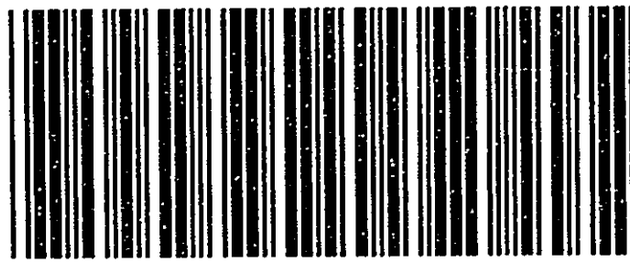
Australian Red Cross Society Wounded and Missing
Enquiry Bureau files, 1914-18 War
1DRL/0428

2414 Private
John Alexander Owen

2nd Pioneer Battalion



2070513I

2nd Pioneers.
A.I.F.

OWEN
J.A. 2414

"Killed 21.4.17."

He was killed outright by a Coalbox, and was buried just where he fell in open ground between Noreuil and Vaux. The Carpenter was making the cross when I left

Witness:-
Ashcroft. W.A. 3451
Southall. 23.10.17.

London.
5.11.17.

2nd Pioneers.

OWEN, J.A.
Pte. No. 2414

Killed in action 21/4/17.

"Casualty was a friend of mine. I met his mate since killed Pte. Oliver, who told me Casualty was killed near Boreuil on the 21st April, 1917 by shell fire. He was buried on the spot where he fell."

Informant:- A. Bayles,
No. 2071 2nd Pioneers.

Private address
Emu Railway Station,
Emu.

H.A.B.
13/11/17.

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS INFORMATION BUREAU—MELBOURNE.

2nd Pnrs. Btn.

OWEN, J. A.
Pte. 2414.

Killed in action 21/4/17.

"I knew Casualty. He was a tall man, slightly built, medium complexion, about 25 years of age, known as "Jack". He was a 4th Hants. man of the 2nd Pioneers and he embarked in the "Themistocles". Casualty had been working near the village of Bullecourt and was returning home. He was ½ mile from the village of Vaux when an H.E. shell exploded 20 yds. from Casualty killing him instantly. I was in the same party returning. He was most severely wounded about the head. I went over the next morning to bury him but he had been buried by someone before I arrived."

Informant:- Pte. H. J. White,
No. 2466, 2nd Pnrs. Btn.

Private address:-
Cr. Clarke & Simpson Streets,
Northcote.

T.C.F.
1/11/18.

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS INFORMATION BUREAU-MELBOURNE.

2nd AUST. PIONEERS. J. A. OWEN, 2414.

K. 21.4.17. Det. D & B. (Spec.Aust.Supp.)

I was with him in a party returning from erecting wire entanglements on the right of Noreuil, a mile behind the front line. It was about the date named and 2 a.m. We were crossing a ridge into a sunken road near a battery of 18 pounders, when a shell came over, evidently looking for the battery. It exploded right in the middle of our single file line. It killed Owen instantly- head blown right off, and wounded Pte. J. F. Oliver. Owen was buried next morning where he was killed on the ridge between Vaulx and Noreuil - there is a white cross up with his name on. I collected his belongings, post cards and letters and sent them to his Battn. H.Q. I have not seen the grave but my mates have told me.

Reference: Sgt. G. R. Ashton, 1128.

No.11 Con.Camp Buchy Nr.Rouen. 24.8.17.

FEP.

Havre 21st September.1917.

2nd AUSTRALIAN PIONEERS OWEN, J.A. 2414

K. April 21st.1917. Det. D/B.

Pt. J.A. Owen of D. Co., XV.Pltn., who was killed at Noreuil on April 21st,1917 was buried by his own mates. Lt. Chambers, Adj. of D. Co., will be able to give exact location of grave.

Informant: Pt. D.S.Emerson, 2612
2nd Australian Pioneers, D.Co., XIV.Pltn.
Australian Camp, Houelles.

RBM.

Written Lt Chambers.
27-9-17

Havre 27th October.1917.

2nd AUSTRALIAN PIONEERS OWEN, J.A. 2414

K. April 21st.1917. Det. D/B.

I knew him; he was in my Company. I do not know his initials or number, or anything about him before he joined. He was tall, well built and about 24 years of age. There was no other of that name in the Company. I was near him when he was killed outright by a shell when we were at Noreuil, sometime in April,1917. He was buried where he fell, about 100 yards from the Sunken Road, going from Noreuil to Vaux. I saw the grave; there were one of two others there.

Informant: Pt. Davis,P. 1894
2nd Australian Pioneers,
Australian Camp, Rouelles.

M
Ed
Supt

L. do D.

G.C. (27-9-17

Pt CHAMBERS

D. Co 2 Rowes Batt

a J+

B E 7

asking location of grave of

2414 J.A. OWEN

2 Pion: Batt

a J+

K 21-4-17

O.S.
27-9-17

G.C

October 2nd, 1917.

Lt.Chambers,
D.Coy, 2nd Aus.Pioneers,
A.I.F., B.E.F.

Dear Sir,

We have been making enquiries on behalf of our Melbourne Bureau concerning 2414 J.A.Owen, 2nd Pioneer Btn, A.I.F.

"Killed 21.4.17".

and we have been informed that if we were to write to you, that you could probably give us the exact location of this soldier's grave. We are anxious to write to the Graves Registration and Enquiries asking for a copy of the grave to be forwarded to the next-of-kin, therefore if you can supply us with the necessary information, we shall be very grateful.

Apologising for troubling you and thanking you in anticipation.

Yours faithfully,

SECRETARY.