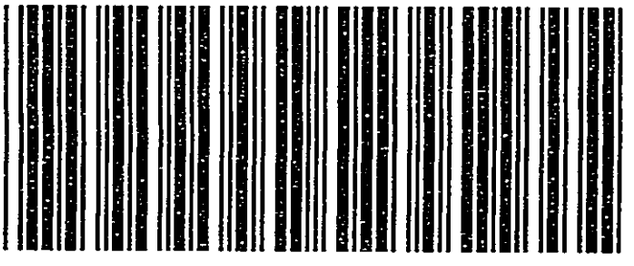
Australian Red Cross Society Wounded and Missing
Enquiry Bureau files, 1914-18 War
1DRL/0428

7247 Private
James Patrick Godfrey
Griffin

13th Battalion



1220410A

A.I.F. 13th Btn

GRIFFIN
John Patrick Godfrey 7247

"D/Wds 31-8-17"

D/Wounds 31-8-17 at 2nd A.C.C.Stn - G.S.W.Head both arms, chest and both legs
Cert. by A.I.F.Hqrs 24-10-17

Buried Mil. Cem. Trois Arbres. Cert. by Rouen letter 23.10.17.

S

London
25-10-17

FRANCE.

13th BATT. A.I.F. GRIFFEN. J.P.G. 7247.

D/W Aug 31st.1917. Det.

We were in A.Coy, 1 Platoon. He joined up in a N.S.W. Battalion, a short bandy-legged chap. He was killed while on fatigue carrying water pipes. He and another man Gregg had reached the place where they handed over their pipes and were just starting to return when a shell landed and burst near, killing both. their mates who gave me this information when they came back, said that they buried them where they were killed. WSI

Ref ---Pte J.O'Connell. 7296.
No 2 Can. Gen. Hospital

Le Treport. Dec 13th.1917

13th Battn
AIF

Griffin
J.P.
7247

"Died of wounds"

Was called "Bluey" 24th Reinf to 13th Battn C.Coy., 3rd Pltn.
I saw him knocked by shell he was badly knocked about the arms
and legs. One leg was taken off at C.C.S. at Messines. We were
sitting in a trench alongside the Lewis Gunner at Messines and
the shell fell right among us. He was hit on August 29th
I don't know where he was buried I was right next to him at the time

Witness:-
WJ. Klimpsch 7266
13th Battn
Harefield

W.G.J
London.
1.1.18.

S

A.I.F. 13th Btn C.Coy.

GRIFFEN
J.P.G. 7247

"D/Wounds 31-8-17"

I did not see the actual casualty, but I saw him being carried out on a stretcher to the dressing station at Zonnebeke, near the railway dug-out. He was caught by shell fragments which hit him about the legs and arm. He was fully conscious when I saw him and he told me he didñot expect to survive. I knew him verywell, he came away from Australia with me by the S.S."Wiltshire" Whibhleft there on the 7-2-17, I do not know place of burial, but refer to - Pte Sloane,A,Coy, 13th Btn, who is now in France, he was a great friend of his, he saw him wounded and can I feel sure give full details.

Witness: - Coffing Pte J.H. 7219
13th Battn, B.Coy,
3rd A.A.H.Dartford.

S.

W.Oman
London
25-2-18

A.I.F. 13th Btn

GRIFFEN
J.P.G. 7247

"Died of wounds 31-8-17"

I came over with him and was very friendly. We were both in Pltn. 6 B.Coy. I saw him hit very badly in both legs at noon in front line at Messines. I saw him taken away a few minutes later and I know he went through the C.C.S to some Hospital, where he remained for a considerable time before he died. Our mate Pte Patrick Devitt then C.Coy, now with the A.S.C. can confirm and perhaps give more information. Also Pte.Robert Sloan of 13th Btn, (24th Rifts) who got the letter from the hospital about him, or from him.

Witness: S.Leman 7268
13th Btn
then B.Coy,Plt. 6.(now A.C.)

London
L.P.J.
28-2-18.

S.

Note: Written Pte Devitt 27-2-18. & Pte Sloan

13th Battn. GRIFFIN,J.P.G., Pte. No.724?

D/W. 31/8/17.

We were holding the front line trenches at Warneton near Messines; Griffin, who was a short, nuggety fellow with red hair, had just joined the Battalion about 4 days before. He was sitting in the trench, about 8 in the morning, when a shell fell in the trench, about 3 yards from him, and badly wounded Griffin and myself. We were taken out together, and went to the same Casualty Clearing Station, where he died a few days later. I do not know where he is buried.

Informant - J.W.Degenhardt, No.2762,
13th Battalion.

Private Address - Barmedman,
N. S. W.

J.V.H.
No.4 Australian General Hospital,
Randwick.

20/3/18.

SYDNEY BUREAU.

13th Battn.
A.I.F.

GRIFFIN
John Patrick Godfrey 7247

"Died of Wounds 31-8-17"

Re 7247 Pte.J.P.G. German; 13th Battn., died of wounds 31-8-17 I am sorry to say I cannot supply you with the information required. We came out of the line on 29-8-17, therefore the person who you are enquiring for, probably died in hospital. His number points to him belonging to my Reinf., yet his name is strange to me. Probably an error somewhere. I will make enquiries at the Battn. and forward you any information that will be of assistance to you.

Letter from:- Devitt Pte.P. 7232
13th Battn.,
9-8-18

London
28-8-18

S.

13th Battalion, A.I.F. GRIFFIN, J.P.G.
P'te. No. 7247.

"Died of Wounds, 31/8/17".

Informant described Griffin as about 5'5" high, nuggety build, red hair aged about 23/4. Left Australia with Informant per "Wiltshire" on 7/2/17.

Informant states that he is able to positively fix the day when Griffin was wounded as he was hit the same day. On 28/8/17 the Battalion was at Messines holding the line. After Informant was wounded he was taken to the Casualty Clearing Station and there saw Griffin who was in the opposite bed to him. They were both badly wounded. Informant spoke to Griffin. Informant was taken away to the No.2, Australian General Hospital at Boulogne, and saw no more of Griffin but heard that he died of his wounds.

Informant added that Griffin was a good quiet decent fellow and his mates liked him much.

Informant:- Private A. Bishop, No.7197,
A. Company, 2nd Platoon, 13th Battalion

Home Address:- P.O., Caringbah, N.S.W.

Present Address:- "G" Ward, Georges Heights, Military Hospital.

W.E.G.
18/4/18.
No.21, Australian Auxiliary Hospital,
George's Heights, Mosman.

SYDNEY BUREAU.

13th Battalion, A.I.F. — GRIFFIN J.P.G. Pte. No. 7247,

"Died of wounds 31/8/17"

I knew Griffin he left Australia with me as a 24th Reinforcement to the 13th Battalion, 7247 would be his number: he was short nuggetty, and ginger headed, so we called him "Bluey" He was wounded just in front of Warneton after the Messines stunt about 29/8/17 I saw him at the Casualty Clearing Station behind Messines. He died the next day. He would be buried near this Casualty Clearing Station. He was very low and only conscious at odd times, he was only a few beds away from me.

Informant: Pte. W. J. Klimpsch, No 7266,
13th Batt. A.I.F.
No 4 Australian General Hospital,
RANDWICK.

Home address:
Forbes Street,
TRUNDLE N.S.W.

18/6/18.

SYDNEY BUREAU.