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

2842 Private
William Gerard

33rd Battalion



1150804J

38rd Batn
A.I.F.

GERARD
2842 Wm.

"Wounded" news wanted"

Killed in Action 12.10.17. prev. reported wounded.

Cert. by A.I.F.HdQtrs 3/4.12.17.

P.I

London.
3.12.17.

33rd Batt. A.I.F.

Gerard. W. Pte. NO.2842.

D.Coy.

Killed Oct I2th I9I7. Det. D.B.

He was killed by a shell during the hop over at Paschendaele Ridge. I could not say if he was buried, I knew him in the coy, He came over with the 9th reinf of the batt. He came from N.S.W. Sydney.N.S.W. He was an engineer by trade.

Description. Age. 23. Height. 5-4. Complexion. Fair. Slight Built.

Witness. Pte. Fraser.R.J. NO.2789. D.Coy. 33rd batt.

Taken at
NO.4.C.D.Hurdcott.
I8-I-I8.
F.G.H.

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

p.1.

A.I.F. 33rd Btn.

GERARD
W. 2842
SELL
H.T. 6139
SMITH
E.A. 1251

"Killed Oct: 12-17"

"Smith was just in front of me and he & Gerard, Sell & Merliche were all killed by the one shell - I went on and when I came back afterwards, they were still lying there. There was not a great probability of their being buried - Smith, Sell and Merliche, were all Tamworth men, N.S.W., Gerard was Scotch and enlisted in Sydney.

Informant - H.L.Easton 2192
33rd Btn,
Warlest
15-2-18.

London
14-2-18

P. 1.

33rd Battn.
A.I.F.

Gerard.
W. 2842

"Killed 12.10.17"

He was killed with 5 others in the morning about 5 by a shell and he died instantly at Passchendaele atthe foot of the hill. I saw him a week later still lying there. I don't know if buried. Came from Scotland.5'8 or 9" and fair.

Informant:- J.H.Hallam 3157
33rd Battn.
War Chest.

W.Alison.

London.
18.3.18.

S.
P.I.

33rd Btn.
A.I.F.

SHEARD
William 2832

"Killed in Action 12.10.17"

Newtrace Germany
Cert. by Capt. Mills. 10.10.19.

London.
20.10.19.

H.M.P.I.

France
March 27th 1918.

The
Secretary
Australian Red Cross Society.

Dear Madam,

You will have to excuse me for being so forgetful in not acknowledging your very kind letters concerning my Brother No. 2842 Pte Guard 33rd Batt. A.I.F. who was killed at Passchendaele on the 12th Oct. It has been very kind of you I'm sure to go to so much trouble & I thank you very much for all you have done for my People & myself. My People heard from the Military about a month after his death but according to their last letter from Sydney they have heard nothing since then so I sent for your last letter that I got the other day. Please excuse this short note again thanking you very much

I Remain
Sgt. James Guard.

A.C. 30-11-17.

France.

November 25th 1917.

RECEIVED
NOV

To
The Lieut. A.
C. C. " " 4

Red Cross Information Bureau.

Dear Sir or Madam,

Could you please give me any particulars concerning my Brother No 2842 Pte Wm Gerard D. Coy 33rd Batt A.I. Forces France. My address is No 16201 Sapr. James Gerard 2nd Fld Coy Engrs A. I. Forces France. He was wounded about the 13th Oct. but have heard nothing of him since. Thanking you very much

And. Oblige.

Yours Truly.

Sapr. James Gerard.

16801 Sapper James Gerard,
2nd Fld Coy Engrs,
A.I.F., B.E.F.

February 28th, 1918.

Dear Sapper Gerard,

The following unofficial report bears undoubted evidence we regret to say of the death of your brother.

2843 Pte. W. GERARD, 33rd Battalion, A.I.F.

It refers as you will see to two other men as well. Our informant 2192 Pte. H.H.Easton, of the same unit certifies as follows :-

"Smith was just in front of me and he and Gerard, Sell & Herliche were all killed by the one shell - I went on and when I came back afterwards, they were still lying there. There was not a great probability of their being buried. Smith, Sell and Herliche, were all Tamworth men, N.S.W. Gerard was Scotch and enlisted in Sydney."

We are pursuing our enquiries and will at once advise you of any further particulars we may receive.

Assuring you of our very sincere sympathy.

Yours faithfully,

Miss McConnell

SECRETARY.

December 6th, 1917.

No 1620 Spr. J.Gerard,
2nd Field Coy Engineers,
A.I.F., B. E. F.

Dear Sir,

Re 2642 Wm. GERARD, 33rd Battalion, A.I.F.

We deeply regret to inform you that the above soldier who was previously reported "Wounded" is now reported "Killed in Action on 12.10.17"

We are making further inquiries in the hope of learning full details of his death and will immediately forward to you any information that we receive. Assuring you of our sincere sympathy in your loss.

Yours faithfully,

LAW.

SECRETARY.

30th January 1918.

Spr. J. Gerrard ~~1601~~ 16201
2 F.C. Eng.
Australian Imperial Force,
B.E.F. Abroad,

Dear Sir,

We have obtained an official report about your brother Pte. W. Gerard 2842-33 Batt. from Pte. R.J. Fraser ~~2788~~ 2789 33Batt. He said your brother was killed in the attack at Passchendaele Ridge by a shell, but he could not say whether he was buried. He said he came from Sydney, was 23, about 5ft.4" fair and slight.

We are continuing our enquiries and hope to get more details.

Assuring you of our sympathy.

Yours faithfully,

Secretary.

AR

21st March, 1918.

16201 Spr. James Gerard,
2nd Fld Coy Aust. Eng,
B. E. F.

Dear Sir,

We are sending you another unofficial report just received concerning your brother - 2842 Pte. WM. GERARD, 33rd Battn, A.I.F. - Our informant 3157 J.H. Hallam, 33rd Battn, when interviewed at the War Chest stated that your brother was killed with 5 others early one morning by the a shell near Passchendaele at the foot of the hill. He died instantly.

We hope it will be some comfort to you to know this and that he did not suffer. This enquiry is now closed but we shall continue to send you any further details which we may receive.

With a renewal of our sympathy.

Yours faithfully,

J. McC.

SECRETARY.