

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

**2878 Private
George Wetzel Clarke**

53rd Battalion



0740810K

A. I. F. 52.

CLAUKE, G.W. 2878.

K. September 26th, 1917.

He was killed at Polygon Wood on September 26th. I know this because I saw his dead body on September 28th lying out on the ground we had passed over in the action. I took the paybook and disc from it and handed them into the Adjutant. The Pioneers buried the body subsequently. I have not seen the grave. He was a Sig. in C. Coy.

SA.

Reference:- L/Cpl. H. Hubbert. COY4. S/B. D. Coy.
Henty.

Identity cert. from Batta records.

D.
Staples
22.1.18.

53rd Battn.
A.I.F.

CLARKE
G.W. 2878

"Killed 26-9-17"

Clarke, Sig. C.Coy. was killed outright at Polygon Wood, by a shell. I was told by my chum, A.Lillindale 2933, but did not say anything as to his burial. Lillindale was killed, accidentally shot, at Wytschaete in Feb.last. I heard he, Lillindale, died from wounds in arm and chest at a C.C.S., and that he was buried but I do not know which C.C.S. or where he was buried.

Informant, Wallis W.J. 3227
53rd Battn. C.Coy.,
Hut 19,
WESTHAM.

W.A.Rand
London
23-5-18

S.

53rd BATTALION, A.I.F.
7th Reinforcements.

CLARKE G.W. Private
No. 2878.

KILLED. 26/9/17.

Informant described Clarke as about 5 ft. 6 inches high, medium build, aged about 20/25. Christian name "George."

Informant states that on 26/9/17, the Battalion was at Polygon Wood Ypres, holding the line. About 6-30 p.m. while Clarke was carrying ammunition, a shell came over and killed him outright, five or six others being hit by the same shell. Informant was only about 10 or 12 yards away and saw him fall. The body was taken away and buried quite close to where he fell. Informant had been speaking to Clarke earlier in the day.

According to Informant, Clarke was a fine fellow, well liked by his chums.

Informant:- Private T. Cusack,
No. 1634. 53rd Battalion, "D" Company,
Home address:-

Parramatta Road, Auburn.

W.E.G.
No. 4 Australian General Hospital, Sydney Bureau.
17.6.18. RANDWICK.

Sd
62-1
✓

FRANCE.

53rd BATT. A.I.F.

CLARKE. G.W. 2878.

K. Sept 26th. 1917. Det.

He was a brother-in-law of mine and was a signaller
in C. Coy. He was killed on the date stated in Polygon
Wood while in supports. He was blown to pieces.

WSI.

Ref ---Pte C. Erskine. 2800.
55th Batt.

J.E.A. by S

Le Treport. July 18th. 1918

53rd Batta. A. I. P.

CLANKE
G. W. 2878.

"Killed 26.9.17."

at Polygon Wood. Stunt he was a signaller and was killed by shell out in the open. I saw him dead out there just behind the ridge. I knew him by the letters some of the letters they took from his pockets.

Inf.:-

Signaller Trewren, 4846.

D. P. Dickson,
London,
1.8.18.
J. E. A.

W. 28.

HAREFIELD.

S.

53rd Bn. A.I.F.

CHAPMAN
G.W. 2878.

"Killed 26.9.17."

At Polygon Wood I saw him lying dead near the Cemetery he
was a signaller. I knew him well he enlisted with me were in
Dubbe and Bathurst Camp together but I dont know where buried.

Inf:-

Barrie 2627.

W. 9.

HAREFIELD.

D. P. Dickson,
London.
2.8.18.
H. G.

S.