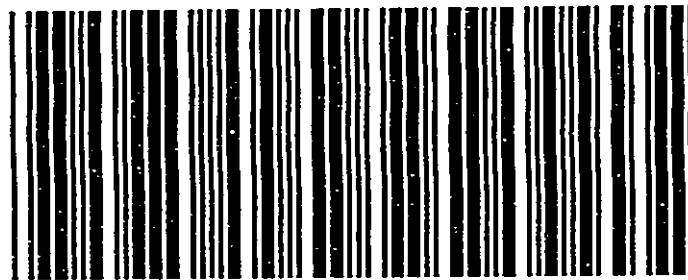


Australian Red Cross Society Wounded and Missing  
Enquiry Bureau files, 1914-18 War  
1DRL/0428

1217 Private  
Michael Joseph Ryan

36th Battalion



2390702N

A.I.F. 36th Btn

*Michael*  
Myles Joseph RYAN  
1216  
1217

"K/A. 21-7-17"

The above named man died from result of gas poisoning on 22-1-17 and was buried in, Cite Bon Jean Cemetery at Armentieres. His description is - about 28 years of age, 5ft. 8 or 10 inches in height, very dark complexion, dark curly hair. This information you find correct, as I was in the same platoon as Ryan and often saw his grave whilst we remained in that locality.

Informant: - 1091 Sgt. E. J. Conway,  
D. Coy, 36th Btn,  
B.E.F. 13-12-17.

London  
18-2-18

NOTE *Incident letter given by Department in a slip, S.  
submitted for 22.7.17*

Note: We regret the delay in typing the above report, but we have been obliged to hold it up on account of pressure of work and shortage of machines.

C O P Y

Statement made by No.4996 Pte CLAUSON J. 36th Btn

re No.1216 Pte RYAN M.J. 36th Btn.  
Missing 21.7.17

No.1216 Private Ryan M.J. and I, were gassed (cloud gas) at the same time, we were taken to the same casualty clearing station, 9th Field Ambulance at Armentieres, he looked very bad. I was transferred to the 11th Field Ambulance. When I left there I heard that he was dead.

*lost sent on*

*Sgd  
Bel K*

Dated at Reading War Hospital this 1st day of December 1917.

(Sgd) J. CLAUSON.

Statement made and signed before me

(Sgd) C.T. MURRILL.  
O/C.No.5.Sector  
Reading War Hospital.

C O P Y

Statement made by No.1237 Pte Seeblink H. 36th Btn.

re No.1216 Pte Ryan M.J. 36th Btn.  
Missing 21.7.17

*(myself Joseph)  
Michael*

Private M.J. Ryan 36th Battalion was killed in Armentieres sector (by gas).

Sgt M. Ryan went over with me but was missing later on. I lost sight of him but I can nearly say for certain that he was killed.

*2 copies*

*Sgd  
Bel K*

Dated at Eurdcott this 11th day of January 1918.

(Sgd) H. Sieblink.

Statement made and signed before me

(Sgd) T.B. Steele  
Captain  
O.C. "B" Coy

Evidently No.1217 Pte M.J. Ryan. 36th Btn (Michael Joseph)  
Died of Wounds at Armentieres 22.1.17

A.I.F.  
56th Bn.  
D Coy.

RYAN.  
Michael Joseph 1817

Died of Wounds 22.1.17.

Buried in the Honour Cemetery Armentieres Grave 185. Section IV  
Row D. German List of grave in Cemetery.  
Cert. by Letter from Capt. Mills' 28.7.19.

London.  
7.10.19.

S.

A.I.F. 56th Btn D.Coy.

RYAN  
Michael Joseph 1217

"Bel: died 22-1-17"

C.C. 3rd Canadian Gen. Hpl reports no trace

Died of wounds 10th Aust: Pld. Amb. 22-1-17 - Lethal gas  
shell - buried Bonjean M. Cemetery Armentieres by the Rev. J.  
Malpin 9th Inf. Brig.

Cert. by A.I.F. Hqs 11-10-17.

London  
11-10-17

S  
90

36th Bata  
A.I.F.

RYAN  
Pte. M. J. Ryan

"Died of wounds"  
-----

Your letter re Pte. M. J. Ryan to hand. This man died at our main Dressing station at Armentieres from the effects of gas, and was buried at that town in the British Military Cemetery.

Letter from:-  
C.O. 10th Aust. Field Ambulance.  
20.10.17.

London.  
29.10.17.

S

36th Australians

Ryan M.J. 1217,

(D/W Jan. 22/17 Det D/B)

"I was not far away when Pte. Mick J. Ryan (36 A. was killed at Houplines in January. He is properly buried at Saily Sur-le-Lys, it is the only cemetery near, but I have not seen the grave. He was killed on the spot by a bullet through his skull. We were with A. Coy. at the time, Fritz attacked us, but we lost no ground; it was the barrage that did it".

Eye-witness: No, but he was not far off.

Description: Aged 30-40 or more, only just knew him by sight.

Informant: Pte. C. Richardson 5084,  
36th Australians, B. Coy. VII Plt. I.G.S.  
3rd Southern General Hospt.,  
Oxford.

Home address:  
Chapel St.,  
Leichhardt,  
Sydney, N.S.W..

Nov. 6/17,  
J.M. Payne.

S  
Ed  
Suff

36th Battn.

M  
RYAN, M.J.  
1217 Pte

Died of wounds 22/1/17.

I knew two M.J. Ryans in 36th Battn. one a Sgt. was Miles Joseph and the other Pte Michael Joseph. The private Michael was badly gassed on 22/1/17 at Houplines opposite Lille on the Armentieres front. I did not see him but it was reported to me at the time by one of my men who was down the line and notified me on his return. This was reported to me by Arthur Jones - since killed at Messines - Ryan was very badly gassed and was not expected to live any time. It was reported in Battalion orders within a day or two that he had died of wounds.

Informant: Hughes, D.R.A. Ppl. 1140

36th Battn. A.I.F.

No. 4 Australian General Hospital,  
RANDWICK.

A careful reliable witness.

HLS.O.  
28/11/17.

SYDNEY BUREAU

S. Cd  
2/11

36th Battalion A.I.F.

RYAN M.J. Serjt.  
No 1216.

"Killed 22/7/17"

Informant described Ryan as about 5ft 6in high, medium build, fair complexion aged about 25/30. Nicknamed Snowy. Was an Irishman. Informant states that they both belonged to "D" Coy No 14 Plat. On the 21st or 22nd July 1917 the Battalion was at Gapard, opposite Warnton Messines, holding the line. The whole of "D" Company, to which both belonged, was told off to attack a strong post about 70 yards from our front line, but the attack did not result in its capture. During the attack Ryan was struck probably by a machine gun bullet. Informant himself was wounded soon after and came away and heard nothing further of Ryan.

Informant added that Ryan was well liked. He was a game man and a good non-commissioned Officer.

Informant: Pte T. Ryan, No 2654 "D" Coy 36th Battalion  
No 4 Australian General Hospital  
RANDWICK

Home address: Quirindi, N.S.W.

W.E.G.  
9/4/18

SYDNEY BUREAU.

S  
2/11



36th Battalion.

No. 1217, Pte. M.J. RYAN

A.I.F.

"Died of Wounds 22/1/1917"

Informant described Ryan as about 5'9" high, dark, medium build, aged about 25. Came from Macleay River:-

Informant states that on 22/1/17 the Battalion was holding the line at Houplines near Armentieres. The Germans were putting up a barrage against us and one of their shells got in amongst some of our gas cylinders and burst one of them. Ryan got a bad dose of the gas and died about 1½ hours afterwards. Informant did not see the occurrence but was told of it by eye-witnesses. He, however, saw Ryan's grave at Armentieres. A cross had been put on it with name, etc. on it. Ryan was well liked by his mates.

Informant:- Pte. R.H. USHER, No. 1253, 36th Battalion.  
No.4 Australian General Hospital,  
RANDWICK.

W.E.G.  
7/2/18.

Private address:- BONRAVILLE, N.S.W.  
-----

SYDNEY BUREAU.

36th Battalion A.I.F.

RYAN M.J. Sergt.  
No 1216.

"Killed in Action <sup>22</sup>21/7/17"

I knew Ryan well he was a Sergt. in D. Coy, XIV Pltn. over me his nickname was Snowy, he was fairheaded medium height, and build about 24/25. He was a member of the original Battalion. He was in charge of my section in a raid on the night of the 20/7/17 at Messines we were attacking a German strong point. He was on my right as we were approaching the German trench about 7 to 8 yards away from me. I saw the man on my right fall shot by a rifle bullet and I feel quite sure it was Snowy Ryan who fell. He was posted as missing after this raid, and I heard he was missing after I rejoined the Battalion.

Informant: Pte H. Siebelink, No 1237, 36th Battalion D. Coy  
No 4 Australian General Hospital,  
RANDWICK.

30/4/18  
H.B.O.

Home address: C/- Mrs. Bisset, West Wallsend,  
Newcastle.

SYDNEY BUREAU.

36th BATTALION, A.I.F.

RYAN, M.J.  
Sergt. 1216.

KILLED, 22/7/17.

Informant described Ryan as about 5 ft. 8 inches high, slight build, fair complexion, aged somewhere in the twenties. He came from the North Coast and had relatives in Ireland. He left Australia with Informant per "Beltana" on 13/5/16.

Informant states that they both belonged to "D" Company, No.14 Platoon, Ryan being Platoon Sergeant.

On or about 22/7/17 the Battalion was in action in front of Messines. They were attacking a place called Windmill Farm. It was a night attack. At about 11 p.m. Ryan was alongside of Informant when he was killed instantly by a machine gun bullet. The attack was not successful and they had to retire. Informant was speaking to him just before the attack commenced.

Informant added that Ryan was very popular.

INFORMANT:- Pte.A. French, 1117,  
"D" Co., 36th Battn.,  
No.4 Aust.Gen.Hospital, RANDWICK.

W.E.G.  
16/5/18. Home address:-

C/o H. Wilce, Esq.,  
DUNGOG, N.S.W.

SYDNEY BUREAU.

S  
B  
Luff

O C's Draft  
15. 10. 17.

The P C  
10th Ave. Field Work.  
Pg 6 7

About 1217  
Michael Joseph Ryan  
36 Battr. A 47

Dec 22. 1. 17.

1st Batty  
1st Bde.  
A.F.A.

HANNS  
Gunner E 106

"Killed 20.7.17."

I saw him being carried away to the dressing station at Zillebaha  
Lake. I did not see him wounded, but was told that he was  
badly wounded in the leg, and that he died that night. I do  
not know place of burial but refer to the C.O. of the 1st Batty  
1st Bde who can give details.

Witness:- Gunner Hynes S. 106  
1st Bde 1st Batty  
A.A. Honl.  
Dartford.

W. Chan  
London.  
S.10.17.

P. I. S.

Sydney S.O.

Mr. Ryan / C/o J. W. Reilly

Belconnen River

Badstone

Macleay River

SO

N.S.W.

Re 1217 Pl. to J. Ryan

36 Bldg.

"J of W"

Price of Paper

Weight of Paper

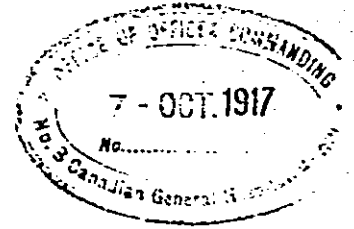
POST

*Ans Draft  
P. J. Ryan*

No. 3 Canadian General Hospital (McGill)

B.E.F. France.

To:- The Wounded & Missing Dept,  
Australian Red Cross Society,  
55 Victoria Street,  
London.S.W.



Enclosed please find letter of enquiry from Mrs. Ryan, Belmore River, N.S.W. with respect to her son, no. 1217, Pte. M. J. Ryan, 36th Australians. We have no trace on our records of this man's admission to this hospital, neither is there any trace of burial at the Graves Registration Commission, Boulogne.

Would you be kind enough to make enquiries, and write to the mother direct concerning same.

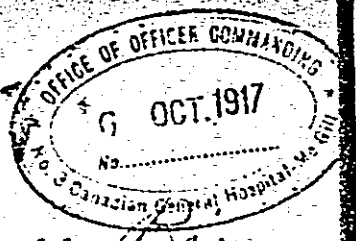
7.10.17.

*H. S. Birrell*  
Col. A.M.S.  
C.O. No. 3 Canadian General Hospital (McGill)

They to be occurred if I am doing wrong  
or asking you any thing out of my place

To the Nursing  
Staff in Hospital  
1100 3<sup>rd</sup> Canadian  
General Hospital  
France.

12/19/17  
Belmore Tower  
August 11<sup>th</sup> 1917



Dear Friends

War time.  
I wish to ask a

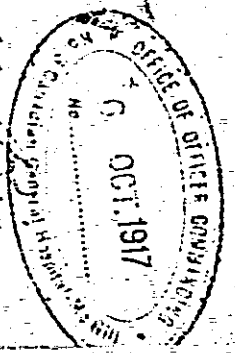
request of you if it in your  
Power to do so for me.  
My Dear son was gassed on  
the 22 of January 1917 on the field  
of battle but I do not know  
where but it was some where  
in France, And was brought  
to 1100 3<sup>rd</sup> Canadian general  
Hospital in France where he died  
on the 22 of January 1917.

Dear Friends if you could you  
give me any account of his death  
or where he might have been buried  
There are a lot of the officers who  
has lost their sons this have got  
some words of their death and where  
they were buried. I have been waiting  
with Patient to hear, but find  
death but now would get  
a lonely water for my broken  
mother.

They to be excused if I am doing wrong  
or asking you away thing out of my place

To Mr. Hoover }  
Federal Bureau of Investigation }  
1100 3rd Avenue }  
General Hospital }  
France }

12/10/17  
Belmore Street  
August 13 1917



Dear Sirs in  
France in

I wish to ask a  
request of you if it may  
be done to do so for me.

My Dear Sirs I was present at  
the 22nd of January 1917 on the field  
of Battle but I do not know  
purchase but it was some purchase  
in France, and was brought  
to 1100 3rd Avenue General  
Hospital in France in 1917.

on the 22 of January 1917  
There friends of mine could get  
give me any amount of his work  
or purchase he might have brought  
have one a lot of his work  
and got them from the Bureau  
done most of his work and  
they were brought. I have been writing  
about patients taken, and I will  
attach that now to you  
a family with in 5 or 6  
of my work.



Did my son have any private things on him when he was taken to hospital  
if he had could you tell me where they are

I will send you some money if you could get the Photo of his grave and send it to me. It is six months since he died and, and I was expecting some news from some one in the army but none has come yet, if you are Australian Nurses you all know my feeling for my Australian son No 1217 Michael & Ryan D. Coy. 36. Batt. ~~1st~~ 1st Light Cavalry, Wemy, from New South Wales. I hope that the war will soon be over for both our sake and yours.

Mrs Esther Ryan  
C/o J. W. Peilly  
Belmore Riv  
Gladstone  
Mackay River  
N.S.W. Wales. S.O.

Did my son have any Private Rings on  
him when he was taken to camp  
if he had could you tell me where they are

( 2 )

I will want you to give me  
the year count you got the photo of  
this Pacific and send it to  
me if it is still presently in  
the dept and find out who  
ring some word from some one  
if he is any but more had  
come yet if you are in  
London you are in my  
looking for my information  
No 11214 Michael J. Ryan  
Co 31 Batt, ~~1st~~ ~~1st~~ ~~1st~~  
Camp Nichols, Army, shown  
Name Don't know, with down he  
hope that he will with down he  
over the north and south and yards,  
also letter Ryan  
Co 31 Batt, ~~1st~~ ~~1st~~ ~~1st~~  
Belmore St  
Philadelphia Pa  
Waco, Tex  
No 11214 Ryan,  
Waco, Tex

ACK  
my pc  
F.M. 19.12.17

1216 NILES JOSEPH RYAN

36 Batta

K/A. 21-7-17

~~n.c. K.A.~~

S. (ed)

4

France

13.12.17

1217

Dear Sir

With reference to your letter, seeking information of N° 1216  
Pte Niles Ryan 16 platoon, D Coy. 36 Batt. A.I.F.

The above named man died from results of gas poisoning on 22.1.17  
& was buried in, Site. Bonjean Cemetery at Arrmentieres

His description is

About 28 years of age, 5 feet 8 or 10 in height, very dark  
complexion, dark curly hair.

This information you will find correct, as I was in the same platoon  
as Ryan & often saw his grave, whilst we remained in that locality

Yours sincerely

N° 1091

Sgt Eglonway

D Coy

36<sup>th</sup> Batt

A.I.F.

Note. wisent date 22-1-17

from informant in a

slip, entered in 22-7-17

October 13th, 1917.

Mrs. Ryan,  
C/o J.W.Reilly,  
Belmore River, Gladstone,  
Macleay River, N.S.Wales.

Dear Madam,

Your letter of August 7th written to the 3rd Canadian General Hospital, in France has been forwarded to us. The O.C. of the hospital says that your son 1217 Pte.M.J.Ryan,  
56th Battalion, did not die there. We are doing our best to make all possible enquiries about him for you and we would suggest that the quickest way for you to obtain news of him would be to apply to our Office in Sydney with which we are in constant communication both by cable and letter. Any information we may be able to obtain relating to your son will be at once sent there, so that if you keep in touch with it you will receive the news at the earliest possible moment.

We will apply to the Graves Registration Committee for a photograph of the grave which we shall be only too glad to send to you as soon as we can obtain it..

We would like to take this opportunity of assuring you of our very sincere sympathy for you in the loss of your son and of our

wish to obtain all possible particulars for you.

Yours faithfully,

U.D .

SECRETARY,

*W.L.A.*

15. 10. 17.

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY

(WOUNDED AND MISSING INQUIRY BUREAU),

54, VICTORIA STREET,

LONDON, S.W. 1



The D.C. 10th Australian Field Ambulance  
About 1217 Pte Michael Joseph Ryan  
36th Battr. A.F.F.

Dear Sir,

We have been asked by the relatives in Australia to obtain the fullest details possible of the Wounds, Death and Burial of the above who died in your Hospital on 22.1.17 and would greatly appreciate any information that you may send us.

With apologies for troubling you.

I remain,

Yours faithfully,

(Miss) Vera Deakin.

SECRETARY.

NOTE. We have been informed by various C.O's and Adjutants that the receipt of notes of thanks only causes them unnecessary inconvenience. Unless you ask us to acknowledge your reply to the above, we will not do so, and trust that you will understand that we appreciate it none the less.

P.T.O.

*P. M. Ryan*  
Miss Deakin,  
Secretary,  
Aust. Red Cross Society,  
54 Victoria St.,  
LONDON.

Your letter re Pte. M.J. Ryan to hand. This man died at our Main Dressing Station at Armentieres from the effects of gas, and was buried at that town, in the British Military Cemetery.

20/10/17.

*W. Purdy* Lieut-Col.  
C.O. 10th AUST. FIELD AMBULANCE.

S