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

4261A Private Thomas Francis Stafford

2nd Battalion



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A.I.F. 2nd Battn.

STRAFFORD
T.F.4261
JOHNSTONE
D. 6033

"KILLED 18/9/18"

I was unable to get any definite evidence, but several men told me these two men were killed by shell fire at the hop off tape at Hargicourt on 18th September, by our own shells. Pte S. Allen 7685, B Coy., said they were killed about same time as Hood N.C.E., that he saw two men lying dead and is almost certain they were Strafford and Johnstone but did not look closely at them. Lieut P.A. Twitchett, 2nd Battn., said he was told the same thing, but was not there himself. Strafford was Lieut Twitchett's batman. Padre Mjr. Pittendrigh wrote home to their people and gave them all the details he could discover at the time

Informant:- H. S. Cowen,
6/3/19.

London
14/3/19

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2nd. BATTALION A.I.F.
late 4th. Battalion.

STRAFFORD T. F. Private
No. 4261.

Killed 18/9/18.

Informant described Strafford as about 5 feet 6/7 inches high well built, reddish hair, aged about 21/22.

Informant states that they both belonged to D. Company and Strafford was batman to Lieutenant Twitchard. On 18/9/18 the Battalion was in action against Hargicourt - which they captured. They hopped over at 4.20. a.m. About 3 or 4 hours afterwards Informant saw Strafford lying dead on captured ground. He had been killed by shell fire, evidently instantaneously. The advance was still in progress and Informant merely passed Strafford and never saw him again. He was killed before the capture of the village. Burial parties were sent out later to pick up our dead and no doubt Strafford was picked up and buried. Informant had seen him alive just before the hop-over.

Informant:- Private A. Harris, 741,
D. Company, 2nd. Battalion.
Home address:- C/- H. Hall, Alworth Street, Merewether, Newcastle.

W.E.G.
No. 4 Australian General Hospital, RANDWICK.
24/1/19

SYDNEY BUREAU.

2nd Battalion, A.I.F.
(late 4th Bn.)

STRAFFORD, T.F. Pte. 4261.

"Killed, 18/9/18."

Informant described him as about 5 ft 6 inches, medium build, red hair, about 22 years old; he came from The Rocks, Sydney.

Informant states they both belonged to "D" Company, and the same platoon. On 18/9/18 the battalion was in action at Jeancourt; they hopped over at 6.30 a.m., and while they were lying on the tape - just prior to the hopover - Strafford was killed outright, while lying alongside Lance-Corporal D.Johnstone. Informant was lying about 2 men away, and saw both men hit, but could not wait to investigate further, as he had to go over the top. He knows, however that Strafford was buried, the place of burial being probably a Cemetery behind Jeancourt.

Informant added he was a well liked chap.

Informant - Private W.E.Stuart, No.1864,
2nd Battalion, "D" Company.
Home Address - 8A Princes St., CITY.

W.E.G.
Victoria Barracks,
Sydney,
12/5/19.

SYDNEY BUREAU.

2nd. Battn.

STRAFFORD. T.F.
No 4261

Killed Sept. 18th 1918

"Strafford and I were on the same platoon when we went "over the top" on the morning of the 18th Sept. between Bellecourt and Jeancourt. We had just penetrated the first line of barbed wire entanglements when I saw Strafford drop, as if dead The rest of us went on and one or two days afterwards he was officially reported ~~that~~ at the Battn Hdqrs. as killed I presume he was buried near the spot where he fell. He was well liked in the Battn.

Inf. No 6782 V.C.Male
2nd, Battn.

G.S.Champion
H.T.Plassy
9-5-19

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2nd Battalion.

Pte. Strafford T.F.
4261.

Killed by shell fire and died instantly buried near Hargicourt but am uncertain if grave is marked.

Informant:- Dvr. H.J.Barker
7069 "nd Battalion.

H.Jose.

#T.S. auskie

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WESTERN AUSTRALIA

2nd BATTALION.
(Late 4th Battn.)

STRAFFORD, Private
T.F. No. 4261

"Killed 18-9-18".

We were in action (for the moment I cannot remember the place) but I think it was at Jeancourt. However, it was in the last stunt of the 2nd Battalion. He was killed instantly by a shell while waiting to go over at the top. I saw him after he was killed. I cannot speak as to his burial. He was about 25 years of age, height about 5ft.5", red hair, and was known in the Battalion as "Bluey" Strafford. He was originally in "D" Company.

Informant;- Driver H.J. Bartier No. 7069
"D" Coy. 2nd Battalion.

Private address;- Post Office, TRANGIE. N.S.W.

G.S.A.
A.I.F. Furlough Bureau,
SYDNEY. 17-6-19.

SYDNEY BUREAU.

A.I.F. 2nd. Bn Lewis Gunner.

STRAFFORD
Pte. T.F. 4261

K.I.A. 18-9-18.

He was killed about 10 yds from the starting point at Hargincourt on Sept. 18/18. He was killed by a H.E. shell and died instantly. I have no doubt of death though I did not see the actual occurrence. Pte. Bullivant 2nd. Bn. of 30 Harrow Road, Stanmore. 58 Quota took the particulars of Strafford and he told me of it later. Don't know of burial. He was short, about 5' 6" high, light sandy hair, known as "Bluey" and medium build.

Informant : 7690 Cpl. Breeze A.G.
2nd. Bn.
30 Harrow Road,
Stanmore, N.S.W.

N.L.P.
"Persic".
London,
17-9-19.

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