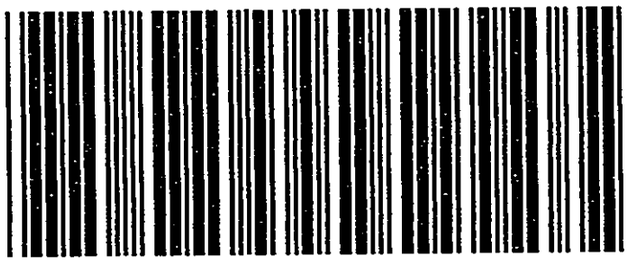
Australian Red Cross Society Wounded and Missing
Enquiry Bureau files, 1914-18 War
1DRL/0428

6848 Private
John Yates

5th Battalion



3031008F

A.I.F. 5. YATES, J. 6848

D/W April 29th 1917. Dets D/B.

I knew Yates well, he was in the 22nd Reinf. and we came from Australia together. He was out on patrol on this night with six others and a Cpl. at Lagnicourt when he waskilled by accident by one of our own M.G. and died instantly. I was told this by Pte Jack Comini of D.Coy. who told me that Alfred Edwards of B.Coy assisted at the burial.

Inf: W.H.T.Brand. 6716 D.Coy
No. 2 Aust General
BOULOGNE. 10.9.17.

FD

Written Pte Comini 17.9.17

See Report [illegible]

5 Australian I.F. Yates. J. 6848.

D/W April 29/17 Det D/B

"I saw Pte Jack Yates (5.D.XIV) carried away after he had been killed at Lagnicourt on April 29th. While he was patrolling one of our machine guns turned on him, and two others. He is buried in the brigade Burial ground at Beaumetz."

Eye-witness:-- He saw the body.
Description:-- 5ft 6", dark, clean shaven, joined us about a month before at Buire.

Informant:-- Pte Owen H. McPherson, 6768,
5 Australian I.F. D.Coy. XVI Pl.
3rd Southern Gen. Hos.
Cowley Section,
Oxford.

Home address:-
Mount Gambier,
South Australia.

Sept 26/1917.
Janet M.Payne.

5th A.I.F.

Yates, J. 6848

(D/W 29.4.17. Dets. D/B)

"Yates was a friend of mine and we came over on the same boat. His age was about 28, height 5 ft 4 ins. He had very dark curly hair. He had been an engine driver at Stowell, Victoria, I do not know how he was killed, but he was buried in the Soldiers' Cemetery just off the village of Lagnicourt. I saw his grave with a cross with his name etc."

Eye witness:

Description:

Informant: Pte. Jas. L. Comini, 6725, D. XIV,
5th A.I.F.,
Beaufort Hospital, Bristol.

Home address: Horsham, Victoria.

29.9.17.
C. Steadman.

Havre

6th Oct. 1917

5th AUSTRALIANS

YATES, J. 6848

D/W 29th April 1917 det. D/B

I knew Private Jack Yates of D.Co. 16th Platoon. Private Edwards of the 5th Battalion, D.Co. 16th Platoon told me that he went out and helped to bury Yates on the Somme in April 1917, Yates had been killed ~~xiix~~ along with six others by our own machine gun fire being mistaken for Germans.

Informant: Pte. F. E. Brand 6710
5th Australians D.Co. 16 Pltn
Australian Camp Boulogne

RDM

M

5th A. I. F. Yates, J. 6848,

(D/W Apl 29/17. Det D & B)

"I saw Jackie Yates killed (I believe instantaneously) one night about Apl 29th at Lagnicourt, when he was out on patrol. I was on a Post that night, and it had not been reported to me that any patrol had gone out. I enquired and was told "No". Then the Germans sent a barrage over, and as I saw a party coming across, I felt sure that it must be the enemy, and I reported what I had seen to our Officer, Lieut G.L. Makin. He gave the order to fire, and we fired. I saw Jackie Yates fall and watched him being carried in. He was buried in a cemetery in a little village near Lagnicourt, but I cannot remember the name. I was taking water up and saw the funeral going on. There was a Chaplain and others there. I have seen the grave several times. There is across put up, I believe he was in D.Coy".

Eye-witness: Yes Description: I believe his mother lives at Corfield? young, I did not know him well

Informant: Pte Horace Rouse, 552A, 5th A.I.F., D. XV,
Home address: 3rd Southern General Hospital, Oxford.
17 Forster St,
8.10.17. Invermay, Launceston, Tasmania.
Hilda M. Pickard-Cambridge.

M

YATES J.

5th A.I.F. YATES J. No.6848.

D/W 29th April 1917. Det W/B.

At Lagnicourt at the end of April Yates was in my platoon No. XII. He was sent out on patrol and got a bullet in the leg. They were carrying him down and got caught in M.G.Fire and he was killed. There was no cemetery for some distance and I should think he would be buried in the open. He used to work on the Railway up in Gippsland.

Inf:--Pte J.J.LeBlanc No.6775.
Amb.T. Pieter de Coninck'.
Calais. 9.X.17. KMR.

5th A.I.F.

Yates Pte. J. 6848,
D. Coy. XIII Plt.

(D/W Apl. 29/17 Det D/B)

"I saw Pte. Yates brought in on a stretcher from patrol duty. He had been killed by machine gun fire during the night of Apl. 29/17. I don't know anything about his burial".

Eye-witness: No

Description: Short, medium weight, dark. One of the best in the world. From Victoria.

Informant: Pte. H.A. Davis 6735,
5th A.I.F., D. Coy., XIII Plt.,
D. of C. Can, Military Hospt.,
Taplow, Bucks.

M Bd
Staff

10.10.17,
W.H. Sawyer.

5th Batn
D. Coy.,
A.I.F.

YATES
J. 6848

"Died of Wounds 29.4.17."

I saw him dead at Lagnicourt. He was accidentally shot by our own men whilst out on patrol at night. He and others were out patrolling and one of our outposts were ~~out~~ had evidently not been warned and seeing him in the dark they turned the machine gun on him killing him instantly. I saw them carrying him away for burial, but I did not see the grave and I cannot refer to anyone for particulars. I think he was buried just behind Lagnicourt.

Witness:- Pte. R. C. Burn 2339
5th Battn D. Coy., 13th Pltn.
3rd A.A. Hospital,
Dartford.

W. Oman
London.
12.10.17.

M

5th A.I.F.

Yates Pte. J. 6848,
C. Coy.

(D/W Apl. 29/17 Det D/B)

"Early in May 1917 at Bullecourt Pte. Jack Yates 6848 of 5th A.I.F. B. Coy. was killed on patrol in the night. He was a pal of mine and I have his photo taken with me and others. Pte. D. Mahoney of 5th A.I.F. D. Coy., told me he had helped with others in burying him. Mahoney was with the Batt. at Ypres when I left on 4th Oct. 1917".

N.B. A few days discrepancy in date. Informant thought it was May not Apl.

Eye-witness:

Description:

Informant: Pte. R. Bell 6709,
5th A.I.F., C. Coy. X Plt.,
1st Southern General Hospt.,
Birmingham.

Home address: Post Office, Kering, Victoria.

Oct. 13/17,
W. Hodgkinson.

5th Battn
A.I.F.

YATES
J. 6848

"Died of Wounds 29.4.17."

Re the death of J. Yates. Well I think I can pretty well give you all the information that you require as I happened to be with the poor fellow when he got killed. He was killed at Legnicourt France, on the 29th 4.17. and buried the following day in a Soldiers cemetery near Legnicourt the following day with a couple of myother mates out of D. Company. I have good reason to know him as I came across from Australia on the same boat as he. 6848 J. Yates. He was a little dark chap with very dark curly hair, and one of the best a chap could meet. Well I hope this information will help you to identify him.

Letter from:-Pte. J. Comini 6745
No 1 Ward. Beaufort War Hpl.
Bristol.
29.9.17.

London.
12.10.17.

M

5th Battn.
A. I. F.

Yates.
J. 6648

Sumner.
W. H. 557A

"Died of Wounds 29.4.17."

" " " 23.4.17.

Refer to Pte.K.McDonald D.Coy.Pl.13 who will tell you he saw their graves in Bapaume Cemetery with those of many other Australians. McDonald was a great friend of Sumner. I was with Sumner when he was wounded in thigh and was with him at first dressing station. Heard he died at C.C.Station shortly after. I was in Pl.16 with Sumner at that time.

Witness:- T.Small 6892
5th Battn.D.Coy.Pl.13.
Dartford.

L.P.J.

London.
17.10.17.

M.

Note Written Pte.McDonald 16.10.17.

5 A.I.F. Yates. J. 6848.

(D/W. Apl. 29/17)
Det. D/B.

"The above named was buried in a Soldiers' Cemetery at..... just over 1 mile from Lagincourt. I was in the trenches when Yates met with his injuries. I heard next day that he had died of his injuries and had been buried as above. He was a 22nd reinforcement and his burial was common knowledge among the men."

Eye-witness: No; See above.

Description: About 25 - of medium size: fair: a nice-looking and intellectual fellow.

Informant: Pte. A.E. Tack. 6365.
5 A.I.F.
1st S.General Hospital. Ward B.2.
Birmingham.

Home address: Kardella.
S.Gippsland. Victoria.

20/10/17.
W.E.Crook.

A.I.F. 5. YATES. J. 6848.

D/.. April 29th 1917. Dets.D/B.

I knew hi. well. We called him Jack. His No. is about that. He was of medium height, dark, sturdy, and about25. He was out on a patrol in front of our line and the patrol were mistaken for Germans; several of them including Yates were killed by our M.G. fire. I was told this by men of the M.G. team next to that which fired on them. He was very well liked.

Inf: Pte.R. Palmer. 4570.
3rd. Can Gen.Hosp.
BOULOGNE. 22.10.17.

Md. Staff SGC.

A.I.F. 5.A. YATES, J. 6848.

D/W April 29th 1917. Dets D/B.

I knew him well. He was out on a patrol and they were half an hour late coming in. Apparently something happened and they could not get in before. The runner had not informed our men that they had not returned so that when they eventually came back our own men fired at them thinking they were Germans. Yates was shot and died afterwards, This was at Bullecourt. He is sure to have been buried there

Inf: Pte P.J.Baxter. 6713.
No. 1 Gen.
BOULOGNE. 22.10.17. RAOI

Md.
Staff

5th A.I.F.

Yates Pte. J. 6848.

(D/W Apl. 29/17)

"J Yates was wounded on patrol duty, he died the same night and was buried in No Man's Land near Lagnicourt. A cross with his name on it was put up. He was buried with several others".

Eye-witness:

Description:

Informant: Pte. J.J. LeBlane 6773,
5th A.I.F., C. Coy.,
Horton War Hospt.,
Epsom.

Md
6
Suffk

Oct. 26/17,
D. Williamson.

Havre 30th October.1917.

5th AUSTRALIANS YATES, J. 6848

D/D. April 29th.1917. Det. D/B.

I know Pt. Jack Yates, 6848 of D.Co., XIV.Fltn. He came from Adelaide on 25th October,1916 in the S.S."Ulysse" in the 2nd to 5th reinforcement. He was accidentally killed by our own sentrys' at Lagnicourt, about 3a.m. on April 29th.1917, and buried at Monchies in the 1st Div. Ansac Military Cemetery; there is a cross on his grave.

Informant: Pt. D.J. Mahoney, 6784
5th Australians, D.Co., XV.Fltn.
Australian Camp, Boulleu.

M

5th A. I. F. J. YATES, 6848.

D/W 29.4.17. Det. D & B.

He was out on Patrol duty at Lagnicourt and got mixed up with the Huns and was fired on by our own Guns. It was night and quite dark. He was buried in a Cemetery near Lagnicourt. I did not see him buried but I have seen his grave. He was a friend of mine, we left Australia together on Oct.25th, 1916.

Reference: Pte.F.C.Stughbery, 6816, A.Co. II Pl.

No.5 General, Rouen, 30.10.17.

WS.

Havre 5th November. 1917.

5th AUSTRALIANS YATES, J. 6848

D/D. April 29th.1917. Dst. D/B.

I know him. His name was Jack. He was a little stout man, about 25 or 26 years of age. He and 7 or 8 others went out on a patrol at Lagnicourt in April. They never told anyone they were going out, and as they were coming back our people turned a machine gun on them thinking they were Boches, and they were all mown down. I do not know if they were buried.

I did not see the body.

Informant: Pt. Gill, W.A. 6746
5th Australians, C.Co., X.Pltn.
No. 2 Gen. Hos. Quni.
Havre.

M
B
Staff

GLT.

AUSTRALIAN
RED CROSS

Wounded & Missing Enquiry Bureau
54 Victoria Road
London S.W.1

Dear Sir

Having received your P.C. thanking me for information concerning 6/50/20 Pte Nichols. 25th Bat well we have made a mistake somewhere I never gave any information about a chap of that name. the only chap that I gave information about was J. Yates 6848 you must of addressed the wrong card. well I am enclosing same in the envelope. I am yours respectively Pte. Lt comms 6145

6848 J. YATES 5th Bn
DW 29-4-17 M 3

Sep 29. 9. 17

Dear Madam

I received a letter from you in which you are enquiring about the death of L/Cpl Yates. Well I think I can pretty well give you all the information that you require as I happened to be with the poor fellow when he got killed. He was killed at Zagreboom Farm on the 29th 4. 17. and buried the following day in a Cemetery near Zagreboom. The following day with a couple of my comrades we left the Company & I have not had reason to know him as I came down from Australia on the same boat as he. He was a little Dark chap with very dark curly hair and as I do not remember much about him I hope the information will help you identify him.

Yours faithfully

No 6725 Pte F Fomini
No 1 Platoon
Australian War Graves Corps
Horfield Barracks Bristol

Because writing as I have been wounded in the