

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

288 Private
Edward Charles Irvin

7th Machine Gun Company



1410513F

and Chas. P. C. Irwin & Machine

fun boy.

Who died of wounds on 7-5-17.

P.B.'s Draft.

○ The G.C.

Ed. Cas. Clear: Sta. B. S. F. July 5: "

7th Mach.Gun Coy.,
A.I.F.

Irwin.
E. C. 288

"Died of Wounds 7.5.17."

Was called "Darkie". Came over in 2nd Rfts. He was hit in the head by H.E. shell during the stunt at Bullecourt on May 3rd. He was taken away to dressing station, and died shortly afterwards. I did not see him hit. He was buried at Bapaume Cemetery. I saw his grave it had a cross with his name, No., etc.

Witness:-

A. Ferguson. 359
7th Mach. Gun Coy.
Barefield.

W.G.J.

London.
23.10.17.

M.

42242

E. J. IRWIN 14 Batt

Trace

KA-11-4-17 M-3

Nov 26th 19

The Sec. Hounded & Missing
Enquiry Bureau

Dear Madam, Edwin Johnston
Received a letter

from you yesterday asking for
information concerning No 42242

Pte E. J. Irwin 14th Batt A.I.F.
killed on the 11th April last.

Well I can tell he was
killed right enough as I was by
his side when he fell. He died
instantly, as the bullet that struck
him went to his heart.

We were in a charge at
the time & he fell before we
reached our second objective.

so as I had to go on. I had no
time to bury him but I took
all his papers & wallet & went
on with the fighting, intending
to return & bury him later, but
before I got a chance to go
back to him, the Germans counter-
attacked & after some hard fight-
ing they drove us out & forced us
to retire on to our own original
front line, so I can't tell you
if he was buried at all.

Some one might have buried
him before the attack, if so he
would be buried on the field
near Bullecourt.

His mother lives in Belfast
Ireland & whilst on furlough I
went & ^{saw} her & told her all

but I kept it from her, that
I didn't know whether he was
buried at all, but I told some
of his sisters, & I dare say they
kept it from the mother.

It was at her that was enquiring
if he was buried, there is a
chance that some of the lads
would stick a piece of wood or
a board on his grave with his
name & number on it, but I hard-
ly think there would be time for
that as we lost heavily that
fateful morning.

If ever I go near that part
again I will have an eye open
for his name on the numerous
crosses on the battle field.

Oct 17
While I am at it could you
tell me if any trace is found
of 4223 Pte J. H. Irvine 14th
Bn A.I.F. reported missing the
same day. O.H.

Also could you supply me
with the address of Sgt. W. G.
Groves. 4199. 14th Bn A.I.F.
prisoner of war in Germany since
the 11th April last; and could
I write direct to him.

Yours faithfully
4224 Pte J. H. Irvine
B. B. G.
14th Bn
A.I.F.
FRANCE