

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

**769 Sergeant  
James William Kelly**

**5th Machine Gun Company**



14903070

Sgt. J. W. Kelly 769

S. M. G. C.

see under

Pte E. G. Dornbush 512

S. M. G. C.

21.3.17

5th.Bgde.Mac.Gun Coy  
A.I.F.

KELLY. 769(H Q)  
Sgt.J.W. 796.

"Wounded 14.11.16. afterwards rept.D/W.25.11.16.

Died of Wounds 26.11.16.

Cert; by A.I.F.Headquarters.13.2.17.

London  
20.2.17.

P.I

A.I.F.  
5th. Mac. Gun Co.

KELLY.  
Sgt. J.W. 769

Died of Wounds 26.11.16.

Left Australia on May 12.1915 with the M.G. Sec. 17th. Battalion of which I was also a member. Sgt. Kelly came from same Green Hill End way in N.S.W. He was a tool-sharpener on a mine up there.

He was wounded on 13.11.17. and taken to Field Hospital at Heilly sur Ancre, where he died of wounds on the 26.11.17. He was buried in the soldiers' cemetery at Heilly. His mates intend erecting a large cross over him at an early date. Jim Kelly was very popular, a splendid soldier, and his cheerful disposition was invaluable under adverse circumstances. About 5ft. 7 or 8. Dark hair, blue eyes, medium build, and had a brother in the 1st. Aus. div. who was wounded on Gallipoli.

Cert. by letter from Lt. H.J. Cox.  
5th. A.M.G. Coy.

P. I.

London.  
20.4.17.

A. I. F.

Kelly, Sgt John Wm. 769,  
5th Coy, Machine Gun Coy

(D/W Nov. 26/16. Det: D & B)

"Sergt Kelly was my Sergt and I was with him when he was wounded on the night of Nov. 21st/16 at Elers. He was carried on a stretcher to a Hospital at Heilley. He died a few days later, and word was sent to Capt. Wright that he had been buried."

ye-witness: No, ~~tel~~ news sent to Capt. Wright

Description: Fair, medium height, about 28 years of age

Informant: Cpl Charles McZell, 1984,  
Machine Gun Coy, 5 Coy,  
1st London General Hospital  
Camberwell

Home address:  
Carrington Avenue,  
Dubbo,  
N.S.W. Australia.

13th April 1917.  
H. Caldwell.

*Ediff* *Bd.*  
*P.I.*

Aus. Machine Gun Coy.

Kelly J.W. Sgt. 769  
5th Coy.

(D.W. Nov. 26th, 1916) Det. D/B.

"On 24th Nov. near Heilley, Kelly was wounded in the arm and head during a charge made by the 5th Brigade. He was taken from there to the casualty clearing station at Heilley where he died and was buried in the clearing station burial ground."

Eye witness Yes.

Description.

Informant. H.G. James 3859.  
5th Australian Machine Gun Coy.  
1st London General hospital Camberwell.

Home address; Parramatta Street,  
Granville.  
N.S.W.

A. Reynolds.  
26.3.17.

A.I.F. 5th. M.G.Co.

KELLY  
Sgt. J.W. 769.

DIED OF WOUNDS 26.11.16.

He died at the clearing Station Hospital at Healy (?) I saw his grave on the 27.12.16. in the cemetery adjoining the hospital.

Ref. Inf. E.W. Roberts, 311.  
5th. M.G.Co.  
Dartford. 23.3.17.

L.P.J.  
LONDON.  
29.3.17.

P.I.

M.G.Co.,  
5th ~~Say~~.  
A.I.F.

J.W. Kelly Sgt.	769
E.G. Dornbush	512
E.R. Leaver	3962

"D/W. 26.11.16"  
"Killed 14.11.16"  
"Killed 14.11.16"

Refer to Lieut. H Cox of 5th M.G.Co. who I think can give full particulars especially regarding Kelly.

Reference:- 2343 C. Cornford,  
5th M.G.Co.  
8.3.17.

Note: Written Lt. H Cox 20.3.17.

London  
21.3.17.  
L.F.J.

P.I.  
S. H.  
S.

5th M.G.Co  
A.I.F.,

KELLY  
Sgt. J.W. 769

"D/W Nov. 26th/16"

He enlisted in Sydney. was a mining engineer. I knew him well - was an original man in 17th Batt. Was hit in the leg by shell at Flers. Had his leg amputated in hospital near Richmond. He died in the hospital and was buried there. His grave had a cross erected by the Sgts. of the 5th M.G.Co. I did not see him hit.

Reference:- 1036 Sgt. T. Wallace,  
5th M.G.Co.,  
Bartford,  
2.3.17.

London  
21.3.17.  
W.G.J.

P.I.

no 522 Cpl C Kelly

C Coy

4th Bn

A.I.F.

B.E.F.

copy  
5/4/17

Dear Sir

We are in receipt of a further  
medical report about no 769 Sgt J. W.

Kelly 5th Machine Gun Coy A.I.F.

from one of the men of his unit - no  
311 Pte J. W. Roberts. who was in  
the 3rd Australian Auxiliary Hospital

Barford.

He says that your brother died  
as a casualty clearing station at

Heilly, he saw his grave on 27-12-16  
in the cemetery adjoining the hospital.

We have been ~~advised~~ <sup>also</sup> his ad-  
mission to hospital when following  
up this case gives advice for in medical  
records giving further information  
will appear in your letter



1st. P. 7th. Pld. Co. Engrs.

GREGSON.  
Sgt. W.H. 2608.

MISSING AND FOUND 14.11.16.

Refer to Sapper H. Gray of this Unit who knows all about him. He is at present on sick leave from Dartford, (Ward A.10)

Ref. Inf. J. Drough, 2501.  
3rd. Pld. Co. Engrs.  
16.3.17.

Note. Written Sapper Gray. 26.3.17.

P.O.  
LONDON.  
19.3.17.

P.I.

S.

(1)

769 Sgt. J. M. Kelly. 5th A. M. G. Coy.

Left Australia on May 12-1915 with the  
16th G. Sect. 17th Div. which I was also a  
member. Sgt. Kelly came from Hill End  
way in N. S. W. He was a tool-sharpener on a  
mine up here.

He was wounded on 13-11-17, and taken  
to Field Hospital at Beilby where  
where he died of wounds on the 26-11-17

He was buried in the soldiers cemetery  
at Beilby. His mates intend erecting  
a large cross over him at an early date.  
Jim Kelly was very popular. A splendid  
soldier, and his cheerful disposition was  
invaluable under adverse circumstances.  
About 5ft 7in. Dark hair Blue eyes,  
medium build, and had a brother in  
the 1st Aus Div, who was wounded on Gallipoli.

769. Sgt J. M. KELLY  
5. A. M. G. Coy.

D.W. 26.11.16 -

P.I.

H. J. Lee Lt  
2nd A. M. G. Coy

1st. May.

7

522 Cpl. C. Kelly,  
Co. Coy.,  
45th. Australian Infantry Battalion,  
B. E. F.2

Dear Sir,

In reply to your enquiry concerning the fate of 769  
Sgt. J.W. Kelly, 5th. Brigade Machine Gun Co. we beg to state  
that a further unofficial report has come to hand. The  
informant 1984 Cpl. Charles McKell of same Unit describes Sgt.  
Kelly as medium height, fair, and about 28 yrs. of age. He  
also states:-

"Sgt. Kelly was my DSgt. and I was with him when he was  
wounded on the night of Nov. 31st. at Flora. He was  
carried on a stretcher to the Hosp. at Heilley. He  
died a few days later and word was sent to Captain Wright  
that he was buried.

If we receive any further details of his death or burial  
we shall at once advise you.

Yours Faithfully,

Secretary.

25th April 1917.

No. 502. Cpl. J. Kelly,  
C. Coy.  
48th Bn. A.I.F.  
France.

Dear Sir,

We beg to forward two further unofficial reports  
concerning Sgt. J.W. Kelly.

Lt. H.J. Cox, 5th A.I.C. Coy. certifies by letter:-

" He was wounded on 13.11.17 and taken to Field  
Hospital at Heilly sur Amoro where he died of  
wounds on 26.4.17. He was buried in the  
soldiers cemetery at Heilly. His mates intend  
erecting a large cross over him at an early  
date."

Jim Kelly was very popular, a splendid soldier  
and his cheerful disposition invaluable under  
adverse circumstances."

The second report is from Cpl. Charles McRell 1984. H.G.Co.,  
5th Coy. 1st London General Hospital, Camberwell. He writes:-

" Sgt. Kelly was my Sergt. I was with him when he  
was wounded on the night of Nov. 21st. at Fiers.  
He was carried on a stretcher to a hospital at  
Heilly. He died a few days later and word was  
sent to Capt. Wright that he had been buried."

Should any further reports come to hand we shall let you have  
them without delay.

Yours faithfully

*Blair*

18th April 1917.

No. 522 Cpl. C. Kelly,  
45th Australian Inf. Bn.  
B. E. F.

Dear Sir,

A further unofficial report <sup>given</sup> ~~confirming~~ those already  
sent you has been received about your brother No. 769. Sgt. J.W.  
Kelly, 5th Machine Gun Co., A.I.F. and we hasten to send it to you.

No. 5859. Pte. H.G. James of the same unit, ~~Camden~~ who was in  
the 1st London General Hospital, Camberwell, says that on Nov.  
24th. near Heilly he saw your brother wounded in the arm and head  
during a charge made by the 6th Brigade. He was taken from  
there to the casualty clearing station close by, where he died and  
was buried in the cemetery adjoining the hospital.

Assuring you of our sincere sympathy.

Yours faithfully,

V.D.

Secretary.  
LAW.

*April.*  
11th. March, 1917.

Lieutenant H.J. Cox,  
5th. Australian Machine Gun Co.,  
B. E. F.

Dear Sir,

We have to thank you very much for your letter  
of April 2nd. in answer to our enquiries for

769 Sgt. J.W. KELLY, 5th. Aus. Machine Gun Co.  
512 Pte. E.G. DORNBUSH, "  
3962 Pte. E.R. LEAVER, "

and for the trouble you have taken in endeavouring to  
ascertain the map location of the graves of Ptes.  
Dornbush and Leaver.

The information you have sent will be of great  
assistance :- and in the case of Sgt. Kelly, the re-  
latives will be comforted to learn that he was buried  
in a registered Cemetery, and his friends in the Unit  
are erecting a Cross over his grave. They will also  
greatly value your words of appreciation of his quali-  
ties.

Yours faithfully,

Secretary.

*VD Lhu*

27th March 1917.

No. 522. Cpl. C. Kelly,  
45th Australian Inf. Battalion.  
B. E. F.

Dear Sir,

Referring to your inquiry for your brother No. 769. Sgt.  
J. W. Kelly, 5th Machine Gun Coy. A.I.F. who is reported officially  
to have died of wounds on 26.11.16. we beg to advise you of an  
unofficial report from No. 1086. Sgt. T. Wallace of the same unit  
who was in No. 5. Australian Auxiliary Hospital, Dartford, when he  
gave the evidence on March 2nd.

According to informant, Sgt. Kelly (who had been armament  
(Engineer) enlisted in Sydney in the 17th Battalion A.I.F. He was  
wounded in the leg by a shell at Flanders and was moved to a hospital  
near Richmond where his leg was amputated and where he died and was  
buried. The Sergeants of the 5th Machine Gun Coy. erected a cross  
over the grave.

We regret that we have not as yet traced his admission to  
hospital but we are pursuing the inquiry in the hope of learning  
further details at an early date, which we shall immediately for-  
ward to you.

With sincere sympathy.

Yours faithfully.

U.D.  
Secretary.

27th Feby..

/7

522 Cpl C Kelly,  
45th Batt. A.I.F.,  
B. R. F.

Dear Sir,

With reference to your inquiry for No. 769 Sgt. J.W. Kelly, 5th Brigade Machine Gun Coy. A.I.F. We very much regret to inform you that he died of wounds on Nov. 26th 1916. We have no further information about him at present but we are continuing our inquiries in the hope of learning something of the circumstances of your brother's death, and we shall immediately advise you of any information that we receive.

May we offer you our sincere sympathy in your loss.

Yours faithfully,

Secretary.. P.M. J. L. A.W.