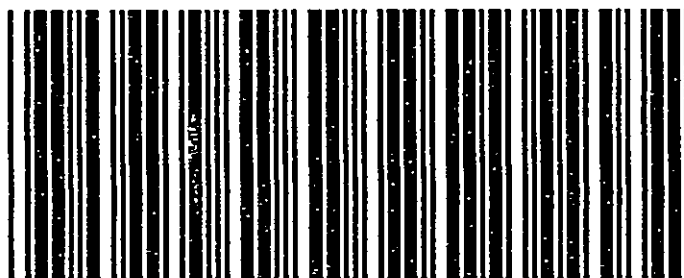


Australian Red Cross Society Wounded and Missing
Enquiry Bureau files, 1914-18 War
1DRL/0428

**2853 Lance Corporal
John Edward Twiss**

4th Battalion



2800701I

A.I.P.
4th Bn.
late 19th Bth.

SWISS
John Edward 2853

Killed in Action 8.5.17.

No trace Germany.
Cert. by Capt. Mills 10.10.19.

London.
20.10.19.

S & P.I.

A.I.F.

4.

TWISS, J.E. 2853

K. May 8th. 1917. Det: D & B

On the evening of May 8th, Twiss was with his company, holding the line. During the morning, Lee.Cpl. Orr, and Private Fentman, both of the same company, were sitting in the trench when they were caught by German enfilading fire, and Twiss was struck in the side by a fragment of shell, and Lee.Cpl. Orr stated that he was killed instantly, As a heavy barrage on our line continued, no doubt Twiss's body got buried. He was tall and strongly built, and was about 35 years of age, and was a married man.

Informant: D. Thompson. 6098.

57 Gen.

BOULOGNE. 24.9.17.

HH

wrote d/c Orr 28.10.17.

4th A.I.F.

Twiss. J.E. 2853.

K. May 8/17 Det D/B.

"Twiss was killed at Bullecourt. W. Hughes, 6021,
B. VIII. was with him when he was killed and knows
details."

Eye-witness:-- No.

Description:-- Medium built, fair, a little
gray. Sydney man.

Informant:-- Sergt. Edwin Sutton, 2829.
4th A.I.F. B.Coy. VII Pltn.
Bethnal Green Mil. Hos.
South Courage Ward.

Home address:-- William Street,
Stockton,
Newcastle,
N.S.W.

15.10.17.
F.H.Bathurst.

Written Pte. Hughes 26.10.17.

S
P1

II

A.I.F.

4.

TWISS, J.E. 2853.

K. May 8th 1917. Det D/B.

He was a L/Cpl. and was in charge of a small post in the Hindenburg line at Bullecourt on May 8th. We were supporting Scotch troops to our left at the time. I did not see him killed, but I heard at Battalion H.Qrs. that out of the 5 men on the post, 3 including Twiss were killed and the two others wounded by the one shell. Twiss was buried in the trench. He came over with the 6th Reinforcements for the 19th.

Informant. Pte F.H. Middleton, 2714. B.Coy. VI.
2nd Army Rest Camp.
BOULOGNE. 18.10.17.

HMH.

S
P.1

A. I. F. 4.

TWISS, J.E. 2853.

K. May 8th, 1917.

He was killed at Bullecourt on May 8th by a shell in the front line trench. I saw his body soon after death, took his belongings from it, and handed them to Batten Hdqrs. We were relieved that night and the body was not buried up to that time. I knew him well. He lived at 46 Corkes Road, Centennial Park, Sydney.

Reference:- T.E. Butterfield. 150. B.Coy.
Tingry.

I saw him killed by a 5.9 inch shell at Bullecourt on May 8th. Death was instantaneous. He was killed in the front line. I saw his dead body. I know nothing as to burial. He belonged to B.Coy. He was talking to me at the moment he was hit. I knew him well in the Batten.

Reference:- G. Graham. 2779. B.Coy.
Tingry.

SA.

Name, number &c. checked from Batten records.

Etaples
7.12.17.

S
P.1

A. I. F. 4.

TWISS, J.E. 2853.
Davies, C.A. 6580.

K. May 8th, 1917.

They were blown up by a shell at Bullecourt on May 8th. They were in the front line at the time. I was close to them and saw them blown up. Davies was killed outright. I saw his dead body. Twiss was taken to the Aid Post. He died there. I saw his body there after death. I know nothing as to burial. Both belonged to VIII pl. B.Coy.

Reference:- Cpl. W. Popplowell. 2853. B.Coy.

I was with them, saw them blown up as described, and helped to carry Twiss to the Aid Post and saw both dead bodies.

SA.

Reference:- P.C. Venteman. 6138. D.Coy.
Tingry.

Name, number &c. checked from Battn records.

Etaples
7.12.17.

S
P.1

4th Battn.
late 19th Battn.

TWISS J.E. L/Cpl.
2853

"Killed 8-5-17"

Informant states that L/Cpl. Twiss was killed at Bullecourt on May 7th 1917. He was killed by a shell and on that day informant saw him after he had been killed. Twiss was in B. Coy., medium build, fair, married man, clean shaven.

Informant :- Durham L/Cpl. J.
6480, 4th Battn. B. Coy.
M. Ward,
4th Aust. General Hpl.
Randwick.

C.E.W.
7/8/18.

To be filed
SYDNEY BUREAU

C. Sullivan
S

p. 1.

4th BATTALION
late 19th Battalion

TWISS J.E. Lance Corporal, No. 2853

"Killed 8.5.17"

Twiss was in my platoon I met him in France and knew him well. Before the War he lived in Darlington. He told me he had a wife and child - this was as he was dying. He stood 5 feet 10 inches - dark. I think he wore a moustache.

He was killed at Bullecourt, 8th May, 1917. I saw him struck by a shell. W. Irvine and I carried him back to the 9th Battalion Doctor who gave him an injection. He died soon afterwards. The Doctor said it was no use our taking him any further. Twiss asked us not to leave him, so we stayed. It was there that he told us about his family. Davies was killed at the same time - there were seven of us at this post. Twiss and Davies were killed and three others were wounded. Twiss was a good chap - everyone liked him

INFORMANT :- Private F.G. Venteman, No. 6138
4th Battalion

Private address :- 32 Hithsdale Street,
SYDNEY

F.B.W.
No. 4 Australian General Hospital,
HANDWICK.

Sediff

9.12.18

SYDNEY BUREAU

✓

Havre

8th August.1917.

4th Australians.

T#193. J.E. 2853

K. May 8th.1917. Det. D/B.

He was in B. Co. Twiss was a chum of mine. He had a brother in the 13th Battalion who I met about middle of July at Bushy Convalescent; he asked me if I knew anything about his brother; I told him I heard it reported that he was killed at Bullecourt on 8th May. To make sure about him he wrote to the Battalion and got a reply back saying that his brother was badly wounded and was in a Hospital. I forget whether he told me what hospital or where.

Informant: J.J. Mackay 1657
4th Australians. D.Co., IV.Pln.
Australian Camp. Rouelles.

Mrs.

3 Brothers - 1 is in Hosp in England
1 killed
1 with unit

S.
P.I.
not seen on

To.

Appl. ORR

H Battr A.D.T.

About

2853 J. E. Jones
H Battr.

K. 8. 5. 17.

Ind. S.

28-10-17.

W

(26. 10. 17)

60-21 Plt. W. Hughes

B. Coy. VIII Pltn.

H. Lt. Baltin. A. 7. 7.

B. 8. 7.

abt.

2853 J. E. Twiss

H. Lt. Baltin. A. 7. 7.

K. 8. 5. 17.

26. 10. 17.
A. 7. B.

Inquiry for

2853 ?

J. E. TWISS 4 Batt AIF
KA. 3. 5. 17

white card

6334 J. TWISS

13 Batt AIF

white card.

Ad: 11. Convalesc^t Depot

Sick

Buchy?
Bougey?

11.4.17
France

Requiere brother

273

H. J. TWISS

45 Batt AIF

per Hosp Visitor

Miss Holder

9 Lancaster Gate

W. 2

FM 29. 4. 17

July 5th, 1917.

Miss Holden,
9, Lancaster Gate,
W.2.

Dear Madam,

We regret very much that,

No 2853 Pte. J. E. TWISS, 4th Battalion, A.I.F.
was killed in action on 8.5.17, no further details being at present
available. We have added his name to our inquiry lists and will for-
ward any information that we receive. Do you wish the information sent
to you or direct to No 273 Pte. H. J. Twiss, 45th Battalion on whose
behalf you are inquiring? If to him, will you kindly send us the
address of his hospital?

May we ask you to convey to him our sincere sympathy in
his loss.

Yours faithfully,

L. O.

Secretary.
L. O.

Nov. 6th, 1917.

273 Pte. H. J. Twiss,
45th Battn. A.I.F.,
King Edwards Military Hospital,
Ealing.

Dear Sir,

With reference to your inquiry for -

2853 Pte. J. E. TWISS - 4th Battn. A.I.F. - who is officially reported killed in action on 8.5.17 we are forwarding an unofficial report which we have just received concerning him.

Informant 2714 Pte. P. E. Middleton states "Twiss was a L/Cpl. and was in charge of a small post in the Hindenberg line at Bullecourt on May 8th. We were supporting Scotch troops to our left at the time. I did not see him killed but I heard at Battalion Headquarters that out of five men on the post 3 including Twiss were killed outright and the two others wounded by one shell. Twiss was buried in the trench. He came over with the 6th Reinforcements for 19th."

We are still pursuing our inquiries concerning Pte. Twiss and will advise you as soon as we obtain further news of his death or burial.

With good wishes for your recovery.
Yours faithfully,

Winkham
Secretary.

W
2736 Pte. H. J. ~~W~~iss,
45th Battalion; A.I.F.
No 2 Command Depot
Weymouth.

January 28th, 1918.

Dear Pte. Tuiss,

We regret to inform you of further unofficial evidence about the death of your brother

W
No 2853 Pte. J. E. ~~W~~iss, 4th Battalion, A.I.F.
given by men of his unit when in Camp in France.

2779 Pte. G. Graham, stated that your brother was killed instantly by a shell when in the front line trenches at Bullecourt and he took his belongings from his body handing them into the Battalion Headquarters. He knew your brother well and gave his home address as 46, Corkos Rd, Centennial Park, Sydney.

W
No 2779 Pte. G. Graham, stated that he saw Pte. ~~W~~iss killed by a 5.9. shell at Bullecourt on May 8th, when he was talking to him. Death was instantaneous but he knows nothing of his burial.

Gpl. W. Popplewell and Pte. F. G. Venteman, stated that your brother and another man were killed by a shell at Bullecourt when in the front line and they helped to carry him to the Aid Post, neither of them know where your brother was buried.

Should we obtain further news of your brother's death we shall immediately forward it to you and trust that it will be some

comfort to know that his death was instantaneous.

Yours faithfully,

Lfw

SECRETARY.