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

1978 Private
William John Toone

55th Battalion



2760903R

A. I. F. 55. TOOME, Pte.W.J. 1978.

K/A, 7th.February 1917.

I have seen his grave in the cemetery by the Montauban Road, near to Tronos Wood. A cross marks the grave with the following inscription on it:- 1978, W.J.Toome, 7/2/17. Chaplain Capt.D.Hunter.

Reference: Pte.J.Goldrick, 1905, 55th.Bn. No. 5 A.D.B.D.

Staples.
28.2.17.
SA.

N.B. Enquirer has seen this report. SA.

55th A. I. F.,

Toone, Pte. W.J., 1978,
A.Coy., IV Pltn.,

K. Feb. 7/17, Det: D & M.

"I knew Toone personally for about ten days at the front. I did not see him killed, but on Feb. 8th I was in Needle Trench, Montauban, when a burying party fetched him away during the afternoon and he was buried in the cemetery close by, the padre took the service, and Pte. Simmons, and Pte. Alsop (both of 55th A.I.F. Coy., A., IV Pltn.,) buried him."

Eye Witness: Yes.
Description: ~~Aft~~ About 5ft.9ins, brown hair, about 20 years of age.

Informant:-- Pte. Thomas Monaghan, 3286,
55th A. I. F., A. Coy., IV Pl:
1st London General Hosp:
Camberwell, S.E.

Home address:-- 111, Gloucester Street,
Millers Point, Sydney.

Bond

4.4.17.
H. Caldwell.

A.I.F. 55 TOONE, W.J. 1978

K. Feb. 7th 1917 Det: D & B.

Toone - name William - was in the same reinforcements as myself. He was a porter on the railway at Barrowa. He was killed on fatigue near Needle Trench in front of Gueudecourt early in February. He got hit right through his helmet and was killed instantly. I was not an eye-witness to this, but it is trustworthy. He was buried some three miles behind the lines at Bernafay Wood where the field Dressing Station is, with a cross over his grave.

Informant: Pte R.Bassingthwaite. 1880. D.Coy.
No.14 General Hospital.
BOULOGNE. 4.4.1917.

JT

A.I.F. 55 TOONE, W.J. 1978

K. Feb. 7th 1917. Det: D & B.

A.

Toone belonged to C.Coy, a signaller. He came over from England where he had been learning signalling, just after Christmas, and was killed about February 6th in the evening, when on fatigue putting up some barbed wire near Needle Dump in the Transloy Sector. A shell got him. I was working in Cow Trench at the time not far off, and I saw him after he was killed. I can say nothing about his burial. He belonged to 3rd Reinforcements of 55th.

Informant: Pte C.H.Foster. 2149. C.Coy.
No.5 B.R.C.S.
BOULOGNE. 5.4.17.

JT

55th A. I. F. W. J. TOONE, 1978.

Killed 7.2.17. Details D & B.

Informant gave No. of Toone and date of casualty and said he was working on dug out near Needle Dump when he was struck by a shell and killed. He was buried in a small military cemetery at Bernafay, and Informant has seen his grave and cross.

Reference: Pte. C. R. Kelly, 2171, D Co.

This Informant gave same account as Kelly but added that Toone was hit in the head and killed instantly.

Pte. C. Dunshea, 6896, D Co.

No.9 General, Rouen. 9.4.17.

DLF.

55th A. I. F.,

Toone, Pte. W.J., 1978,
D. Company,

K. 7.2.17. Det: D & B.

"W.J. Toome was killed by a concussion of shell in front of Le Transloy on the 7th Feb. 1917."

Eye Witness: Yes.

Description: Medium build and complexion.

Informant:-- Pte. A.L. Box, 1621,
55th A. I. F., C. Coy., 12 Pltn.,
Norfolk War Hospital,
Norwich.

Home address:-- Wagga Waggan,
N.S.W.

Both 6d.

16.4.17.
E. Rice.

A.I.F. 55 TOONE, W.J. 1978

K. Feby 7th 1917. Det: D & B

About two months ago I was in the cemetery at Bernafay Wood, near the Anzac light Railway and 15th Field Ambulance, and I saw there the grave of Private Toone of the 55th. His initials were W.J. It is a small cemetery with perhaps 300 in it. The grave was marked up like the others with name etc.

Informant: Pte M.J.Beaton. 2652. A.
No.14 General Hospital
BOULOGNE. 17.4.17.

Bowl
JT

Havre 18th April, 1917.

55th AUSTRALIANS TOONS, W.J. 1978

K. 7.8.17. Det. D/B.

I do not know to what company he belonged. I know that his body was brought in from the front line trench. He had been shot through the head and was buried in a little cemetery of our own just below Bernafay Corner near Anzac Railway.

Informant: Corpl. F.L. Lawson, 2444
55th Australians, C Co., 10th Ptn.
N. S. Panama.

GRB

Havre 19th April, 1917.

55th AUSTRALIANS TOONS, W.J. 1978

K. 7.8.17. Det. D/B.

He was a Signaller in A Co., and came from New South Wales. He was hit in the head by a shell in our trenches during the night and killed on the spot. He was buried next day in a cemetery near Montauban and his grave is marked. I was one of the burial party.

Informant: Pte C. Tunney, 2749
55th Australians, A Co.,
2 Gen. (Quai) Havre.

RBS

Havre 20th April, 1917.

55th AUSTRALIANS TOOKE, W.J. 1978

K. 7.2.17. Det. D/B.

He is buried at Tronea Wood at a small cemetery. The railway runs south west and it is at the east side of the line and about a ¼ of a mile from it. At the point where the cemetery was the main line finished at this time, and a light railway ran on further. He was on fatigue work when killed by a shell in the evening.

Informant: Pte H.B. McDonald, 1946
55th Australians, C Co., 9th Fltn.,
No. 1 Gen., Stretat.

Suff Bnd C d.

PGP

55th. A.I.F. Toone, W.J. 1978.

K.A. 7.2.17

" At Needledump near Delville Wood on Feb. 7/17 at night(very dark night) Toone was out on fatigue work with a party of 5 or 6.

He was hit on the forehead by a bit of shrapnell & killed at once. I was not an eyewitness but was told by some of my mates. He was buried in the cemetery at Bernafay. I heard the chaplain who buried him telling about where he was buried. The Chaplain could give information as to burial and grave.

Toone was attached to our Battalion as signaller. I knew him in Australia as we were training in the same camp. He came from Mossvale in N.S.Wales."

Eyewitness:- No. Told by some of his mates.

Description:- 5 ft 6 or 7 in., under 25,medium hair, clean-shaven.

Informant:- Pte.Percival Holmes. 2161
55th. A.I.F. D Co., XIII Plat.
3rd. London Genl Hosp., Wandsworth.
Home address:- Aus.- Mil.- Offices, Horseferry Road.

Boulogne

26/4/17.
E Liddell.

55th A. I. F. Toone, Pte W.J. 1978,

(K. Feb. 7th/17. Det: D & B)

"I saw Toone wounded on the 7th February whilst on fatigue work at night on the Somme, he wascarried to the 15th Australian Field Ambulance, and he died two days afterwards. He was buried by the Ambulance people at Montauban cemetery. I saw his grave."

Eye-witness: Yes

Description:

Informant: J.L. Alston, 4053,
55th A. I. F.,
Kitchener's Hospital, C; Block,
Brighton.

Home address:
Harrogate,
Fraser St,
Leichardt,
Sydney.

Badged
c d

30th April 1917.
Maud M. Seaman.

55th A. I. F., Toone, W.J., 1978
D.Coy.,

K. Feb. 7th 1917. Det: D & B.

Informant states that on Feb. 7th at "Needledump" near Bernafray Toone was killed, he was out on night fatigue work. Informant knew him very well, trained with him and came over with him. Trained at Golden Camp, in Australia for 8 months. He saw his grave with his name on it near Bernafray. I was told about it because he was his chum.)

Eye Witness:

Description:

Informant:-- Pte. Chas. R. Kelley, 2171,
55th A. I. F., D. Coy.,
Fulham Military Hosp:
B.1. Ward.

Boulogne. P. 1.

30.4.17.
Amy Urlin.

55th Australians

Toone, Pte. W.J., 1978,
A. Coy.,

K. Feb. 7th 1917. Det: D & B.

"I knew "Billy" Toone. I did not see him killed but was told by a friend whose name I have forgotten just now. He was buried at a place called Berrofray?. Toone had been a signaller on the railway in Australia. He was about 25 or 26 years old."

Eye Witness: No, Forgotten who told him.

Description:

Informant:-- Pte. T. Jones, 2008,
55th Australians, A. Coy.,
1st Eastern General Hosp:
Cambridge.

Home address:--

1.5.17.
E.S. Browne.

55th A. I. F.,

Toone, W.J., 1978,

K. Feb. 7th, 1917. Dt: D & B.

Informant states that on Feb. 8th, 1917 at Bernafay near 15th Field Dressing station, Sig. W.J. Toone was buried and several of his comrades attended his funeral. Informant saw his grave, about 3 weeks later with name and Number marked on the cross."

Eye Witness: Saw his grave.
Description: Signaller, came from Goulburn.

Informant:-- Pte. F. West, 2019,
both Machine Gun Section, A.I.F.,
Beach House Hospital,
16, The Avenue, Brondesbury,
N.W.6,

Home address:-- c/o Mrs. Wallis,
Park Cottage,
Hainham, Essex.

6.5.17.
Dawson.