

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

**5803 Private
John Peter Condely**

21st Battalion



0780510L

21st A. I. F.

J. P. CONDELY, 5803

Missing 20.3.17.

Informant states that he knew Condely well and that they came out together with the 16th Reinforcements. On the evening of March 20th at about 8.30 p.m., after being in action all day, Informant met several of his comrades by the roadside, and well remembers being told by one of them (he thinks it was Pte. Hall) that he had seen Condely lying dead on their right flank in open country. This story, he has heard corroborated by other men who came out with the 16th Reinforcements.

Reference: Pte. W. J. Stove, 5969,
Confirmed by: Pte. P. R. Bisney, 5966.
Both of No. 10 General, Rouen, 8.5.17.

Written by Pte. Condely 16.5.17

OKM
GJS.

21st A. I. F.,

Condely, J.P. 5803,

(M. March 20th 1917)

PTE. Fred Tregonning A. Coy. told me in the middle of April that Condely had been killed on March 20th during an advance near Bapaume. Tregonning was then at No 11 Stationary Hospital, Rouen., Scottish Section, Ward M.B.1st.

Eye-witness: No, see above.

Description: Medium height, fair moustache, rather delicate looking.

Informant: F. Holloway 5858,
21st A.I.F., B. Coy., III Plt.,
Royal Victoria Hospt.,
Ward 43 B, Netley.

Home address:

May 5th 1917,
N.W. Hick.

Written by Pte Tregonning 29.5.17

off dte

A.I.P. 21.

CONDREY, J.P. 5803

M. March 20th. 1917.

I knew him. We were in the village on the other side of Bapaume to the left of Vaux; during the attack Pte Joe Clark saw him killed and told me so afterwards, but I have no details.

Informant: Sig. R. Menadue. 6017
No. 7 C.G.

BOULOGNE. 18.5.17.

Written by Pte Clark 30.5.17

Off file
RAOI

21st Battn.

A.T.P.

J. P.

Condely.

5803.

"Missing 20.3.17."

Refer to Pte George D Nicholas B Coy who wrote me about a fortnight ago that C. was killed near Bapaume. We all came over together

Witness:-

T. M. Bolzer. 5798.

B Coy.

21st Battn.

L.P.J.

London.

31.5.17.

Note Written Pte. Nicholas 28.5.17.

Off.M.

21st Btn.

Pte.

CONDELY, J. P.
No. 5803

Off. Missing 20/3/17

This soldier's wife states that Pte. C. G. Beatty, No. 5800 16th Reinforcements, 21st Btn., was a friend of her husband's and was wounded at the same time that her husband was missing. She thinks that if Pte. Beatty were interviewed some information might be obtained from him as to her husband's fate.

H. I.

7/6/17

Written by Beatty 15.8.17

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS INFORMATION BUREAU-MELBOURNE.

21st Battn.
A. I. F.

Condeley.
J. P. 5803.

"Missing 20.3.17."

In reference to J. P. Condeley, I beg to inform you that I have made enquiries amongst his Comrades of A. Coy. of his Battn. and regret that I cannot obtain any information of his fate ~~other~~ other than that given in the official list. I spoke to our Padre about your letter, he could give no information, and was not very helpful. Pte. Condeley was well known to me and his description was as follows - Height 5 feet, 11" (about) well built in proportion, fair moustache and hair, bushy eyebrows, high cheek bones, ruddy complexion, and pleasant ~~acc.~~

Letter from:-

W. J. Ball. 5794.

21st Battn.

A. I. F.

B. E. F. 31.5.17.

London.

12.6.17.

Off.M.

21st Australian Imperial Force

Condely, Pte. J.P. 5803.

(M. March 20, 1917).

" I heard that Condely had been killed in action on March 20th, no further details. "

Eye Witness - Ho. Pte. M. Rice 21st Aus. I F. 16th Reinforcement told him.

Description Dark moustache, fairly tall.

Informant :- Pte. H.S. Cooper, 5804.
D Coy. 16th Pltn. 21st Aus I Force
Ford Hospital, Devonport.

Home address :-
Morwell,
Gippsland,
Victoria.

27.7.17.
E.M. Hall.

Written R. Rice 8.8.17

off. M.

21st Battn.
A. I. P.

Condely. J.P. 5805
Sturgeon. H.W. 5914.

"Missing 20.3.17"

Pte. G. D. Nicholas 5896 Ward 30, Church Lane Hospital, can give information about Condely and probably about Sturgeon. We were all in the same Platoon 5, B. Coy and all came over together.

Witness:-

F. Holloway 5858
21st Battn.
Dartford.

L. P. J.

London.
28.7.17.

Note Written Pte. Nicholas 21.7.17.

Off.H.
Off.H. &
P.I.

See pte Newton letter

A.I.F. 21st Btn

J.P.

CONDELY
5802

"M. 26-3-17"

Killed in Action 20-3-17 - previously reported Missing
Cert. by A.I.F. Hqrs 3-7-17.

OFF.M.

London
4-8-17

21st Batty.
A. I. P.

Condely.
J. P. 5803.

"Missing 20.3.17"

Sturgeon.
H. W. 5914.

"Killed in Action 20.3.17"

I am sorry I never answered your letter before, but I could not talk to Pte. Nicholas for long because he is shifted into the main building. I went down to see him this morning and he said he never knew anything about Pte. Condely but he said Sturgeon was his mate and he only knew he was missing and could not give any information about him. I asked another boy out of the 21st Battalion did he know anything about the boys but he said no.

Letter from:-

Pte. Newton.

No.31 Ward Tooting Military Hospital
26.7.17.

Off.M.

Off. M. P.I.

London.

7.8.17.

Note As Pte. Nicholas is seriously ill we wrote asking Pte. Newton to ask him about these men if the Sister in charge gave permission.

A.I.F. 21st Btn

J.P.

CONDRELY
3803

"MISSING"

Missing 20-3-17

Cert. by A.I.F. Hqrs list 19-4-17

Killed in action 20-3-17 - previously reported Missing
Cert. by A.I.F. Hqrs 3-7-17

London
29-8-17

21st Batt. A.I.F.

CONDLEY J.P. 5803.
"A" Coy.,

Ken A

"K. Mar. 20th., '17."

" I saw Condely killed in front of Ecoust, past Baupaume, during the advance. We were marching up the road at the time, when he was hit by a bullet, which killed him instantly. I do not know what became of him afterwards, although when we passed later, all the bodies in that vicinity had been collected for burial. I knew him well through being in the same company, and must say he was liked by every one."

Description. Hgt 5ft4. Medium build. Medium complexion.

Witness.

Taylor J.291.

"A" Coy., 21st Batt.

Taken at No 4 Command Depot,
Codford.

S.W.

S. Whitmoe.

September 1st., '17.

W.

Notes

24th Sept 1917

21st AUSTRALIANS

5203
GORDON, J.P. 8805

R. 20.3.17. 30th D/L. H/200

I know Pte. Joe Conolly of the 21st Battalion. A Coy 3rd Pz. He came from Victoria, was of medium height, thin, fair complexion, about 27 years of age, married. He was a little weak in the hand. He was killed at Beers on March 30, 1917 when we were advancing - shot through the hand by a machine gun. He lost the ground. He was buried some days after in the open between Ypres and Beers. I could point out the spot. There is a cross on the ground. I do not know any man of the name of Conolly in the Battalion. I think it must be Conolly.

Informant: Pte. T.E. Gocking, III
21st Australians, A Coy 3rd Pz.
Australian Camp, Beers.

814

M

5494
WR
FM 85-17

W J Ball
21st Battalion
A & F

31st May 1917
France

Dear Madam

In answer to your letter of the 25th inst in reference to J. P. Condeley, I beg to inform you that I have made enquiries amongst his comrades of, A Coy of his Battalion and regret that I cannot obtain any information as to his fate other than that given in the official list.

I spoke to our Padre about your letter, he could give no information, and was not very helpful.

Private Condeley was well known to me and his description was as follows - Height 5' 11" (about) well built in proportion, fair moustaches & hair, bushy eyebrows, high cheek bones, ruddy complexion, and pleasant face

5803

J. P. CONDELEY

M 20.3.17

21 Batt AIF

W J Ball
4

Yours truly

W J Ball

11th. June, 1917.

5794 Pte. W. J. Ball,
21st. Battalion, A.I.F.,
B. E. F.

Dear Pte. Ball,

Very many thanks for your letter of May 3rd.
in answer to our enquiry concerning :-

5803 J.F. CONDELEY, 21st. Battn., A.I.F.

The information you have sent will be of much assistance.

With best wishes,

Yours faithfully,

Secretary.

K.D

Sh

Australia Draft.

In^{re} In. P. Ritchie

Iniran Downs (Loose Bag)

Via Kerang

Victoria

re P. G. J. P. Bondely.

31.8.17.

Australia Draft

Mr. J. Ritchie

Muran Down (Loose Bag)

Alia Keraung

Victoria

re. 5803 Pte J. P. Bondely.

21 Batt. A.D.F.

1.9.17.

ack:

Moran Downs Loose Bag
Via Kerang
Via Australia
June 13. 14

To the Manager
Red Cross
Dear Sir

At about the end of March or early in April
my brother Privet J. P. Condely No 5803.
16 Reinforcement, 21st Batt. 6th Brigade, on Active
service abroad, was reported missing in France.
He seen the names of several of his mates
that was also ^{reported} missing among prisoners in
Germany and trust that he may yet be
found. I wrote to the Y. M. C. A. London
some time ago. I read in the Argus today
for relatives to address letters to Red Cross.
I have written a note to my brother. Enclosed
so that if he should be traced by any of your good
folks you may be able to get it to him. Of course
we trust he may be living. I could not thank you
enough if you could help to trace him.

Thanking you in Anty
I am yours Truly
M. J. Fitchie

My brother is found by the Red Cross kindly they let him know
his wife. Child are well.

De:

William D. Brown
Via Hong Kong
Via Shanghai

June 13. 14

To the Managers

Red Cross

Dear Sirs

Should the end of March or early in April
my brother (David J. Brown) No 5803.
18 Regiment, 21st Batt. 6th Brigade, in the
service abroad, was reported missing. I have
seen the names of several of his mates
that was also ^{supposed} missing among prisoners in
then many and just that he may be
found. I wrote to the Y. M. C. at London
some time ago. I read in the Chicago Star
for references to address letters to Red Cross.
I have written a note to my brother. I enclosed
to that if he should be traced by any of your people
for the you may be able to get it to him. We know
the trust he may be living. I could not thank you
enough if you could help to trace him.

Thanking you in Anticipation
Yours truly
W. J. Brown

If my brother is found by the Red Cross kindly try to let him know
his wife & child are well

Condeley, J. P. 5803

21 Batts.

M 20-3-17.

8/11
4

No 31 Ward

Footing Milway Hos

C. Church Lane

London E. W.

26 July 7-17

Surgeon

H.W. 5914

21 Batts

M.A. 20-3-17.

8/11
Pl. 5

Dear Miss Dyne

I am writing these few lines to let you know that I received your letter & I am sorry I never answered it before but I could not talk to Pte Nicholas for long because he is shifted into the main building I went down to see him this morning & he said he never knew anything about Pte Condeley but he said Surgeon was his mate & he only knew he was missing & could not give any information about him. I asked another boy out of the 21st Battalion did he know anything about the boys but he said no.

Miss Dyne, Pte Nicholas wishes to be remembered kindly to you

2

Mother,

We had a river picnic yesterday we left Westminster Bridge & we went up as far as New & we had our tea on the boat so you see we are treated well.

Well, miss Syme I must bring this short note to a close hoping it will find both you & your mother well.

Yours sincerely

Pte Newton

Remember me kindly to your mother