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

2630 Lance Corporal John Fanning

7th Battalion



1031105B

A.I.F. 7. FANNING, 2630. J

K. Sept 20th 1917. Dets.

This was at Ypres. We were attacking, the objective was gained and held. He was a friend of mine. I was wounded the same day. Pte Davey, C.XI., told me when I rejoined in November when the Battalion was out resting that a shell hit Fanning and he was blown to pieces. I do not think there would be any question of burial as he was blown 40 or 50 feet in the air. Davey knew him quite well and would not be likely to be mistaken about him. He is with the Battn now. Fanning came f from St Albans, Geelong, Victoria. I think he was single and had parents living. He was in the Battanion when I joined Feb. 1916. Rather a red face, medium build, clean shaven, light hair, had been wounded before I think, trained in Egypt was called Jack, and was a machine gunner in C.II.

C.XI.
Inf: Pte J. Audsley, 3009. ~~C.III~~
No. 83 Gen Hosp.
BOULOGNE. 7.1.18. WG

M

Walter Davey
18.1.18

pte DAVEY 4C

C. Coy.

7 A. I. F.

B. S. F.

about.

J. FANNING

2630.

7 A. I. F.

K. 20.9.17.

Sw.

18.1.18

27.2.18

Pte. J. BEAL

10 Pln. C. Coy 7 Batt.

A.I.F.

Abroad.

Above

2630

J. FANNING

IX C. Coy. 7 Batt.

A.I.F.

K September 20/17

[illegible]

A.I.F. 19. 7. FANNING, J. 2630.

K. Sept 20th 1917.

He was in my company and was a L/Cpl. in the MGS. and I saw him killed instantly by a shell during the attack at about 10 o'clock in the morning and as we were nearing the last objective at Carlisle Farm, Polygon Wood. I was about twnety yards behind him at the time. We took our objective and held it but I don' know where he was buried. He was an old hand in the company, and used to instrout it on both Germans and our own MGs.

Inf: G.D.Locke. 5144. C.IX.
No. 1 C.C.
BOULOGNE. 7.2.18.

FD

7th Battn.
A.I.F.

FANNING
J. 2630

10-9-17

Killed 30.9.17.

I saw him badly cut up by shell between 2nd and 3rd objective at Polygon Wood. He would probably be buried later on. We were both C. Co.

Informant:- Cpl. Harding, J.W. 2699
7th Bn.

London.
25.1.18

M.

FANNING
J. 2630

A.I.F.
7th Battn. C.Coy.
2nd Pltn.

"Killed 20-9-17"

Refer to Pte. J.Beal, 10th Pltn. C.Coy. 7th Battn. who is now in France. He saw the Casualty, and can give full particulars.

Informant. Philps. Pte.J.W.E.800A
7th Battn. C.Coy.
10th Pltn.
3rd A.A.H.
DARTFORD.

W.[illegible]
London
28-2-18

Note;--
Written Pte. Beal 27-2-18

M.

A.I.F. 7. FANNING, J. 2630.

K. Sept 20th 1917. Dets D/B.

Fanning was in my company C, and in either X or XI pltn. I saw him killed outright by a shell at Polygon Wood on Sept 20th about 10 a.m. just after the 2nd objective was taken. He was a Lewis Gunner in charge of a gun, and he and his gun were blown to pieces. His initial was J. and he came from Victoria, but I don't know what part. He was dark and may have been 30 years old.

Inf: Pte A.Sweeny. 6829. C.XII.
No. 54 Gen Hosp.
BOULOGNE. 18.2.18.

JT

A.I.F. 7.

FANNING, J. 2630.

K. Sept 20th 1917.

He was a L/Cpl and No 1 on our M.G. and I saw him killed instantly by a shell whilst in action about 8 o'clock in the morning on the left of Polygon Wood. We carried on and took our objective and a burial party of the Engineers were burying our dead the next day where they fell. We were relieved on the 22nd at 2 o'clock in the morning. He came from Geelong, Victoria and was an electrical engineer.

Inf: G.J.Croft. 5991. C.X.
No. 1 C.C.
BOULOGNE. 25.2.18.

FD

FANNING,
J. 2630

7th Battn.
A.I.F.

"Killed 20.9.17."

I saw Fanning killedoutright by a shell which landed right underneath him lifting him into the air. This in the 20th Sept stunt, whilst waiting at our 2nd Objective for the barrage to lift, to go over to the 3rd objective. We went on and I can't say anything as to burial.

Informant:- M.Carmody, 2270,
7th Battn C.Coy,
Hut 8,
Westham.

W.A.Rand.

London.
5.3.18.

M.

7th Btn.

FANNING, J.
Pte. 2630.

Killed in action 20/9/17.

"I knew Casualty. He was a man about 5 ft. 6 ins. well built, dark complexion, about 29 years of age, known as "Jack". He was a 6th Rfcts. man of the 24th Battalion and he was transferred to the 7th Battalion in Egypt. He embarked on the troopship "Ulysses". Casualty was advancing at Menin Road, Polygon Wood. I was in the same advance. He was 30 yds. ahead of myself when an H.E. shell exploded near him killing him instantly. The cause of his death was by concussion. I do not know if he was ever buried."

Informant:- Pte. C. Dearnley,
No. 2619, 7th Btn.

Private address:-
11 Waterloo Street,
Geelong.

T.C.F.
6/9/18.

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS INFORMATION BUREAU—MELBOURNE.

A.I.F.
7th Btn.

FANNING, J.
Pte. 2630

K. 20/9/17

I knew Casualty. He was a well built man, about 5'10", about 32 years of age, medium complexion, known as "Jack". Casualty was in the advance at Passchendaele. He was firing his Lewis Gun from the trench when a bullet from out of the gun penetrated his head killing him instantly. I was standing alongside og him at the time of his death. I buried him where he fell. I was Cpl. in charge of the Gun Team. There had been no cross erected when I left.

Informant:-
Cpl. J. Witford, 2052
7th Btn.
Home address:- 138 Park St.,
S. Melbourne.

N.A.T.
9/5/19

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS INFORMATION BUREAU-MELBOURNE.