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

6432 Private
Walter Edwin Jones

3rd Battalion



1470106J

3rd A. I. F.

W. E. JONES, 6432.
G. Goodger, 6510.

Missing 2.3.17.

Jones, Goodger and a man named Nash (N.B. Nash's name is in the May List but has been cancelled) were holding an outpost in front of our lines on this side of Bapaume on 2nd March. When they went to relieve the post they had disappeared and it was assumed the Germans had rushed the post and captured them. We advanced soon afterwards and it was widely stated in the Bn. that their bodies had been found a long way back in the German lines, but I cannot say if this was a fact. If so the Germans must have murdered them after taking them prisoners.

Reference: Pte. C. H. Brien, 6429.
No.5 General, Rouen. 26.5.17.

EMM.

P.W
S Cd.

3rd Battn.
A. I. F.

Jones. Pte.W.E. 6432.
Spriggs. Pte. E. 3203.
Haworth. Cpl. J. E. 135.

"Missing 2.3.17."

We have no official information that the above are Prisoners of War. No one in the Battalion has recieved any communication from them. All that is known here is that they are missing believed to be Prisoners of War. Three men who were on the same outpost have been officially reported to be at Dulmen, Germany.

Letter from:-
Major.
Commanding 3rd Battn.
A.I.F. 17,5.17.

Note The three here referred to as prisoners are evidently
2355 G. Kinsella.
518 O.L. Smith.
2877 H.M. Murray.

London.
31.5.17. 1 copy sent Sydney for Group

S.
S. & P.I.

3rd Batt,
A.I.F.

Jones,
W.E 6432

"Prisoner of War"

Transferred Lager Dulmen Gruppe iii,
Cert, by Post-Card from Man dated 14.6.17

London
22.6.17

S

3rd Batt,
A.I.F.

Jones,
W.E 6432.

"Prisoner of War"

Transferred Münster

Post-Card from Man dated 5.8.17

London
31.8.17

S.

3rd Australian Infantry Jones, W.E. 6432

(M. March 2nd/16)

Informant states that on 2nd March 1916 at the left of Bapaume an advance had been made and the Battalion were digging in on the new ground at night. There was a gap in the line and some Prussian Guards got through and captured some Australians and retired. As they were going back they met an Australian patrol and a fight ensued during which some of the prisoners escaped. Informant knew two of these men well, Ptes Cowegan and Nolan who came from near Dubbo and are in B. Coy to which Jones belonged. These 4 men all came over in the same re-inforcement and know one another. Cowegan and Nolan both said Jones was carried off by the Germans and alive when they got away.

Eye-witness: Told by Ptes Cowegan and Nolan, 3rd Aust. B.Coy

Description:

Informant: Pte Rupert Tink, 6367,
3rd Australian Infantry, A.Coy, 1 Platoon,
Gower Street Hospital, W.

Home address: Pte Cowegan & Nolan Off ch
Rawsonville,
Dubbo, N.S.W. Written 23.4.17

10th April 1917.
Arthur W. Carter.

---

3. A. I. F. Jones, W. E. 6432.

(M March 2/17.)

"There was a man named Jones (3. B. V.) in our platoon who had only been with us two weeks, who is believed to be a prisoner of war. We were on the left of Bapaume opposite the maze just after the evacuation started in March, and we had dug ourselves a trench overnight. Next morning the Germans counter-attacked and took prisoner one post, consisting of about 12 men. I was in the next post, 200 yards away. Although the Germans were so far successful they did not occupy the trench, and we all reckon those 12 men are prisoners."

Description:-- Had only been out two weeks. An Australian.

Informant:-- Pte. William Lyons, 1985,
3rd. Australians, B Coy, V Pl.
3rd Southern General Hospital,
Cowley Section, Oxford.

write adf

Home address:-- "Kyarria" Gisbone St,
Wellington, N.S.W.

April 27th
J.M. Payne.

Written Adf. 9.5.17

3rd A. I. F., Jones, W. R., 6432,
C. Coy.,

M. March 2nd 1917.

Informant states that when he joined the Battalion on 21st March he found it commonly believed thatm with four others Jones was taken prisoner on out-post duty. Their equipments were found, the men were missing. They belonged to the same reinforcement as Informant and came over with him on the same boat.

Eye Witness:

Description:

Informant:-- David Fenke, 6593,
3rd A. I. F., B. Coy.,
2nd Birmingham War Hosp:
Hollymoor.

Home address:--

6.5.17.
Parker.

A. I. F. 8. JONES, W.E. 6432.
(and 5 others)

M. March 2nd, 1917.

I was with a party of C.IX at Les Boeufs going up to relieve B.Coy. from Trap trench on Bapaume Ridge. When we got there we found the trench empty, otherwise was in order, rifles stacked and nothing out of place. It seemed Fritz had raided it in the early morning just before dawn and made this bunch of fellows prisoners.

FJE.

Reference:- Campbell, P.W. 6489. C.IX.
St. Johns Hosp.

Etaples
7.5.17.

A. I. F. 8. JONES, W.E. 6432.
(and 2 others)

M. March 2nd, 1917.

I was with my Coy. in the line on the 2nd of March when the Germans came over in the early morning and took about 18 of our fellows prisoners. By mistake some of the Germans with their prisoners got into our second line. In this way ten of our men escaped and several Germans were captured. But they got away with about six of our fellows, including the above three. I saw the occurrence.

RHA.

Reference:- Hall, H. 6288.
No. 18 Gen. Hosp.

Etaples
7.5.17.

3rd A. I. F. W. E. JONES, 6432.

Missing 2.3.17.

Informant states that he was informed when he joined the Battn. about 2 months ago that this man and several others had been taken Prisoners when out on an outpost. He cannot remember where this was but says he is sure details can be obtained at the Battn. Hdqrs.

Reference: Pte.L.V.Edwards, C.Coy. No.9 Platoon.

No.9 General, Rouen, 7.5.17.

WTMR.

3rd Batt.
A.I.F.,

W.E. JONES 6432
P. CLEARY ~~6386~~ 64

"Missing 2.3.17"
bel. P of War."

Cleary's friend Pte Leslie A Jones 6431 of his Co. (D) will be able to give some information about himself and also probably about his brother W.E.Jones. They were all in this action together and in the same Co. We all came home together.

Reference:- 6427 C.A.Roe
3rd Batt. A.I.F.,
4.5.17.

London
9.5.17.
L.P.J.

S.

written Pte Jones 11.5.17

3rd A. I. F. W. E. JONES, 6432

Missing 2.3.17.

We were in trenches near Bapaume on the 2nd March/17 and had Patrols out. Jones was with a party on an advanced outpost. I was in the trench myself. About dawn on that day, The Germans made a raid and captured or killed all the men of that advanced outpost. I could see them captured. There were, I think, only two killed. This happened about 50 yards or a little more away. I could not see the faces of the men who were taken but was told after that Jones was one of those taken Prisoner. I never saw him again after that day. I knew him well, he and I came over with the same Reinforcement. He was not in my Coy., I do not know what Coy. he was in. A party went out next night over the ground when some dead bodies were found but not Jones'.

Reference: Pte.M.Kennedy, 6301, B.Coy.13 Pl.

No.9 General, Rouen, 11,5.17.

WTMR.

Havre 14th May, 1917.

3rd AUSTRALIANS JONES, W.B. 6432
Nash, H.V. 6426

M. 2.3.17.

It was officially reported in my company that Jones and Nash were taken prisoners of war during a surprise attack by the Huns on our trenches. I was not there at the time but heard about it when I joined. Jones has a brother in the same battalion who is still up the line and can give further details. I knew both these men as we came over together.

Informant: Pte P. Jay, 6295
3rd Australians, C Co.,
No. 29 Ambulance Train, Havre.

RBS

REGIMENTAL REPORT. -1-

A.I.F. 3. Goodger, G. 6510 Kinsella, G. 2335
Haworth, J.E. 135. Nash, H.V. 6426
Jones, W.E. 6432 Spriggs, L. 3603.
M/March 2nd, 1917.

On March 2nd, before daylight, I had to go out to a m.gun post 150-200 yards ahead of our front line beyond Ligny Tilloy. It was small and crowded - about 20 men. I remember recognising Spriggs and Haworth. After this, the enemy made a bombing raid on us and got between us and that post, as I myself later carried in two Germans, one dead and one wounded, from there. That night we advanced and dug in level with that post and I saw a fresh party go into it.

Reference: J.Bowen, 5773, 3.B.VI.
No.1 A.D.B.D.

While on sentry on the occasion referred to, about daylight, I saw a bunch of men being marched away from this post towards the German line. Just after dusk that night, Cpl.Leary (B.Coy, M.Gun) went to the post, and was challenged by a Hun.

contd.

Regimental Report. contd. -2-

A.I.F. 3. GOODGER, G. 6510.
(& 5 others).

I heard him reporting this to the officer. The officer sent a section of bombers to clear them out. They found all our men's equipment there, but no m.gun. My brother, Harold Sippel (6570.1.B. still with them) was one of this party and told me this. We then advanced about 200 yards and made a new line incorporating this post, which was then re-occupied by our men. I was in this advance. My brother, Harold, saw the team which occupied the post on the night of the 1st. (he was one of the team being relieved) and I remember him telling me he recognised Nash, Goodyer, Jones and Kinsella; and Sprigg must also have been there as he was first man in that team.

Reference: Sippel, Leslie. 6571. 3.B.VI,
No.1 A.D.B.D.

(N.B. Both witnesses affirmed that the following men were also in the post, but could not give eye-witness

contd.

A.I.F. 8.

GOODGER, G. 6510
(& 5 others).

evidence thereof:

Elwell, H.M. 2039.
Hannon, G. 5781.
Harvey, R.D. 1557A.

Etaples.
14.4.17.
PHE.

3rd A. I. F. W. E. JONES, 6432

Missing 2.3.17.

Jones went out on outpost duty with five men and a Machine Gun at night about 100 yards from our line near Thilloy. There is strong evidence that he was taken Prisoner. Informant went out next morning with a Section to search for them. They had all disappeared, but some of their kit was lying about.

Reference: Pte.A.J.Ogilvie, 6328, B.Coy.

Confirmed by: Pte.M.G.Brown, 5395, A.Coy.

No.11 Stationary, Rouen, 15.5.17. VMH.

A.I.F. 3.

M. March 2nd 1917.

JONES, W.E. 6432.
KINSELLA, G. 2355
HASH, H.V. 6426
GOODGER, G. 6510.

All these men and others were in an outpost while the Germans were retreating, and they were out together in the front, for there we had no trenches. Afterwards when the outposts were examined, they found the rifles and equipment belonging to these men, but none of the men were there. Pte W.E.Jones has a brother in the same Coy. B.Coycalled L.A.Jones, andhe knows all about this. They are almost certain to be prisoners. I am absolutely sure that these four men who were 111 my mates, were present at that particular post which was captured, but I cannot say for certain bout the other names in your book who are missing on the same date.

Inf: Pte Glasscock. 6509.
H.S. "St Andrew".
BOULOGNE. 15.5.17.

EFH

3rd A. I. F. W. E. JONES, 6432

Missing 2.3.17.

On the 2nd March/17, we were on outpost duty at Ligny Thilloy. L.Spriggs, 3203, who was No.1 on a L.H.G. was with his Gun in charge of another party at another outpost about 400 yards further out on our right. Jones was one of this party. I visited this outpost early in the morning and Spriggs and his party and Gun were all right then. A large German raiding party came over later in the morning on our right and on our left. About 7.0 that evening I, with my party, again visited Spriggs' outpost and found them all gone, Gun and all. Nothing more was heard of any of them and it was assumed in the Battn. that they had all been taken Prisoners by this German raiding party.

Reference: Sergt.V.Driscoll, 3745, B.Coy.No.5 Pl.

No.9 General, Rouen, 18.5.17. P.W 6d S

WTMR.

3rd Battn.
A. I. F.

Jones.
W. E. 6432.

Nash.
H. V. 6426.

"Missing 2.3.17."

Goodger.
G. 6510.

Privates Nash, Jones and Goodger. To the best of knowledge these men were taken prisoners on 2.3.17. They were out in an exposed trench and when the trench was visited again, was found empty. You will find reference to them in Missing believed Prisoners in Germany, in the Anzac Bulletin of about April the 7th.

Letter from:-
Pte. Nolan. 6326.
France.

London.
21.5.17.

S.

3rd Batt,
A. I. F.

Jones,
W.E. 6432.

"Missng 2.3. 17"

Prisoner of War, - Interned at Limburg,

Cert, by information from ~~C.W.~~ W.O. List dated 18.5.17

London
25.5.17.

S

L.I.F. 3rd Batn.

JONES,
W.E., 6432.

Repatriated Prisoner of War.

Arrived Dover 2-12-81.

Cert. by List from A.I.F. H.Q., 5-12-18.

London,
9-12-18.

S.

Pte. W. E. Jones.
6432.
3 Batt

see. under
Pte. N. V. Nash. 6426
3 Batt

25. 5. 17.

Pte. H. E. Jones. 6432.
3 Batt.

Seconder.

Pte. H. V. Nash 6426.
3 Batt.

15. 5. 17.

Pte NOLAN.
3 BATT
A.I.F/BEF

Pte COWEGAN
B. C.
3 BATT
A.I.F
B.E.F

FOR
JONES. WE. 64 32
3 BATT
A.I.F
B.E.F

M. 2. 3. 17

23. 4. 17
Sm: G.B

HOSPITAL Napsbury Herts

INFORMA

Fill in exactly as List.	SURNAME.	Christian Name.	Regtl.No.
	Kloester	A. A.	1160.

GIV

SURNAME.	Christian Name.	Regtl.No.
Blackman.	P.	384

STATEMENT

NOTE. In all cases state fully what informant says he saw or heard and give DATE AND PLACE of occurrence.

(to be tak

11 J

saw. Kloester, when
marching the rou
officer & Waddup
all four. This was
tombstone painted
Quarter ~~Ex~~ Master's stores.
where he was b

PLEASE ALSO ANSV

1. Was Informant Eye-Witness?

3. Was the ground held or lost?

4. If I wa th

5. Did Informant know Christian Name, Initials or No. of man enquired about?

6. Wa na

7. Give Informant's description of man enquired about—any nickname, marks, scars, etc.

8. *Searcher's opinion of Informant's accuracy and intelligence*

Miss. V. DEAKIN.
54 Victoria Street,
LONDON. S.W.

file

Reference your enquiries re:---

M.2.3.17	6432	Pte.	JONES. W.E.	3rd. Battalion.	S3
M "	3203.	"	SPRIGGS. L.	" " "	SP14
M "	135	Cpl.	HAWORTH. J.E.	" " "	SP14

We have no official information that the above are Prisoners of War. Noone in the Battalion has received any communication from them.
All that is known here is that they are missing believed to be Prisoners of War.
Three men who were on the same outpost have been officially reported to be at DULMEN. GERMANY.

Major.
Commanding 3rd Battalion A.I.F.

17/5/1917.

Note The three men referred to as prisoners are evidently
2355 J. Kinsella
518 O L. Smith
2877 H M. Murray.

12.5[illegible].7

The Adjutant.
3rd. Battn. A.I.F.
B.E.F.

Dear Sir,

We have been requested by our Sydney Bureau and by private enquirers to obtain information regarding,

6432. W.E. Jones 3rd Battn. A.I.F.
3205. L. Spriggs " "
135 J. H. Haworth " "

all M. [illegible]., and have been told that in the Battn. it is believed that these men are Prisoners of War. Their names have so far not appeared on any of our lists of Prisoners of War, and we should be very grateful if you could inform us whether any official information of them as Prisoners of War has been received by the Battn., or any post cards or letters have been sent by these men to friends in the Battn. , in which case we should be very glad if you could send us the address of the Camp or Campe at which they are interned.

With apologies for troubling you and thanking you in anticipation

Yours faithfully,

V.D.

Secretary

May 23rd, 1917.

Pte L. A. Jones,
B. Coy,
3rd Battn., A.I.F.
B.E.F.

Dear Pte Jones,

We wrote you lately asking if you could give us any information concerning your brother -

6432 W. H. JONES, 3rd Battn.

and another man of the 13th Battn. missing on some date 2.5.17. We have since received another report which gives the names of three other men who were in the outpost where your brother was stationed, and our informant suggested you might be able to tell us something of -

6510	G. GOODGER,	3rd Battn. A.I.F.
2555	G. KINSELLA	"
6426	H.V.HASH	"

all reported Missing 2.5.17. We have received the name of G. Kinsella as a Prisoner of War: but have no news of your brother or the other 2 men of the 3rd Battn., and would be very grateful for any information you could send us concerning them.

With best wishes -
Yours faithfully,

H.V.D

25.5.17.

Pte. L.A. Jones. B. Co.
3. Battn. A.I.F.
B.E.F.

Dear Pte. Jones,

We wrote you only yesterday asking you for information concerning your brother

6432.	W.E. Jones	3rd. Battn. A.I.F.
6510	G. Goodger	"
6426	H.V. Nash	"

and have this afternoon received the names of all three upon our latest lists of Prisoners of War. Your brother is interned at Limburg an Lahn as are also Pte. Goodger and Nash. If you wish to write to your brother will you address him as follows

Kriegsgefangenen Sendung

6432. Pte. W.E. Jones. 3rd Battn. A.I.F.
British Prisoner of War
c/o Australian Branch.
British Red Cross Society
54. Victoria St. S.W.1.

as we usually have word when men are moved from one camp to another and can forward mail promptly.

Be careful to say nothing about the war or make any reference to his treatment while he is in Germany. We are cabling Sydney tonight to inform the Bureau that your brother is officially

reported Prisoner of War at Limburg an Lahn so your relatives should receive the good news shortly.

Our Prisoners Dept. has entered your brothers name on their list and a weekly parcel of food and comforts etc will be regularly dispatched to him and we trust these will come reach him.

With best wishes

Yours faithfully

N.D

Secretary.

Lu.