. June 7-9, 1917.

He was killed by a shell at about 3.15 a.m. on June 8th
while in charge of a party engaged in bridging La Douve
River for operations at Messines. The shell that killed
him landed right amongst the leading men of the party.
Boyd was killed outright. His body is buried near the Messines
Road in what was No Man's Land before the Messines advance
of June 7th. The grave is marked with a cross.

SA.

Eye Witness: Sgt. J. Wallace.

Cert. by Adj. 38th Battrn.
Senlecques.

W.
led. sub.
Etaples
3.11.17.

38th Btn.

BOYD. R.S.
L/Cpl. 1801

Killed in action 9/6/17.

"I knew Casualty. He was in the Battalion that I was in charge of. It was in the attack on Messines. Casualty was killed. I was out looking for missing men and discovered Casualty. He was buried with another man of the same Battalion by the name of Mick Hogan in a shell hole near by. I put up a cross to indicate the spot. He was a Presbyterian and the burial was conducted by myself. We were under heavy shell fire at the time."

Private address:-

40 Lt. O'Grady Street,
South Melbourne.

Informant:- Pioneer Sgt. J. Bodworth,
38th Battalion.

T.C.F.
27/12/17.

M. Ca

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS INFORMATION BUREAU-MELBOURNE.

38th Btn.

BOYD. R. S.
L/Cpl. 1801

Killed in action 9/6/17.

"I knew Casualty. He was a short man, medium complexion, about 22 years of age. Casualty was carrying a bridge over No Man's Land. He was in charge of the party and had just reached the objective when a shrapnel shell exploded mortally wounding Casualty who fell into a shell hole and wounding myself. I was on top of the shell hole. He was taken out of the hole where he fell into by a New Zealander but died three hours later. I was 6 yds. away at the time. His chief wounds were in the groin. I was an eye-witness. He was well known and liked by all his comrades."

Informant:- L. G. Graniott,
No. 1177.

Private address:-

26 Collier Street,
West Brunswick.

T.C.F.
1/3/18.

M. Ca

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS INFORMATION BUREAU-MELBOURNE.

Havre

23rd Oct. 1917.

38th AUSTRALIANS

BOYD, L/Cpl. R.S. 1801

K. 7/9.6.17: Detⁿ D/B.

I knew L/Cpl. Robert S. Boyd of D Co. He came from Melbourne in the 2nd to the 38th Reinforcements in the "Orontea" on the 16th Aug. 1916. I saw his grave with a cross on it in the open near Leclercq River, Messines.

Informant: Pte. J. Dalli, 1823
38th Australians, D Co., 13th Fltn.,
Australian Camp, Rouelles.

RDM

M