

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

**2626 Private
John Frost**

3rd Battalion



11202129

3rd Battalion. A.I.F.

C. G.

FROST, J.H.

2626

Pte

Killed in Action 10/10/16.

I knew Frost, his name was Jack, he was in a different Company to mine and had been in the Battalion long before I was. He was one of 50 in a raid at Ypres Canal - the Bluff - I was in the raid. He was the only man killed in that raid which took place in October 1916. Colonel Price and 2 or 3 of the raiders went out after our return to look for his body but without avail but some of the boys in the raid reported having seen him killed just outside the German wire. The Battalion subsequently received word from the Germans that he had been killed and I believe they also returned his disc. Colonel Price searched for about 2 hours but could not find him. I did not know Frost well but am quite sure it was he who was killed in this raid.

Informant: Purser, H. Bte 5725

3rd Battalion. A.I.F.

No. 4 Australian General Hospital, RANDWICK.

H.S.O.

16/10/17

cd SYDNEY BUREAU.

B.L.K. S.

3rd Battn.
C. Coy.
A. I. F.

Frost.
J. 2626.

"Missing 13.10.16."

I was a friend of J. Frost's. I saw Frost just before he went over the top on a raid, shook hands with him and wished him good luck, he says the whole raiding party returned with the exception of Frost. That later the Colonel and two men went back to search the ground, but could find no trace of his body. He was last seen actually in the German trench and they all think he is a Prisoner. Millet says it was reported that Frost was picked up by another Battalion, and sent to Hospital, but this was not confirmed.

Informant:- T. Millet. 3104.
3rd Battn. C. Coy.
Lewisham Hospital.

5.6.17.
Eleanor Howe Greene.

London.
2.7.17. Note Not sent on.

S.

A.I.F. 3.

M/Oct.13th.1916.

FROST, J. 2626.

He was killed at Ypres in a bombing raid on Oct.13th. He was first bomb-thrower. I was first bayonet man. We got over to the parapet, when a German bomb was thrown amongst us. A man called Pte Fraser, Bomb.Pl. 3rd.Bn. 2nd.Bayonet man, got about 30 wounds in his body, and L/Cpl.Mills, Bn. Bomber, 3rd.Bn. H.Q.O., of the team had his leg blown off. Frost was between Fraser and Mills. We hopped into the trench, carried the raid through, and came back. I saw Fraser and Mills at the D/S the same night. We held a little enquiry about Frost and came to the conclusion that he was blown to pieces. He must have been, since he was between the two men who were badly wounded, and neither of whom saw him again after the explosion. Frost belonged to the Battrn Bombers. I knew him well as a soldier. I think he came from Narandra, N.S.W. (or thereabouts), where his father is a horsebreaker.

Reference: L/Cpl. E.O.Weger, 2101, Bn. Bomber, 3rd. Bn.
No.1 A.D.B.D.

Etaples.

30.3.17.

SA.

3rd Battalion A.I.F.
C. Co., II Platoon.

FROST Pte. J. 2626.

Missing 13.10.16.

Informant knew Frost. He was about 26 or 27, tall, about 11 stone odd, and used to be called "Jack" and "Prostie". He came from Victoria and enlisted in New South Wales. He was with a raiding party at Ypres on about 13th October, 1916, and the whole party returned excepting Frost and informant heard it stated by one of the raiding party that he saw a bomb burst right against him. He was looked upon as the best man in the Battalion and was most popular. In informant's opinion, Frost was killed on the occasion referred to, but many of his mates consider he is a prisoner in Germany.

Informant:-- MITCHELL Pte. H. 3148
3rd Battalion A. Company
No. 4 Australian General Hospital, HANDEWICK.

V.R.
8/6/17

100 R. S
SYDNEY BUREAU.

3rd Bn., A.I.F.
1st "C" Co., 11th Platoon.

FROST, J.
2626. pte.

MISSING. 13/10/16.

Kia

S 6d-
Bel K

I knew Frost - he was one of my Bombers and his name was "Jack". He was tall, dark, well-built and young. On the night of 12/10/16 up at Ypres at the Bluff on the left of the Canal I was in charge of a Bombing Raid. Frost was my first thrower in the team. Just as Frost and I were entering the German trench, a bomb lobbed just in front of us, and I had to step over Frost, who fell just in front of me about two yards from the trench. I returned by exactly the same route in 12 minutes' time but Frost was not there as I returned. The Germans did not enter that trench whilst we were there. After I got back I found that Frost was the only one of my party who did not return. Colonel Price then went out with a patrol to look for Frost, and, although they searched No Man's Land for 2½ hours, they could find no trace of him. The bomb that wounded Frost also wounded me and three others - blinding me in the left eye. The Germans were shelling this part fairly heavily, and I feel sure that Frost must have been subsequently buried by a shell after being wounded, as the parapet as I returned was blown about. Frost got the full force of the bomb, and the man in front of me behind Frost lost an arm and a leg, so Frost, if not killed by the bomb, must have been very severely wounded. I explained to Colonel Price where to look for Frost, and from what he told me he actually got to the spot where I saw Frost

fall.

Informant:- BLUMER, Lieut.C.,
3rd Battalion,
Bombing Officer,
Late "C" Co.,
No.4 Australian General Hospital,
RANDWICK.

NOTE: A most careful reliable witness.

H.S.O.

24/7/17.

SYDNEY BUREAU.

A.I.F. 3rd Btn C.Coy.

J. FROST
2626

"MISSING"

Killed in Action on or about 10-10-16 - previously reported Missing
Cert. by A.I.F.Hqrs 11-7-17.

S

London
2-8-17

3rd A. I. F.,

Frost, Pte. J., 2626,

M. Oct. 13th 1916.

"At the Bluff not far from Dickebusch, Ypres, on Oct. 13th 1916 they went over in a raid at midnight and Frost failed to return. One of the party reported that he had tried to bring his body back but it was too heavy. This man had found him dead in the trench and had carried him as far as the barbed wire."

Eye Witness: told by Lieut. Bailey, 3rd Aus: D.Coy., and
Pte. J. Marshall, 3rd Aus: C.Coy. XI Pltn.
B.E.F., France.

Description: Height 5ft.10ins, age about 21-2. Rather thin;

Informant:-- Pte. W. Morrison, 4517,
3rd A. I. F.,
Edmonton Hosp:
Edward W. Ward.

*Ed
S. Belk*

14.7.17. Home address:-- Ann Street, Arncliffe, N.S.W. Australia.
Baillie,

3rd Battn.
C. Coy.
A. I. F.

Frost.
J. 2626.

"Missing 13.10.16."

This man was killed in a raid at Ypres at a point between the Bluff and Hill 60 on Oct. 13th, 1916. I saw him fall, hit I think by a stray bullet just as we were stepping over the parapet, men from B. and C. Companies were engaged in the raid. I saw him lying dead on the parapet. We had to leave him, as we were recalled. We It was not possible to bring him in for burial. He was 5'9 or 5'10, well built, medium complexion. From 25 to 30 years.

Witness:-

A. W. Baker 895.

D. Coy. 3rd Battn.

Perham Downs Camp.

A. R. McPhee.

London.

18.7.17.

S.

A.I.F. 3.

FROST, J. 2626.

K. October 13th, 1916.

I was told in February by Sgt. Coghlan J.B. that word had come that Frost was in an English hospital. He said Frost had been knocked senseless in the raid on October 13th and had passed through a 2nd. Brigade D/S and hence was marked missing in his own brigade. His initial is J. and his number about that given. He was a bomber.

Reference:- H.T. Gardiner. 5086. J.B.
No. 1 A.D.B.D.

Staples.
30.3.17.
FEP.

*Wrote Dpt. Coghlan.
5-4-17.*

3rd Batt.
A.I.F.,

J FROST

2626

"Missing Oct. 13/16"

Re this man. Pte G. Lester 518 3rd Batt. (who is detailed for the 6th Div. A.I.F.) has informed me. that he and Frost were of a Bombing party that made a raid on Oct. 13/16. on the enemy lines on the Bluff at Ypres. He, Frost was caught by a bomb from German lines and Lester states that he saw Frost fall dead on the Barbed wire in front of enemy trenches the fire was so heavy that we could not bring him back. Shells had fallen amongst the dead where he was lying ; his body was not found.

Reference:-

2572 J. Bassford,
Bombing platoon 3rd Batt. A.I.
Perham Downs Camp,
27.4.17

London
8.5.17.
A.R. McPhee

Note: Written Pte Lester 9.5.17.

S.

3rd Battn.
B.Coy. 6th Plt.
A. I. F.

Frost.
Pte. Jack 2626.

"Missing 13.10.16."

Now a Cpl. of Bombers. Was wounded in Oct. 1916 and rejoined unit.
I was on same post with Frost in front of Bapaume in March 1917.
We were there for several days and came back to Bazentin and then
to a camp near Montanban. I came away sick towards end of March
1917 and Frost was all right then.

Witness:-

Pte. J. R. Carlaw 3042.

3rd Battn.

B Coy. 6th Plt.

Southall.

P.C.

Note Not sent on

Note Written Cpl. Frost 9.5.17.

S.

Write Cpl. Frost,
Bombing Section,
3rd Battn.

London.
18.5.17.

3rd Australian Imperial Force

Frost, Pte. J. 2626.

(M. Oct. 13, 1916).

/"Frost was killed in a raid at Ypres. He was caught by the German barbed wire. We saw his body lying there hit, but could not bring it away with us, and we could even see it from the parapet next morning."

Mye Witness - Yes.

Description

Informant :- Sgt. J.W. Millard, 3091,
3rd Aus. Imp. Force,

Home address :- War Hospital, Duston,
None in England, Northampton.
Ward D. Duston.

23. 5. 17.
G. MacKinnell.

8

3rd Australians

Frost Pte. J. 2626,
B. Company.

(M. Oct. 13/16)

"Frost was shot through the head at Hermes and died instantly the first week in April. Previous to this he had been away from the Company being seriously wounded at Pozieres and later returning to the Company".

Eye-witness: Yes

Description:

Informant: Pte. R. Price, 5162,
3rd Australians, A. Company,
1st London General Hospital,
Camberwell.

Home address:
40 Phelp St.,
Walworth.

June 2nd 1917,
A. Reynolds.

Not seen

S

3rd A.I.F.

Frost Pte. J. 2626,
C. Coy.

(M. Oct. 13/16)

At Armentieres on Oct. 13th 1916 Frost went out on a raiding party and was supposed to have been killed by shell. The Col. went out to search for him but without result the conditions did not lead one to believe he had been taken prisoner.

Eye-witness: Told by Col. Price, 3rd A.I.F., P.E.F. France.

Description: Height abt. 5ft 9ins. age about 20, clean-shaven dark hair.

Informant: Pte. F.E. Duck 2611,
3rd A.I.F., C. Coy., XI Plt.,
Edmonton Hospt., Edward E. Ward.

Home address:
Bridge St.,
Gladesville,
N.S. Wales.

June 13/17,
Baillie.

S

A. I. F. S.C.

FROST, J. 2626.

M. October 13th, 1918.

A Court of Enquiry was held, at which I was present, about June 18th. President, Major Carter. No decision came to. He went over on night of October 13th at Ypres with raiding party and the only evidence was that of a man of another party who saw a bomb drop near where Frost was and on return of party a body which could not be identified was seen on enemy parapet where bomb had dropped. Believed to be Frost, he being only one missing.

Reference:- Lieut.H.D.Robb.
H.Q. Intelligence Dept.
L. Gun School.

FHE.

Etaples
25.6.17.

3rd Bn.
E. Coy.

FROST
Jack 2626

Killed in Action 10.10.16

No Trace Germany

Ger. by Capt. Mills 10.10.19

NAME

UNIT

COMPANY

NUMBER OF MEN

London.
15.10.19

ADDITIONAL

CHARGE

Sgt. Coghlan
3rd Bkts. B.Co.
3rd Batt. A.T. 7
B. E. 7

for 2626 J. Frost
3rd Batt.
m. 13.10.16

10.4.17.
— 7.4

Cpl Frost / Bombing Section

3 Balts A.I.F.

B.E.F.

Sydney.

2626 / Rlt Jack Frost.

B. Co

3 Balts A.I.F.

M. 13. 10. 16.

9. 5. 17

-F.M

e. France.

ment Australian Imperial Force.

full } Harris, Lieut. W. No.....
me

te of Casualty as in list W. M. March 8/17.

Date.

St. William (?) Harris three days after
Armetz Wood. A party of was sent
take a machine gun position, Lt. Harris
ier & he was shot through the heart-
2 & Pte. Cooper who were with him were
the days later stretcher bearers went out-
erial & put up a cross. I was batman

address.

Was it light or dark at the time? moonlight.

wards held or lost?

Was informant eye witness? He saw the body.

If not, who told him, and when?

RECEIVED

30/17

CARLTON HOSPITAL

Informant's full Name and No. Pte. Walter James Street. 5663.

Regiment 18 Australian I. F. D.

Hospital 3RD SOUTHERN GENERAL, OXFORD. Base.

Home Address Gordon St. Marrickville. Sydney. N.S.W.

518 Rte G. LESTER

(3 Batts A.I.F.)

C Wareham Camp
Dorset.

for

2626 J. FROST

3 Batts A.I.F.

C M. 13. 10. 16.

15. 5. 17

Section France.

1. Australian 17.

2. Jones, W.E. No. 6482

3. Casualty as in list M. March 2/17.

1. Jones (3.B.V) in our platoon, who had
believed to be a prisoner of war. We were
age just after the evacuation started in March
night. Next morning the Germans
post, consisting of about 12 men,
way. Although the Germans were so far
men, we all reckon those 12 men are

address. Was it light or dark at the time?

Was informant eye witness? No, but he was not far off.
If not, who told him, and when? It is common knowledge in the Battalion.

Informant's full Name and No.	Pls. William Lyons. 1985.
Regiment	3 Australian. B. V.
Hospital	3rd SOUTHERN GENERAL, OXFORD. Cowley Section.
Home Address	"Hyarria" Gisborne St. Wellington. N.S.W.