

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

**3551 Private
John James Hart**

7th Battalion



12809130

QC

Lieut. H. J. Wright,
7. Australian Inf: Battalion
A. I. F. - B. E. F

14.11.17.

Dear Sir,

We wish to thank you for your letter in answer to our
enquiry concerning:-

3551. Sgt. J. J. Hart, 7th Battalion . A.I.F. -

The information and details you have supplied, will be of much
assistance to us, and of value to our enquirers; it will be a
great comfort to his people to learn that at least death was
instantaneous.

Again thanking you

Yours faithfully,

SECRETARY,

OS.



9C

2607. Cpl. J. D. Connell,
C. Coy,
2nd Training Battalion,
Sutton Veny Camp,
Wilts,

14.11.17

Dear Cpl Connell,

We wish to thank you for your letter in answer
to our enquiry concerning:-

3551. Sgt. J. J. Hart, 7th Battalion A.I.F.

The information and details you have supplied will be of much
assistance to us. We are sorry that we addressed you wrongly
in our first letter, but your name was given as McConnolly by
another informant who said you might be able to give details.
We are sure that the late Sgt. Hart's people will appreciate
a letter from you very much if you will write them. We are not
allowed under Army Regulations to supply the address of the next
of kin but if you will address as follows, the letter should safely
reach its destination.

To the Next of Kin,
3551. Sgt. J.J.Hart,
7th Aust Battalion A.I.F.
C/o. Australian Red Cross Society
Wounded & Missing Enq Dpt
Market Street
Melbourne - Australia

Yours faithfully, (To be forwarded)

SECRETARY

o.s.

authy
alt. 13-11-17

Sgt 3551 J. J. HART

7 Batt

16-12-16 M 3

11.11.17

(Cd)

Dear Mrs Deakin. Sutton Venny

I received your letter
yesterday inquiring about 3551 J. J. Hart
and I am only too pleased to give his friend
any details I know of him. Your letter was
addressed to Mc Connell but it was meant
for me I think as I was a friend of Hart's.
He told me his people lived in Maryborough.
He was killed in a bombing post by a
shell about 400 yards directly in front
of Guddicourt Wood. He was buried, but
not in a registered cemetery. He was
buried close to the line but the line
has been advanced since then. His
grave is on a ridge close to a Sunken
road. He used to call me Mc Connell.
He was short thickset and his hair
was inclined to be red. We were in the
same section for 10 months and I
would write to his people if I knew
their address. I will be only too pleased
to supply ~~anything~~ any other particulars
if you require them. I am

Yours sincerely 2607

Corporal J. J. Connell

C Coy. 2nd Training Battalion
Sutton Venny Camp //

3551 SGT J. HART
7 Bn
K/A 16-12-16
m
3 (ca)
Field
6/11/17

13-11-17
13-11-17

To Secretary
Wounded & Missing Enquiry Bureau
C.R.C. Society

Re your enquiry
3551 Sgt Hart of 7th BN AIF

Sgt Hart was killed instantaneously
by a small shell which passed through
his chest. He was buried in the field
at the point where Green Trench crossed
the Gaudicourt Rd between Fleris & Gaud-
court in the Somme on 16/12/16.

His grave was marked by a rough
cross by his comrades

No maps of that area are available other-
wise the Officer who buried him
(Lieut J C Anderson of this unit) could
give the exact map location

Trusting that this information will relieve
the anxiety of his enquirers

I am Yours faithfully H J Wright

A.I.F. 7th Bn.

HART, Sgt. J. J. 3551.

K. 16.12.16. Det. D & B.

Hart was on garrison duty on the Guesdescourt front on December 16th 1916, and on the night of that date, under the cover of darkness, he was digging a communication trench, when he was killed by a Bosch explosive shell. Sgt. Pennefather of D Co. could give further details and probably an account of his burial. Speaking for myself I think he was carried to the rear for burial.

Informant:

Sgt. L. Bonney, 3247. 7th Bn. O C.
No. 57 Gen. Hpl.
Boulogne. 28.9.17.

HH.

M

*Written Sgt. Pennefather
9-10-17*

7th A. I. F.

Hart, Sgt J.J. 3551,

^{Dec 16}
(K. Rev. ~~27~~/16. Det D & B)

"He was killed by a .77 shell in the sunken road at Gueudecourt and was buried where he fell."

Eye-witness: No, he was in my company and I was told by some of my men

Description:

Informant: Lt C.R. Anderson,
7th A. I. F.,
3rd London General Hospital,
Wandsworth, London, S.W.

Home address:
13, Browning St,
Seddon,
Victoria, Australia.

15th Oct. 1917.
W.R. Manning.

M

A.I.F. 7.

K. 16.12.16.

HART Sgt. J. J. 3551.

I have his name and number on my roll (produced) and knew him well. I am sure that Sig. McConnell of Q. Co. now up the line, a personal friend of Hart, can give information as to the casualty and if the BROS. will write to me on my return to the Bn. in a fortnight's time, I shall be happy to see McConnell and write them any details.

Reference: Lt. H. J. Wright. D. Co.
I. G. School.

PHE.

Staples.
13.10.17.

NOTE. I recommend that Mr. Wright be written to.

PHE.

*Written to Wright
29-10-17*

M

7th A.I.F.

Hart Sgt. J.J. 3551,
D. Coy.

(K. Dec. 16/16)

"Sgt. Hart was killed in Greece trench at Gueudecourt
He was holding it. We were up to our waists in mud and it was
impossible to bury anybody. He was never brought back.
He died instantly".

Eye-witness: No, told by his Pdt. Commander.

Description: Nickname "red" which describes his
colouring.

Informant: Capt. W.B. Campbell,
7th A.I.F.,
3rd London General Hospt.,
Wandsworth.

Home address:

Oct. 22/17,
W.A. Davis.

M

A.I.F. 7.D.

G.J.
HART. Sergt. 3551.

K. Dec. 16th 1916.

Sergt. Hart came over with me in the same reinforcement and we were in the 7th Battn together in Egypt. After that we went to different Battns. but I watched his career and with regard to his death the 7th Battn. were holding the line at Warlencourt where I believe he was killed, but Sergt Bohnay C. Coy. 7th Battn. would be able to give all particulars.

Inf: H. King. 3531. 59. A.I.F.
57, Gen. Hosp.
BOULOGNE. 29.12.17.

HH

M. led. suff.

7th Bata
A.I.F.

HART
Sgt. J.J. 5551

"Killed in Action 16.12.16."

Re 5551 J.J. Hart.

I am only too pleased to ^{give} his friends any details I know of him. Your letter was addressed to McConnell but it was meant for me, I think, as I was a friend of Harts. He told me his people lived in Maryborough. He was killed in a bombing post by a shell about 400 yards directly in front of Guedecourt Wood. He was buried but not in a registered cemetery. He was buried close to the line but the line has been advanced since then. His grave is on a ridge close to a ~~sunken~~ Road. He used to call ~~McConnell~~ McConnell. He was short thick set, and his hair was inclined to be red. We were in the same section for 10 months & I would write to his people if I knew their address. I will be only too pleased to supply any other particulars., if you require them.

Letter from:- Cpl. D. Connell. 2 Coy.
C. Coy., 2nd Training Bata
Sutton Veny Camp.
11.11.17.

London.
14.11.17.

M

7th Battn.
A.I.F.

HART.
5551 Sgt. J.J.

"KILLED IN ACTION" 16.12.16"

Re Sgt. 5551. Hart. J.J. 7th Battn. A.I.F. he was killed instantaneous by a small shell which passed through his chest. He was buried in the field at the point where Greece trench crossed the Gander court Road between Fleurs & Gaudecourt in the Somme. on 16/12/16., His grave was marked by a rough cross by his comrades., No map of that area are available otherwise the Officer who buried him Lieut G. Anderson of this Unit could give the exact map location.,

Letter from;- H. J. Wright., Lt.
In th field.
6.11.17.

Note;- We regret the delay in typing the above report, but we have been obliged to hold it up on account of pressure of work and shortage of machines.,

London.
4.3.18.

M.

7th Bn.
D. Coy.

HART
Sgt. John James 3551.

"Killed in Action 16.12.16"

Killed in Action 16.12.16.

No trace Germany

Sert. by Capt. Mills. 10.10.19.

London.
14.10.19.

M.A.R.I.