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

2nd Lieutenant
Charles James Town

51st Battalion



2770306P

51st Battn.
A.I.F.

TOWN.
Charles James. 2/Lt.
Not a Warrant Officer.

"Killed in Action April"

Killed in Action 26-4-18.
Cert: by A.I.F.Hqrs 11-7-18.

London.
11-7-18.

P.

51st Battn.
A.I.F.

TOWN
2/Lt. C.J.

"Killed 25-4-18" 7 on report

Lt.Town was killed at Villers-Bretonneux on 25th April, 1918, in the trench after we had taken it and a barrage put up on us. This was about 50 yds. from me and word was passed down that he was killed outright. I made enquiries. His body was brought back, but I don't know where he was buried.

Informant. Jacoby. T.G. 3885
51st Battn. D.Coy.,
Hut 9,
WESTHAM.

W.A.Rand
London
2-8-18
M.I.S.

P.

51st Battn: Town, 2nd Lt. O.J.

K. 25/4/18.

I was with him in the trench on the right of Villers Bretonneux after he had been wounded all over the body by M.G. bullets. He was in a very bad state and lived for about 14 hours, but was quite conscious and asked us to leave him "where I am" (in the trench). We could not get any stretcher bearers up till late that evening, otherwise I think many of our men might have been saved.

51st Battn: Nicholson, C.W. Cpl. 2700.

13 A. Dartford. 17/8/18.

R.D.B.

P

(SA)

51st A.I.F. Town, 2/Lt. C.J.

(K. Apl 25/18. Dets: D/B)

"Lt. Town was killed at Villers Bretonneux just past the wire. He was wounded slightly and carried on but then was wounded again very severely. I wanted to stop and bandage him up but he said "Don't worry about me" and I do not think he spoke again. He died before they could move him away. It was just break of day. I do not know where he is buried."

Eye-witness: Yes

Description:

Informant: Sgt. C.A. Broad, 4768,
51st A.I.F.,
Duston War Hospital,
Northampton.

21st August 1918.
Gertrude MacKinnell.

Havre 29th August 1918.

Australiams. 51. Town 2nd Lieut C.J.

K. 25th April 1918. Det D/B.

We were at Villers Bretonneux holding the line. On the night of the 24th we attacked and got to Frits line. When we had got there Mr. Town was hit in the stomach by a piece of shell. I saw him lying there and asked if I could do anything for him. He said 'No!' and he died there about 2 hours after. I don't know anything about burial but certainly he was brought back for burial.

Inf:- Opl. J.A. Oliver No. 1670,
A.I.F. 51. B. VIT.
Australian Conv. Depot.
Rouelles.

OHSG.

51st. Battn. A. I. F. Town, C. J. 2nd. Lieut. O

No. 15. Platoon. D. Company.

Killed. April 25th. 1918. Det. D/B.

I saw him badly hit in the head and stomach by a shell whilst we were in the front line at Villers Brettonneux, about 1 a.m. on April 25th. He died shortly after. He was going round getting his men into position at the time he was hit. I could not say if he was buried as I became a casualty soon after. I saw his body lying in a sap ready for burial.

Description. Age. 22. Height. 5-11. Dark Complexion. Medium Build.

Witness. Pte. Mc Quade, W. T. No. 2742. D. Company. 51st. Battalion.

Taken at.
No. 4. C. D. Hurdcott.
2.9.18.
C. H. B.

C. H. Brown,
No. 4. Command Depot,
Hurdcott.