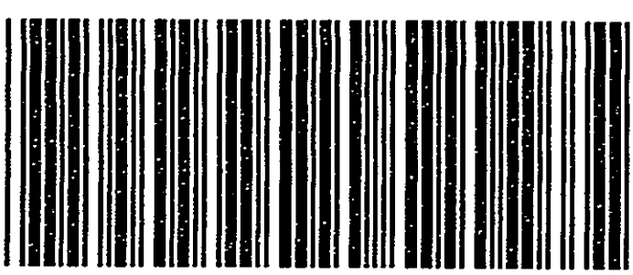
Australian Red Cross Society Wounded and Missing
Enquiry Bureau files, 1914-18 War
1DRL/0428

3253 Private
James Joy

55th Battalion



1470505M

A.I.F.
55th Btn.

JOY
James 3253

Killed in Action 19.10.17.

No trace Germany.
Cert. by Capt. Mills 10.10.19

London.

21.10.19. S.

55th Battn,
A.I.F.

JOY,
J.3253

"Killed 19.10.17."

I saw a shell lob close to him, Boyce and Signaller Lewis which buried them right up. Next morning they were digging for them but I don't know if they were ever got out. At the left of the mound, near Polygon Wood and the right hand side of the Railway. I just knew him. Rather tall and dark. He had just joined.

Informant:- B.A.Sharpe, 2735
55th Battn
Anzac Buffet.

W,Alison.

London.
27.2.18.

S.

55th A.I.F.

J

Joy Pte. 3253,
C. Coy. XII Plt.

(K. Oct. 9th 1917)

"I helped to dig Pte. Joy out after he had been buried in his dug-out by a shell. He was quite dead and we buried him again in the dug-out on Westhoek Ridge, Ypres".

Eye-witness: Yes

Description: Short and thin, nicknamed Jim.

Informant: Pte. Owen J. Smyth 2277,
14th A.I.F. T.M.B. late 55th A.I.F.
C. Coy. XII Plt.
Lakenham Military Hospt.,
Norwich.

Home address:
Sydney,
N.S. Wales.

March 2nd 1918,
A. Dawson.

S

Havre 9th March 1918.

55th A.I.F. Joy J. No. 3253.

K. 19th Octr 1917. Det D/B.

Joy was with us for a fortnight; he came in the 8th or 9th reinforcement, and straight to me, and was in my section. He was medium height, thin, dark, and about 28, a ~~fine~~ fine man on board a ship in civil life , had tatoo marks on his arms, and was an Englishman by birth, though most of his time had been spent in Australia. On the 19th Octr the Battn was in supports at Polygon Wood. Joy and 2 others were sleeping in a dugout, ~~and~~ when a shell fell right on the place. It collapsed, and the men were smothered. I was one of the party who dug them up. We took Joy's paybook and disc, and his belongings were given to the O.C. Capt, Wilson, who is still with the Battn. We then buried them in the place they died and erected temporary cross with the names etc.

Inf:- Cpl H.W.R.Jones No.1927.
55th A.I.F. C.Co. H.Q.
Australian Camp.
Rouelles.

S.

PM.

Havre 12th March 1918.

55th A.I.F. Joy J. No.3253.

K. 19th Octr 1917. Det D/B.

I knew Joy for 2 days; he was medium height, medium build, fair, and about 20. On the 19th Octr the Battn was at Westhoek Ridge and in supports. During the night, about 2 o'clock, a shell fell where Joy was, about 10 yards behind my position. In the morning it was discovered three men were missing, and I helped to dig out the body of Joy. He had been smothered there with two other boys named Bell and Lewis. After taking the belongings from the bodies we buried them in the same place. A temporary cross with the names of the three men etc was erected at the spot. We shifted ~~there~~ two days after, and I was never there again.

Inf:- L/Cpl C.Bruce No.1627.
55th A.I.F. C.Co. 12th Pltn.
Australian Camp.
Rouelles.

PM.

S. Ct supp

55th A. I. F. Joy, Pte J. 3253,

(K. Oct. 19/17. Det: D/B)

"I found Joy and two other fellows lying dead in the next dug-out to myself after a bombardment on the night of Oct. 19th-20th 1917, at Ypres, during which time a shell exploded on the roof of the dug-out which they were in. The concussion therefrom appeared to be the chief cause of the casualties. Other fellows and myself buried them in the same dug-out. Joy was in C. Coy, XI Pltn, and had only been with us about a fortnight."

Eye-witness: Saw him after he was killed

Description: Young fellow, I think unmarried, I cannot state details with regard to his civil life

Informant: Sgt. Leslie Smith, 3134,
55th A.I.F., C. XII,
Edmonton Mary West Hospital,
London.

Home address:
543, King's St,
New Town, Sidney.

29.3.18.
Exeter.

Sd
Staff