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

5649 Private
John Arthur O'Reilly

22nd Battalion



2060402E

22nd Batt. A.I.F.

O'Reilly. J,A. Pte. NO.5649.

A. Coy.

Killed March 9th 1918. Det. D.B.

I saw him buried in the cemetry at ~~Plugs~~ Hyde Park Corner, Ploegsteert Wood, Major Smythe "Pardre" officiated at the grave, a cross was erected bearing full particulars. I knew him in the coy,I could not say where he came from.

Description. Height. 5-8. Complexion. Dark. Well Built.

Witness. Cpl, May. J.W. NO. 1204. A.Coy. 22nd batt.

Taken at
NO.4.C.D.Hurdcott.
2-7-18.
S,W.

S.Whitmee.
NO.4.Command Depot
Hurdcott.

22nd Batt:

O'Reilly, J.A. 5649.

K. 9/3/18.

He was killed by a Minnewerther at Wharneton and is buried at Red Lodge cemetery near Wytschaete. I saw the grave with cross on it.

22nd Batt:

Van Lawick, F.H. Pte.6915.

10 A. Dartford. 5/8/18.

R.J.B.

22nd A.I.F. O'Reilly. Pte. J.A. 5649.

(K. Mar. 9/18.)
Dets. D/B.

"O'Reilly was hit by shrapnel, pine apple bomb, and died in a few minutes, nothing could have been done, the shrapnel went right through him thro near the heart. It happened at "Plug Street" near Warneton at Hill 63, about 9.15 in the evening of Mar.9th. He was the only one killed by that shell. He was buried next day in a cemetery near Hill 63. I helped to carry the body to a place where the Pioneers took charge of it. I think Capt. Dunford buried him. I know him well."

Eyewitness: Yes.

Description:

Informant: Cpl. J. Young. 1957.
22nd A.I.F. A Coy.
Fulham Military Hospital, Ward B.1.
Home address: Hammersmith.
33 Kempshott Rd,
Horsham, Sussex.

5/6/18.
L.M.Corry.

22nd Battn.
A.I.F.

O'REILLY.
J.A. 5649.

"Killed ~~in Action~~" 9-3-18.

I think one of this man's initials was E. as we used to call him Everitt. He was in ,.Coy and was a big set (thick) dark man, nearly 6 ft high. He was a well educated man and I think, had been something in the medical line. Religion R.C. He was killed by a Minniewerfer bomb at Messines Ridge. I did not see him wounded but have seen his grave at Reid Lodge, near the Catacombs, Wulvergehem.

Informant:- Pte.J.R.Maxwell.6848.
22nd Battn.C.Co.
DARTFORD HPL.

H.E.Hayes.
London.
12-6-18.

M.

22 Bn. A.I.F.

O'Reilly, 5649 Pte. J.A.
A. Coy.

K. Mar. 9/18. Det D/B.

"O'Reilly was killed at Warneton (?) -explosion of a shell. I saw him dead and helped to carry him out. ~~The~~ For details as to burial apply to Chaplain Durinford (?) I think he was buried at Red Lodge."

Eyewitness. Yes.

Description. Small thin man, dark, known as "Jack."

Informant. Sgt. Robt. Hammer, 5707
22 A.I.F. A. Coy.
Cambridge Hospital,
Aldershot.

Home address.
33 Bay Street,
Port Melbourne,
Victoria.

D.M. Bethune.
10.6.18.

FRANCE.

22nd BATT. A.I.F. O'REILLY. J.A. 5649.

K.March 9th.1918. Det.

He was in A.Coy, III PLatoon and was a Lewis Machine Gunner. He was killed by a piece of a Minenwerfer which went right through him, entering his back; it was during the German bombardment at Warneton. Death was instantaneous. He was buried at Rest Lodge. I was in the same post at the time.

WSI.

Ref ---Pte W.C.Handson. 2184.
No 16 Gen. Hospital.

Le Treport. June 12th.1918

22nd Battn.
A.I.F.

O'REILLY
J.A. 5649

"Killed 9-3-18"

He was in a different Coy. from me, but I saw him killed at Warneton, when he lived but a few minutes, only saying "I'm hit". He was hit by a piece of shrapnel in the back, when we were holding the line at the time of casualty, late in the evening. I did not know him very well. His body was taken back to Red Lodge for burial, near Romarin. I did not see the grave, nor can I refer to anyone.

Informant. Canavan. Pte.J.S.J. 6788
D.Coy. 22nd Battn.,
3rd A.A.H.,
DARTFORD.

W.Oman
London
24-6-18

M.

22nd Btn.

O'REILLY, J. A.
Pte. 5649.

K. in act. 9/3/18.

"I knew Casualty. - He was a well built man, about 5 ft. 5 ins. dark complexion, about 30 years of age, known as "Jack". Casualty was in the front line near Warneton. He was a machine gunner in the front line when Fritz started bombarding us with minne werfers when a piece of one entered his back killing him instantly. He was carried out to support lines where I saw his body, and was buried at Hill 63 by the Italian Pioneers. There was a cross erected with his name, number and unit on it."

Informant:- Pte. E. H. Peterson,
No. 226, 22nd Btn.

Private address:-
Palmerston Crescent,
South Melbourne.

M. O'Reilly

H.A.T.
11/4/19.

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS INFORMATION BUREAU—MELBOURNE.