

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

2244 Private  
Richard Tate  
O'Connell

37th Battalion



2030702E

L/cpl. G. Penna 27 Blk. A.I.F. 3052

Present address. G.C.

D.T.A. Yeringa - H.O.L. 18.7.19

N/A Mr. John. Penna.

SEA Hammocks. S. Aust -

Sikunder 2244 Pte. R.T. O'Connell 37 Blk. A.I.F.

Letter Section

A.I.F.  
37th Battn.

O'CONNELL.  
Richard Tate. 2244

Killed in Action 12.10.17.  
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Buried in vicinity of Sheet 28 D 11. bet. Augustas Wood  
north to Rosebeck Creek and East to 100 yds of Harlem Copse  
Cert. by Hqs list for verifications of possible  
burials for Capt. Mills 4.7.19.

London.  
16.7.19.

M & P.I.

37th A.I.F.

O'Connell, R.T. 2244,  
B.Coy, VII. Plat.

K. 12/10/17. Det. D/B.

"I saw R.T. O'Connell sniped during the attack on  
Passchendaele on the 12th Oct. 17. Shot through the  
stomach I believe."

Eye-witness:- Yes.

Description:- Short, very fair, stoutish build.

Informant:- L/Cpl. F.V. Chignell, 6889,  
37th A.I.F.,  
B.Coy, VII. Plat.,  
Norfolk War Hospital,  
Norwich.

Home address:- 2, Fencart Street,  
Rozell,  
N.Sth. Wales.

14/8/18.  
Edgar Reid.

37th Battn.

O'CONNELL

R.T., 2244

Killed in Action October 12th. 1917

The above man was a Lewis Gunner and in going a little further on from where we were held up to obtain a better position for his gun was shot through the head.

I went out of the line shortly after so don't know what became of the body. I believe we had to retire later on, not having advanced further or held the position so it is likely he was buried by the enemy. Description - short, fair, rather red headed, age about 22 years. Called him "Dick"

Informant:- Sgt. J.H. Dunstan

No. 1627,  
37th Battn.

S. Ryan

H.M.A.T. "Ulysses"

2/9/19.

300.

L/Cpl. G. Penna.  
27th Bttn. A.I.F.  
C/o Mrs. A. E. McKinnon.  
36 Washington Street.  
Workington.  
Cumberland.

September 12th, 1918.

Dear Sir.

In answer to your enquiry for -

2244 Pte. R.T. O'CONNELL. 37th Battalion. A.I.F.

who was killed in action on 12-10-17, we beg to inform you of the unofficial evidence of his death given by 6889 L/Cpl. F.V. Chignell of the same unit when at the Norfolk War Hospital, Norwich. He stated that he saw Pte. O'Connell killed by a sniper during the attack at Passchendaele on 12-10-17, and he believes that he was wounded in the stomach. He describes him as being short and very fair and rather stout in build.

We are continuing our enquiries and as soon as we receive further information we shall let you know and trust that it will be some consolation to know that his death was instantaneous.

Yours faithfully,

(Miss)

L.A.W.  
Secretary.