

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

3838 Private
Thomas Arthur
Rabnott

15th Battalion



2230205E

FRANCE.

A.I.F. 15.

RABNOTT, T. 3838.

K. July 4th. 1916.

He was killed by a shell while in supports at Bois Grenier on July 4th. He was the first man killed in our Company. His casualty is well known in the Batta Lt. J.P.G. Toft, XII Pl. C.Co., was with Rabnott when he was killed. His body is buried at Bois Grenier, in the cemetery, I think. He was in XII.Pl. C.Co.

10000
4-10-16
Reference: Pts. F.J.Merrell. 763. C.Co.
18. Gen. Staples. 25.9.1916.

B
SA.

A.I.F. 15th Bti

K. July 4.16.
Details.

TT
RABNOTT, T. 3838.

He was lying ill, in a canvas shelter near Bois Grenier near support trenches, about 6 July. Two or three shells came over, and a bit of shrapnell hit him near the heart. He jumped up and ran about 20 yds. and fell. Lived about half an hour. He was buried in cemetery near. I was with him for about 4 months and knew him well, quite a lad.

Informant: W.S. Stewart, 3444
Barefield Hospital.

D.L. Dickson,
22.9.16.

London,
28.9.16.

B.

15th A.I.F.

Rabnott, T. 3838
D.Co.

(K. July 4/16)

Informant states that on July 4th at Bois Grenier I. Rabnott was killed by a shrapnel pellet through the head, they were in a canvas hut at the time, and I. Rabnott was killed in the morning and buried that evening in the Bois Grenier British Cemetery. Pioneer Sgt. Fairy buried him and took the number of his grave (Sgt. Fairy, 15th A.I.F.) Informant was not sure if the English Chaplain or the Roman Catholic Priest read the service.

Reference:- Sgt. McKenzie, 3908
A.I.F.
5th Southern General Hospital
Portsmouth

Home address:
Echuca,
Victoria.

Oct. 6th
H. Fortescue.

15th A. I. F.

Rabnott, T. 3838.

(Details D & B. asked. K. July 4/16)

Informant states that on July 4th about noon he was at Bois Grenier killed by shrapnel, and buried in the cemetery there, by the Battalion Chaplain. I have seen his grave. He was in the same company with me."

Reference:-- H. E. Hoffman, 1744,
A. I. F.
Hazelwood Red Cross Hospital,
Ryde, Isle of Wight.

Home address:-- Swigg St,
Birkenhead,
S. Australia.

Oct: 10th
Boger.

15th Battn.
A.I.F.,

Rabnott.
T. 3838

Killed
"Missing July 4th 1916."

Wecwere in Billets at Bois Grenier, a shrapnel
ball hit him above the heart and killed him. He was buried
at Bois Grenier.

Reference:- Kluvar, 3348
Ward 36
Harefield Hospital.
11-10-16

London
13-10-16
D.P.Dickson.

B.

5th Australian Infantry Force.

T. Rabnott, 3838.

K. July 4/16. Det. B. & B.

Informanat states that on July 4th 1916 at Bois Grenier the battalion
was in reserve at the time, and Rabnott was hit by a shell and got a
shrapnel wound in the region of his heart. He got up after he was hit
to walk out of the dug out and fell down dead at the door. He was buried
close by. Rabnott was only 17 and the first man in the 15th A.I.F. to
be killed.

Reference:- Sgt. Skevelling, 86,
15th A.I.F. L.M.G.S.
Ward 2. Northumberland War Hospital,
Newcastle.

Home address:- ?

Oct. 23/16.
E.G.Tennant.

B
C d

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

Rabnott,
P. 3838

"Killed in Action 4/7/16"

As I was his Platoon Sergeant at the time and knew him well, Lieutenant Toft handed the note to me to be answered. On the morning of the 4th. July about 10.30 a.m., our platoon was in the Reserve trenches at Bois Grenier, a small place to the south of Armentieres. Close behind these lines was a hut in which Rabnott and others were camped. At the time in question Rabnott and a mate were lying together in the hut when the enemy started to shell the place. When the first shell burst just above the hut the two got up and started to leave the place for better shelter. Whilst in the act of rising another shell burst and a pellet from the shell pierced the roof and entered Rabnott's chest immediately over the heart. He came running out to the trenches where I was seated with some others crying out that he was hit. When he reached us he collapsed. A stretcher bearer who was on the spot immediately bandaged the wound up, but he was past human help and died within fifteen minutes of receiving the wound. He passed away without

(2)

any pain whatever. He was then buried in the British Military Cemetery at Bois Grenier and a wooden cross was placed at his head bearing his number, name and Battalion.

He was such a young lad and well liked by all around.

Cert. by letter from 2nd. Lieut. E. Binnington,
15th. Battalion,
A. Coy.
A.I.F.

10th. October 1916.

London
25-10-16.

B.

15th Battn.
Transport
A.I.F.,

Rabnott
Dvr. 3838

"Killed 4-7-1916 "

On July 4th 1916 at Bois Grenier, Driver, 3838
Rabnott. 3838 was killed by shell. He was of medium height, fair.

Reference:- Private. 357. W. H. West
15th Battn. A.I.F.,
3rd London Gen. Gospt.
Wandsworth,

Home address:-
A.I.F. Headquarters
130, Horseferry Road
Westminster. S.W.,
19-10-16

Informant is reliable.

London
8-11-16.
L. Walker.

B.

Somewhere in Belgium
19th Oct. 1916.

Secretary

Anti Branch S.R.C.S.

Lieut Loft received your
note of the 5th inst, enquiring into
the circumstances of the death
of 3838 J Rabnott (Killed 4.7.16)

As I was then Platoon Serjt.
at the time and know how these
Lieut Loft handed the note to
me to be answered.

On the morning of the 4th July
about 10.30 a.m., our platoon was
in the Reserve trenches at Bois
d'Or a small place to the
South of Armentières.

Close behind these lines was
a hut in which Rabnott and
others were camped.

At the time in question Rabnott
and a mate were lying together

in the hut when the enemy started the shell he place. When the first shell burst just above the hut the two got up and started to leave the place for better shelter. Whilst in the act of rising another shell burst and a pellet from the shell pierced the roof and entered Rabnott's chest immediately over the heart.

He came running out to the trenches where I was seated with some others crying out that he was hit. When he reached us he collapsed.

A stretcher bearer who was on the spot immediately bandaged the wound up, but he was past human

help and died within fifteen minutes of receiving the wound. He passed away without any pain whatever.

He was then buried in the British Military Cemetery at Bois Grenier and a wooden cross was placed at his head bearing his number name & Battalion.

He was such a young lad and well liked by all around. //

There is no need to apologize for troubling for this information, for I am only too pleased to be able to furnish the information.

Bd
Cd

2

Yours truly,

W. E. Birmingham

A. Coy.

15th Bn. A.I.F.

8858

5th October 1916.

Lieut J.P.C.Toft,
C. Company,
15th Australian Inf. Bn. .
B. E. F.

Dear Sir,

We have received an enquiry from our Brisbane Bureau for details of the death and burial of 3838 T. Rabnett, who is reported Killed in Action - 4-7-16 - and we have been told you were with him when he was killed.

We would be most grateful for any particulars you can send us to forward to his people.

Apologising for troubling you,

Yours truly,

V D

Secretary.
L. A. H.

E. Binnington Esq.

2nd Lieut:

A Coy.

15th Battalion

A.I.F.

B.E.F.

Dear

Being Copy

Dear Sir

We have received your ~~inquiry~~ letter about no 3838
Pte J. Rabnott ^{15th Bth} and wish to thank you ~~very~~ much indeed
for it. Your protest against our apologies for troubling you but they
were indeed justified and we feel all the more grateful for
the very lucid account of his death that you have given us
when we consider that you are at the front and must have very
little ^{free} time.

We are sending you a typed copy of your letter to the Rabnott's
people and we know how much they will appreciate it as it is so very
hard for those in Australia to get an account of the way in which
their son's ~~last~~ ^{last} death. There be some comfort for them to know that
he died very soon after he was wounded and that he suffered no
pain ^{and} we are very glad that you were able to tell us where he was
buried.

With very good wishes and renewed thanks yours faithfully.

CANCELS

AUSTRALIAN LIST

(2)

Name	Unit	Casualty	Cause of Cancels
4165 Raven, J.H.	54th Battalion	M. 19-10 / 7/1916	died. Dis. of War
Jones, A.	55th Battalion	M. 80-7-1916	Bel. crim. of War
3573 Kerr, A.	57th Battalion	M. 20-7-1916	Det. 113 D.E.S. Sufficient.
3547 Temple, H.	do.	M. Bel. K. 16-7-16	Bel. killed
1351 Richardson, D.	1st L.H. Regt.	M. 17-18-19 / 8/16	Dis. of War
958 Roberts, G.A.	do.	M. 17-18-19 / 8/16	do.
461 Drysdale, G.H.	2nd Lt. H. Regt. C. Squad	M. 4-8-1916	do.
8-5-16 Canton, F.A.	2nd Lt. H. Regt.	do.	do.
8-5-16 Mandley, A.A.	do.	M. 17-18-19 / 8/16	do.
983 Hobson, E.E.	do.	M. 4-8-1916	do.
1444 Littler, A.F.	do.	do.	do.
2197 McColl, R.H.	do.	do. Egypt.	do.
1266 Somerville, J.	do.	do.	do.
973 Ward, J.H.	do.	do.	do.
2051 Kelly, J.H.	7th Lt. H. Regt	M. 18-19 / 8/16	do.
1822 George, S.A.	13th Eng. No. 28	M. 5-8-1916	Bel. killed.
669 Peters, A.E.	2nd Pioneer Bn.	M. 3-8-1916	With unit
1548 Elinke, A.	4th Pioneer Bn.	M. 5-8-1916	do.