

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

**2341 Lance Corporal
Struan Bertram Chitty**

8th Battalion



0730207J

A.I.F. 8.

CHITTY, S.B. 2341.

K. Oct. 25th, 1917. Det.

I knew a man called Chitty in D. Coy. and I think he was in either XIII or XIV pltn. I don't know his initials. He was the only man of that name in D. Coy. His number was between two and three thousand. He was a short man with dark hair, clean shaven, rosy complexion, and about 26 or 27. I don't know if he was married. I heard he had been killed when we were coming out of the line into supports on the Passchedaele front about 27th Oct. I am unable to say if his body was recovered and buried. I have recently seen in the Anzac bulletin that Chitty was officially reported as killed.

Inf. H.J. Bradley, 6477, D.M.G.S.
No.2. Can. Stat. Hosp.
BOULOGNE. 13.3.18.

AGL

M

8th A.I.F.

Chitty. S.B. 2341.

(K. Oct. 25/17.)
Dets. D/B.

"I did not see Chitty killed, but I heard that a shell burst close to the duckboards as he was coming out of the trench and nothing more was seen of him. I was talking to my capt. about it afterwards. As there is a Court of Enquiry held the next day over every casualty of the day before in the 8th Battn. all evidence taken first hand and full records kept both at Battn. H.Q. France, and also at Australian Imperial Forces H.Q. Horseferry Road, London, there should be no difficulty in getting full information about any casualty."

Euewitness: No. Evidence given at Regimental Court of Enquiry.
Description: He was in D Coy. no farther information about him.

Informant: Sgt. G.R. Short. 2783.
8th A.I.F. D. XIII.
Napsbury Hospital,
St. Albans.

Home address:
Colac,
Victoria, Australia.

25/4/18.
G. Lencham.

A. I. P. 8.

CHITTY, S.B. 2341.

K. October 25th, 1917.

We were holding the line right in front of Passchendaele after our 3rd stunt. When we were manning the trenches a shell burst right by him killing Chitty instantly. (He was badly knocked about). Two of his mates buried him just behind the spot where he was killed. One of those was Pte. Glover. We were all in D. Coy. together and I knew Chitty well.

RCP.

Reference:- Pte. Aret. 6211. D. Coy.
M.B. Depot.

Staples.
3.5.18.

*Written Glover
9.5.18.*

M

A.I.F. 8.

CHITTY, S.B. 2341.

K. Oct 25th 1917. Dets.

We were coming out from Passchendaele and on the way our he got caught by shell and the general opinion is that he was blown to pieces. It occurred in the dark when he was in a connecting file between 15 and 16 platoon and the officer in command - 2/Lt Johnson (still living) - reported this just after. Search was made but without result. I think he came from Melbourne, was between 20 and 30, had a brother in another Australian Battn, was 5ft 6, dark, sallow complexion, clean shaven, L/Opl. at the time of death, in D.XVI.

Inf: Sgt J.F. Pinchen. 2936. D.XVI.

No. 83 Gen Hosp.

BCULOGNE. 11.5.1918.

WG

W. K. Johnson

22.6.18

M

8th Battn.
A.I.F.

CHITTY,
S.B. 2341

"Killed 25.10.17."

Was in D.Coy, called "Darky". He was a friend of mine. He was acting as a connecting link, while coming out of the trench on the duck boards at Passchendaele. It was in the evening and there was heavy shelling at the time, and one of the shells got Chitty, and he was blown to pieces. No one actually saw him killed and his body was never found. Lieut. Johnson, Hqrs. 8th Battn, France, was just in front of Chitty, and can give any further information required. He told me about it.

Informant:- Sgt. G.R. Short, 2783,
8th Battn,
Harefield.

W.G.J.

London.

17.5.18. Note Lt. Johnson written to.

M.

8th A.I.F.

Chitty. L/C. S.B. 2341.

(K. Oct. 25/17.)
Det. D/B.

"I knew Chitty S.B. 2341, he and I being great pals. He had been made L/C. He was blown to pieces by a shell Mr. Zonnebeke, Passchendaele Ridge. There was nothing found of him as he was blown to atoms. I believe the date was Oct. 27th not 25th and I have reason to remember it and I was wounded the same day and sent to England."

Eyewitness:

Description:

Informant: Pte. N. McGuire. 1365
8th A.I.F.
Napsbury Hospital, Ward H.B.
St. Albans.

Home address:
Swaine Ave.
Rose Park,
Adelaide, S. Australia.

21/5/18.
A. Hill.

MA 24
204

8th Battn.
A.I.F.

CHITTY.
Struan.B. 2341.

"Killed in Action" 25-10-17.

Re 2341 L/Opl. S.R.Chitty. I am very sorry that I cannot give you any information as regards his death or burial as I was away from my battalion attending a school. On returning I was told that he had been killed coming out after being relieved on 25-10-17. He was about 5 ft 8 ins in height, dark, with fresh complexion. He was a Richmond or Burnley man. I would refer you to Sgt. J.Finchen 8th Battn. who was wounded on 29-4-18 and is probably in England.

Letter from:- 3077.L/Cpl H.Glover.
D.Coy 8th Battn.
A.I.F.
FRANCE.

London.
28-5-18.

M.

8th Batta.
A.I.P.

CHITTY.
L/Cpl. S.B. 2341.

"Killed in Action 25-10-17"

Re 8341 Pte. Chitty, S.B. This man was in my Company while at Ypres. On night 25/26/27th October 1917, he was killed by a shell on the field, while coming out after being relieved. I fancy it was on night of 25th about 11 p.m. Am not really certain but it was one of these three. I saw the man killed. He was only about 10 feet in front of me. I could not stay to look for his body, had some 40 to 50 men with me. I was the only officer there. We were under a heavy barrage at the time. Hope you understand the situation in which I was placed. I knew Chitty from the time he joined the 8th Battalion. Was of a cheerful, happy nature, reliable, and a clean living man. Now I remember, he was a Lance Corporal not a private. Regret that I could not see the man buried, but I honestly think the poor lad was blown to pieces. He simply disappeared into thin air. Don't inform his people of this last paragraph, please. If I can help to clear up any more missing etc, will be pleased to do so for you. Chitty was a man of about 5ft 7 or 8 in height, slightly round shoulders, not much. Dark complexion, dark eyes, dark hair. Perhaps I am slightly wrong, don't think so. Am certain this is the man though of whom you are seeking information.

London.

17-10-18.

Letter from:- D. Johnstone, Lieut.
8th B

M.

n

8th Btn.

CHITTY. S. B.
pte. 2341.

K. in act. 25/10/17.

"I knew Casualty. He was a well built man, 6 ft. 8 in. in height, fair complexion, about 25 years of age. Casualty was in advance at Passchendaele. He had just given me a hand to carry a wounded man to the Dressing Station, and as he was returning an H.E. shell landed alongside him a piece entering his abdomen killing him instantly. I saw his body lying on the track next day but do not know where he was buried."

Private address:-

Salvation Army Home,
Flinders Lane,
Melbourne.

Informant:-

Pte. G. Hardiment,
No. 1473, 8th Btn.

H.A.F.
11/4/19.

M. C. S. 11

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS INFORMATION BUREAU-MELBOURNE.

8th Btn.

CHITTY, S. B.
Pte. 2341.

K. in act. 25/10/17.

"I knew Casualty. He was a medium built man, about 5 ft. 6 ins. dark, 23 years of age, known as "Stan". He was a 5th Platoon of the 8th Btn. We were just relieved by the 14th Btn. and were going and Casualty was in charge of the connecting file, when a shell landed on the duck-board near him killing him instantly. I do not know if he was buried."

Informant:- Pte. J. P. Steele,
No. 5199, 8th Btn.

Private address:-
292 Toorak Road,
South Yarra.

S.V.P.
25/7/19.

a.
c.

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS INFORMATION BUREAU-MELBOURNE.

A.I.F.
8th. Battalion.

OHITY. 2341.
Struan Bertram.

"Died 25.10.18"

No trace Germany.

Cert. by Csp: Mills. 10.10.19.

London.
10.10.19.

some where in France
AUSTRALIAN 23.3.18



RED CROSS

Dear Madam

my Brother. Struan

B. Chitty 2341. 8th Battalion AIF

got killed at Ypres 25 Oct. 17.

inform my mother Mrs W Chitty

29 Khartoum st Burnley Victoria

of how he got killed I happened

to be in hospital at the time

of his death but tried to

make a few inquiries after I

got back to my Battalion but

was sent away again ^{where he is} buried

& you will oblige

Yours truly
The R. L. Chitty
6th Battalion AIF.

Adm 14 Pe
27.5.18
22

2341
Struan & Chetty
8th Batt
(Ed) 18/5/18.
France.

Dear Madam

Recd 25-10-17 M

I reply to your letter of the 9/5/18 concerning 2341 L. Cpl S. B. Chetty. I am very sorry that I can't give you any information as regards his death or burial as I was away from my Battalion attending a School. On returning I was told that he had been killed coming out after being relieved on 25/10/17. He was about 5 ft 9 in in height, dark, with fresh complexion. He was a Richmond or Burnley man. That is about all I can tell you about him. I would refer you to Sgt J. Pincher, 8th Batt who was wounded on 29/4/18 & is probably in England.

Yours Faithfully

3577
L. Cpl. H. Glover.
D. Coy.
8th Batt
A. J. J.

Oct 15-10-18

119

2341

Lt Col S.B. Chitty France 5-10-18.
8 Bn. K.O.B. 25.12.17

Re your of 23-5-18. Regret very much that I have not replied to your request before this. Came across your letter, when going through my papers this morning. Please accept my apologies.

Re 2341 FTE. CHITTY S.B. This man was in my company, while at YPRES.

On night 25/26/27th bet 1917, he was killed by a shell on the field, while coming out after being relieved. I think it was on night 25th about 11 p.m. I'm not really certain: but it was one of these three.

I saw the man killed: he was only about 10 feet in front of me.

I could not stay to look for his body: had some 40, to 50 men with me I was the only officer there.

We were under a heavy barrage at the time. Hope you understand the situation, in which I was placed.

I knew Chitty from the time he joined the 8th Bn. Was a cheerful, happy, nature: reliable, a clean living man.

Now remember, he was a lance corporal, not a private.

Regret that I could not see the man buried, but honestly think the poor lad was blown to pieces. He was a trained soldier. Don't inform his people of this last part. Please

P.T.O.

7. If I can help to clear up any more, missing etc
will be pleased to do so for you.
Chubby was a man of about 5 ft 7 or 8 in high.
Slightly round shoulders, not much.
Dark complexion, dark eyes, dark hair.
Perhaps I am a little wrong, don't think so.
Am certain this is the man though, of whom
you are ~~interested~~ seeking information. He
was now down, killed in action.

Yours sincerely

Harve. J. H. H. H.

Lieut. 8th Bn. A.S.F.

HJ