

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

3439 Driver
James O'Neill

49th Battalion



2050902I

49th A.I.F.

O'Neill, Dvr. J. 3439.

K. 5.9.16. Det. D/B.

"At Moquet Farm on 3.9.16. O'Neill who recently left Transport Section for Machine Gun Section was in Reserve with his Gun Section. A shell wiped out the lot, two killed and three wounded, I think. I saw where they were, and I know that O'Neill was killed. His body was hardly recognisable, and he would be buried near. We had not much time to examine closely. He came from near Sidney and went by that name. I cannot describe his appearance".

Eye-Witness: Yes.

Description: Nickname "Sidney".

Informant:- Pte. William Dudley, 3731.
49th A.I.F., C Coy.
2nd Southern General Hospital,
Southmead, Bristol.

Home Address:- Cunnamulla, Queensland.

6.7.17.
H.W.Ward.

B. v P.J.

49th A. I. F.

O'Neill, Dvr J. 3439.

(K. Sept. 5/16 Det D & B)

"O'Neill was a machine gunner. I was told by Pte Wade the only survivor of his team that Smith was killed by a high explosive shell. Pte Lyons who was nicknamed Togo was killed at the same time. Pte Wade was still there when I left. It was the beginning of Sept at Moquet Farm on the same. Probably O'Neill was blown to pieces. O'Neill probably came from Brisbane as he was always talking about his friends and relations there."

Eye-witness: No, told by Pte Wade, 49 A.I.F.

Description: Short, dark, good looking, probably from Brisbane

Informant: Pte Harry Smith, 1647,
49th A.I.F. D. 15,
Charing Cross Hospital,
London

Home address:
Willing Creek,
Artern,
Dorrigo, N.S.W.

18th June 1917.
R. Hazer-Hamphreys.

Written by Wade 20.7.17

49th Battn
A.I.F.

O'Neill,
Dr. J. 3439

"Killed 5.9.17."

Blown to pieces at ^{Weguit} Mognist Farm with 5 others, Shell
came over blew them to pieces-terrible mess, so part of trench was
filled in just to bury them, it was communication trench not
much used-they were sheltering there at the time.

Witness:-

Sgt, King.

Ward 3.

Harcfield.

D.P. Dickson,
London.

22.8.17.

B.

P.I.

49th Batt,
A.I.F.

Dvr O'Neill,
J. 3439.

"Killed 5.9.16"

Dvr J.O'Neill 3439. regret that I cannot add more than a short description of J. O'Neill, as I knew him. - About 5' 8" in height, about 10 stone, in weight, and dark.

Informant :- Pte ^{Sdc} Wools, 3129.
D.Coy, 49th Batt,
A.I.F.

London 14.9.17.

B P.I

9th Battn., A.I.F.
11th Reinforcements

O'NEILL
Pte James
No. 3439

" H. Abbassia January. "

1st A.D. Hospital 2.2.16.

Cert.: by A.I.F. Headquarters
130, Horseferry Road,
S.W.

Embarked Overseas

Alexandria cable 15.6.16.

London
15.6.16.

B.
Gibb

Bayre

Jan. 10th 1917

AUSTRALIANS 49

O'NEILL DRY.J. 3469

E.5.9.16.

O'Neill was a machine gun driver. He asked to go into the trenches one night, and was allowed to go. He was attacking August Farm next morning. O'Neill was killed in the attack. I was only told about this.

Informant: J.J.C. Cunningham - 3312

49th Australians B Co. I pltn.

now A Co.

No. 2 Gen. Hosp (Palais)

H.F.O. ✓

Pt. J. O. O'Neill 3439.

see under 49 Ball.

Pt. H. B. Little 2274.

4 M. G. Co.

C 29.7.17.

14-7-17

Rte WADE

M.G.S.

49 Batt AIF

BEF

for

3439

Dvt J. O'NEILL

49 Batt AIF

K. 5. 9. 16

21-7-17

FM.

ack-
10.8.17.
P.L.

France July 27th 1917

Dear Secretary

in reply to yours dated 21-7-17
wherein you make enquiry for Doc J.C. Hill No 3439
I regret that I cannot add more than a short
description of J.C. Hill as I know him about 1911-
1912 (approx) I have a right and work
Extremely sorry that I cannot add more
I remain yours faithfully

pk A Wdr J 3129

Day 19 Battalion
A.I.F.

France

~~3439~~
3439

~~Mr~~ J. O'NEILL

49th Battalion A.I.F.

(Cd)

R. 5. 9. 16

P.L. B.

4

September 12th, 1917.

No 484 Pte. J. Mitchell,
31st Battalion,
A.I.F., B.E.F.

Dear Sir,

We regret to inform you of another unofficial
report received about No 3439 Driver J.O.O'Neill,
49th Battalion,
A.I.F.

which confirms the evidence already sent you about
him and the report of his instantaneous death.

Sgt. King of the unit who is in Ward 3, No 1
Australian Auxiliary Hospital, Harefield stated that
Driver O'Neill with five others was killed instantly
by a shell while in a communication trench at Monquet
Farm on Sept 5th all of them being buried where they
fell.

No further details are at present available and
we regret that we must discontinue our inquiries for we
cannot obtain reliable information of events which happened
so long ago. However, should we receive any news we shall
let you know immediately.

With very good wishes and trusting that this
report will be of some help to you.

Yours faithfully,

V. D.

SECRETARY.

(Handwritten signature)

23rd July 1917.

48th Bn J. Mitchell,
31st Bn, A.I.F.
Staff Coy,
No 4 Command Depot,
Coddford, Wilts.

Dear Sir,

We beg to inform you that we have received from a man of his unit, who in the 1st Southern General Hospital, Bristol an unofficial report about - 313 Driver S. O'Neill, 48th Bn. A.I.F. who was killed in action on 8-9-16.

Informant - 3751 Pte W. Dudley said, that he saw Dvr. O'Neill, with most of his gun team, killed instantly by a shell, while in Reserve at night on 8-9-16, and he believes that he was buried close to the place of his casualty. He came from Sydney and was always called "Sydney".

We are still continuing our inquiries and will send you any further information that we receive about him.

Yours faithfully,

V.D.
Secretary
A.W.

July 20th 1917

No. 484. Pte. J. Mitchell
31st. Battn. A.I.F.
No. 4 Command Depot
Codford. Wilts

Dear Sir,

In reply to your enquiry for details of the death and burial of
3439 Pte. James O. O'Neill 49th Battn. A.I.F.
we write to tell you of an unofficial report which has been received
from a man of the same unit when in hospital in London in June.

He reported that O'Neill was a machine gunner and that he was
killed instantly by a high explosive shell at Mo^uquet^y Farm on
~~April~~ ^{September} 5th 1916. There was one man left after this attack and he
gave information of these details. The survivor, Pte. Wade, is still with
the 49th Battn and we suggest your writing to him for further particu-
lars. In the meantime we are continuing the enquiry and will send
you any information that we receive.

Yours faithfully

V.D

Secretary
Law