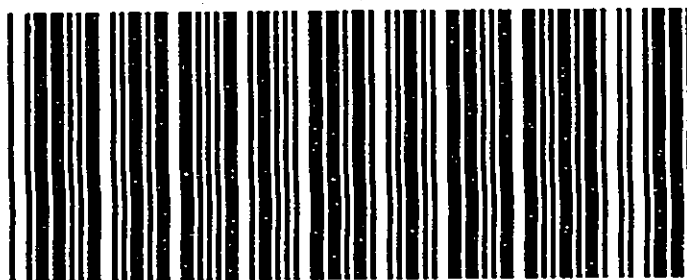


Australian Red Cross Society Wounded and Missing
Enquiry Bureau files, 1914-18 War
1DRL/0428

1972 Private
David John Tait

22nd Battalion



26901060

A.I.F. 22nd Btn

David John TAIF
1972

"K. in A. 5-8-16"

Killed in Action 5-8-16 - No further information available
Cert. by A.I.F.Hqs 21-7-17.

London
24-7-17

U

22nd. Btn.

TAIT. Pto. D.J.
No. 1972.

Killed in Action. 5.8.16.

I knew Tait slightly, he was about 5'4" to 5'6" in height, very fair complexioned and was nicknamed "Snowy". He came from Ballarat, Victoria., and prior to enlistment he worked at Snow's Drapery shop in Ballarat. He joined the 22nd. Btn., on August 27th. 1915 as a second Reinforcement.

On July 29th. 1916., the Coy., were in Central Trench C just near the old German narrow gauge railway line at Contleraison near Poitiers, whilst deceased was on fatigue in the centre of the trench he was killed by concussion.

Informant did not see casualty but saw deceased lying there two hours later. This happened at about 2.p.m. on the 29th. July 16. The Unit moved to Sausage Gully shortly afterwards and as far as Informant remembers Tait was buried where he fell, (half way along the trench) Informant knows nothing of a proper burial.

Informant:- Cpl. G. Logan. No. 56.
22nd. Btn.

Private address:-

"Carmell",

Camberwell Rd.,
Camberwell, Vict.

C.N. Northcott.

H.M.A.T. Harato

H.M.A.T. Harathon. 26.12.19.

Mrs E. A. Fair 2.11.18
Landsborough St
Ballarat North
Victoria
Australia.

Re 1942 P.O. D. J. Fair 22nd
Ballarat 5-8-16.

Australian Draft

14th L.T.M.B.
A.L.P.

C. GAN,
G. 1642.

"Wounded and Missing - 2-9-18."

"Killed in Peronne on 1st Sept. 1918 Buried in Military Cemetery near Peronne."

About 5'10" in height, stout build, fair complexion, with blue eyes.

Informant:- Cpl. H. Ambler, 3454.

A.G. 23
London
12-12-18.
P.E.D.

P.I.

1764
N. McMichael
9th B Co.
29/9/18
30.11.18
To Australian Red Cross Commissioners
London
Landsbrough St
Ballarat North
Victoria Australia

Dear sir or Madam

I am writing you a few lines to see if you will find out about my son who is in this Photos of Prisoners of War which I am enclosing my son is No 1972 Pte D J (David John) Tait of A Coy 22nd Battalion 6th Brigade who was reported killed in action on 5 August 1916 this Photo came out on 7 September 1918 in weekly times and I have received a letter from Mr Ballinger of Dunkeld telling me that the Photo was taken in March 1918 and his son specifically asked him to put it in the Melbourne papers as these men never received any letters the man I have marked is my son and I hope you will leave nothing undone to find out all about him it is just possible that he don't know who he is for he is supposed to have been

hit on head by a bomb and his memory
may be gone he as a ^{got} mark on left ~~the~~
side of his face where he was struck
by a empty shell case at Arras I have
received 2 letters from the Director of
Graves London saying that they could
not located any Grave in France
& belonging to my son and I do hope
that you will do all in your power
to find out about my son who is in
this Photo and who as been in the
hands of the Germans since 8th fifth of
August 1916 hoping to hear from
you soon I remain
yours faithfully

Mrs E A Tait.

P.S. this is Address of the Camp where
these men were taken

J. C. 32 Camp No 63680
Friedrichsfeld Bei Wesel

Rheinland
Germany

M.E.H.

Mr E.A.Tait,
Landsbrough Street,
Ballarat North,
Victoria.

2nd. December 1918

Dear Sir,

With reference to your letter of 29.9.18 concerning 1972 Pte. D. J. Tait, 22nd Battn. A.I.F. who is officially reported on (5.8.16) to have been killed in action. We very much regret to inform you that there has never been any trace of him as a prisoner of war in Germany.

We have shown the enclosed photograph to three returned Australians, prisoners who were interned at Friedrichsfeld, and they all identify the man you believe to be your son as 1964 Pte. H. Mc Mahon, 48th Battn. A.I.F. Should we ever obtain any information concerning Pte. Tait from any of these repatriated men we will at once advise you through our Melbourne office in Colonial Mutual Chambers, 60 Market Street.

with which we are in constant communication both by cable and letter.

By keeping in touch with it you will obtain all available particulars without the delay that applications to England necessarily entails.

Assuring you of our very sincere sympathy in your loss,
Yours faithfully,

M?

SECRETARY.

To Secretary
of Geneva
Red Cross

28/10/18

Landsbrough street
Ballarat North
Victoria
Australia

Dear sir

I am enclosing a Photo of Prisoners of War in which I have marked one man which I believe to be my son ^{No} 1942 Private. D. G. Jait (David John) of A Coy 22nd Battalion who was Reported Killed In Action on 5 August 1916 everybody who have known my son all his life have picked out this man as him I wish you to spare no expense in finding this man men who where talking to my son the day before he was Reported Killed say that if it is not my son that this man is so like him that they could not tell me from other as my son was supposed to of been hit in head with a bomb it is more than likely that his memory may be gone he as dark brown eyes and fair hair of Brown color I do hope that you will leave nothing undone to find this man hoping to hear from you soon I remain yours Faithfully E A Jait

P. S

These men are in J. O. 32

Camp No 63680

Friedrichsfeld Bei Wesel

Rheinland

Germany

and Photo was taken on 3 March 1918

I asked The Red Cross Melbourne

to send on this Photo over a month ago

but as I have not received any word

from them I thought that I had better
rite myself.

I remain yours

Faithfully E. A. Galt



INTER ARMA CARITAS

Prière de rappeler
dans la réponse le
N° ci-dessous:

A 2645

COMITÉ INTERNATIONAL DE LA CROIX-ROUGE
AGENCE INTERNATIONALE DES PRISONNIERS DE GUERRE

Genève, December 23rd. 1918

To
The Secretary,
Australian Red Cross Society
36 Grosvenor Place,
LONDON S.W.

Dear Sir,

We are enclosing herewith letter from Mr. TAIT
respecting Pte. D. J. TAIT, Australians, together with cutting.

As it is probable that the prisoners of war shown
therein may already be in England on their way to Australia,
we think your Society might have opportunities of identifying
the man whose portrait is marked or at any rate of interrogat-
ing comrades as to Pte. TAIT's Fate.

Thanking you in anticipation,

We are, Sir,

Yours faithfully,
COMITÉ INTERNATIONAL DE LA CROIX-ROUGE
GENÈVE
AGENCE DES PRISONNIERS DE GUERRE

BRITISH SECTION

M. M. Grosnier