

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

3122 Private
John Benedict Hoban

19th Battalion



1341003C

A.I.F. 19.

HOBAN, J.B. 3122.

X/Decr. 24th.1916.

Jack Hoban was killed at Sinohy on the day before Xmas, while in supports. A shell caught and blew up about a dozen men. I heard about it all a couple of days afterwards. He came from Auburn, Sydney, where I came from. I knew him there. Sgt. Kiddle, A.Coy. could give details. He was with the party to which Hoban belonged that day, and has talked to me about Hoban's death. Hoban belonged to A.Coy.

Reference: Pte . P.F. James, 4449, D.Coy.,
No.51 Gen.Hosp.

Staples.
4.4.17.
SA. S

Written by Sgt. Kiddle
11.4.17.

19th Australian Imperial Force

Hoban, Pte. John B. 3122
C Coy.

(Killed Dec. 24/16. Det
D & B).

" I was acting as stretcher bearer on Christmas Eve during the attack we made between Flours and Gondicourt. We brought Jack Hoban out of the firing line shortly after he was hit, somewhere about 4 p.m. He was wounded internally, but in no great pain. There were five of us with the stretcher and we had to carry him two miles to the Field Hospital. He sang to keep our spirits up, and was singing " Ragtime Soldiers " when we made him over to the Hospital orderlies. I hurried back with the stretcher to bring in another man, and on my return learned that Jack Hoban had died within half an hour of reaching the Field Ambulance, say at 7 o'clock in the evening. His body was handed over to the Pioneers, who buried him next morning. "

Eye Witness - He was stretcher bearer

Description - Short, dark and cheery. Was always called " Jack. " Age between 30 and 35, judging by appearance.

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19th A. I. F.,

Hoban, Pte. J. B., 3122,
C. Coy.,

K. Dec. 24th, 1916. Det: D & B.

" On Dec. 24th, 1916 at Le Transloy, Pte. Hoban was sniped whilst going into the trenches, wounded in the abdomen. He died on his way back to the dressing station, and was buried close by. I was told by the stretcher bearers who carried him back and know this for a fact. He was a staff Sgt. at Salisbury Plain before joining the Battalion. I was going in the trench with the Coy., when this happened. "

Eye Witness: No, could not remember the two stretcher bearers' names who told him.

Description: Informant could not give any description, as he had not known Hoban very long.

Informant:-- Pte. F. H. Downman, 1314,
19th A. I. F., C. Coy., II Pl:
3rd London General Hosp:
Wandsworth, S.W.

5

5.4.17. Home address:-- Horseferry Rd.,
Jessie Perrin.

Informant :- Pte. Alexander Smart. 3923.
B Coy. 19th Aus. I. F.
The Brock War Hospt.
Shooters Hill, Woolwich

Home address :- Sturtsfield, Inner Leighton,
Peobleshire, Scotland.

4. 4. 17.
B. Thornhill.

What fld. Ambee?

Walter Pte Smart 13.4.17

C.Co.,
19th Batt.
A.I.F..

HOBAN
Pte John B 3122

"Killed 24.12.16"

In reference to your enquiry re Pte Hoban. I wish to state that after myself and others carried him to the Dressing Station. He died on the way down and the doctor said that the Pioneers should fix his burial. After leaving him in their hands, I went back to my battalion so that is all the information I can give you on the matter.

Cert. by letter from Pte A Smart, 3923
19th Batt. A.I.F.,
The Brook,
19.4.17.

London
25.4.17.

S.

A.I.F. 19

HOBAN, J.B. 3122

K. Dec. 24th 1916. Det: D & B.

Hoban was a great friend of mine, both in Egypt and England before we came to France. On the night of Dec. 24, we were going into the front line from the reserve opposite Le Fransloy. We had to cross an unconnected stretch of the front line. Hoban who was about four yds in front of me, was shot by a sniper, as he was about to get into our trench. I was told he died about 6 the next morning on the way to the R.A.P. at Rose Trench. I was not with him, but L/Cpl. (now 2nd Lt.) Layton-Smith, went down with the bearer party to the R.A.P., which was about 1500 yds behind our front line. I was also told he was decently buried close by.

written by L. Smith 16.5.17

Informant: Sergt. R. Wain. 4261. B. 5.

No. 3 Can. Gen. Hospital.

BOULOGNE. 4.5.17.

RHL.

A.I.F. 19

HOBAN, J.B. 3122

K. Dec. 24 1916. Det: D & B.

I gave information yesterday in the 3rd Canadian Hospital about this man to one of your searchers, but I did not tell him that if the enquirer would write to Lt. Loughton Smith, of Headquarters, who is acting Adjutant, he could tell everything, and he was the one who buried him, and was with him when he died. Pte Hoban was buried very decently.

Informant: Sgt. Wain. 4261.

H.S. "St. Denis"

BOULOGNE. 5.5.17.

S.
EFN

19th A. I. F.

J. B. HOBAN, 3122.

Killed 24.12.16. Det. D & B.

Informant states that Hoban was killed by a sniper close to Flers. He was carried away by the stretcher bearers one of whom was Pte. Mackintosh of D Co. from whom Informant obtained this information, and buried about a mile further back.

Reference: Pte. O'Grady, 1259.

No.10 General, Rouen. 16.5.17.

GJS.

S
6^a
Self

19th Battn.
A. I. F.

Hoban.
I. B. B 3122.

"Killed 24.12.16."

I think this is the man but not sure of his number. But he had been our instructional Sgt. of 19th Battn. at Rolleston Camp. If so he was killed at Flers on Xmas eve sniped going into the trenches. I saw him dead outside the dressing station. I knew him well as he had been my instructor at Rolleston. About 5 feet 9., solid built. Ginger moustache. Lt. Layton Smith can tell you more. I do'nt know where buried.

Witness:-

R. J. Scott. 4526.
Harefield. W.35.

D. P. Dickson.

London.
21.5.17.

S.

19. Batt. A.I.F.

Hoban. J.B. 3122.
B.Coy.

K. 24/12/16.

Del 24/16

"I saw Pte. J.B. Hoban brought back from the front line wounded and he died before they could get him to the dressing station. We were at Ginchy at the time. He was buried in Delville Wood, I heard this afterwards."

Eye witness:

Description:

Informant: Cpl. High Fitzgerald. ~~1884~~ 4107.
19. A.I.F. A.Coy. 3 Pltn.
2nd Southern General Hospital. Southmead.
Bristol.

Home address:-

65, Womerai Ave. Darling Crest
Sydney. N.S.W.

F.W.Ward.
22/5/17.

*Smith
S. 8^a*

19th A. I. F.

Hoban, Pte J.B. 3122,

(K. Dec. 24/16. Det: D & B)

"J.B. Hoban, 3122, 19th Australian I.F. was killed in the line at Guesdecourt 24th Dec/16 by a shell, he was practically blown to pieces. He was probably buried where he was killed."

Eye-witness:

Description:

Informant: Lt Blumer,
19th A. I. F.,
1st Eastern General Hospital,
Cambridge.

Home address:
c/o Australian Mutual Providence Society,
Threadneedle St.
London.

26th May 1917.
Sibour.

*Self
Ed S*

19th Batta.
A. I. F.

Hoban,
J.B. 3122.

"Killed in Action 24.12.16."

Concerning No. 3122 J. B. Hoban, I can supply the following information
He was seriously wounded near Fiers on the night of 24.12.16. and I
was in charge of stretcher bearing party which conveyed him to the
Dressing Station. He was conscious for quite a long time but died just
before we reached the Dressing Station. He was buried on the field near
the Dressing Station which was in the forward area. He was known to
me personally, and there is therefore not the slightest doubt about his
identity. I communicated with his relatives in Sydney shortly after his
death.

Letter from:-

The Adjutant,

19th Battn.

A. I. F.

10.6.17.

London.

3.7.17.

85



AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS.

The Brook
19 4:17

Dear Madam
To the Secretary A.R.C.S.
London

^{Hobart}
I refer to your inquiry re
Pte Hogan. I went to state that Capt. Imbert
after coming here to the Red Cross Station
the idea on the way down. The Doctor said
that the Presses should purchase uniforms
after leaving him in their hands. I went
back to my Battalion, so that is all the
information I can give you on the matter.

Yours faithfully Pte A. J. Smart

19th Bn.
3903

To the Secretary

Wounded & Missing Enquiry Bureau
Australian Branch R.A.S.
London

In reply to your memo dated 26/5/47
addressed to the W.M.E. concerning
No 3122 Mr Hobson, I can only
~~the following information.~~ He was
seriously wounded near Flero
on the night of 24/12/46, and I was in
charge of the stretcher bearing party
which conveyed him to the Dressing
Station. He was conscious for
quite a long time but died
just before the Dressing Station was
reached. He was buried on the
field near this Dressing Station
which was in the forward area.
He was known to me personally
& there is therefore not the slightest
doubt about his identity. I
communicated with his relatives
in Sydney, shortly after his
death.

W.D. J. P. Clayton - ~~Adjutant~~ Adjutant
ADJUTANT, 19TH BATT. A.I.F.

3135 10/6/47

HOBSON

19/05/47

3122 J.B. HOBAN

19 batt AIF

KA 24.12.16

S. (ed)
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written 10/677