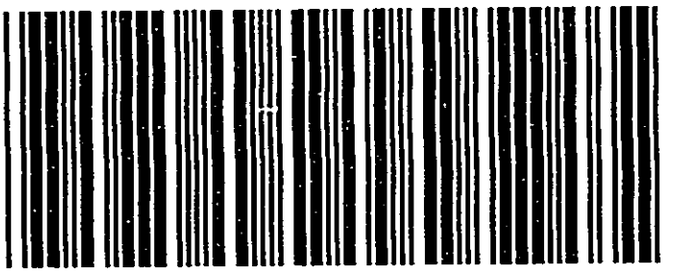
Australian Red Cross Society Wounded and Missing
Enquiry Bureau files, 1914-18 War
1DRL/0428

6558 Private
James Rossi

15th Battalion



2360907R

Havre 31st August.1917.

15th AUSTRALIANS ROSSI, J. 6568

K. July 4th.1917. Dpt. D/B.

I saw Pt. Jno. Rossi of A. Co., blown to pieces at Flugstreet when in supports early in July, 1917. I helped to dig his body out, and saw his grave later at Prowse Point, Mill 63, in the open. I could point out the spot.

Informant: Pt. J. Milham 6526
15th Australians, B.Co., VII.Pltn.
Australian Camp, Rouelles.

HDM.

B.

15th Battn
A.I.F. A Co

Rossi.
J 6558

"Killed 4.7.17."

I saw him killed at Messines. He was caught by a shell and mutilated badly, death was instantaneous. I do not know place of burial and cannot refer to anyone for particulars. I knew him well he was the only man of that name in the Coy.

Witness:- Pte. Thos. Clark. 6735
15th Battn D. Coy., 14th Pltn.
3rd A.A. Hospital,
Dartford.

W. Oman,
London.
10.8.17.

B

15th A.I.F.

Rossi, Pte.J. 6558
D.Co.

(K. July 4/17)

"I heard in the Batt. that he was blown to pieces at Messines Ridge and buried on the spot. Pte. Rossi was a barber by profession and well liked in the Battalion. He came over on the first draft."

Eye-witness:

Description:

Informant:- Pte. J. Hanneschild, 6592
15th A.I.F. C.Co. 12.Pl.
Queens Hospital, Birmingham.

Home address: Sandy Creek,
Claremont. Queensland.

B

Sept. 5.
F. Jervis

15th A. I. F.,

Rossi, Pte. J. 6558,
A. Company,

K. by shell, July 4/17. Det: D/B.

"In the afternoon of July 4/17 my company of which Rossi was a unit was in support. The men being inactive da in dug-outs. The dug-out occupied by Rossi was struck by a shell. Rossi was buried in the debris caused by the explosion, but he was immediately dug out but was dead. He was afterwards buried the same night on the right of the River Dowel? looking north on the right of Messines. I did not assist in his burial but was informed by those who were with him when killed and afterwards buried."

Eye Witness:

Description:

Informant:-- Pte. Reynold Sherwin, 5802,
15th A. I. F., A. Coy.,
1st Southern Gen: Hosp: Birmingham.

Home address:-- Pine Grove Farm,
Childers, Queensland.

B

6.9.17.
Geo% Drinkwater.

FRANCE

15th BATT. A.I.F. ROSSI. J. 6558.

K.July 4th.1917.

He was a barber by trade and I think that the shop where he worked was opposite Brunswick Street Railway Station. He was in A.Coy, 1 Platoon. I knew him very well for we joined together. He was killed on the night of July 3rd at about 8-30 p.m. in the subsidiary line at Ploegsteert. We were preparing to go up to the front line. I am in 4 Platoon so he was some way further up the sap beyind me. 32 dud shells came over and then 5 which burst. One of these hit him and buried him. He was got out next day, July 4th; he had been killed instantly, for he was a good deal knocked about. He was taken down and is buried near Hyde Park Corner, Ploegsteert. I knew him well, so that it why I know so exactly what happened to him, for I was, as I said, some way further along the trench when the shell buried him. JHA

Ref ---Pte H.W.Miller. 6525.
No 3 Gen. Hospital.
Le Treport. Sept 11th.1917

B.

A.I.F. 15. ROSSI J. 6558.

K. 4.7.17.

He and another man were killed together by an H.E. shell. I was about 100 yards away but S/B. J. Shearer of A.Co. saw it and could give further information. He is now up the line. Rossi was a short, dark man, who was our barber at Codford before we came out.

EBA.

Reference: Pte. Curnow. 6951.
18 Gen.Hpl.

Etaples.
11.9.17.

B.

written Pte Shearer 20.9.17

Havre 17th Sept. 1917.

15th AUSTRALIANS ROSSI, J. 6558

K. 4.7.17. Det. D/B.

I knew Pte. Jim Rossi of A Co., 1st Pltn. He came from Brisbane. I saw him killed on July 3, 1917 at Warneton by a shell when in our subsiduary trench and buried in the open close to where he was killed. There is a cross on the grave. I could point out the spot. Pte. J.O.A. Booth of the, 15th Battalion, A Co., 1st Pltn. was killed by the same shell. Their graves are close together.

Informant: Pte. G. Hancock 6987
15th Australians, A Co., 1st Pltn.,
Australian Camp, Houelles.

RDM

B

15th A. I. F., Rossi, Pte. J. 6558,

K. July 4th 1917. Det: D. & B.

"I was in the trench with Rossi at King Street, Messines and he was blown up by a shell. We collected what remained and placed them in a sand bag and buried it in the trench."

Eye Witness:

Description:

Informant:-- Pte. W. R. Moir, 7011,
15th A. I. F., A.Coy. I Pln.,
Queens Hosp: Birmingham.

Home address:-- Kallenos,
Derby, Queensland.

23.9.17.
F.Jervis.

B
Bd

ROSSI
J. 6658

15th Battn
A. Coy
A.I.F.

Killed 4.7.17

I saw him killed at Bleogsteert Wood by a shell fragment Death was instantaneous. I saw his grave at Pleogsteert Wood, and it was marked by a cross bearing all his particulars. I knew him well. He came from James Street, Valley, Brisbane Queensland, and was the only man of that name in the Coy.

Witness:- Sgt G. F. Ludlow 617
15th Battn A. Coy 1st Pltn
3rd A. A. Hospital Dartford.

W. Oman
London 29.9.17

B

15th Battn.
A. I. F.

Rossi.
Pte.W. 6558

"Killed in Action 4.7.17"

re Pte.W.Rossi 6558. He was killed on the evening of the 3rd July 1917 at Messines by a high explosive shell, together with my personal friend Pte.J.Booth. Pte.Rossi is buried in the military cemetery on the Eastern slope on Hill 63 and would certainly be registered. The late Pte.was about 23 years of age, light in build and of happy disposition. In civilian days he was in the employ of Ehradts shaving saloon Brunswick St., Brisbane. I am given to understand that he came over from Queensland on the transport Boonah.

Letter from:-
J.A.Shearer 7147
H.Q.S.B.
15th Battn.
France. 25.9.17.

London.
1.10.17.

B.

Rfd J. SHEARER 19.9.17

S Bearer A Co

15 Batt AIF

BEF

abt

6558 J. ROSSI

15 Batt AIF

K-4.7.17

CC.
20.9.17

ack'd letter 29-9-17

6558 Pt W. Rossi
15th Batt.

France
25th Sept, 1917.

K/A 4-T17

B
3 (Cdl)

Sec War Missing Enq Bureau
Australian Branch R.R.C.S

Dear Miss Deakin

Your letter dated 20th Instant re particulars of the late private W. Rossi 6558 just received. He was killed on the evening of the 3rd July 1917 at Messines by a high explosive shell, together with my personal friend Pte J. Booth. Private Rossi is buried in the military cemetery on the Eastern slope on Hill 63 and would certainly be registered.

The late private was about twenty three years of age, light in build, and of happy disposition. In civilian days he was in the employ of E. Hradis, shaving saloon Brunswick St Brisbane. I am given to understand that he came over from Queensland on the transport Berrima.

Hoping these few particulars will be helpful to you and will only be too pleased at any future date to supply any information in my power that will be of service to you in so noble a cause.

Yours Sincerely
J. T. Sheard 7047
N. Q. S. B.
15th Batt.
A.I.F.

G.C.

October 2nd, 1917.

7047 J.H.Shearer,
H.A.S.B., 15th Bttn,
A.I.F., B.E.F.

Dear Pte.Shearer,

We have to acknowledge your reply in answer to our enquiry concerning 6858 Pte.W.Rossi,
15th Battalion,
A.I.F.

the information and details you have sent will be of much assistance to us and of value to our enquirers. We shall now apply to the Graves Registration and Enquiries asking that a photograph of the grave be forwarded to the next of kin.

We thank you very much for your offer of help at any time, and should the occasion arise we shall gratefully avail ourselves to it.

Yours faithfully,

SECRETARY.