

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

2/LT Lieutenant
Joseph Frank Barrett

51st Battalion



0250603G

A.I.F. 51st Bttn.
late 1203 Sgt.

BARRETT. "DCM".
Joseph Frank 2/Lt.

Killed in Action, 24.4.18.

No burial.
cert by A.I.F. Hdqrs List. rec. 15.9.19.

London.
29.9.19.

P.I.

PH/NRE.

1659/6/45.

ORIGINAL STATEMENT ECHELON.

C o p y.

Statement made by No. 3614, Pte. PEARLINE A. 51st Bn. A.I.F.
re 2/Lieut. BARRETT "D.C.M." J.F. 51st Bn. A.I.F.

(Joseph Frank)
Wounded and Missing 24.4.18.

2nd Lieut. Barrett was in charge of No. 3. Platoon
of "A" Company, 51st Battalion in a charge at Villiers Brettenoux
on 24th April 1918 at 9.50 p.m.

I can give no particulars as to the fate of 2nd Lieut.
Barrett as I only heard afterwards that he was killed in that
particular charge mentioned.

3 copies
Dated at Dartford, Kent.

(Sgd) A. PEARLINE. *Pearline*

Statement made and signed before me. P.I.

(Sgd) T.T. HUNSE. *Alto W. F.*

51st Battn.
A.I.F.

BARRETT D.C.M.
2/Lt. J.F.

(Joseph Frank)

"Wounded & Missing 24-4-18"

I state that I have already given full particulars as far as I was able to the Red Cross in answer to a note already sent to me from them. Nevertheless I will again state that 2/Lt. Barrett was last heard of in a shell hole, lying wounded at Villers-Bretonneux, being dressed by the regimental stretcher bearers, who were subsequently wounded themselves. Others were sent up to collect the dead and find the wounded, but Barrett was never found. He was hit in the stomach. Ground was held.

Eye-witness: No. *File by name in Coy*

Description: "Joe", medium height, ruddy face, most popular officer in the Battn.

Home address:-

10, Chaucer Road,
Wanstead,
Essex.

Informant. Wood. Lt. R.A. (entirely reliable)
A. Coy. 51st Battn.
3rd London Gen. Hpl.,
WANDSWORTH.

W. Arnoll Davis
12-8-18
London 16-8-18

Ed. B. K.
P.I. & P.

Hawke.

3rd. August. 1918.

51st. Australians.

Barrett, D.C.M. 2/Lieut. J. F.
(Late. Sergeant. 1203.)

(Joseph Frank)

W. & M. April. 24/1918. Dets. D/S.

He was in A. Company, 3rd. Platoon in Command. I was told by Privates J. Hickman and J. L. Hyde both of the 3rd. Platoon, that they were in a shell hole with the Lieut. in the Villers Bretonneux stunt in April 1918 in 'No Man's Land' and that he told them that he was bleeding inwardly & could not live & that they were to go on and leave him. He had been in the Field Ambulance prior to getting his Commission. Hickman and Hyde are with their Unit.

Inf:- Corporal. E. J. Stokes. 4901.
51st. Australians. A. 2.
Australian Camp.
Reculles.

P.D.Y.

CP.

51st Batta.
A.I.F.

BARRETT D.C.M.
2/Lt. J.F.

"Wounded & Missing 24-4-18"
Bel. Killed.

(Joseph Frank)

I saw him killed at Villers-Bretonneux. We had to get through our wires which had not been cut. The Lt. was caught on them and riddled through by Fritz M. guns. I rushed over to him and put a bayonet right alongside him to show where he fell, and to call attention to the S/b's. That is the last I saw of him.

Informant. Pearmine. Pte.A, 3614
51st Batta.,
DARTFORD.

R.D.B.
London
1-8-18
J.E.A.

P.I.
P.

Havre

30th July 1918.

A.I.F. 51.

Barrett D.C.M. 2nd Lieut J.F.

W/M 24th April 1918. Det D/B. (Joseph Frank)

Pte Hickman told me he saw Barrett wounded by a shell at Villers Bretonneux. He bound him up and left him for S/Bs who afterwards searched for him but could not find him. Heavy shelling went on in the interval and it was just at our wire that he was lost. I saw Hickman with No. 3, Pltn, 3 days ago when I left the Batta. Little, fair, thickset, he had been in the A.M.C. Details for years before transferring to the 51st.

Inf:- Pte S.H. White No. 4253.
A.I.F. 51. A. IV.
Australian Camp.
Rouelles.

SJ.

PP.

51st Australian Imperial Force

D.C.M. (Joseph Frank)
Barrett, 2nd Lt. J.F.
Late Sgt. 1203

(W & M April 24. 18.
Dets D & B)

" I saw Lt. Barrett (51. A III) wounded in the stomach by a sniper, at 10. 30 on the night of 24th April at Villers Bretonneux. We had advanced about 2000 yards. He went forward to bomb a German Machine gun post when he fell. He was a very good man and very brave. He went forward on his own. Pte. Jack Hickman (51. A III) bandaged him up and he and a Jim Hyde (51. A III) put him in a shell hole. They stuck a rifle up in the ground to show the stretcher bearers where to find him. Then we advanced another 2000 yards. Lt. Barrett was very bad. I do not think he could have lived. "

Eye Witness - Yes.

Description, Late Sgt. D C M. Stout, Out long time. W Aus.

Informant :- Pte. Edwin Thomas, 8072
Home address :- A Coy. VII Pltn. 51 Australian I Force,
Salisbury Avenue, 3rd Southern General Hospt. The Base,
Victoria Park, W Aus. Oxford. 25 June, 1918.
H.M. Pickard-Cambridge.

J. A.

51st Battn. A.I.F.

Barrett, J. F., 2/Lt. D.C.M.
(Joseph Frank)
(W/M. Ap. 24/18) Dets. D/B.

"Lt. Barrett was killed at Villers Bretonneux. We had hurried up from Amiens and we did not know our line, and we ran into our own wire which was not out and were raked by German machine gun fire from a little wood. A lot of men were killed there and I saw Lt. Barrett's body lying by the wire. I am positive he was dead. We did not retire but took the village which was our objective".

Eyewitness: Yes.

Description: He was a friend of mine.

Informant: Pte. 3614, A. Pearmaine,
51st Battn. A.I.F.,
Duston War Hospital,
Northampton.

Home address:
none in England. Ward 3, Duston.

12.7.18.
Gertrude MacKinnell.

J. A.

A.I.F. 51st Battn.

J BARRETT
2/Lt. T.F. - D.C.M.

"Wounded & Missing 24/4/18"

I think that Lieut. R. A. Wood (51.A.) would know as much as anyone about Lieut. Barrett and Lieut. Higham. He wrote and told me that they were missing though he did not give me any particulars in his letters dated 15th May, though possibly he could give details to the Red Cross. It will be very difficult to trace anyone at that time, as there was very heavy shelling indeed. The Village of Bretonneux had been lost, and we were called up to make a counter attack, and retook all the ground. Lieut. Wood was the only officer left after 24-25 April. I will write and tell him to get all the information he can, as the Red Cross are going to communicate with him. I know he will do all he can. Ground was held.

Eye-witness:- No.

Description:- I did not know him personally.

Informant:- 5595 John C. Johnston (Very intelligent & 51st Battn., A.I.F., (seemed accurate.)
3rd Southern General Hospital,
The Base, Oxford.

Home address:- 10 Rankin Rd,
H.M. Pickard-Cambridge, West Suiraco, West Australia.
18/6/18
London 1/7/18. NOTE:- Written Lt. Wood 29/8/18.

P

51st Battn.
A.I.F.

BARRETT D.C.M.
2/Lt. J. late Sgt. 1203

(Joseph Frank)

"Missing 24-4-18"

Re 2/Lt. J.F. Barrett, D.C.M., 51st Battn. I last saw him at about 9 p.m. on the evening of 24-4-18 as he went in with A.Coy., into the counter attack at Villers-Bretonneux. From men I hear he was shot in the stomach, bandaged up, and left by S/Bs. to be picked up, as soon as a stretcher could be obtained. That is the last news I can obtain. This appears to be the general idea as gathered from the men.

Letter from:- The O.C.,
51st Battn.,
FRANCE. 5-7-18

London
11-7-18

P.I.
P.

Havre

22nd June 1918.

A.I.F. 51.

Barrett (DCM) 2nd Lieut J.F.

(Joseph Frank)

W/M 24th April 1918.

He was in A.Coy. and in command of III Pltn. I know him well; he had been in the A.M.C. and had the D.C.M. I saw him lying in a shell hole in No Man's Land at Villers Bretonneux on the 24th April 1918, about 10 p.m. dark. I went into the shell hole and spoke to Pte R.Hill of A.Co. III Fltn, batman to Lieut Barrett. I asked who was there and he told me. I saw the Lieut and then went on. There were several of our lads round him. He was hit in the stomach. He held the ground.

Inf:- Pte C.J.Addison No.3114.

A.I.F. 51. A. II.
Austra. Conv. Depot. P
Rouelles.

RDM.

Walter Pte, Hill 2.7.18 Letter returned see General Com

Hill RE
 R Frederick ✓
 Present address wanted
 Hospital 8.7.18.
 No 4 Cont Bn 26.7.18
 File under
 Officer J. F. Barrett DCM
 1 Q Coy. III Platoon
 51 Bn
 W/M. 24.4.18
 Report Section

Lake
 51 Bn.
 Barrett
 of Lieut J. Joseph Frank
 DCM.
 W+M. Date?
 Names?
 Verify car?
 W/M. 24.4.18. prep mis
 H-9 22.6.18.
 M.D.S. 21.6.18

Lurabull.
 W. R.
 M. 19. 7. 16. H. 2. 18. 5. 16.
 H. 19. 7. 16. H. 2. 22. 8. 17. 83/295.
 bel K.
 3691
 60 Btu
 late 8th
 50
 Sub.

Brown
 3694
 59 Btu
 W-July-Aug.
 Sub.

12-7-18

Pt. R. Hill

A Coy. III Ptn.

51st Batta. C. 1-7.

abroad

Ant. officer

2/lt. J. F. Barrett D.C.M.

A Coy. III Ptn.

51st Batta. C. 1-7.

W/M. 24-4-18.

2-7-18.
A.B.

4.7.18.

2/lt. J. F. Barrett

D.C.M. 13

51 Batta 13 Bde

See under

Cpl

Alex A. T. Bell

M. G. Ser. 21 Batta

6 Bde

France. 1 July 1918.

Dear Madam.

Lieut Joseph Frank Barrett "D.C.M."
G.S. 4th 1903 51-1917

In reply to yours of 29 June 1918 re

Lieut. J.F. BARRETT. D.C.M. 51 Br. A.I.F.

I last saw him at about 9 pm on the evening of 24.4.1918, as he went in with A.G. in the counter-attack at Villers Bretonneux. However I hear he was shot in the stomach, bandaged up, & left by stretcher-bearers to be picked up as soon as a stretcher could be obtained. That is the last news I can obtain. This appears to be the general idea as gathered from the news.

* Lieut F.A. HIGHAM. 51 Br. A.I.F. D.V. 7/4/18.

* Has. wounded by a shell near VILLERS-BRETONNEUX on 16 April 1918. I saw him he was away in a stretcher looking very bad, & I think he was hit in the leg. I fancy there were other wounded as well. Lieut. E. SMITH.

51 Br. of Mrs SMITH. GLEBE TERRACE,
DONSTON-ON-TYNE, CO. DORSET, ENGL.

MSLp

would be all & perhaps give you better
news regarding his wounds as he came with
Lt Higham when hit. It hasn't been since
been hit.

In a part this is the best I can
give you but I trust it will help.

Yours faithfully,

Rivera

2^o Lt. J. Barrett DCM late Sgt 203

51 Btl

M 24-4-18

P
PI

5

St. John's
L.E.A.

2870 M. Higham

51st Btl

24-4-18

D/W 27

PI 2

October 18th. 1918.

Major M.W.P. Mitchell.

A.A.M.C.

3rd Casualty Clearing Station.

B. E. F.

2/Lieut. Joseph Francis Barnett "D.C.M."
late 3rd 1203 51 Bde

Dear Sir.

We regret to inform you that as we feared from
the nature of the unofficial evidence already sent you -
2/Lieut. J.F. BARNETT. "D.C.M." 51st Battalion. A.I.F. -
is now reported "Killed in Action" on 24-8-18, having
been reported previously as Wounded & Missing on that date.

Should we receive further information we shall
immediately advise you and assure you of our sympathy with
you in the loss of a friend.

Yours faithfully,

(Miss)

Secretary.

July 18th, 1918.

Major W.H.F. Mitchell,
A.A.M.C., att. 3rd British Casualty
Clearing Station, B. E. F.

*2/Lieut Joseph Frank Barrett "P.C.M."
late Sgt 1203
51 Bn*

Dear Sir,

In reply to your enquiry, for -

2/Lieut. J.F. BARRETT, D.C.M. 51st Battalion, A.I.F.

who is officially reported wounded and missing on 24-4-18, we very much regret to inform you of an unofficial report we have received about him from the O.C. 51st Battalion, who write as follows:-

"I last saw him at about 9 p.m. on the evening of 24-4-18, as he went in with a Coy, into the counter attack at Villers-Bretonneux. From men I hear he was shot in the stomach, bandaged up, and left by S/Bs to be picked up, as soon as a stretcher could be obtained. That is the last news I can obtain. This appears to be the general idea as gathered from the men."

We are continuing our enquiries and will do our utmost to obtain further information of which we will immediately advise you.

Regretting the distressing nature of this news.

Yours faithfully,

(MISS)

SECRETARY. *DS*

Mr. Stoville
23/7/18.

Dear Miss Beadon

Many thanks for your letter of the 18th inst. concerning 2/Lt. F. Barrett 51 Bth. This information was depressing I'm very glad to have news of my friend & very grateful to you for the trouble you have gone to find out particulars.

Perhaps he may have been taken prisoner & his wounds may not have been as serious as the M/Os imagine. This of course one realizes that the chance is very slender of this having taken place - this it is but human to hope for the best. Again thanking you

I am,

Yours sincerely

Hugh W. Phillimore

Major

2/Lt. ^{Joseph} ^{Frank} F. Barrett 51 Bth
Lieut. Col. 1203

"D.C.M."

(Hugle)
Major W.W.R. Mitchell,
A.A.H.C., att 3rd Casualty
Clearing Station, B.E.F.

July 26th, 1918.

Lt. J.F. Barrett "D.C.M."
Cia 24 1203 51 1915

Dear Sir,

We regret to inform you that we have received the following unofficial report from -

3614 Pte. A. Pearmaine, 51st Battalion, A.I.F. when in Duston War Hospital, Northampton, about -

Lieut. J.F. BARRETT, D.C.M., 51st Battalion, A.I.F.

which confirms our worst fears as to his fate. He states "Lt. Barrett was killed at Villers Bretonneux. We had hurried up from Amiens and we did not know our line, and we ran into our own wire which was not cut and were raked by German machine gunfire from a littlewood. A lot of men were killed there and I saw Lt. Barrett's body lying by the wire. I am positive he was dead. We did not retire but took the village which was our objective. He was a friend of mine."

We shall be pleased to give you any further information as to Lt. Barrett's casualty and will let you know when we have fuller news of the same.

With our sincere sympathy and regretting that the report is so distressing.

Yours faithfully,

(Miss)

Secretary.

Lord Lindsay

6th August, 1918.

Major W.W.F. Mitchell.
A.A.M.C., 3rd British
Casualty Clearing Station.
B. E. F.

2/Lieut Joseph Frank Barrett "D.C.M."
Lt. Sq. 1213 51102

Dear Sir.

We regret to inform you of another unofficial report given by a man of his unit which we fear leaves little hope of -

Lt. J.F. BARRETT. D.C.M. 51st Battalion. A.I.F.

being alive.

3614 Pte. A. Pearn^{an} who was interviewed in the 3rd Australian Auxiliary Hospital Dartford, reported that he saw Lt. Barrett killed at Villers Brettonneux on April 24th. They had to go through their own wires which had not been cut and it was then that Lt. Barrett was killed by German machine gun bullets. Informant rushed over to where he was and put his bayonet up beside him to mark the spot where he fell and that is the last saw of him.

We feel that further enquiries would only result in evidence of this nature and that from it we can but conclude that Lt. Barrett was killed, but we must emphasise that our fears are based on purely unofficial reports given by men of his unit and that he is still officially reported as Wounded and Missing. Should we receive further information we shall immediately advise you and regret that we have not more reassuring news to send you about your friend.

Yours faithfully,

(Miss)

Law

Secretary.

ack. Pe. 11/10/18
12/

2 Ltut J. F. Barnett Coli 1203

5 Batta

M 244. 18 Sand. Hills

R 4

(Col)

9/10/18

~~not typed~~

Dear Miss Deakin

I received the
enclosed Letter from you today.
although correctly addressed to me it was
not for me. so am returning it at
earliest opportunity.

Wishing you every success
in your good work.

Yours faithfully.

31621

Pt. F. Hill

57. St Bult. St J. F.

67 B.

Warminster

ALL COMMUNICATIONS
TO BE ADDRESSED TO
"THE SECRETARY,"
WOUNDED AND MISSING
— ENQUIRY BUREAU —
AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY.



2-7-18.

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY.

Tel.: VICTORIA { 8576
8577
8578

36, GROSVENOR PLACE

(NEAR VICTORIA STATION).

LONDON, S.W. 1.

Mr. R. Hill
A Coy. III Ptn
57th Batta. C.I.F.

Dear Sir,

We have been requested by our *Australian* Bureau to make *Caw*
enquiries concerning an officer of your Unit
2/Lt. J. F. Barrett D.C.M. A Coy. III Ptn.
~~57th Batta. C.I.F. W/M. 24.4.18.~~
and have been told that you will be able to give some definite
information about him.

We should be most grateful for any details you could
supply, as we are anxious to send all possible information
to our enquirers.

Yours faithfully,

(Miss) Vera Wenkin

Per C.I.B.

This letter has been returned to us from ^{SECRETARY.} France
We hope it will reach you this time.

8.10.18. A.W.B.

51st, Batt. A.I.F.

2nd Lieut Barrett, J.R. D.C.M. ✓

D.C.M.

W, and M. April 24th 1918.

Informant states that he received word from A.I.F, Head Quarters that this man was in hospital in England, but could not say where.

Informant. 2nd Lieut Brougham. 51st Batt.

Taken at
NO.4.C.D.Hurdcott.
17-4-18.
F.G.H.

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

Not sent on.

W + M. 24.4.18 pres. rep. Missing.
H.Q. 22.6.18.

Copy in 41.
no trace.

HQ.

A.I.F. 51st Btn
1a-

BARRETT "D.C.M."
Joseph Frank 2/Lieut.
late Sgt. 1203

"Wded & Missing"

Killed in action 24-4-18 - previously reported Wded & Missing
Cert. by A.I.F. Hdqrs 14-10-18.

P & P.I

London
17-10-18

51st Battn.
A.I.F.

BARRETT "D.C.M."
2nd Lieut. Joseph Frank.
late Sgt. 1203.

"Wounded and Missing 24.4.18."

Killed in Action 24.4.18. No burial recorded
Cert. By Hdqrs List 15.9.19.

See reports and correspondence for confusion of this enquiry
with 2nd Lieut John F. Barrett alleged 51st Btn. A.I.F.
but probably in British Army

London.
3.10.19.

P.I.

51st Btn.
A.I.F.

BARRETT "DCM"
2nd Lieut Joseph Frank
Late Sgt. 1203.

There is no trace of this officer ever having been attached as S/Sgt to staff at Harford Lodge Hospital Norwich. in 1917 nor of his being at Blackpool nor on active service at Salonica. He was killed in France. There is no John F. Barrett in the A.I.F. nor John F. Barritt.

Cert by N. Cowley Searcher at A.I.F. Hdqrs 5.5.19.

London.
3.10.19.

P.C.I.

A.I.F. 51st Battn.

BARRITT
2/Lieut. John F.
late Sgt. 1203 "DOM"

"WHEREABOUTS"

(1) Wounded and Missing 24/4/18

P.I. 5/1/19 and 8/2/19.

Identified in this Office with 2/Lieut. Joseph Frank Barrett "DOM" late Sgt. 1203, 51st Battn., Killed in action 24/4/18- Previously reported Wounded and Missing.

(2) During part of 1917 S/Sgt. at Harford Lodge Hospital Norwich. He was sent with a draft to Blackpool in August 1917 and from thence on August 12th 1917 to Salonica and was reported on April 24th wounded and missing.

P.I. 13/3/19

Again identified with 2/Lieut. Joseph Frank Barrett.
Killed in action 24/4/18.

H.Q. 18/3/19.

(3) Enquiry again for 2/Lieut. John F. Barritt with same particulars
P.I. 23/3/19

"1" Closely investigated: Papers of
2/Lieut. Joseph Frank Barrett "DOM" late Sgt. 1203., 51st Battn. showed no trace of his ever having been attached as S/Sgt. to Staff at Harford Lodge Hospital Norwich in 1917.

A.I.F. 51st Battn.

"2"

BARRITT
2/Lieut. John F.
late Sgt. 1203 "DOM"

"2" Not of his being stationed at Blackpool
"3" Not of his being at Salonica
"4" He was killed in France
"5" There is no trace of a Lieut. John F. Barrett or Barritt in the A.I.F.

W. Cowley, Searcher at Hdqrs 5/5/19.

There has never been a soldier of any rank in the A.I.F. named:-

John F. Barritt

John F. Barrit

John F. Barrett

John F. Barret

Not John F. Barnett

Verification Department A. Hdqrs per F.M. Butler and M.C., Searcher at
A. Hdqrs 13/5/19.

The enquirer was written to, to this effect on 14/5/19 and asked for her authority for her reports. No reply has been received to date 2/10/19

A.I.F. 51st Battn.

"S"

BARRITT
2/Lieut. John F
late Sgt. 1203
"DCM"

Presumably the enquirer Miss Pretty had previously enquired for 2/Lieut. J.F. Barritt at A.Hdqs and there he had been identified with 2/Lieut. J.F. Barrett "DCM" 51st Battn., late Sgt. 1203 or else she was imperfectly acquainted with his surname and christian names.

London
10/10/19

John two letters
from Wm F. Barrett
13. 3. 19
23. 3. 19
with Wm Cowley
returned 5.5.19
Pretty

"3"

46th Battn.

K/A. 11/4/17

L/C.A.C.

do

K/A. 11/4/17

do

K/A. 11/4/17

Cpl.R.

do

K/A. 11/4/17

/C. R.A.

do

K/A. 11/4/17

P.J.

do

K/A. 11/4/17

do

K/A. 11/4/17

J.B.

do

K/A. 11/4/17

ghan J.E.

do

K/A. 11/4/17

ant.
8.1.19.
2/Lt. John F. Barritt
51 Bn. ?
"The Laurels"
Scolr
Norfolk
Jan. 5. 1919

Dear Sir

I should be
very grateful if you
could give me any
information concerning
S. Lt. John F. Barritt
D. C. M. = 51st Battalion
A. I. F. (Late Ser. 1203)
who was wounded.

and Missing April 24th
1918.

I am sorry to trouble you
but should be so very
grateful if you could
give me any news - if
not - could you kindly
give me any address
where I can obtain same
Thanking you in anticipation

I am

Yours faithfully
Annie M. Petty

act: P. R. C. said forwarding to Capt R. X.

The Launch
Scole

R. C. 19
5

Norfolk

2/Lieut John F. Barrett March 13th 1919
51 Bk?

Confused with 2/Lieut Joseph Frank Barrett
"D.C.M." late Sep 1203. 51 Bk.

Dear Sirs

Note that name in this letter has consequently
been altered from I to E in this office.

I should be very
grateful if you could give me
any information concerning 2nd Lt.
John F. Barrett, et. J. F. Late (Dem)
Serge. 1203. He was during part
of 1917 S/Ser. at Harford Lodge
Hospital Norwich. He was sent back
a draft to Blackport in August
1917 & from there on August 12th /17
to Salonica, and was reported
on April 14th 1918 wounded and
missing. I shall be very grateful
if you could kindly let me know
if anything further has been
heard of him. I do hope.

He has been found amongst the
Prisoners of War or that something
has been heard of his whereabouts.
I should be very grateful for any
news.

Thanking you in anticipation
Yours faithfully
Ethel M. Pretty

2/Lieut John F. Barrett

The Laurels
Leeds
Norfolk
Feb. 8: 1919

Miss Deakin

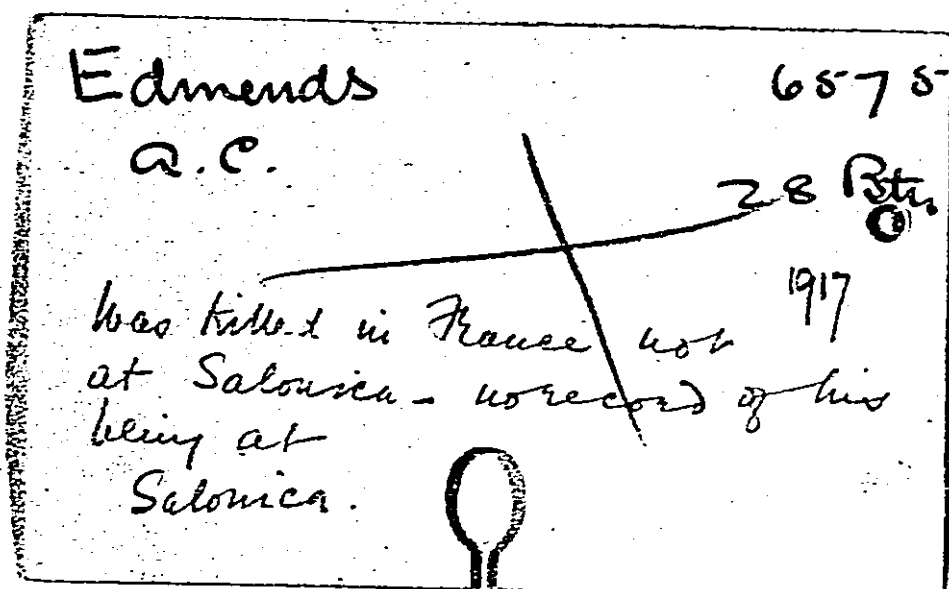
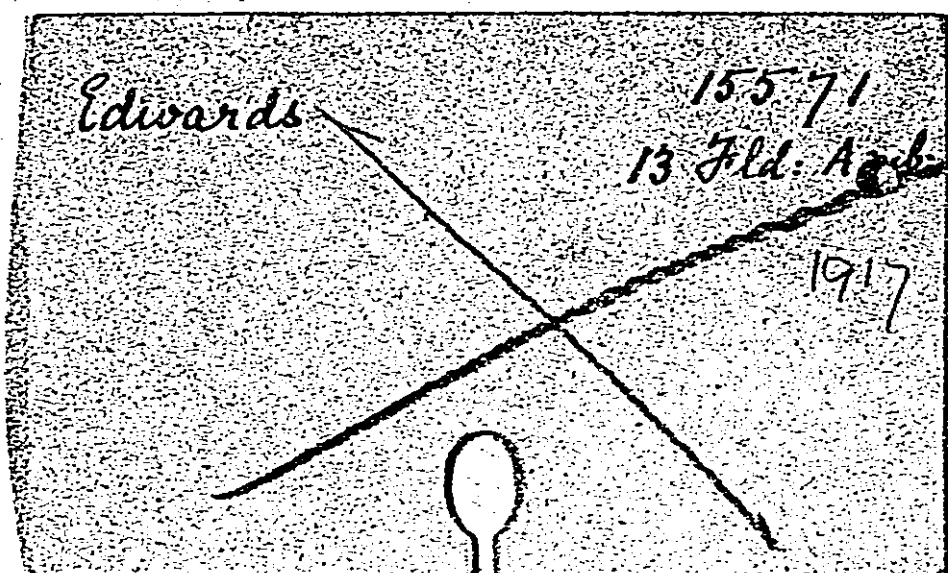
2/Lieut. John F. Barrett
51 Bn?

Dear Madam

Note. Owing to confusion at H.Q. I will
2/Lieut. Joseph Frank Barrett V.C. 1911
late Sgt 1203 51 Bn. the

Thank you so much for your kindness in replying to my letter of enquiry. ^{name in the letter has been misread from 1 to E in the officers} He 2/Lt. Barrett of the 51st Batt. A.S. & C. Altho. it seems almost impossible I still hope he may return sometime. I should have written and thanked you earlier but owing to illness I was unable to do so. Again thanking you for your great kindness.

Yours faithfully
Christie M. Petty



A.I.F. 51st Battn.

BARRITT
2/Lieut. John F.
late Sgt. 1203 "DCM"

"WHEREABOUTS"

(1) Wounded and Missing 24/4/18

P.I. 5/1/19 and 8/2/19.

Identified in this Office with 2/Lieut. Joseph Frank Barrett "DCM" late Sgt. 1203, 51st Battn., Killed in action 24/4/18- Previously reported Wounded and Missing.

(2) During part of 1917 S/Sgt. at Harford Lodge Hospital Norwich. He was sent with a draft to Blackpool in August 1917 and from thence on August 12th 1917 to Salonica and was reported on April 24th wounded and missing.

P.I. 13/3/19

Again identified with 2/Lieut. Joseph Frank Barrett.
Killed in action 24/4/18.

H.Q. 18/3/19.

(3) Enquiry again for 2/Lieut. John F. Barritt with same particulars
P.I. 23/3/19

"1" Closely investigated: Papers of
2/Lieut. Joseph Frank Barrett "DCM" late Sgt. 1203., 51st Battn.
showed no trace of his ever having been attached as S/Sgt. to
Staff at Harford Lodge Hospital Norwich in 1917.

A.I.F. 51st Battn.

"2"

BARRITT
2/Lieut. John F.
late Sgt. 1203 "DCM"

"2" Nor of his being stationed at Blackpool
"3" Nor of his being at Salonica
"4" He was killed in France
"5" There is no trace of a Lieut. John F. Barrett or Barritt in the
A.I.F.

W. Cowley, Searcher at Hdqrs 5/5/19.

There has never been a soldier of any rank in the A.I.F. named:-

John F. Barritt
John F. Badrit
John F. Barrett
John F. Barret
Nor John F. Barnett

Verification Department A. Hdqrs per F.M. Butler and N.C., Searcher at
A. Hdqrs 13/5/19.

The enquirer was written to, to this effect on 14/5/19 and asked for
her authority for her reports. No reply has been received to date 2/10/19

A.I.P. 51st Battr.

"3"

BARRETT
2/Lieut. John F
late Sgt. 1203
"DCM"

Presumably the enquirer Miss Fretty had previously enquired for 2/Lieut. J.F. Barritt at A.H.Q. and there he had been identified with 2/Lieut. J.F. Barrett "DCM" 51st Battr., late Sgt. 1203 or else she was imperfectly acquainted with his surname and christian names.

London
10/10/19

The Laurels

2/Lieut John F. Barrett
51 Bth ?

Sole

Norfolk

March 23rd 1919

Confused with

2/Lieut Joseph Frank Barretto

U.S.A. 1203 5-1 Bth

Miss Vera Deakin

Barrett

51 Bth

Dear Madam

Thank you so much for your letter and kind offer to make enquiries for particulars of 2/Lt John F. Barrett's death and burial. I shall feel very grateful if you would kindly do this, as I have such a strong presentiment that he is not dead. I do wish I might be right but I knew the time when he was wounded & several other things that happened, altho. I am not as a rule superstitious. I am so sorry to be so much trouble to you.

And thank you so very much for all your kindness

Yours faithfully
Annie M. Betty

2/Lieut John F. Barrett

2/Lieut John F. Barritt 51 Blk?

Confirmed by 1) Enquirer
2) this office
3) A.H.O.s with

2/Lieut Joseph Frank Barritt "D.C.M."

Miss Annie M. Pretty. late S/ 1203 May 14th, 1919.

The Laurels.

Scoles. Norfolk.

51 Blk. "D.C.M." 24.4.18

Dear Madam.

We have had several enquiries from you for "2/Lieut. JOHN F. BARRITT. "DCM" 51st Battalion. A.I.F. late S/ Sgt. 1203". The first being dated 5.1.19. On March 21st we informed you that 2/Lieut. (late 1203 Sgt) Joseph Frank Barritt. "DCM" 51st Battalion. A.I.F. was officially reported killed in Action on 24.4.18 having been previously reported Wounded & Missing on that date. In your reply on 23rd March (two days later) you again refer to 2/Lieut. John F. Barritt. 51st Battalion. A.I.F.

We have made further enquiry in reference to your statement that your friend was "during part of 1917 "S/ Sgt. at Harford Lodge Hospital Norwich. He was sent with a draft to Blackpool on August 12th 1917 to Salonica and was reported on April 24th 1918. Wounded & Missing." There is no record of 2/Lieut. Joseph Frank Barritt being attached as S/ Sgt. to Harford Lodge Hospital nor of his evacuation to Salonica. He is reported Killed in France.

We are informed that There is no John F. Barritt in the A.I.F. in any rank. Under these circumstances it would appear that there is some confusion. If your friend's name is John Barritt and if he served in Salonica may we ask you to give us your authority for his casualty on 24.4.18. and late rank, number and decorations?

Yours faithfully,

(Miss)

SECRETARY.

Amiens

Note. no reply received to date

2.10.19

2/Lieut John F. Barrett
51 Bth

Confused by 11 Enquirer
21 This office
31 A. H. G. with

2/Lieut Joseph Frank Barrett "D.C.M."
late Sgt 1203 51 Bth "G.M. 24-4-18"
March 21st, 1919.

Miss Annie M. Pretty.
"The Laurels"
Scole.
Norfolk.

Dear Madam.

In reply to your enquiry for 2/Lieut. (late 1203 Sgt)
JOSEPH FRANK BARRETT "DCM" 51st Battalion, A.I.F. We much
regret to inform you that he is now officially reported
killed in Action on 24.4.18 having been previously
reported Wounded and Missing on that date. We shall be
glad to make enquiries for particulars of his death
and burial if you wish us to do so and will advise us
to this effect.

With sincere sympathy.

Yours faithfully,

(Miss) V.W.S.

SECRETARY.

2/Lieut John F. Barrett
51 Bn?

Confused with

January 9th, 1919.

2/Lieut Joseph Frank Barrett "D.C.M."
Lith By 1203. 51 Bn.

Miss Annie Pretty,
The Laurels.
Scole. Norfolk.

Dear Madam.

In reply to your enquiry of 5th inst., for 2/Lt. J.F. BARRETT. "D.C.M." 51st Battalion. A.I.F. We regret to inform you that he is now officially reported Killed in Action on 24.4.18, having been previously reported Wounded and Missing on that date.

We have also received several unofficial reports about him from Officers and Men of his Unit.

The C.O. of the Battalion stated that he last saw him about 9 o'clock on the evening of April 24th when he went into the line in a counter attack at Villers Bretonneux. Our informant was told by other men that he was wounded in the abdomen and bandaged by stretcher bearers but could obtain no further news of him.

8072 Pte. E. Thomas states "I saw Lt. Barrett wounded in the abdomen by a sniper at 10.30 on the night of 24th April at Villers Bretonneux. We had advanced about 2000 yards he went to bomb a German machine gun post when he fell. He was a very good man and very brave. Stretcher bearers bandaged him and put him in a shell hole. He was very badly wounded and I do not think he could have lived."

These reports are confirmed by several other men one of whom stated that there was heavy shelling at the time and we fear that Lt. Barrett must have sustained a further casualty.

We regret the sad nature of these reports, but trust they may be of some value to you.

Yours faithfully,

(Miss)

10.3.
SECRETARY.