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

2882 Lance Corporal Robert William McCoughtry

45th Battalion



1900302F

45th. BATTALION A.I.F.
late 13th. Battalion.

McCOUGHTRY R. W. L. Cpl.
No. 2882.

Killed 5/4/18.

Informant described McCoughtry as about 5 feet 9 inches high, slight build, medium complexion, aged about 23 or 24. Came from Penshurst.

Informant states that they both belonged to D.Company and the same Platoon and section. On 5/4/18 the Battalion was in action at Dernancourt. About 3 p.m. they commenced to counter attack against the Germans and about 7 minutes afterwards, Mc Coughtry was killed outright by a bullet through the head. Informant and McCoughtry were next to each other at the hop-over and continued so until McCoughtry was hit and Informant saw him fall, but could not wait to investigate as he had to keep going. Informant was himself hit soon afterwards and never saw McCoughtry again, but felt sure that he was buried, as the Germans were driven back and the ground was held.

Informant added that McCoughtry was well liked by his other mates and Informant and McCoughtry knew each other in civil life.

Informant:- Private O. S. Hawkes, 5092,
4th. Machine Gun Battalion, late 45th.Btn.

Home address:- Jerula Road, Oberon N.S.W.

W.E.G.
Anzac Buffet.
13/6/19.

SYDNEY BUREAU.

Havre. 1st. July. 1918.

45th. Australians. McCoughtry. E. W. 2882.

K. April. 5/1918. Dets. D/B.

He was a Signaller in D. Coy; came from Erisville, South Coast Line of Sydney; single. He was killed in front of me by a bullet in the counter attack at Derincourt in the afternoon about 5. p.m. His body was lying about 50 yards behind our front line when I left later that night.

Inf:- L. T. Rothwell. 3607.
45th. Australians. D.
H. S 'Panama'.

RBS.

45th Battn. A.I.F. McCoughtry, R. W. 2882, Pte.

(K. Apr. 15/18.) Dets. D/B.

"McCoughtry was killed in a counter attack at Dernancourt. I was talking to him at the time. He was killed by a rifle bullet through the forehead and died instantly. My rifle bolt had jammed so I took his and kept on firing. I went away that night, and his body was still lying there then. I do not know where he is buried. It was only just 20 yds from our objective which we took".

Eyewitness: Yes.

Description:

Informant: Pte. C. T. Rothwell, 3607
45th Battn. A.I.F,
Ward 3, Duston War Hospital,
Northampton.

12.7.18. M.O.S.

Gertrude MacKinnell.

A.I.F. 45

McCOUGHTRY, R.W. 2882.
Bricknell, A.C. 2965.

K.April 5/18. Det. D/B.

I knew these men, they were both killed in the same action at Dernancourt about 5th April on the Albert line. I was well under 100 yards from them and the Germans were 100/200 yards to our front. They were both killed by M.G. or rifle fire and I saw them, and just lay without moving where they fell. We were relieved that night and I did not see where they were buried, but I have no doubt it was on the ground where they fell for at that time no one was being taken back for burial. Bricknell who was Cpl. when killed was a thin, small, dark haired chap, a signaller and employed in the Bn. post office for a time. McCoughty was a L/Cpl., about 5 ft.10, and fair haired, also a signaller. The two came from Sydney and we all left Australia in the same ship in Sept.1915.

Reference: Pte.C.C. Starling, 2902.
No.6 General, Rouen. 16.7.18.

HNT.

MWS.

S

45th Battn. late
15th "
A.I.F.

McCOUGHTRY
R.W. 2882

"Killed 5-4-18"

McCoughtry was a L/Cpl. 14th Pltn., and was killed at Pioneer Trench, between Albert Road and Dernancourt Railway, being shot through the heart. I saw him lying dead. He was there for about 3 hours before we could get out to bury. I cannot say where he was buried, but most likely close by the trench.

Informant. Beety. R. 2387
45th Battn. D.Coy.,
Hut 12,
WESTHAM.

W.A.Rand
London
8-8-18
N.W.

S.

Havre. 27th. September. 1918.

45th. Australians. McCoughtry, R. W. 2882,

K. April, 5/1918. Dets. D/B.

I saw him killed by a M.G. Bullet at Dernicourt; I was about 25 yards off. We held the ground but he was not carried back while I was there as we were relieved that night by the 46th. Battalion. He was a Signaller.

Inf:- Corporal. E. F. Salmon. 4475.
45th. Australians. D. 15.
Australian Conv. Camp.
Rouelles.

S.

CRB.

J. A.

CP