

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

**6290 Private
Clifford John Clarke**

20th Battalion



0740709R

20th Bn
A.I.F.

CLARKE
Clifford John 6290

Rep. Killed in Action

Killed in Action 4.10.17.

Cert. by A.I.F. HdQtrs 22.11.17.

London.
22.11.17

S
P.I

Reims Havre.

12th January 1918.

20th A.I.F.

Clarke G.J. No. 6290.

K. 4th October 1917. Det D/B.

He was A. Company. fair, nuggetty, aged about 19 or 20.
S.B. Sculley of the 20th A.I.F.A.Co H.Q (now with the Battrn)
told me Clarke was buried by a shell at Zonnebeke in October.
When they got him out he was practically dead. They buried
him near by.

Inf:- Pte R. Stumbridge No. 6178.
20th A.I.F. A.Co. 14 Pltn.
Australian Camp.
Rouelles.

GLT.

P.I.S

Walter Sculley
22.1.18

20th Batt. A.I.F.

Clarke, C.J. No. 6290.

"A" Coy.

K. Oct. 4/17. Det. D./B.

I saw his grave with ~~his~~ a flag over it bearing his name and particulars. This was near Zonnebeke. I knew him well in the Battalion, and there were two brothers of them in the same platoon. He was buried by J. Scully, a stretcher bearer in "A" Coy.

Description. Height, 5-7. Complexion, Fair. Build, Stout.

Witness. Davis, E.C. Pte. No. 6086. "A" Coy 20th Batt.

Taken at
No. 3.C. Depot.
Hurdcott
23-1-18.
S.W.

S. Whitmee.
No. 4.C. Depot.
Hurdcott.

per Scully written to

S
P.I.

10th Bn.
A.I.F.

Clarke.
Clifford John 6290

"Killed in Action 4.10.17"

Re Pte. C. J. Clarke killed in action on the night 5th October 1917.
I buried him myself on the morning 6th on the battlefield at Zonnabeka. I put a little wooden cross over him. I could not say for a certainty where the grave is registered. He was short about 5'6" high, very fair complexion.

Letter from:-

Pte. W. J. Scully

France 26.1.18.

London.

13.2.18.

S
P.I.

20th Batta,
A.I.F.

Clarke.
C.J. 6290

"Killed 4.10.17"

Clarke was buried by a shell about Zonnebake in the supports and when we dug him up he was dead and was re-buried at the spot and his grave marked by rifle and steel hat. I assisted to bury him.

Informant:- J.N.Clark 1682

20th Batta. A.Coy.

W.A.Rand

Hut 17 Westham.

London.
22.2.18.

S
P.I.

A.I.F. 20.

CLARKE, G.J. 6290.

K. Oct 4th 1917. Dets D/B.

Clarke - initials G.J. - was in my platoon III and was killed in October, the night we relieved another Bttn in the trenches at Zonnebeke. A shell buried him and several others in the support trenches. I was about 10 yards away, and helped dig them out. Two of them were got out dead - Cliff Clarke and H.H. Brown. I had to go on to my M.G. post so did not see the burial, but I went there afterwards to see if my friend Brown had a cross up, and I saw that they had both been buried right there in the trench where they were killed. Clarke came from just out of Tamworth, N.S.W., a fair man with blue eyes, very fat.

Inf: Pte F.R. Armstrong. 6274. A.IV. (late III).
No. 55 Gen Hosp.
BOULOGNE. 22.2.18.

JF

S

PI

Ca 20/11

A.I.F. 20th Batta.

RECEIVED
C.I. 6283

"Killed 4-10-17"

I was alongside him when a shell came and he died from concussion without wounds and instantly at Polygon Wood. He was buried on the spot in the trench. Height 5ft 9" and very fair. His address was Bunlaw, Burrangerong, S. Coast, Via Picton.

Informant. Bourne, E.A. 6283
20th Batta.
War Chest..

W. Alison
London
27-2-18

S
P.I.

A.I.F. 20th Bn

NOTE TO SYDNEY

CLARKE
C.J. 8290

"X/Action 4-10-17"

The inquirer for above - 8291 Pte J. Clarke, 20th Bn, returned to Australia on 10-5-18, without giving us his address there. We learn that he enlisted in Military District 8 and are therefore, typing copies of all reports for you to forward to him. There has been no previous Australian enquiry.

London
11-5-28

A.I.F.
20th. Battalion.

CLARK. 6290.

Clifford John.

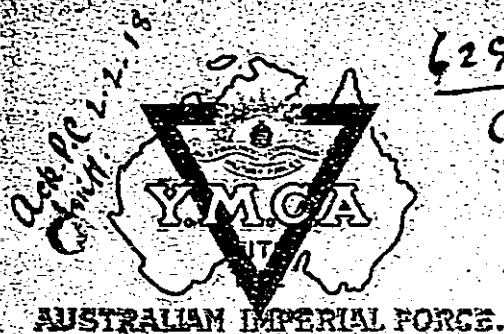
"Killed in Action 4.10.17".

No. trace Germany.

Cert. by Capt. Mills. 10.10.19.

London.
16.10.19.

S.



6290

Clifford John CLARKE

20 Ballin

K/A 4-10-77

P. 1.

France

26th Jan. 1918

Dear Madame

I am in receipt of a letter
of inquiry to C. P. H. Clarke 6290.
2nd of I. S. F. killed in action on the
night 5th 12. 14. I buried him myself
on the morning 6th 10. 14. on the
Battlefield at Gonnebeke. I put a
little wooden cross over him I could
not say for a certainty where the grave
is registered. He was about 5' 6" high
very fair complexion

I am yours Respectfully
P. H. J. Scully

Feb 22. 11. 17.

No 3 Australian
Hospital
Dunedin
12 Ward
20-11-17

To Manager Red Cross.

Dear Sir

Not in all Sir

Could you tell me
if Pte Clarke C.F. No 6290 20th Bn
A.I.F. was killed in action in October
last kindly let me know as soon as
possible I oblige

No 6291

Pte Clarke J.

20th Bn

A.I.F.

Nov. 24th, 1917.

6291 Pte. J. Clarke,
20th Bttn, A.I.F.,
3rd Australian Auxiliary Hpl.,
Dartford.

Dear Sir,

We regret that we must confirm the report of the death
in Action of your brother No 6290 Pte. C. J. CLARKE,
20th Battalion,
A.I.F.

and have added his name to our inquiry lists for details of
his death and burial.

As soon as they are received we shall advise you as we
realise how very anxious you must be.

Assuring you of our sincere sympathy, in your loss.

Yours faithfully,

SECRETARY.

*P. M. for
L. A. W.*

6291 Pte. J. Clarke,
20th Bttn, A.I.F.
No 1 Command Depot,
Sutton Veny, Wilts.

January 30th, 1918.

Dear Pte. Clarke,

We regret to inform you of an unofficial report given by No 6178 Pte. R. Stembridge, of the same unit when in an Australian Camp in France, about the death of your brother.

No 6290 Pte. C. J. CLARKE, 20th Battalion, A.I.F.

He stated that he was told by Pte. Sculley that your brother was buried by a shell at Monnebeke on Oct. 4th, and when they succeeded in rescuing him he was dead. They buried him close by the place of his casualty.

We are continuing the enquiry as we realise how anxious you must be and as soon as further details are obtained we shall let you know.

Trusting that it will be some consolation to know that his death was instantaneous and assuring you of our sincere sympathy.

Yours faithfully,

Bera Oakin

SECRETARY.

DMB. for L.A.W.

Pte. J. Clarke 6291
20th Bn., A.I.F.,
B.E.F.

6.2.18

Dear Sir,

We have received an unofficial report about your brother 6290 C.J. Clarke, 20th Bn. from 6086 H.C. Davis 20th Bn., he saw his grave with a flag over it, bearing his name and particulars, near Zonnebeke. He said J. Souley, a Stretcher Bearer, buried him. We have written to Souley and will send you his reply, and in the meantime are continuing our enquiries.

Assuring you of our sympathy,

Yours faithfully,

Secretary.

F. H. G. St. George

L.B.

15th February 1918.

6291 Pte T. Clarke,
20th Btn, A.I.F.
No. 1 Command Depot,
Sutton Veny Wilts.

Dear Pte Clarke,

We have just received a reply to our letter of inquiry about the death of your brother - 6290 Pte C.J. Clarke, 20th Btn, A.I.F.

Pte W.J. Scully, reports - Pte Clarke was killed in action on the night of October 5th 1917 and that he himself buried him on the morning of the 6th on the battle-field at Zonnebeke and put a little wooden cross over him. He could not say for certain whether the grave was registered. He describes him as about 5ft 6, with a very fair complexion.

Further inquiries are being made and as soon as we obtain information we shall advise you,

With our sincere sympathy,

Yours faithfully,

F. K. G. St George
for Secretary.

J.
6291 Private Clarke
20th Battalion
A.I.F.
No. 1 Command Depot
Sutton Veny
Wilts

26:2:18

Dear pte Clarke,

We have just received another unofficial report about the death of your brother, 6290 Pte C.J. Clarke, 20th batt. A.I.F., which does not tell much, but confirms those you have already received. 1682 pte J.M. Clark, 20th batt. reports that:—"Clarke was buried by a shell about Zonnbeke in the supports, and when we dug him up he was dead, and was re-buried at the spot, his grave marked by rifle and steel hat. I assisted to bury him".

With our sincere sympathy.

Yours faithfully

7. J. G.
secretary

2nd March 1918

6291 Pte J. Clarke
20th Btn, A.I.F.
No. 1 Command Depot,
Sutton Veny, WILTS

Dear Pte Clarke,

With reference to your enquiry concerning - 6290
Pte Clifford John Clarke, 20th Btn, A.I.F. we have received the
following unofficial report from - 6283 Pte E.A. Bourne, 20th Btn
c/o the War Chest Club, Horseferry Rd, London, S.W.1. He states
that he was close to your brother when a shell burst nearby and
he died from the concussion, without other wounds or injury and
was buried in the trench at the place of casualty.

We have now closed our enquiries and hope that the
details we have been able to obtain may have been of some comfort
to you.

Yours faithfully,

Secretary *KL*