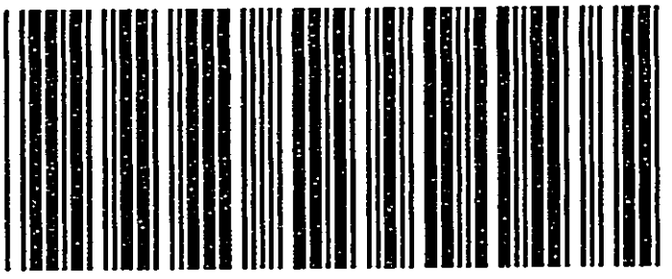
Australian Red Cross Society Wounded and Missing
Enquiry Bureau files, 1914-18 War
1DRL/0428

3530A Private
Alfred James Gaffney

51st Battalion



1130106C

A.I.F. 51.

GAFFNEY, A.J. 3530.
HEWTON, A. 3549.

M. September 3rd, 1916.

They were machine gunners and were killed at Mouquet Farm on September 3rd by a shell which blew up the whole crew. Only the Cpl. escaped. He is still with the battn. as Cpl. of the machine gunners and belongs to XIII pl. D.Coy. His name is Cpl. B. Mellor. He gave me the facts himself. I knew Gaffney and Hewton well. They belonged to XIII pl. D.Coy., as I do, and came from Perth, West Australia.

8A.

References:- Pte.E. Worthington. 2853.D.Coy.
No. 4 A.D.B.D.

Staples.
12.4.17.

Cp. B. Mellor
Written 23.4.17

P.1
Uff M

A.I.F. 51st Btn D.Coy.

GAFFNEY
A.J. 3530

"M. 3-9-16"

Killed in Action 3-9-16 - previously reported Missing
Cert. by A.I.F.Headquarters 5-5-17.

O.H.M. &
P.I.

London
9-5-17

51st Batt. A.I.F.

GAFFNEY. Pte A.J. No.3530[illegible].
L.G.Sec. attchd to D Coy.
51st Batt.

K in A Sept.
~~Missing~~ 3/16.

"Gaffney was caught by a sniper's bullet when observing for the Lewis Gunners from our front line trenches, about 8 a.m. on the 3rd Sept. 1916, at Mouquet Farm. I don't know what happened to the bdd body. Gaffney was a mate of mine. He came over with the 6th rein. to the 28th Batt. He was hit in the head and died instantaneously. I understand he was a pearler in civil life, and came from the North West of West Aust." Nickname "Snowy"

Description. Age about 25, height 5'7", snowy hair, medium build.

Witness. Pte M. Doohan. No.2590, L.G.Sec. attchd to D Coy, 51st Batt.

27th April, 1917.
S.W.

Worgret Camp,
WAREHAM.

off. m

P.I.

A.I.F. -1st Battn.

GAFFNEY
A.J.3-30a

Killed in action 3.9.16

Memorial cross erected R.27d.3.3.Sht.-7d.S.E.
Cert. by A.I.F.Hdqrs List for Lieut. Speddings.

London
12.-.19

OFF.M.
P.I.

A.I.F. 61st Bttn.
D. Coy.

CAFFREY.
Alfred James. 3530.

Killed in Action. 3.9.18.

No trace Germany.
Cert by Capt. Mills. 10.10.19.

London.
22.10.19.

O/C H & P.I.

December 18th.

MRS. SMITH,
123, Pitt Street,
LIVERPOOL

Dear Madam,

Your enquiry re No. 3530 PTE.ALFRED CARTNEY. D.Coy 51st. Batt 15th. Brigade A.I.F. has been forwarded to us by the D.R.C.S., as we deal with all Australian enquiries. We are sorry to say that we have no news up to date, but as soon as we obtain any, it will be sent you and you may feel sure that every effort will be made to endeavour to ease your anxiety.

Yours faithfully,
for. Secretary,

May 22nd, 1917.

Mrs. Smith,
123, Pitt Street,
Liverpool S.

Dear Madam,

We have now received an unofficial report about your brother No.3530 Pte A.C.J.Gaffney, 51st Batn., A.I.F., informant being No. 2595 Pte L.Doohan of the same Unit, who on April 27th was in No. 4 Command Depot, Morgret Camp, Wareham.

He says that while observing for the Heavy Gunners from the front line trenches at Lagnicourt Sector, Pte Gaffney was hit by a sniper about 8 a.m. on Sept. 3rd, death being instantaneous. They were friends, and he says that your brother came over in reinforcements to the 20th Batn., and that in civil life he had been a pearler in the north west of Western Australia.

He was about 25 years of age, of medium build and fair colouring, in consequence of which he was nicknamed "Snowy" and 5 ft. 7" in height.

Further enquiries are being made, and we hope to learn ~~further~~ details which we shall immediately forward to you, as we ~~fully~~ realise your great anxiety for information.

Trusting that it will be some consolation to you to know that his death was swift and painless, and assuring you of our sincere sympathy -

Yours faithfully,

L.O
L.Aw

May 25th, 1917.

Miss Ellen Carney,
44, Brook Street,
Kirkdale, Liverpool.

Dear Madam,

No. 3580 Pte A.J.Gafney, 51st Batn.A.I.F.

With reference to your enquiry for the above soldier who was previously reported "Missing since 3-9-16", we regret to inform you that he is now reported at A.I.F. Head Quarters as Killed in Action on this date.

We are making enquiries for details of his death, which we shall forward to you immediately on receipt.

Regretting that we have to send you such sad news.

Yours faithfully,

Secretary.

5530 Pte Gaffney Alfred James
51st Battn

Father James Gaffney
Liverpool
Lancashire
England

Dec 8th 12B Pitt St.
Liverpool S.

RECEIVED
12 DEC. 1916
CARLTON HOUSE TERRACE.

Mrs British Red Cross Socy
London

Dear Sirs Will you kindly make enquiries of the undermentioned man
With thanks in anticipation.
Yours faithfully,
Mrs Smith (Sister)

Private Alfred J Gaffney
D Coy, 51. Battalion, 13th Brigade
Australian Imperial Forces
No 3530 France
Missing since Sep 3rd 16

Next of Kin
England.

CPL. B. MELLOR
13 PL. D. Coy
51. BATT
A. I. F
B. E. F

FOR GAFFNEY. A. J. 3530
51st BATT
A I. F
B. E. F

M. 3. 9. 16

24. 4. 17
H. G. B

Somme **FRONT.**

K.D.S.—V. 12934.

AS TO

Rank	Battalion and Regiment.	Co.	Platoon	Casualty.
Pr	49th A I F	D	13	W&M. 4/9/16

BY

Rank.	Battalion and Regiment.	Co.	Platoon	Home Address.
Pr	Do	D	16	Inverell New South Wales

INFORMANT

in first person).

Killed at Mouquet Farm

RECEIVED
18 [illegible]
CARLTON HOUSE TERRACE

THE FOLLOWING:

...e name, number, etc., ... man who told him.	Sketcher Bearer I Smith of same platoon can verify [illegible]
...nant says a man was killed, ...ath instantaneous, and was ...y buried, and if so where?	Cannot say
...re any other man of same ... in Co. or Battalion?	No —

Dark Tunnel

Signature of Searcher	Edgar Rice
Date of Report	15/4/17

Cpl. B. MELLOR.

51 BATT

A.I.F.

BEF

FOR.

GAFFNEY A.J. 3530

51. BATT

A.I.F

B.E.F

M. 3. 9. 16

23. 4. 17

M.G.B

HOSPITAL "Kelston" Regents Par

INFORMATIO

Fill in exactly as List.	SURNAME.	Christian Name.	Regtl.No.	Ranl
	Foy	J. F. F	809	Sgt

GIVEN

SURNAME	Christian Name.	Regtl.No.	Ranl
Fagan	J. M.	5480	Pte

STATEMENT OF

(to be taken in

NOTE. In all cases state fully what informant says he saw or heard and give DATE AND PLACE of occurrence.

F

~~Private Fagan states that~~ "Private Sh
who was in the bed next to him in ho
that he and Sgt Foy were being brought
a shell struck them - killing Foy, & badly
in a midnight Raid - which was rather a failure."

PLEASE ALSO ANSWER

1. Was Informant Eye-Witness? No

2. If not, g of the

3. Was the ground held or lost?

4. I form was deat the body

5. Did Informant know Christian Name, Initials or No. of man enquired about? "Jimmy"

6. Was there name in

7. Give Informant's description of man enquired about—any nickname, marks, scars, etc.

8. *Searcher's opinion of Informant's accuracy and intelligence* Intelligent.

Answered

RECEIVED 30-4-17

25 APR 1917

TON HOUSE TERRACE.

44 Brock Street
Kirkdale
Liverpool
23/4/17.

Dear Sir.

Hearing of your wonderful work in finding the missing, I would be very grateful if you could give me any particulars regarding, 3530a Private Alfred James Gaffney, D Company, 51st Battalion, 13 Australian Infantry, Brigade, Australian Imperial Forces, France. Who has been missing since September 3rd 1916. Hooping to hear from you if possible.

I remain

Yours gratefully

Ellen Graney.

1st. May. 7

Miss Ellen Graney,
44, Brock Street,
Kirk dale,
Liverpool.

Dear Madm,

We are in receipt of your letter of 23rd. inst. re 3530a Pte. Alfred James Gaffney, D.Co.51st.Bn.,A.IF. and beg to state that we are already making enquiries for this man on behalf of his sister Mrs. Smith, 123, Pitt Street,Liverpool. As soon as we obtain any news we shall at once advise Mrs. Smith and should be glad if it would be possible for you to obtain the news from her, as our work is now very heavy, and if this arrangement would suit you it would greatly assist us. However if you really prefer it, and will let us know, we will write direct to you.

Yours faithfully,

V.D per A.P.

Secretary

44 Brock Street
Kirkdale
Liverpool
7/5/17.

To. Miss Deakin
[redacted] Australian, Branch.
B. R. C. S.

Dear Madam.

In answer to your letter of the 1st. inst. I would be very grateful if you would Oblige me, by writing to the above address. if you should obtain news of my Fiancee. 3530 A. Private Alfred James Gaffney D Coy. 51st Battalion 13th Australian Inf: [redacted]gade. A. I. F. France. Has I do not know the Mrs Smith mentioned in your letter, although I have heard her mentioned as a stepsister.

Hoping I am not puting you to too much trouble.

I am,

Yours Gratefully,
Ellen Graney.

May 25th, 1917.

Mrs. Smith,
125, Pitt Street,
Liverpool South.

Dear Madam,

No. 3530, Pte A.J.Caffney, 51st Btn.A.I.F.

We very much regret to inform you that the above soldier who was previously reported "Missing since 3-9-16" is now officially reported Killed in Action on that date.

We are making every possible enquiry for details of his death, and will advise you immediately on receipt of such information as we fully realise your great anxiety.

Assuring you of our sincere sympathy in your sorrow.

Yours faithfully,

D.D
Secretary.
DS.

15.5.17

Miss Ellen Graney
44. Brook St
Kirkdale, Liverpool.

Dear Madam,

In reply to your inquiry for 3530 Pte. A.J. Caffney 51st Battn. A.I.F. who was officially reported "missing" we very much regret to state that he is now officially reported "killed in action 3.9.16".

We regret to have to forward such sad news and will at once advise you when we receive fuller particulars of his death.

With sincere sympathy in the loss of your friend

Yours faithfully

V.D per A.E.

Secretary.

Information obtained locally (if any) or from letters.	
Enquiry included in W.S.M. Cable	No. 142 of June 14 1918.
Enquiry included in Deferred Cable	No. of
Name and Address of Enquirer	Mrs. C. L. Green, Post Office Greenbushes
Relation of Enquirer to Enquiree.	Wife
State if Next-of-Kin.	Yes On cards Mrs. Mary Greig Secretary.

30-9-19

Final draft

Mr. Smith
123 Pitt St
Liverpool.

Re
35.30 A. J. ~~Gaffney~~ Gaffney

57 Balloon Court

The Australian Red Cross Society
(B.R.C.S.)

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

WOUNDED AND MISSING ENQUIRY BUREAU.

Enquiry No. 6684

Date April 29-1918

Regimental Details of Soldier enquired about. No 7479 Pte. A. D. Grant. 44th Battalion

Details of Casualty. Wounded

Information wanted. Present Location & Condition

15. 10. 19

Final Draft.

Mr James Gaffney
133A Cromwell Road
Kirkdale
Liverpool.

35530
Pte A. J. Gaffney
5th Bttn

ack. assay
write Ret Stone
8/11/17

From James Gaffney
133A Orwell Rd
Kirkdale Liverpool

Nov 4 - 1917.

To The Secy.
Wounded & Missing
Inquiry Bureau.
Australian Red Cross Socy
54 Victoria St London SW.

Dear Madam.

Re No 3530
Private Alfred James Gaffney
D Co. 51 Batt 13 Brigade
A. I. F. France

As Father of above. I beg to make some enquiries. As I write I have before me your kind letters to Mrs Smith dated May 22 & 25 last. These I take as sufficient indication of my boy's death. Is it in your province to state how his effects have been disposed of. If not may! you will be kind enough to advise me with whom I may take the matter up. Apologising for troubling you & thanking

you in advance for any further information
you may be able to impart

Yours respectfully

James Gaffney W.A.

Mrs. Smith.
123 Pitt Street.
LIVERPOOL.

Miss Ellen Graney.
44 Brock Street.
Kirkdale.
LIVERPOOL.

May 14th, 1919.

Dear Madam.

In further reference to your enquiry for 3530a Pte. A.J. GAFFNEY. 31st Battalion. A.I.F. who was killed on 3.9.16. We beg to inform you that a memorial cross has been erected over his grave, the official registration number of which is R. 27 & 3.3. sht. 37.d.[illegible].

Hoping this information may be of some assistance to you.

With sincere sympathy.

Yours faithfully,

vwp (Miss)

SECRETARY.