

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

**413 Private
Thomas John Fletcher**

33rd Battalion



1071101B

33rd Battn
A.I.F. B Co

T. J.

Fletcher.
413

"Killed 8.6.17."

I saw Fletcher killed on 7th June at Messines. He was hit on the head by shrapnel and killed instantly. He was not buried when I left.

Witness:-

McManns 490

B. Coy. 33rd Battn
Ward 1 Harefield.

L. N. Lever.
London
1.9.17.

3

33rd Batt. A.I.F.

Fletcher, T. J. Pte. NO. 413.
B. Coy.

Killed June 8th 1917. Det. D.B.

I saw him killed in the hop over at Messines. He was killed instantly by a piece of shrapnel. He was hit in the head. I do not think he was buried, I saw him lying in No-Man's land six days after. I knew him well in the Batt. He was our Quarter Master. He came from N.S.W. He was an original Batt man.

Description. Age. 24. Height. 5-9. Complexion. Dark. Slim
Built.

Witness. Pte. Stibbard. V. NO. 1921. B. Coy. 33rd Batt.

Taken At
NO. 4. C.D. Codford.
8-9-17.
F.G.H.

S. Whitmee.
NO. 4 Command Depot.
Codford.

A. I. F. 33.

FLETCHER, T. J. 413.

K. June 8th, 1917.

I saw him lying dead on June 7th about 4 a.m. at Ploegsteert just over our consolidation line apparently killed by a shell. Know nothing as to burial except that he was not buried when our Batta was there and we were relieved by the 35th Batta on the 12th. I feel sure his grave will be at Ploegsteert.
FHE.

Reference:- Sgt. L.J. Clifton. 320.
L.G. School.

Etaples
16.10.17.

S

A. I. F. 23.

FLETCHER, T.J. 413.

K. June 8th, 1917.

Pte Bob Glover of C.X still up line told me he was with Fletcher about June 9th at Messines when he got killed in our front line by shrapnel right in chest. He was not killed instantly but sat up and looked about him and then fell over dead. Never heard more. He was in C.X and I know him because my brother came over in same reinforcement. Cannot give description.

Reference:- Pte D.H. Hall. 4301. C.IX.
No. 1 Can. Gen. Hp.

PIE.

Etaples
20.10.17.

Written Please S.
6.11.17.

33rd. A.I.F.

Fletcher, T.J. 413.

K. June 8/17. Det D/B.

" I knew Fletcher as he used to be my batman. I heard he was killed. Full information could be obtained from Lieut. Clarence, 33rd A.I.F., B.E.F."

Eyewitness:- Told by Lieut. Clarence, 33rd. A.I.F., B.E.F.

Description:-

Informant:- Lt. S.B. Esteman,
33rd. A.I.F.
3rd. London Hosp., W/worth.

9

31/10/17.
A.E.Long.

Lieut Clarence
20.11.17

8
Havre

12th Nov. 1917.

33rd AUSTRALIANS

FLETCHER, T.J. 413

K. 8.6.17. Det. D/B.

He was fair, thin, and came from Dinoga, Bingara. He was an original battalion man. I saw him killed on the right of Messines during the attack on the 7th June by a shell. He was hit in the back. He did not speak and died in a minute. He was killed just as we got to the objective. We held this ground but were relieved by the 35th battalion. They may have buried him.

Informant: Pte. W. Kirwin, 469
33rd Australians, B Co., 8th Bn.,
Australian Camp, Rouelles.

8
GIA S

33rd. A.I.F.

^T
Fletcher, Pte. R.J. 413.
B Co., VIII Plat.

K. June 8/17.

" Pte. Fletcher was killed at Ploegsteert Wood on June 8/17, in the attack on Messines, by shrapnel in the head, at 4 A.M."

Eyewitness:- Yes.

Buried where fell

Description:- Slight, dark, medium height, about 18 yrs old.

Informant:- Lieut. J.C. Dight,

33rd. A.I.F.

No. 3, London Genl. Hosp., W/worth.

Home address:- Aust. A.E.Q.

S

15/11/17.

E. Duvernet.

33rd. Battn. B.Co.
A.I.F.

FLETCHER
413, T.J.

Killed in Action 8.6.17.

About 413 Pte. T.J. Fletcher, B.Coy. 33rd. Battn. was killed by a shrapnell shell on our final objective on the 7/6/17. I was only a few yards away from him and he was killed instantly. I am uncertain as to the exact spot of his burial but think he would be buried in the field, but he may have been buried in St. Ives Cemetery. Pte. Fletcher was of medium height, slight, dark complexion. This is the best description I can give. I will make further enquiries, and if I can find out exactly where he was buried I will let you know.

Ref. letter from. Pte. J.E.Snape, 2133
France.

11.11.17.

London.
21.11.17.

S.

33rd Batt. A.I.F.

Fletcher. T.J. Pte. NO.413.
B.Coy.

Killed June 8th 1917. det. D.E.

I saw him killed by a shell. This happened in front of Ploegsteert Wood Messines. I could not say if he was buried, but think it is almost certain that he would. I knew him well in civilian life. He came from Bingra N.S.W. He was a labourer. He was an original batt-ma Man.

Description. Age. 21. weight. 5-8. Complexion. Fair. Slight build.

Witness. Pte. Morris A.H. NO. 505. B.Coy. 33rd Batt.

Taken at
NO.4.C.D.Hurdcott.
22-II-17.
F.G.H.

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

S

Revere

28th Nov. 1917.

32nd AUSTRALIANS

FITCHER, T.J. 413

R. 8.6.17. Det. D/B.

He came from Ringra. He was medium height, thin, aged 21 or 22. He was runner to Lt. Clarence of B Co. (now with battn.) and was killed by one of our own shells which fell short near the new line where they consolidated at Messines on June 7th. Mr. Clarence was close by and he knows all the details.

Informant: Corp. G.H. Betts, 374
33rd Australians, B Co., H.Q.,
Australian Camp, Rouelles.

See also report on Pte. J.H.
Mellieen under same date.

ULT

See letter from Lt. Clarence

33rd Batta
AIF

FLETCHER
T.J. 413

"Killed in Action 8.6.17."

Being in the trenches I am unable to obtain full particulars but I am nearly certain Fletcher's full name was Thomas John and I think he came from Dinoga Via Barraba N.S.W. He was killed in the Battle of Messines on 8.11.17.

He was my runner and was killed by a piece of shell just as we reached the final objective.

He was about 5½ Ft. thin build, weight about nine stone, dark complexion. When I was in the ranks he was in the same tent as I at Rutherford Camp, suffering from measles or influenza. When enlisting he went into camp with C.A. Walshe A.H. Morris and others. He was buried in a soldier's grave 200 right of a house called Long Ruin and a cross was erected by our pioneers. I cannot say for certain if his grave is registered but I believe it was.

Letter from:- Lieut. E.F. Clarence France 25.11.17.

London. 2.1.18.

33rd Battalion.

FLETCHER, T.J.
413 Pte

Killed in Action 8/6/17.

Fletcher was in B.Co. with me and on the 7th June we went over and reached our objective. Our barrage was then about 100 yards forward. Fletcher was very excited and running too far ahead was killed instantly in our own barrage. We had to go on but I am sure all the men then killed were buried. He was a splendid boy, quite the life of the Company. Always something comical to say and joking.

Informant: Haynes, A.H. 2332
33rd Battalion. B.Co.
No.4 Australian General Hospital,
RANDWICK. ✓

B.H.
7/1/18.

SYDNEY BUREAU.

33rd Battalion.

FLETCHER, T.J.
413 Pte

Killed 8/6/17.

Fletcher and I were in B.Co. On the 7th June, the morning, we took Messines, a piece of shrapnel shell struck him in the head and killed him instantly. The shell wounded four others. They were all within four yards of me.

Informant: McVane, R.J. 490
33rd Battn.
No.4 Australian General Hospital,
RANDVICK.

H.V.
9/1/18.

SYDNEY BUREAU.

33rd Bn.

FLETCHER, Fts. T.J., No. 413.

K/A. 8/6/17.

Fletcher went over with me in the attack at Messines, on 7/6/17. he was in the original battalion, and was a runner in "B" Co.; his initials were "T.J.". I think he came from Barraba he was only about 20 years old; he was fair, slight, medium height and clean-shaven. He was alongside me as my runner on 7/6/17. in the morning about 4.30 a.m., we got too close to our own barrage, and a shrapnel shell burst overhead, and a fragment struck Fletcher in the head and killed him instantly. I saw it happen, he was within 5 yards of me at the time, about 500 yards behind the German Front line, as we had captured it and their support line. He was buried on 11/6/17, where he fell, and I was present at the burial, and the usual cross was erected. Fletcher was a smart runner, and most reliable."

Informant - Lt., I.C. Light,
33rd Bn., "B" Co.,
No. 4 Australian General Hospital,
Randwick.

Home Address - Whiporie, via. Grafton.

H.S.C.
11/2/18.

SYDNEY BUREAU.

S. C. A. 20/1

A Careful reliable witness.

33rd Battn.
A.I.F. 867

FLETCHER.
T.J. 413.

"KILLED IN ACTION. 8.16.17"

I saw him killed at Pleo^{er} Street Wood, he was caught through the head, during our advance, by a shrapnel bullet, death being instantaneous. I knew him very well; he came from Dunorqra, near Bingra, N.S.W. We held the ground, but I do not know place of burial; and I cannot refer to anyone for particulars.,

Informant;- Eckford, Pte. R.M. 1822.
33rd Battn. B. Coy. 8th Ptn.
3. A.A.H. Hospital.
Dartford.,

W. Man

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

London.
4.3.18.

S.

PL. BOB GLOVER

P. Wey

33 G. I. F.

B. 9. 4.

about

T. J. FLETCHER

33 G. I. F.

Killed 8. 6. 14

Qu.
6. 11. 17.

27. 10. 17.

Australian Draft to
Miss Daisy Fletcher.

Barracks Creek.

Dinoga.

Barraba.

New South Wales.

Regarding:-

413. Pte T. J. Fletcher.

33rd Batt.

O.K. i.a. 8.6.17.

as a tailor. I did not see him killed and I do not know how he was killed, but I helped to carry him down to be buried by the 48 th Aust. PARS. They put up a cross with him etc.. There were about 20 buried in a little cemetery near Elers Village.

His age was about 40, height 5ft 9 in, dark. He was a tailor in private life.

Any Nickname? _____ Christian Name? Tom
Any Tattoo Marks? _____ Scars? _____
When last seen, and where? _____ Date 26.11.18.
Was it light or dark at the time? _____
If killed, was body buried, and where? See above
Engagement or Circumstance? I think shell explosion Place? Somme front
Was the ground held or not? _____
Were you an eye-witness? _____
If not, who told you, and when? _____
Give man's No. and Rank, if possible _____
Any other man of same name in Battln.? No
Searcher's opinion of Informant? Reliable
Searcher's Name C. Staedman
Dated 20.10.17.

RECEIVED
CARLTON HOUSE TERRACE



GC

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY

(WOUNDED AND MISSING INQUIRY BUREAU).

54, VICTORIA STREET,

LONDON, S.W. 1.

6.11.17.

Plt Bob Glover

C. Coy

33 A.I.F.

B.S.F.

Dear Sir,

We are making enquiries for a man of your Unit

413 T. J. Fletcher 33 A.I.F. reported

Killed in action 8.6.17

and have been told that you

may be able to help us by supplying some information.

We should be most grateful for any details you can send us concerning T. J. Fletcher but our enquirers wish especially to know whether he was buried, if so, whether it was on the field or in a soldier's cemetery, where the grave would be registered. We should also be glad if you could add a short description of his personal appearance or any points that might help to prove his identity.

Yours faithfully,

Vera Deakin.

SECRETARY.

22-10-17

16 Brigade Hdqrs.
Forward Camp.
Salisbury.

To

The Australian Red Cross.

No 4 Comm Depot

Godford.

Sir.

would you kindly furnish:-

Miss. Daisy Fletcher, with the following information;
as to where her Brother was buried, & what was
the cause of his death.

He was killed in action
8th June 1917 as far as I know & I having received
a letter from his sister, asking me to make
inquiries, I therefore decided to place it within
the hands of our Red Cross, who, I feel certain
will do their endeavors, to comply with her request.

Trusting that immediate steps will be taken
regarding same.

I remain

Yours Truly

Ph. L. C. Beal

2456

P.L.C.

Brothers, Thorne, 760, 7 unit

✓ Pte. Thomas John Fletcher

411 or 413 Reg No

B. Coy. 33rd Ln

F.I.F.

Sisters Address: - Miss Daisy Fletcher.

Barracks Creek.

Kinoga.

Barraba.

76 S. Wales



AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY.

Headquarters:

54, VICTORIA STREET,
LONDON.

S.W. 1.

Telegraphic Address:

"QUESTMAN, LONDON."

October 25th., '17. 191

No 4 Command Depot,
CONFORD,

Miss Deakin,
A.R.C.
Victoria St.,
LONDON

Dear Miss Deakin,

We are enclosing a letter asking us to place a
name on our Enquiry & Missing List. Will you kindly give
the matter your attention, and acknowledge the letter direct.

Under separate cover we are forwarding a number
of statements.

Thanking you,

Yours faithfully,

S. Whitmore
for G.C.M.

LIEUT. CLARENCE

33 A. I. F.

B. G. 7.

about.

T. J. FLETCHER

33 A. I. F.

R 8.6.17.

rw.
20.11.17

Act
by P.C.
F.M. 17/11/17

"France"

11/18/17

413 T. J. FLETCHER

B Co.
33 BATTAL
S

KA. 8.6.17

Dear Mr. [unclear],

The soldier you are enquiring

(// about 413. Pte T. J. Fletcher B Co. 33 Bn.
was killed by a shrapnell shell on our
final objective on the 7/6/17. I was only
a few yards away from him and he was
killed instantly. I am uncertain as to
the exact spot of his burial but think
he would be buried in the field, but
he may have been buried in Graves
cemetery. Pte Fletcher was of medium
height, slight, dark complexion. This is
the best description I can give. I will make
further inquiries, and if I can find out
exactly where he was buried I will let you
know. Trusting this will help you.

No 2133

Pte J. E. Snape
etc.

Yours faithfully
J. E. Snape

413 T. J. FLETCHER

33BTS

KA 8.6.17

25/11/17

Secretary

Aust. Red Cross Society
London

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3

re 413 Mr. T. J. Fletcher

Being in the trenches I am unable to obtain full particulars but I am nearly certain Fletcher's full name was Thomas John & I think he came from Parramatta. Dinoga via Parramatta NSW. He was killed in the battle of MESSING on 3/11/17.

He was my runner & was killed by a piece of shell just as we reached the final objective.

He was about 5'6" tall, thin build, weight about nine stone, dark complexion.

When I was in the ranks he was in the same tent as I at Rutherford Camp suffering from measles or influenza. When collecting he went into camp with C.A. Walsh, A.H. Morris & others.

He was buried in a soldier's grave.

200' right of a house called Long Run.

A cross was erected by our pioneers.

I cannot say for certain if his grave is registered but I believe it was.

Yours faithfully
L. J. Fletcher

GC

December 12th, 1917.

Lieut. E. F. Clarence,
35th Australian Infantry Battalion,
A.I.F., B.E.F.

Dear Sir,

We have to thank you very much for your letter
in answer to our enquiry concerning

~~413 T. J. FLETCHER~~
33rd Battalion,
A.I.F.

The information you have sent will be of assistance
to us and of value to our enquirers.

Yours faithfully,

SECRETARY.

V.P.
J.H.