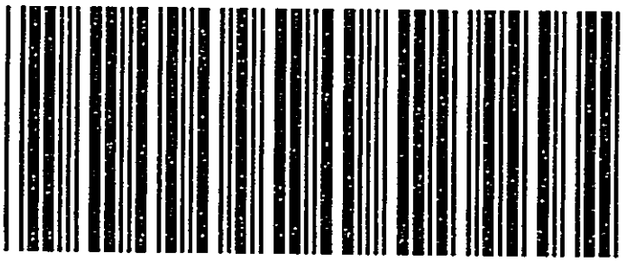
Australian Red Cross Society Wounded and Missing
Enquiry Bureau files, 1914-18 War
1DRL/0428

2883 Lance Corporal John Cadell Dight

53rd Battalion



0920601I

A.I.F. 53rd Btn

DIGHT
WRIGHT
John Cadell 2883
not 28683
dat 1288

"W. in Action"

No report
Cert. by A.I.F.Hqrs 28-11-17

No trace Wright 53rd Btn - No trace 28683 - No trace either name or No. in 53rd Bty

John Cadell Dight 2883 53rd btn, Killed in action 24-9-17
Cert. by A.I.F.Hqrs 3-12-17

3

London
4-12-17

Havre. 1st January 1918.

53rd A.I.F. Dight J.C. No. 2883.

A. 24th September 1917. Bat D/B.

I knew Dight for seven months. He was tall, medium build, dark, about 30, and was a policeman in civil life.
On 24th September on the Ypres front we were in reserves We went into action in the early morning and went 150 yards beyond our objective - a butt 1020 yards from our line - Dight left the trench when we were to go to a shell hole quite near. I saw a shell drop right on him and there was nothing left of him.
It was his first time in the line.

Inf:- Pte G.A.J.Hill No.3234 B.Co.
53rd A.I.F. D.Co. XIV Bltn.
Australian Camp.
Boulles.

RM.

2883.

53rd Batt. A.I.F.

Dight.J.C. Pte.NO.883
6Plat.B.Coy.

Killed Sept 24th 1917. Det. D.B.

I saw him lying dead in No-Man's land close to Polygon Wood,He had been killed during the hop over. We gained the ground so probably he would be buried. Lieut Cornelus was lying dead close to him. I did not know much about him as he had just joined up the Batt,and it was his first time in the line.

Description. Height. 5-II- Complexion. Medium. Slight Built.

Witness. Pte. Miller.T. NO.855. B.Coy. 53rd Batt.

Taken at
NO.4,C.D.Hurdcott.
I-I-18.
S.W.

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

A. I. F. 53. DIGHT, J.C. 2883.

K. September 24th, 1917.

He was killed on the morning of September 25th at Polygon Wood by a shell which caught him in the body. Pte T.E.Davies, 4703, B.Coy, was with him at the time and gave me the information a short time ago. I myself was only about 20 yards from Dight when he was killed. I heardabout it immediately but did not actually see the body. Davies gave me the facts on his return to the Battn.

SA.

Reference:- A.C.Cockett. 2874. B.Coy.
Menty.

Identity cert. from Battn records.

Etaples
22.1.18.

Written Pte. Davies 9.2.18.

53rd Battn,
A.I.F.

DIGHT,
J.C. 2883

"Killed 24.9.17 D/B"

Was a corporal. He was killed instantly by shell on Sept. 24th, at Polygon Wood during the stunt. I did not see him hit, but was told by Pte. H. Page, 3251, D.Coy, 53rd Batt, France, who was with Dight at the time, and saw him knocked. He can give all details regarding D/B.

Informant:- C.V. McGinnity, 3197
53rd Battn,
Hurstfield

W.G.J.

London.
9.2.18. Written Page 8.2.18. S.

53rd Battn
AIF

Dight
J.C. 2883

"Killed Sep. 24th 1917"

Dight was a L/Cpl. VI Platn and killed on 2 5th Sep. in the early morning in support line at Polygon Wood. I was told about midday of this word was passed down the line. I can't say if buried. He was a great friend of mine and I took note of this casualty. There was a very heavy bombardment at the time and we suffered severe casualties.

Witness:-
L/Cpl. G. Bowen 2862
53rd Battn B.C y., V Pltn.
/L8 Hut.
Westham

WA Rand
London.
22.1.18

S

53rd Battn
AIF

DIGHT
J.C. 2883

"Killed 24.9.17"

I saw him along with 3 others killed outright by shell just before going up to the tapes in supports on night of 25th . Burial impossible at the time. I knew him well from the Hurdcott training Camp.

Witness:- L.C. Bugden 3352
53rd Battn

London.
22.1.18

S

Havre 13th February 1918.

53rd A.I.F. Dight J.C. No. 2883.

K. 24th Septr 1917. Det D/B.

He came from Lismore; he was Petty Sessions Clerk there. He was wounded in Polygon Wood and killed by a shell while being carried out on a stretcher. Pte G. Lang of the 53rd Battn B.Co. (now with the Battn) saw him killed and told me.

Inf:- Pte N. Sconlan No.2885 2978.
53rd A.I.F. B.Co. VIII Pltn.
Australian Camp.
Rouelles.

GLE.

53rd Battn.
A.I.F.

Dight.
J.C. 2883

Hamer.
T. 3167

"Killed 24.9.17"

I saw Hamer killed while digging out Dight between Hooge and Clapham Junction in the day time. We were moving forward at the time. Don't know anything further. I came over with Hamer.

Informant:- E.Kear 3179
53rd Battn.

L.P.J.

London.
18.2.18.

S.

53rd Battn.
A.I.F.

DIGHT,
J.C. 2883

"Killed in Action 24.9.17."

Re 2683, J.C.Dight, 53rd Battn A.I.F. He was killed by a shell and was buried by the same, and as far as I can say his grave will never be registered. He shares the same grave as many more that are hit with a big shell and are never seen after. L.C.Dight was Acting company Sgt. Major, this time last year in the 14th T.B. Hurdcott when I was there. This is the best I can do for you now as our Battn is at a place where I cannot get to see any of the boys that were with him when the shell came over.

Letter from:- Pte.Harris Page, 3251
53rd Battn Transport,
A.I.F. 8.3.18.

London.
21.3.18.

S.

53rd Battalion,
A.I.F.

DIGHT.
Actg. Sgt. J.C. No. 2883.

"Killed in Action 24.9.17."

Informant described Dight as about 5 ft 8 inches high, stout build, medium complexion, aged about 30. Was a Clerk of Petty Sessions or such like.

Informant states that Dight belonged to "D" Company. On 25.9.17 (not the 24th as officially reported) the Battalion was in Polygon Wood Ypres in supports. At about noon Dight was in a shellhole when a shell fell into the shellhole and killed Dight instantly. Informant was only about 20 yards away and saw the explosion. That night the Battalion moved up to the front line and Informant did not gather any news as to what was done regarding burial.

Informant added that Dight was killed the first time he was in the line.

Informant: Private L.C. Bugden, No. 3352.
"A" Company, 1st Platoon,
53rd Battalion.
Home address: Eaton Street, Willoughby.

S
P.1
6d

W.E.G.
29.4.18.
(o. 4 Australian General Hospital, RANDWICK.

Typing Copies

SYDNEY BUREAU.

5

53rd Battalion. DIGHT.T.C. Act/Sgt. No.2883.

"Killed 24/9/17."

I met Dight in France. He was a wellbuilt man, standing about 5'10", dark and clean shaved.

He was killed at Polygon Wood on the 24th September,1917. He was killed by a shell. I saw him after he was killed. I knew very little about him.

Informant - Private H.W.Dunlop, No.1645,
53rd Battalion.

Home Address - 94 Premier Street,
Marrickville.

P.B.W.
No.4 Australian General Hospital,
"K" Ward; Randwick,
15/8/18.

SYDNEY BUREAU.

53rd BATTALION.

J.C. DIGHT. Sergeant.
No. 2883.

"KILLED IN ACTION 24.9.17"

We were in action at Glenerose Wood, Ypres- all I can say is that I saw Capt: Johnston's report of Dight's death which described him as being hit in the left shoulder killing him instantly. I heard he was buried in Glenerose Wood:- Capt: Johnston, I heard has died of wounds in another action. Act: Sergeant Dight was in the same Battalion as myself, 53rd Battalion, A. Company.

Informant: Private South, 2986.
53rd Battalion A Company.

Private address:-
Roscoe Street,
BONDI.

G.S.A.
A.I.F. Furlough Bureau, SYDNEY.
1.4.19.

SYDNEY BUREAU.

S.P.1.

Recent W Sup

53rd Battalion, A.I.F.

DIGHT, J. C.
Act/Sergeant 2883.

"Killed, 24. 9. 17".

Informant described Dight as about 6 ft. high, heavy build, fair complexion, aged about 30. Left Australia together per "Ascanius" October 1916.

Informant states that they both belonged to B.Company. On 25.9.17 the Battalion was holding the line at Polygon Wood the day before the big stunt there. In the morning a barrage was coming over and about 6 or 7 a.m. Dight was killed outright by a shell while standing to. Informant never saw him hit, but saw him within ½ hour after he was killed as he was being buried at the rear of the trench.

Informant added that Dight was thought a lot of, and was a very straightforward man.

Informant:- Lance-Corporal W.F.Heaton, 2908,
53rd Battalion, B.Company.

Private Address:- "Edinboro",
Kingston Road, Camperdown.

T.E.G.
Victoria Barracks,
4. 4. 19.

S.P.I. SYDNEY BUREAU.

53rd BATTALION, A.I.F.

DIGHT - Act.Sgt. J.C.
No. 2283.

"Killed 24.9.17."

It was in July 1917 that I first met Dight at Lynde near Hazebrouck. I knew him fairly well. He was in the same Platoon with me. He was about 5 ft 7 inches in height and inclined to be dark. On the morning of September 25th 1917 we were in the reserve trenches near Glencorse Wood. I was about three yards from him when a shell burst and he was killed outright. Owing to heavy enemy shell fire we were compelled to retire and I never saw him again.

Informant: Corporal E.L. Dodd, No. 3142.
B. Company, 53rd Battalion.
Home address: C/- Mrs. C.C. Dodd,
Hunter Street, Hornsby.

W.C.W.
Victoria Barracks, Sydney.
10.4.19.

SYDNEY BUREAU.

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14 3/12

2883 J.C. DIGHT
53 To ath
K/A 24 9.17 (c)
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3

8.3.17

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY.

Headquarters:
36, GROSVENOR PLACE.
LONDON.
S.W. 1.

Telegraphic Address:
"QUESTMAN, LONDON."

Australian Red Cross
NO,4,Command Depot
Hurdcott.

June, 20th 1918. 191

ACK 22.6.18

Dear Miss Deakin.

Could you please forward to me any information you have received about NO,2883. Pte Dight. J,C. 53rd Btn. His name last appeared in our February lists. Capt Fairthorne, who is in this Depot is a personal friend, and is anxious to receive any information you have.

Yours Faithfully.

E. Wallace

Mr. S. Whitmee,
Australian Red Cross Representative,
No. 4 Command Depot,
Hurdcott,
Wilts.

24th June 1918

Dear Sir,

With reference to your enquiry concerning No. 3883 Pte. John C. Dight, 53rd Battalion, A.I.F., we beg to inform you that we have received a number of unofficial reports from his comrades. Every informant states that Pte. Dight was killed instantaneously by shellfire in the early morning of September 24th, just as the attack began at Polygon Wood. Unfortunately no one has been able to supply us with any evidence of burial, except No. 3251 Pte. Harris Page, of the same unit, who states that Pte. Dight was buried by shellfire, and that it was quite impossible to register his grave. All our informants emphasise the fact that the casualty occurred during an extremely heavy bombardment.

Hoping that these details will be of some assistance to Capt. Fairthorne .

Yours faithfully,

(Miss) Mrs Craven
Secretary.