

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

2199A Private
Joseph Frederick
Lapworth

49th Battalion



1550804N

Bavre

1st February 1918.

49th A.I.F.

Lapworth J.F. No.2199.

K. 26th Sept 1917. Det D/B.

He was in B. Company. He came from Wyham, Queensland. He was fair, medium build, and very fair hair.

I saw him killed just as we started to dig in in Polygon Wood on the 26th September. He was the last to jump into the shell hole, and got a H.G. bullet right in the back. We dressed his wound and got him on to a stretcher. I and three others were carrying him out on it when Fritz got a H.G. on to us and wounded Lapworth again very badly and also one of the S/Bs. We got Lapworth back into the shell hole and he died a few minutes after we got him into it. We buried him there. It was close to our last objective of the 26th which we had just taken. We made a rough cross with a stick and a German bayonet but could not put his name. We had nothing to write with ~~ink~~ and the H.G. fire was very heavy. It is the only grave there.

Inf:- Pte -. Carter No.3373.
49th Battn B.Co. VI Pltn
Australian Camp.
Rouelles. G.I.F.

49th Battn.
A.I.F.

L
ZAPWORTH,
J.F. 2199 A

"Killed 26.9.17."

I was acting as stretcher bearer at Ypres on Sept. 26th and the coy was digging in at about 10.30 a.m. when he was wounded by a shell. I was taking him out on a stretcher when a machine gun killed him with several bullets through the body and wounded me at same time. He was just able to say "They have got me again" but ~~did~~ almost immediately. I was not taken away myself until the evening. He was fair, of medium height and about 25. No one else of the name in Battalion.

Informant:-Pte.S.J. Moriarty, 2468,
49th Battn, B.Coy, VII Pltn,

London.
21.2.18.

B.

Havre.

30th. April. 1918.

49th. Australians.

Lapworth, J. F. 2199.^a

K. September. 26/1917. Dets. D/B.

He was in B. Company, and the 6th. Platoon. He was next to me at Passchendaele on September 26th. Just as we reached our objective I saw him hit in the thigh by a H. G. Bullet. He held the objective. The S/Bearers took him away and I saw a Sniper shoot both the S/Bearers and rip Lapworth right up; he died an hour afterwards. Lapworth was 5 feet 3, or 4, slight, fair.

Inf:- Sergeant Thomas. 3299.

49th. Australians. Acting C/S/M. B. Coy. 6
A. S. "Guildford Castle".

END.

B

49th Inf: A.I.F.

Lapworth. Pte. J.F. 2199.

K. Sept. 26/17.

"We had just reached our objective at Westlock on the Ypres front on Sept. 26th and were digging ourselves in. Lapworth was the last to jump into the shell hole and as he was doing so he got wounded. We dressed the wound which was in his back and waited for stretcher bearers, only one came and I volunteered to help carry him out. As we got to the top of the shell hole, the Germans opened out with a machine gun, again wounding Lapworth right up one side and killed the stretcher bearer. Lapworth died an hour later, and we buried him in a shell hole and stuck a bayonet over the grave. He belonged to B Coy. VI Pltn."

Eyewitness: Yes.

Description: Very fair, short, medium build, clean shaven, about 25, just back from England, I think he came from Wyrimum, Brisbane.

Informant: Pte. E. Carter. 3373.
49th Inf. A.I.F. B Coy. VI Pl. B
5th Southern General Hospital,
Milton Section. Portsmouth.

11/3/18
E.C. Hughes.

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