

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

4146 Private  
James Alexander Weir

31st Battalion



2890804V

Harre

8th Dec. 1917.

31st AUSTRALIANS

WMR, J.A. 4146

27

K. 25.9.17. Dot. D/B.

He was in C Co., 10th Ptn. I knew him well from April, 1917. He was tall, strong, nuggetty, dark, about 22, and came from New Zealand. On the Ypres Front, at Poly on Wood, after we had taken it, we made an advance to straighten the line. The 31st Battn., and ~~also~~ a few of the 59th Battn. were in it. Weir and I were both in the L.G.T. Weir was acting as No. 2 for me, I was No. 1, in place of men who had been killed. We advanced in short rushes from shell hole to shell hole. Weir was behind me in one rush when a shell hit him; death was instantaneous - it was a direct hit. A man who was with him was my informant. Pte. Reid, C Co., 11th Ptn. is still alive. could give all information.

Informant: Pte. F. Dunningham, 2919  
31st Australians, C Co., 10 Ptn.,  
Australian Camp, Rouelles.

*Left returned mark  
Wounded 5-1-18  
No trace - 21-1-18*

*Written Reid PH S  
31-18  
- After returned from "Killed in action"*

A. I. F. 31.

WEIR, J.A. 4140.

K. September <sup>27</sup> 24th, 1917.

We both saw him blown up by a shell in our front line at Polygon Wood on September 27th. He was blown to pieces. I was close to him at the time and saw parts of his body. It was impossible to bury the parts of his body on account of the shelling. He belonged to X pl. C.Coy and was a L/gunner.

SA.

References:- Sgt. G.H.Haggs. 733. C.Coy.  
Sgt.H.N.Edwards. 653. C.Coy.

Identity cert. from Battn records. Devres.

Etaples  
18.1.18.

S

A.I.F. 31.

WEIR, J.A. 4146.

K. Sept 26th 1917. Dets.

J.A.Weir was in the LGS of C.Co and I think in X pltn. I did not know his number, He was about 5ft 10, rather heavily built, dark, clean shaven and about 28. I was told by Pte H. Delacey Evans of C.X. that he had seen a shell fall close to Weir and after the explosion Weir's head and shoulder had been blown away. Delacey Evans was in the same sap with Weir when this happened. This occurred on the 27th Sept, that day after the stunt on Polygon Wood.

Inf: L/Cpl.F.S. Ervine. 451A. C.X.  
No. 3 Can.Gen Hosp.  
BOULOGNE. 30.1.18.

AGL

S

31st Battn.  
A.I.F.

Weir.  
J.A. 4146

"Killed in Action 27.9.17"

About 10 a.m. on the morning of the 27th Sept. 1917 whilst making an advance Pte. J.A. Weir C. Coy. 31st Battn. was in a shell hole near to me. Enemy shelling was heavy and the above man was badly mutilated. Circumstances made it impossible to bury the man, but in all probability he would be buried by the unit that relieved us. He was thick set and about 5'10" in height, with brown hair and brown moustache. He was a Lewis Gunner.

Letter from:- H. Edwards 653  
C/O/M/Sgt.  
28.2.18.

Note This is an answer to our enquiry sent to  
London. Pte. H. S. Evans. S.  
18.3.18. D

31st Battalion.

WEIR, J.A., Private  
4146

"Killed 27.9.17."

I knew a man called Weir, whose initial was "J". He was in A. Company, 3rd Platoon and was Platoon runner; he was short and very fair; he was a Londoner and left Australia in a Queensland reinforcement. He was posted as missing at Polygon Wood in September 1917, but was afterwards picked up wounded by an English Battalion and I saw him last at Sutton Veney Warminster. He was then almost ready to rejoin his unit. He had a few small wounds about the face. I only knew one man called Weir in the Battalion.

Informant:- Private W. Coffey, 1306  
31st Battalion, A. Company,  
3rd Platoon.

Home address:-  
No.7 Surry Street,  
Stanmore.

H.S.O.  
No.4 Australian General Hospital,  
RANDWICK.

28.6.18.

*Note: Obviously refer to another man.*

31st Battalion A.I.F.

WEIR, J. A.  
Private No.4146.

"Killed 27.9.17".

Informant described Weir as about 5'5" high, medium build, fair complexion, aged about 25/26. Came from Brisbane. Left Australia with Informant per "Boonah" on 20.10.16.

Informant states that they both belonged to "A" Company. On 27.9.17 the Battalion was holding the line outside Ypres, but came out at dawn. When they were coming out a shell dropped in a group of chaps belonging to "A" Company, seven of whom were hit including Weir, W.A. Wells, George Grant, and Sid Gadsby. Informant was a few yards away and saw the shell explode. Weir was killed instantly.

Informant added that Weir was a particular cobbler of his and was well liked.

Informant:- Private E. Scanlon, No.4132,  
"A" Company, 31st Battalion.

Home Address:- 12, Laura Street,  
Newtown.

V.R.G.

No.4, Australian General Hospital,  
Randwick.

3. 1. 19.

*S. C. Smith*  
SYDNEY BUREAU.



4146 J. A. WEIR  
 31 Belt  
 K/P 27-9-17  
 S  
 28th Feb. 1918

In the Field,

about 10 am. on the morning of the 27 Sept. 1917 whilst making an advance of A. Weir "C" Coy 31st Bn. was in a shell hole near some.

Enemy shelling was heavy and the above man was badly mutilated. Circumstances made it impossible to bury the man; but in all probability he would be buried by



In the Field,

191

The unit that relieved us. He was thick set and about 5-10 in height, with brown hair & brown moustache. He was a Lewis Gunner.

653. Mr. Edwards.  
 C. 2. Mr. Sgt.

Note This is an answer to an enquiry sent to P. H. D. Evans

16-2-18

PLC A. Delacey Evans  
Cey X. P. L. M.  
31 Bali  
A. I. F.  
Abroad

above

4146

J. A. WEIR

31 Bali

A. I. F.

K Sept 26/17

25?  
10/1/18

6 15 PM  
NOW  
FEB 6 1918  
ONE PENNY

THE LONDON SOCIETY  
VOLUNTARY MEDICAL  
ENQUIRY BUREAU  
30 GROVE STREET  
LONDON, S.W. 1

*Withheld in Action*  
*19/3/18*

No  
*4362*

*Pte Reich*

Prescribed by  
31  
TO SENDER

*19/3/18*

*[Handwritten scribbles]*

*[Handwritten scribbles]*



AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY

(WOUNDED AND MISSING INQUIRY BUREAU).

~~54 VICTORIA STREET,~~

36, GROSVENOR PLACE, LONDON, S.W. 1.

2.1.18

Telephones

VICTORIA | 8572  
          | 8577  
          | 8572

Telegraphic Address:  
QUESTMAN LONDON

*Pli Ruid*

*P. Coy 31st Plu.*

*31. A. I. F.*

*Abroad*

Dear Sir,

We are making enquiries for a man of your unit  
*H146 J. G. Weir 31 A. I. F. reported*  
*Killed in action 24. 9. 17.*  
and have been told that you may be able to help us by supply-  
ing some information.

We should be most grateful for any details you can  
send us concerning *J. G. Weir* but our enquir-  
ers wish especially to know whether he was buried, if so,  
whether it was on the field or in a soldier's cemetery where  
the grave would be registered. We should also be glad if you  
could add a short description of his personal appearance or  
any points that might help to prove his identity.

Yours faithfully,

(Miss)

*Vera Deakin*

SECRETARY

*This letter does not reach  
to France, but on being  
returned we found you were  
at Newmouth in Nov. 1917  
We hope it will reach  
you.*

NOTE In your reply kindly quote name, initials and number  
of casualty enquired for, as without these particulars  
delay and confusion is caused in identifying the  
soldier about whom you are writing.