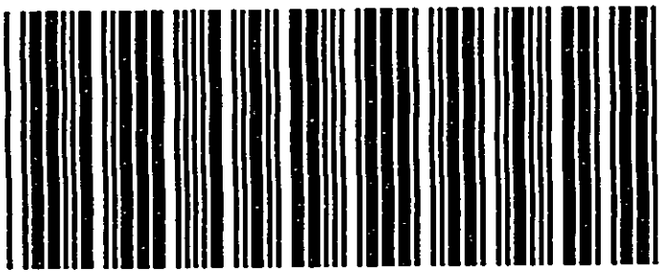
Australian Red Cross Society Wounded and Missing
Enquiry Bureau files, 1914-18 War
1DRL/0428

7244 Sapper John Douglas Robertson

14th Field Company Engineers



2320711G

14th FCE
A.I.F.

ROBERTSON
J.D. 7244

"Missing and Wounded"

Killed in Action 26.9.17. prev. reported Wounded and Missing
Cert. by A.I.F.HdQrs 10.12.17.

Off. M.

London.
18.12.17

Engineers.A.I.F. Robertson. J.D. 7244.
14 Coy.

(K. Sept. 26/17. Dets.D/B.)

"I was not there myself, but I heard all the others talking about Sapper Jock Robertson (14.3 Sect.) who was badly wounded in Sept. at Polygon Wood. He was caught in a barrage when they were going up to dig strong points. I heard he was badly wounded in the head, and was left lying where he fell, as he could not be moved. He was reported missing at first. A search was made several times, but he could not be found, he might possibly have been buried by another Unit. He was afterwards reported D/W. Sapper Roy Mitchell (14. 3 Sect.) or Sapper Orr (14 3 Sect) might be able to give more particulars."

Eyewitness: No.

Description: From Foster, S.Gippsland, widower I believe, a Carpenter, out in Australia 6 or 7 years.

Informant: Spr. Chas. Stanlake, 6552,
Engineers, A.I.F. 14 Coy. 3 Sect.
3rd Southern General Hospital,
Cowley Section, Oxford.

Home address:
Loch P.O.
S.Gippsland, Victoria.

18/5/18.
H.M.Pickard-Cambridge.

Written P/Pers. Mitchell + Orr 6.6.18.

14th. F. Coy. Engineers. A.I.F. Robertson. J.D. No.7244.

K. Sept. 25th. 1918. Det D.& B.

I saw him lying in a shell hole badly wounded in the stomach just as we were going into Polygon Wood. We went on, leaving him there, and I heard search was made for him later, but he could not be found. He was apparently very badly hit. I only knew him in the company. He was a Scotchman by birth.

Description. Height. 5-8. Comp. Fair. Stout Build.

Witness. Beirne. P.V. No. 7276. 14th. F. Coy. Engineers.

S. Whitmee,
No.4. Command Depot,
Hurdcott.

Taken at
No.3.C.D. Hurdcott.
June 18th. 1918.
S.W.

P.1

14th Engineers.
A.I.F.

ROBERTSON.
J.D. 7244.

"Killed in Action" 26-9-17.

I saw him hit by a piece of shell at Polygon Wood at about 5 o'clock early morning on the 26th Sept 1917. I was but two yards away at the time and I think he was hit in the stomach. We had to go on and we did not have a chance to examine him, and ascertain whether he was dead. He rolled over when hit, and never spoke. I did not see him again. I knew him well and he came from Sydney New South Wales. I cannot give any details of burial, nor can I refer to anyone for particulars.

Informant:- Sapper Rose. H.N. 15435.
14th Engineers.
No 3 A.A.H.DARTFORD.

W.Oman.
London.
20-6-18.

P.I.
Off.M.

14th Fld.Coy. Engrs.
A.I.F.

ROBERTSON
J.D. 7244

"Killed 26-9-17"

I did not see casualty, but saw him half an hour later, when dead. Casualty happened at Glencorse Wood, when he was hit by pieces of shell in stomach, about 7-30 a.m. on 26-9-17. I knew him well, and I think his people live in Scotland. He enlisted in N.S.W., and was a carpenter in civilian life. I cannot give any details of burial, but we held the ground, so he was sure to be buried.

Informant. Brown. L/Cpl.A.O. 14008
14th Fld.Coy.Engrs.,
3rd A.A.H.,
DARTFORD.

W.Oman
London
26-6-18
J.E.A.

Off.M.
P.I.

14th Fld.Coy.Engrs.
A.I.F.

ROBERTSON
J.D. 7244

"Killed in Action 26-9-17"

Re 7244 Spr.J.D.Robertson, 14th F.C.Engrs. He was badly wounded in the head, about 6 o'clock on Wednesday morning 26-9-17, whilst going through Glencorse Wood. He was left there whilst the remainder of No.3 Section went on. At 10 o'clock, 4 hours later, I passed over the ground, but could not find any trace of him. Enquiries were made at the dressing station near by, but he had not passed through. No.3 Section Officer and some sappers made a thorough search next morning, but could not trace him. It is probable that he was buried by the heavy shell fire at the time of being wounded. A short description of his personal appearance is as follows:- medium height, rather stout, clean shaven and ruddy complexion.

Letter from:- Mitchell. Spr.R.H. 2614
No.3 Section,
14th F.C.Engrs.
FRANCE. 13-6-18

London
2-7-18
J.E.A.

P.I.

6.6.18

Sapper Roy Mitchell
3rd Section
14th 7 Coy Engineers
Abroad A.1.7

Abt.
7244

Sapper J. D. Robertson
14th 7 Coy Engineers
3rd Section A.1.7.

K. 26-9-17

6.6.18.
A.1.B.

6.6.18

Sapper Orr
3rd Section
14th F. Coy Engineers
A.I.F.
abroad

abt
7244
Spr J. D. Robertson
14th F. Coy Engineers
A.I.F.

R

K. 26.9.17

1.6.18
A.I.B.

Acted by PC 26.6.18 NY

7244 France
J.D. Robertson 13.6.18
14th F.C.E.
KinA 26-9-17

The Secty
Enquiry Bureau
Red Cross Society
London. J.E.A.

Dear Madam.

Your communication of the 6th inst to hand. & I have much pleasure in supplying the following information concerning No 7244 Spr J.D. Robertson. 14th F. Coy. A.E. He was badly wounded in the head about 6 o'clock on Wednesday morning 26th Sept 1917. whilst going through Glencorse Wood. He was left there whilst the remainder of No 3 Section went on. At 10 o'clock. (4 hours later) I passed over the ground. but could not find any trace of him. Enquiries were made at the dressing station near by, but he has not passed through. No 3 Sect Officer and some sappers made a thorough search next morning, but could not trace him. It is probable that he was buried by the heavy shell-fire at

the time of being wounded.
~~He was~~ A short description
of his personal appearance is
as follows.
Medium height. rather stout.
Clean shaven & ruddy complexion.
Trusting this information may be of
some use to your enquiries.

I am
Yours faithfully
Roy/st Mitchell

2614.
Spr. R.H Mitchell
No 3 Sect.
14th Fld Coy. Engrs
A.I.F.

Mr. James Robertson,

32, Daisy St, Govanhill,

Glasgow.

26th April, 1918.

Dear Sir,

In answer to your enquiry about - 7284 Sapper JOHN D. ROBERTSON, 14th Field Coy. Australian Engineers, - we very deeply regret to have to send you the sad news, that he is officially reported to have been killed in action on Sept. 26th, 1917, having previously been reported wounded and missing on that date.

We are making enquiries as to particulars of his death and burial and will at once inform you of any we may obtain.

With our sincere sympathy in your great sorrow.

Yours faithfully,

(Miss) F. Sec.

SECRETARY.

Acknowledged 25.4.18.

32 Daisy Street
Govanhill
Glasgow 23rd April 1918

Australian Branch
Red Cross Society

Dear Sirs.

Could you kindly give me any information, about No 72444 Sapper John D Robertson 14th Field Coy Engineers A I F France who was wounded & in Hospital somewhere, on or. about 26th Sept last, Thanking you in anticapation and Apologising for troubly you

I am Yours Truly
James Robertson

James Robertson, Esq,
32, Daisy Street,
Govanhill, Glasgow.

June 12th, 1918.

Dear Sir,

With reference to your enquiry concerning -

7244 Spr. J.D. ROBERTSON, 14th Field Coy Engrs, A.I.F.

We beg to inform you that we have received the following unofficial report from 6552 Spr. Chas. Stanlake, 11th F.C.E., 3rd Southern General Hospital, Cowley Section, Oxford. He states that he knew Sapper Jock Robertson, who was a carpenter and had been in Australia for 6 or 7 years and though information was not present when the casualty occurred, he was told about it by some of his comrades. It appears that he was caught in a barrage, when they were going up to dig some strong points at Polygon Wood in September He was badly wounded in the head and was left lying where he fell as he could not be moved at the time. Later a search was made for him on several occasions but he could not be found, and he might possibly have been buried by another unit.

We would emphasise that the above report is entirely unofficial. We are continuing our enquiries and hope to send you more definite information at a later date.

Assuring you of our sympathy.

Yours faithfully,

Mr. James Robertson,
32 Daisy Street,
Gowanhill,
Glasgow.

22nd June 1918.

Dear Sir,

We regret to inform you that we have received an unofficial report respecting 7244 Sapper J. D. Robertson, 14th Field Company Australian Engineers, from 5435 Sapper H. N. Rose of the same unit. Interviewed recently at the 3rd Australian Auxiliary Hospital, Dartford, he stated that he saw him wounded by a fragment of shell at Polygon Wood, early in the morning of September 26th only two yards from Sapper Rose - but as they were advancing he was unable to go to him or to ascertain if he were dead. He never spoke after he was wounded, and Sapper Rose thought he was killed instantly, but can say nothing as to his burial.

We are continuing inquiries, and will at once inform you of any particulars we may obtain.

With sincere sympathy.

Yours faithfully,

(Miss)

Secretary.

7. Sq

Mr. James Robertson,
52 Daisy Street,
Govanhill,
Glasgow.

28th June 1918

Dear Sir,

We beg to inform you that we have received two more unofficial reports about your son 7244, Sapper J. D. Robertson, 14th Field Company Engineers, A.I.F., whose name has now been removed from our enquiry lists. 7276 Sapper P. V. Beirne, of the same unit, interviewed at the 4th Command Depot, Hurdcott, stated that he saw him lying in a shell hole, badly wounded in the stomach, as they were going into Polygon Wood, and heard that search was made for him later but without success. 14008 L/Cpl. A. O.Brown of the same unit, recently at the 3rd Australian Auxiliary Hospital, Dartford, stated that he did not see him wounded, but saw him dead about half an hour later, in Glencourse Wood. He had been severely wounded by fragments of shell. Cpl. Brown cannot give any details of burial, but as the ground was held, he thinks he was sure to be buried.

With renewed assurance of our sympathy in your loss.

Yours faithfully,

(Miss)

Secretary.

F. S. G.

Mr. James Robertson,
32 Daisy Street,
Govanhill,
Glasgow.

5th July 1918.

Dear Sir,

We have received another unofficial report about your brother 7244 Sapper J. D. Robertson, 14th Field Company, Engineers, which you may like to have, though it throws no more light on his ultimate fate. 2614 Sapper R. H. Mitchell, of the same unit, stated that your brother was wounded in the head on September 26th about 6 o'clock in the morning,,and had to be left while the section went on four hours later Sapper Mitchell passed over the ground but could find no trace of him, and it was ascertained that he had not passed through the dressing station near. The Section Officer and some sappers made a thorough search next morning but without success and it was believed that he was buried by the heavy shell fire after he was wounded. Sapper Mitchell described him as of medium height, rather stout, with ruddy complexion, and clean shaven.

With regrets that this information is not more definite.

Yours faithfully,

(Miss) F. SVG.
Secretary.