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

2233 Private George Noble

56th Battalion



2010511A

A.I.F.
56th Btn.

NOBLE
George 2283

Killed in Action 2.4.17.

No trace Germany.
Cert. by Capt. Mills 10.10.19.

London
22.10.19.

3.

56th A. I. F.,

Noble, Pte. G., 2233,

M. April 2nd 1917.

"I saw Noble, G. after he had been killed, fearfully smashed up, on April 2nd 1917 in front of the village of ... I have forgotten the name, but it was between Doignes and Demicourt after we had gone over the top."

Eye Witness: Yes.

Description: Tall, 5ft.11ins, about 30, clean shaven, George, came from Coura.

Informant:-- Pte. Richard Herbert Newham, 2230,
56th A.I.F., D.Coy., XIV Pltn.,
Tooting Military Hosp:
S.W.

Home address:-- Derbys Falls,
by Coura, N.S.W.

7.6.17.
R.C.Parr.

ORIGINAL STATEMENT ECHELON.

2464/6/6

(COPY)

Statement made by No.2230 Pte Newham R.H. 56th Btn

re No.2233 Pte Noble G. 55th Btn
reported Missing 2.4.17

I saw Pte Noble G, after he was kiled. He was killed near Doigneys of 2nd of April 1917. He was knocked about a good deal by a shell which probably caused his death.

Dated at Peeham Downs this 5th day of August 1917.

(Sgd) R.H. Newham.

Statement made and signed before me

(Sgd) R.S. Swinbourne. Lt.

5 Bde 8.2.17
2

A. I. F. 56.

NOBLE, G. 2233.
JOHNS, W.J. 2196.

M. April 2nd, 1917.

These men were missing after the attack on April 2nd at Louberval(?) near Bapaume. I do not know how they were killed but on April 7th I was talking to one of our men who was with the burial party and he told me that he had buried them. They were buried near by, not in a cemetery. I knew Johns well. He was a 4th reinf. I came out with him. He lived in Glebe, Sydney, N.S.W. His initials are G- W.J.. He was a cobber of mine.

Reference:- Crisp, W.T. 2148.
A.I.F. 56.A.
No. 26 Gen. Hosp.

HC.

Etaples
30.5.17.

6th Battalion. A.I.F.

NOBLE, G.
2233 Pte

K in A.
~~Missing~~ 2/4/17.

I was in D.Co. with Noble. On the 2nd April 1917, we were "going over" about 8 miles from Bapaume. This was early in the morning. We went on all day and at night a shell struck him and killed him at once. He was a friend of mine, we went over in the same boat. A real good fellow. He was a tall dark fellow about 30 years of age. He told me he had done a lot of bullock driving. We went away in the 4th Reinf. to the 56th Battn. I was "knocked" on the same day and do not know whether he was buried though he probably would have been.

Informant: Gray, J.F. 2176
56th Battalion. A.I.F.
No.4 Australian General Hospital,
RANDWICK.

B.W.
9/11/17.

SYDNEY BUREAU.

Havre 10th June. 191?.

56th AUSTRALIANS NOBLE, G. 2233

M. April 2nd. 1917.

He was in B. Co., V. Pltn. He came fr-om N.S.W. He was a farmer. I had known him for about a year. He came over with the 4th to the 56 Battalion. His number is 2233 and christian name George. I was told by Pt. Frank Bevan of B. Co., V. Pltn. that he had seen Noble killed, ~~shot~~ shot through the head. Bevan left No. 2 Convalescent Hospital, Rouen about a month ago and is probably back with the Battalion now.

Informant: Pt. K. Cootes 2634
56th Australians, B. Co., V.Pltn.
Australian Camp, Rouelles.

GRB.

Written Pte Bevan 20.7.17 S.

Havre 11th June. 1917.

56th AUSTRALIANS NOBLE, G. 2233

M. April 2nd 1917.

Pt. McCarthy of B. Co., told me that he had helped to bury Noble at Louverval. He was buried with several others near the Sunken Road.

Informant: A.F. McDonald 2441
56th Batt., L.Co.,
Australians.
Australian Camp, Rouelles.

GRB.

S

Written Pte McCarthy 27.6.17

Havre 23rd June 1917

56th AUSTRALIANS NOBLE, G. 2233

Missing 2nd April 1917

Noble was in B. Co. 5th Platoon. He came from N.S.W. His father had a saw mill and he himself was a farmer and sawmiller and used to go round the country threshing with his own threshing mill. I recognise his number, and know him very well, being in the same Platoon. He was about 5'11" or 6' in height, medium build, dark, clean-shaven, about 30 years of age, married and had one of a family at least. On the 2nd April 1917 we were attacking Doignies, near Bullecourt. We went over about 5.30 a.m., dawn was breaking. I could recognise men 20 or 30 yards away. I had gone about 200 yards when I saw Noble killed; I was close beside him on his right. He fell on his side. We held the ground where he was killed. I was wounded later. A man named Pte. Frank Copping of the 56th Btn. D. Co. told me he had seen his grave. Copping is stationed at 5th A.D.B.D. No. 18 Camp, Havre, now.

Informant: Pte. F. H. Robinson 2250
56th Australians B. Co. 5th Pltn
Australian Base, Rouelles

S.

Written Pte Copping CMR 15.7.17

Havre 6th July 1917.

56th AUSTRALIANS NOBLE, G. 2233.

Missing April 2nd 1917.

I don't know his Company. He came from New South Wales - he was a farmer and also had a sawmill. He suffered a lot from rheumatism. I know him very well, and had known him for three or four months. He came over with the 4th Reinforcements to the 56th Battalion, and I saw him regularly at the Base - The number given is about his. I was told by Pte. Bevan, 56th Battalion, that he had seen him killed about the 2nd April 1917. I can't remember Bevan's Company or initials, but he is with the Battalion now.

Informant: Pte. F. Montgomery, 2502.
56th Australians, D. Co. 13th Pltn.
Australian Camp, Harfleur.

S. CMR

56th Battn.
B. Coy.
A. I. F.

Noble.
G. 2233.

"Missing 2.4.17"

I was told a bullet went through his head, death instantaneous. Refer to Pte. G. Hevill No.2198 56th Battn. B.Coy. who saw him killed. He is still in France. I left there on the 16th May 1917.

Witness:-
Pte. E. Lewis 2204.
56th Battn. C. Coy.
3rd Aust.Aux.Hospital.
Dartford.

W. Oman.

London.
30.7.17. Note Written Hevill 18.7.17. S.

56th Battn. C.Coy.
A. I. F.

Noble.
G. 2233.

"Killed 2.4.17"

I saw him dead at ? Louverval near ? Dermicourt (? Doggicourt) on the 2nd of April 1917. Quarters in front of Louveral. Cannot say if grave is marked. Was not at the burial. Refer to Captain Thomson 56th Battn. C.Coy. now in France, he can give particulars of burial. No other of same name. Knew him very well. I left France 16th May 1917. (see below)

Witness:-
Pte. W.Rowan 5446.
56th Battn. Stretcher Bearer.
3rd Aust.Aux.Hospital.
Dartford.

W.Oman.

London.
31.7.17. Note Written Cpt. Thomson 20.7.17. S.

Killed by bullet wound. Grounds held. Buried at Sunken Road near Heudecourt

56th Battn.
A. I. F.

Noble.
G. 2233

"Missing 2.4.17"

I saw this man killed by a shell instantly at Louverval on April 2nd 1917. He was walking along a bank when he was hit and fell over the steep side, when I saw him he was quite dead. It was not possible to get him back for burial enemy fire was too strong. He was about 5'9", stout build, dark. 28 or 29 years. Occupation is not known.

Witness:-
F. J. Reeves
D. Coy. 56th Battn.
Perham Downs Camp.

A. R. McPhee.

London.
11.8.17. S.

56th Battn.
A. I. F.

Noble.
G. 2233

"Missing believed killed
2.4.17"

re Pte. G. Noble. I am sorry to tell you he was killed on 2.4.17 that is all I know of his death, I was with him when he was killed. A short description of his personal appearance is, I would take him to be going on near 30 years old, he was a tall dark fellow, clean shaven. I also left Australia with him 4th September 1916. I could not say if that was his numbers as I never knew it, but I know the man quite well and was not long married before he left but I could not say rightly when.

Letter from:-
Pte. G. A. Kevill 2198
B.Coy. 56th Battn.
24.7.17.

London.
13.8.17.

S.

56th Battn.
A. I. F.

Noble.
G. 2233

"Missing 2.4.17"

2233 Pte. G. Noble was killed in action on the 2nd April 1917 at a location which I am unable to mention. I have been unable to find anyone who saw him buried, but I know a party was detailed to perform this duty and found it had already been done, but they do not know where it was carried out, it was probably in the field. Pte. Noble was in the same platoon as Pte. Bevan to whom you wrote.

Letter from:-
Lieut. Cotes
Asst. Adjt.
28.7.17.

London.
15.8.17.

S.

56th Battn.
A. I. F.

Noble.
G. 2233

"Missing believed Killed 2.4.17"

re 2233 Pte. G. Noble. I have to inform you that he was killed on that date. He was killed in an advanced position so that was how his disc and pay book was not brought into headquarters, so was naturally reported missing. It may interest you to know that his officer has written to Mrs. Noble telling her full particulars of his death, also one of his mates has written to her,

Letter from:-
Pte. J. H. McCarthy.
D.Coy. 56th Battn.
France. 10.7.17.

London.
25.8.17.

S.

26.6.17

Pte McCARTHY D Co
56 Batt ~~A I F~~
BEF

for

2233 G. NOBLE
56 Batt A I F

M. 2. 4. 17

F.W.
28.6.17.

Case
F2M-20-7-17

O Company.
56 Batt
A.I.F.
France
10-7-17

The Secretary
Inquiry Bureau
London.

Mack 2.4.17
S

re In reference to your enquiries 2223 Pte G. C. Smith 56 Batt A.I.F. reported missing on the 2-11-17. I have to inform you that he was killed on that date. He was buried in an advanced position so that was how the disc and boot was not brought into headquarters so was naturally reported missing.

It may interest you to know that this officer has written to Mrs. C. Smith telling her full particulars of his

death also one of his mates has written to her. Trusting this information will help you in your good work.

With best wishes

Yours Faithfully

Per J. M. McCarthy

2233. G. NOBLE

56 Bn RFA 1F

Mdel K. 2.4.17 S. 4

10.7.17

(2 13.7.17

Pte FRANK COPPING
D Co
56 Batt AIF
No 18 Camp
5 A.D.B.D
BEF

for

2233 G. NOBLE
56 Batt AIF

M. 2.4.17

Gw.
18.7.17.

To Pte G HEWILL 2198
B. Co.
56 Batt. A.I.F
B.E.F

For 2233 G. HOBLE
~~B. Coy.~~
56 Batt A.I.F.

Missing 2.4.17.

20.7.17
F.M.

Rec'd 2-5-17

France 24-7-17

To the Secretary of Australian Red Cross Society Wounded and missing Enquiry Bureau

Dear Madam,

I received your Note to day 24-7-17 asking me if I could give you any information as to the whereabouts of Pte J. Noble B. Coy 56 Batt whom you say was missing 2-4-17 I am sorry to tell you he was killed on that Date that is all I know of his death I was with him when he was killed and you say you would also be glad if I could give you a short description of his personal appearance well I would take him to be some on near 30 years old he was over Full Dark fellow clean shaven. I also left Australia with him 4th September 1916. I could not say his No this number as I never knew it But I know the man quite well and was not long married before he left but I could not say correctly either if he has a mate in this unit who came from same place as him and knows him better than me but he can't with us now or he could tell you where he came from and all but I think this is the man you are making enquiry after.

With Best Wishes

Yours Faithfully

Pte G. A. Hewitt

B Coy 56th Batt

2233

G. NOBLE

56 BATT. 9198

Mbel K 2.4.17

S.

4.

(9774

Captain THOMSON
C. Co
56 Batt^n A.I.F
B.E.F

for

2232 G. NOBLE
C. Co
56 Batt^n A.I.F

K. 2. 4. 17

L. H.
26/7/17.

July 25th. 1917.

Pte. J.H. Mc Carthy,
D. Company,
56th Battn., A.I.F.
B. E. F.

Dear Pte. McCarthy,

Very many thanks for your letter in answer to our enquiry concerning :-

2233 G. Noble, 56th. Battn., A.I.F.

The information you have sent will be of much assistance.

We are very pleased to hear that his officer and one of his friends had written to Mrs. Noble as we know how much the relatives are comforted by letters such as these.

With best wishes,

Yours faithfully,

V/D

Secretary.

July 31st. 1917.

2198 Pte. C.A. Kevill,
B. Coy.
56th. Battn., A.I.F.
B. E. F.

Dear Pte. Kevill,

Very many thanks for your letter of July 24th. in answer to our enquiry for :-

2233 G. Noble, 56th. Battn A.I.F.

The information you have sent will be of great assistance to us and of value to our enquirers

With best wishes,

Yours faithfully,

V. D.

Secretary.

E. L.

28.7.17.

ACK. 8.6.17.

2233. G. NOBLE
56 Battn
M 2.4.17.

S. 3
*

The Secretary
Australian Red Cross Society
Re No 2233 Pte G. Noble NOBLE

The abovenamed soldier is unknown in this battalion. There was however in the battalion No 2233 Pte G. Noble (who) was killed in action on the 2nd April 1917 at a location which I am unable to mention. Any information as to his place of burial should be obtained from the C.R.U. I have been unable to find anyone who saw him buried but I know a party was detailed to perform this duty and found it had already been done, but they do not know when it was carried out, it was probably in the field. Pte Noble was in the same platoon as Pte Bevan whom you wrote.

1.

There is also in the battalion No 2720 Pte Robbie J.E. but it seems improbable that you are asking about him, he is still well.

In future please make any enquiries of this nature to the battalion & not to individual soldiers.

Abraham McCole
Lt
Assistant Adjutant

28.7.17.

Pte. G. Howe. 2233.

56 Bn M.

Secondr

Pte. T. Matthews. 5421

56 Bn M.

7/8/17.