

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

**4458 Private
James Checkley**

14th Battalion



07209060

Havre

10th Nov. 1917.

14th AUSTRALIANS

CHECKLEY, J. 4458

K. S. 7.17. Det. D/B.

He was fairly tall. He came from Dandenong, Gippsland. He was in the 15th or 16th Reinforcements to the 14th Battalion. I have seen his grave at the edge of Plugstrat Wood, about 100 yards from the R.A.P. There were other graves, 24 at least. It had a cross with his name on it.

Informant: Pte. G.A. Dietrich, 4650
14th Australians, B Co., 5th Pltn.,
Australian Camp, Bouelles.

GIF

14 Australian.

Checkley, J. 4458.

K. July 5/17. Det. D/B.

" I heard the morning after it happened that Pte. Jim Checkley (14.A. I) was on a fatigue party working for the 15th. Battn. which was up in the line when a shell landed on them & he was killed. It was a Thursday night, July 5th. at Ploegsteert. He was buried near the regimental aid post at Prow's Point, where many of the 4th Bgde were buried; I have passed the place but didn't take special notice of it. Pte. Alf Baker (14 A.) was wounded by the same shell, but is now back with the battalion."

Eyewitness:- No, Told by Pte. Alf. Baker (14.A).

Description:- Didnot know him well, thinks he was wounded on the Peninsula & joined the Battn in France between Nov/16 and May/17 while Inf. was away from it; in original battalion.

Informant:- Pte. Thomas F. Donnelly, 4700, 14 Aus. A Co., I Plat. 3rd Southern Genl Hosp., Oxford, Cowley Section.

Home address:- Gladstone St., Moonee Ponds, Melbourne.

12/11/17.

Janet M. Payne.

Written Pte. Baker 27-11-17.

14th. Batt. A.I.F.

Checkley,
J. 4458.

Killed 5/7/17.

I saw him killed by a shell, died instantly at Ploegsteert.
We were on fatigue duty. He was buried in Ploegsteert Wood.
Cemetery by the Battalion Church of England Chaplain Rev. Rollin.
He came from Gippsland and has a sister living at Malvern Vic
who was his next of kin. ^{Bailarat}
We came over together in the "Bollard" leaving Melbourne Feb.
18th. 1918. in the 14/14 Reinforcements.

Inf: Chaffey; W.S. 4456.

A.C.F. 14, Batt.

No. 3. Command Depot.

Hurdcott.

12.11.17.

G.W. Griffiths.

London.

20/11/17.

M.

14. A.I.F.

Checkley.Pts. J. 4458.

Killed July 5th, 17.
Det. D/B.

"I was at Messines on the 5th July 17. when this man was killed whilst going up on fatigue by a shell, a piece of which went through his head. On the 6th he was brought back and was buried at the Cemetery at Hyde Park Corner. I was not actually one of the burying party but I saw his body being taken up and I saw them afterwards returning. He had a decent burial. One of the Stretcher Bearers was Pte.J. Thompson The deceased belonged to the same Machine Gun Section as myself."

Eyewitness: Yes.

Description:

Informant: Pte. R.M.Hooper. 1728.
14. A.I.F.
1st. Southern Hospital,
(King's Heath)
Birmingham.

Home address:

557 Cannock Street,
North Carlton,
Melbourne, AUSTRALIA.

Nov. 24th, 17.
J. Ore.

Australian 14th. Battn.

Checkley Pte. J. 4458
A Coy.

K. July 5th.
Det. D/B.

"I remember J. Checkley being killed about 8 a.m. in July last when going up to front line trench Ploegsteert. The body was recovered next day and buried in the cemetery. I cannot give the exact date."

Eyewitness: Yes.

Description: "Check"

Informant: Pte. D. H. Harris. 6035.
A Coy.

14th Battn. Australian Regt.
1st Southern General Hospital,
B'ham.

Home address:
Lethbridge,
Victoria.

1.12.17.
W. G. D. Rodway.

M

14th Btn.

CHECKLEY, J.
Pte. 4458

Killed in action 5/7/17.

"I knew Casualty. He was a medium height, thin, medium complexion, about 30 years of age. Casualty was digging in at support lines at Ploegsteert Wood, Messines. A shell exploded killing him instantly. I saw his body the next day. The stretcher-bearers were taking him out to be buried. He was buried at Hyde Park Corner, Ploegsteert Wood. I was an eye-witness. He was well known and liked by all his comrades."

Informant:- F. Toll,
No. 7096, 14th Btn.

Private address:-
Rocklyn, P.O.

T.C.P.
21/1/18.

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS INFORMATION BUREAU-MELBOURNE.

N Ed only

14th Btn.

CHECKLEY, J.
Pte. 4458.

Killed in action 5/7/17.

"I do not know Casualty but I made the cross for his grave, and have his number and name in my diary. I always have kept a note of all crosses I have made. He was buried just behind St. Yves in a small cemetery. The burial was conducted by Padre Rollins of the 14th Battalion."

Informant:- L/Cpl. J.T.R. Edwards,
No. 577.

Private address:-
79 Walters Street,
Ascot Vale.

T.C.F.
25/1/18.

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS INFORMATION BUREAU-MELBOURNE.

M 84 204

14th Battn.
A.I.F.

CHECKLEY.
Pte. J. 4458.

"KILLED IN ACTION 5.7.17"

Re Pte. J. Checkley No. 4458. 14th Battn. A.I.F.
I am so sorry but I cannot give you any information concerning him whatever.,

Letter From:- Pte. C. G. Baker,
4432. 11th Battn.
A.I.F.
14-12-17.

Note:- We regret the delay in typing the above report, but we have been obliged to hold it up on account of pressure of work and shortage of machines.,

London.
22.2.18.

M.

14th Btn.

Pte. **CHECILEY, J.**
4458

Killed in action 5/7/17.

"I knew Casualty. He was a short man and was a Lewis Gunner. Casualty was on fatigue work on the Barton front at Messines. He was going to work on a barrage as five shells came over killing Casualty instantly and wounding his two mates, Bakers. I was the third man from him. He was buried at the Divisional Cemetery, Steensworth. His chief wounds were about the head. I was an eye-witness. He was well known and liked by all his comrades."

Informant.- G. W. Loose,
No. 6543.

Private address:-
28 Gordon Grove,
Northcote.

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

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS INFORMATION BUREAU-MELBOURNE.

14th Btn.

CHUCKLEY, J.
Pte. 4458.

. Killed in action 5/7/17.

"I knew Casualty. He was a man about 5 ft. 6 ins. medium build, medium complexion, about 28 years of age, known as "Check". Casualty was going up to the front line to do fatigue work. I was in the same party from Ploegsteert Wood to Ultima Avenue. The sap had been blown in previous to our arrival and Casualty had to cross it by going over the top. An H.E. shell exploded as he was crossing the top killing him instantly and wounding the two Baker brothers and Pte. Rogers. I was 10 yds. from Casualty at the time of his death and Sgt. Armstrong collected his personal effects. He was buried at the Red Lodge Cemetery. A cross was erected with his name and number on it. I was an eye-witness."

Private address:-
56 Charles Street,
T.C.F. Northcote.
12/4/18.

Informant:- H. E. Bredin,
No. 6968, 14th Btn.

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS INFORMATION BUREAU-MELBOURNE.

14th Btn.

CHECKLEY, J.
Pte. 4458

Killed in action 5/7/17.

"I knew Casualty. He was a man about 5 ft. 7 ins. slightly built, fair complexion, about 28 years of age, known as "Jack". He was attached to the 14th Bn. of the 14th Btn. and he embarked in the transport "Ballarat" on the 16th February, 1916. Casualty was going into the front line on fatigue work Messines at 3 p.m. I was in the same party when a whizz bang exploded in the centre of the party killing Casualty instantly and wounding the Baker brothers. I was 5 yds. from him at the time of his death but went over directly after he fell. His chief wounds were in the forehead. He was buried at the Ploegsteert Wood Cemetery and I attended the funeral helping to carry him a part of the way. A cross was erected with his name and number on it. I was an eye-witness."

Private address:-
Woolsthorpe,

Informant:- L. E. Richardson,
No. 4595.

T.C.F. via Barnhambool.
10/5/18.

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS INFORMATION BUREAU-MELBOURNE.

4458
Type
FM 17/12/17

4458 Pte J. CHECKLEY

14 Bn.

R/A 5:7-17

On

3

(C)

14. 12. 17.

Dear Madam.

I have just
received your letter making
inquiries about Pte J. Checkley.
No 4458. 14th Bn. A.I.F.

and I am sorry but I cannot
give you any information
concerning him whatever.

Yours faithfully.

Pte. C. G. Baker.

No. 4432. 14. Bn. A.I.F.