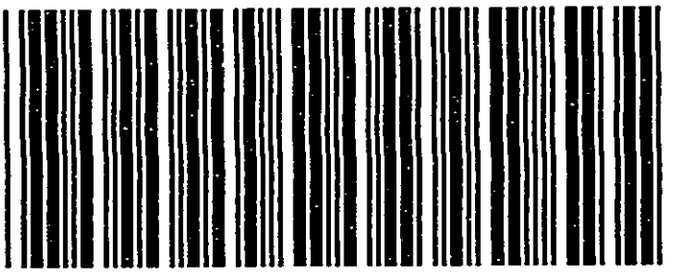
Australian Red Cross Society Wounded and Missing
Enquiry Bureau files, 1914-18 War
1DRL/0428

# 2713 Private Arthur Robert Richardson

## 51st Battalion



2290210G

A.I.F. 51st Battn.

RICHARDSON
A.R. 2713

**Killed in action 28.1.17**

Buried 60 yards South of road near Flers, and 2½ miles N.W. of Combes.
Cert. by A.I.F.Hdqrs List for Lieut Spedding.

London
16.5.19

P

A.I.F. 51

RICHARDSON A.R. 2713
YOUNG, J.H. 2760

K.Jan.28/17. Det: D & B.

V and VI platoons were in reserve at Flers at the end of January or beginning of February. We were on fatigue digging a communication trench and got back about 2.am. Young, Richardson and Roche were in one dugout, and I was in a dugout near by. There was a dump near and in the early morning Fritz started shelling it. Shells were coming within a few yard feet of my dugout, and a shell hit the dugout in which Young, Richardson and Roche were and killed them all. Then they shifted us back a bit further to Switch Trench, I know nothing about their burial. Richardson and Young were in the same Reinforcements the 6th I think.

Informant: Pte J.T.Whitfield. 2512. B.V.
No.32 Stationary Hospital.
BOULOGNE. 5.4.1917. JT

51st A. I. F. B Co. A. R. RICHARDSON. 2785.

Killed 28.1.17. Details D & B.

Informant states that about 11 a.m. on the 28th January 1917 he was in Switch Trench near Flers when a shell burst on or in a dug out where Richardson, and Young of the same Batt. and another man called Roche were. When the place was opened up, Richardson, Young and Roche were dead. "I myself saw them. They were buried where they were found, there was nothing else to be done, and a cross with their names was put up to mark the place". Informant knew them well by sight and name, though he was not a friend of any of them and had spoken to them but seldom.

Reference: Pte. J. J. Dow, 40, B Co., 51st A.I.F.
No.6 General, Rouen. 18.4.17.

WTMR.

P

51st Batt.
B.Co.,
A.I.F.,

A/Cpl R. RICHARDSON 2713
J.H. YOUNG 2760

"K. in A 28.1.17"

Informant states that on Jan. 28th 1917 at Flers on the Somme, Young and Richardson and one other, were all in a dug-out together. A shell came and killed all three. Informant was a great friend of all of them, and only just missed being with them, they all four walked up to the Support Line together. He was told by the rest of the company directly after it happened. It was in the early morning and the ground was afterwards held. Young was called Jock.

Reference:- Pte H Apil 2613
51st Batt. A.I.F.,
Kitchener's Hospital,
Brighton.
12.4.17.

Home address:-
3 Mount Street,
Perth,
W.Australia.

London
23.4.17.
A.H.Lay

P.

51st Batt. A. I. F. RICHARDSON A. R. 2715.
" B " Coy.

", K. Jan.28th'17. Det. D & B ".

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" We were in support trenches at Fleurs about the above date, and Richardson was in a dug-out when a shell exploded, and killed him. He was buried just behind the support trench, near brigade headquarters, and later on I saw his grave. It had a cross erected, bearing his name, number, and battalion, and at the time I was there, could easily be found. Richardson's home address was " Alexander St., West Leedeville, Perth, Western Australia I knew him well, and was in the same company."

Description. Hgt 5ft9. Fair complexion. Slight.

Witness. Rogers. T. G. 2714.
" B " Coy 51st Batt.

Sgt
P. 6th

April 25th., '17.
S. W.

Worgret Camp,
WAREHAM.

51. A. I. F. Richardson, A. R. 2713.

(K. Jan: 28/17. Det: D & B.)

"I was told that Pte. Richardson and Pte. Young were both together in a dug-out in our Supports, when a shell dropped on the dug-out, and they were both killed. They were not in my company. I think they belonged to B Coy, but I am not certain. We were on the Flers Front, but they were not near us. A Sergeant told me what had happened the next morning, but I forget his name. It must have been about Jan: 28th. Pte. Victor Sheldon (of the same Coy, I think, B.) was a great friend of these two men and could probably give particulars as to burial etc.,"

Eye-witness:— No. A Sergt. whose name I have forgotten told me.

Description:— Tall, thin, fair, married.

Informant:— Pte. Adridnus Eyneveld, 2715,
51. A. I. F. A Coy, II Pl.
3rd. Southern General Hospital,
The Base, Oxford.

April 25th Home address:— Perth, West Australia.
H. M. Pickard-Cambridge.