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

3129 Private
Harold Thomas Sell

33rd Battalion



2450705N

33rd Btn.
A.I.F.

SELL
Harold Thomas 3129

"Killed in action 12.10.17"

No trace Germany

Cert. by Capt. Mills. 10.10.19.

Cause of Casualty	Cause	Cause	Cause of Casualty
London. 20.10.19.			

33rd A. I. F.

Sell, Pte H.T. 3129,

(K. Oct. 12/17. Det D & B)

"I saw Sell killed, he was struck by a shell when we were in reserve on the Paniecs Railway near Ypres on Oct. 12/17. But I do not know anything about his burial."

Eye-witness: Yes

Description: Very fair, 5'7", medium build, clean-shaven, had a scar on one cheek

Inrormant: Pte J.H. Parker, 1225,
33rd A. I. F., D. XIII,
4th Northern General Hospital,
Lincoln.

Home address:
Post Office,
Armadale,
N.S. Wales.

16th January 1918.
Mounsey.

A.I.F. 35rd Btn

"Killed Oct: 12-17"

SELL
H.T. 3129
SMITH
E.A. 1251
GERARD
T. 2842

"Smith was just in front of me and he & Gerard, Sell & Herliche were all killed by the one shell - I went on and when I came back afterwards, they were still lying there. There was not a great probability of their being buried - Smith Sell and Herliche were all Tamworth men, N.S.W., Gerard was Scotch & enlisted in Sydney.

Informant H.H.Easton, 2192
35rd Btn,
Ear Chest
16-2-16.

S.

J.Allison
London
14-3-18

Havre 19th February 1916.

33rd A.I.F. Sell H.T. No. 3129.

K. 12th Octr 1917. Dot D/B.

I knew Sell for 3 months; he was medium height, rather thin, medium brown hair, and about 25. On the 12th Octr we were going up at night to the front line from supports, to go over the top, with Passchendaele as the objective, and Sell was killed between the supports and the front line. The following morning a party brought in his disc and paybook which I saw. Three days after I saw the Body of Sell prepared by the party for burial at the place He fell. I could point out the place where I saw him, but I did not see him buried. At this time all our men were given field burial and the graves were marked.

Inf:- Cpl J.T.Hoskins No.1477.
33rd Battn D.Co. 15th Pltn.
Australian Camp.
Rouelles.

PM. 5

33rd A. I. F.

H. T. SELL, 3129.
E. A. SMITH, 1251.

Killed 12.10.17. Det.D/B.

These 2 men were killed by the same H.E. shell on the Railway line at Passchendaele. We were going up, at night, to the front line from Wimmerzeele, along the Railway, which was the only road. The shell came and killed them and others. I was in front but stopped and saw them lying dead. They were killed instantly and did not suffer. We could not stop to bury them and saw their bodies again when we came back 4 days later. It was near the German Cemetery. Like many others, they were probably not buried at all, - there was too much shell fire there.

Reference: Pte. H. Easton, 2192, D.Coy.

No.1 Aust.General, Rouen, 5.4.18.

ABHH.

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A.I.F. 33. SELL, H.T. 3129.

K. Oct. 12th, 1917. Det. D/B.

H.T.Sell was in B.VII. and his number was about 3129. I came over from Australia with him. He was a tall fair,man, clean shaven, about 25 or 26. I dont know if he was married. It was during an advance on the Passchendaele front about 12th Oct. that I saw him killed instantly by shell fire. He was blown to pieces. It was about dusk and I was about 25 yards away from him.

Inf. L/Cpl. C.F. Moody, 3104. B.V.
No.7.C.C.
BOULOGNE. 9.4.18. AGL.

33rd Australian Imperial Force

Sell, H.T. 3129,
D Coy. 13th Pltn.

(A. Oct. 12. 17. Dets
D & B).

" I knew Sell very well. He was a chum of mine. At. Passchendaele on Oct. 12th, we were going up to the Front line to relieve. We were walking in single file along main railway track. I was ahead of Sell. A high explosive shell fell and killed Sell and three others. Death was instantaneous. It was not possible to bury them and the bodies were still there when we returned four days later. "

Eye Witness - Yes.

Description - Nothing special in appearance. No nickname Informant did not know his home address.

Informant :- Pte. Harry H. Easton, 2192,
13th Pltn, D Coy. 33 rd Aus Imp Force
Napsbury Hospital, St. Albans.

Home address :-
45, Nelson Street,
Nelson's Point,
Sydney, New South Wales.

17.4.18.
F.Homer.

33rd Battalion,
A.I.F.

SELL.
Pte. H.T. No. 3129.

"Killed in Action 12.10.17."

Informant described Sell as about 5 ft 3 or 4 inches high, nuggety build, fair hair, red face, aged about 26. Left Australia with Informant per "Anchises" on 24.1.17."

Informant states that they both belonged to "D" Company. Informant states that on 12.10.17 and succeeding days the Battalion was in the Ypres district and on the first of those days was going up to Passchendale to take up a position. Informant was informed that on that day before daybreak Sell had been killed by a shell together with two others.

Informant added that Sell was a very decent fellow and he always liked him. He knew him well.

Informant: Private D. Fraser, No. 3057.
"D" Company, 33rd Battalion.
Home address: C/- Mrs. Johns, Kenrick Street,
Plattsburg, N.S.W.

W.E.G.
(.4.18.
No. 4 Australian General Hospital, RANDWICK.

SYDNEY BUREAU.