

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

7473 Private
Thomas Leonard Fry

44th Battalion



1120408G

A.I.F. 44.

FRY T.L. 7473.

K. March 30/18. Det. D/B.

He was in D Co., his name was Tom. Our front was between Amiens and Albert. Our Section of D Co., 6 men in all ~~including~~ including Fry and myself, were holding a strong point at Sailly-le-Sec village, right in front of it; It was just a fresh dug out. We had scarcely any water. Fry went back to the line in daylight to get his water bottle filled. It was three days after our Bn. had got into action at this village, which we were now holding. Fry was killed as he was coming back. We brought him in and I saw his dead body; he had three bullet wounds in the body, one in the leg, one in the hip, by M.G. Fire. He was no doubt buried, for there was no military reason against that as we held the position. Fry was married; 27 or 28; came from Guildford, W. Australia; a nice fellow.

Reference: Pte. R. T. Kenny, 1056. D. 12.
No. 5 General, Rouen. 24.7.18.

ET.

K. March 30/18. Det. D/B.

Fry was a great pal of mine and although I did not see him hit, I made all possible enquiries for my own satisfaction and for my own part I am certain that the information I got is perfectly reliable. He had been out with a working party and they were coming back in the afternoon about 3.30 or 4 o'clock when Fry who had forgotten part of his gear or equipment went back to get it. As he was returning he was hit in the stomach by a sniper and as he swerved with the blow he got another right through the head. This was at Sailly. Fry's body was brought in and he was buried in the village cemetery at Heilley. We held the ground where he fell - it is in the Arras region - and we still hold it. Fry was about 5 ft. 8, well built and dark. I should think he was 25 or 26. He came from Perth way and was I believe a carpenter. He was a very fine fellow in every way - a really good sort.

Reference: Pte. C.B. Manners, 7444.
No. 1 Australian, Rouen. 29.7.18.

GFO. *P*

44th Battn. A.I.F.

FRY.
T.L. 7475.

"Killed 30.3.18."

He was of B.Coy. VI Pltn. At Morlancourt sector we were resting just behind the line in a quarry, near Heilly - about this date. Two of them were sitting in D/Out, Fry was killed outright by shell received full issue, other man was not wounded. I did not see him after he was killed, was buried in Heilly Military Cemetery. I did not see his grave, as we went into the line that night. Christian name Tom, came from W.A.

Inf:-

A.D.G.
London.
7.8.18.
J.E.A.

Sgt. E.A. Campbell Sll,
44th Battn. B.Coy. VI Pltn.
HAREFIELD.

P.

FRANCE.

44th BATT. A.I.F.

3
FRY. T.L. 7475.

K. March 30th. 1918. Pet.

That is Tom Fry of B. Coy, VI Platoon. who came from the 16th Battalion. I saw him killed by a sniper's bullet through the head at Sailly le Sec, in the line we were holding at the time. I saw him buried ten yards behind the line in which he was killed.

..SI.

Ref ---Pte H.A. Aming. 2046.
No 47 Gen. Hospital.

N.W.

Le Troport. August 14th. 1918

~~SECRET~~

A.I.P. 44.

FRY. F.I. 7473.

K. March 30/18. Det. D/B.

Fry came from W. Australia and was a boiler maker in the Midland Workshops. He was good at football. We were at Sailly le Sac on Easter Saturday. The enemy came over about midday. Fry was attached to a L.C. Team, and was killed by a sniper. Chas. Combsden, who saw him killed told me. Combsden has since been killed. I am sure of the facts as I knew Fry well and made enquiries.

Reference: W. Gans, 3575. B Co.
No. 11 Gen. Camp Buchy Nr. Rouen. 15.8.18.

JWA.

N.W.

P

Bayre.

23rd. August. 1918.

44th. Australians.

Fry. T. L. 7473.

X. March. 30/1918. Detn. D/B.

He was in B. Coy; from West Perth, Western Australia; married, a boiler maker. He was killed by a H.F. Bullet at Sailly-le-Sec during an attack in the open in the day time. His body was buried in the open & the Grave was marked.

Inf:- Private. E. D. Jones. 2593.
44th. Australians. A.
Hospital Ship.

RES.

P

CP.

(24)

Havre

27th August 1918.

Australians. 44.

Fry T.L. No. 7473.

K. 30th March 1918. Det D/B.

I knew him well. He came from Western Australia, and had played football in Perth and *dishy*. He was about 27, strong, built chap. About the 30th March we were in front of Sully le Sec holding the line. About 9 a.m. ~~There was~~ Fry was taking a *panier* of ammunition to a L.G. Post from the Platoon Post when he was seen by Brits and hit by a sniper. He was hit in the head and killed out. I saw the occurrence. He is buried in a wood in front of Sully le Sec.

Inf:- Pte A. West No. 5147.

A.I.F. 44. B. VI.

Australian Camp.

Rouelles.

CWEG.

PP.

Havre

4th Sept 1918.

Australians. 44.

Fry T.I. 7473.

R. 30th March 1918. Det D/B.

I did not know him well as he had only been with us a few months. He was medium build, dark, and a good footballer. He had played for some team in Australia near Fremantle. About the 30th March we were near Sailly le Sec holding the line. About 2 p.m. Fritz attacked and Fry, while standing to, was hit by a bullet through the neck and died in a few minutes. I saw this. The body was left for two days and was then taken away by the Pioneers. I do not know about burial.

Inf:- L/Opl PCJ/Cur6 No. 248.

A.I.F. 44. B. VIII.

Australian Camp.

Rouelles.

CWSG.

EP.

4th Battn.
A.I.F.

T.L.

FRY.
7473.

"Killed in Action 30-3-18"

Re the above named soldier. He was killed by piece of shell on 30th March during an Enemy Attack near Sailly-le-Sec on the Somme. He was buried just behind the post where he was killed and a cross was erected. As this Ground is now well behind the lines, there should be no difficulty in finding the grave. I have no map reference but the spot is about 1/2 a mile in front of Sailly-le-sec between that place and Sailly-Laurette. This is all the information I can give of this man. He was about 5ft 9, medium build, and fair complexion.

Letter from:- A.E.Allen. 7447.
FRANCE. 29-8-18.

London.
4-10-18.
N.T.

P.

50

7. 12. 1941

Y. 55-ent-mi-8
Y. 55-ent-9-11

97.4. 11.11.1961

- Pl. A. E. Allen

100-911 B-6

B. Cat

44 The Battle

己卯

about

7473 M. L. Fry

44 The Battle

a. 2.7.

K

Mar. 30. 18.

Written 31.7.18

2.5.7.

09-10-80 "O" - 17-12-80. 1. 25-12-80

21702

FRONT *Western*

AS TO

Battalion and Regiment.

Co.

Pla-
toon

Casualty.

13th Batt. A.I.F.

S/Lt. March 22nd 1918

BY

Battalion and Regiment.

Co.

Pla-
toon

Home Address.

13th Batt. A.I.F.

*Simbotta
Victoria*

INFORMANT

(in first person).

*my
Company that N.J. Brown
lies (other side of Baire &*

THE FOLLOWING:

give name, number, etc., of
the man who told him.

Informant says a man was killed,
is death instantaneous?
is the body buried, & if so where?

Were any other man of same
in Co. or Battalion?

road Shoulders. Height 5' 10" Age about 30

Signature of
Searcher

Date of Report

[Signature]
20/7/18

RECEIVED:
24 JUL 1918
CARLTON HOUSE TERRACE

44th Batta. A.I.F.

FRY.

J.L. 7473.

"Killed 30.3.18."

Fry was a L/Gunner and on Easter Saturday Fritz attacked the gun crew took up a fresh position and Fry went back to get his gear and while standing on the parapet Fritz got him with a M/G burst killing him outright.

He was buried by a mate A.E. Allen 44 B.Co. (still going as far as I know) in a strong post on the bank of the Somme between Sailly le-sec and Sailly-le-Ret where he was killed.

Fry was a married man from Midland Junction and he Allen and I came away together in same reinf. of 16th Bn.

Inf:- Nuttall C. 7580.

44 B.Co.

WESTHAM.

W.A. Rand,
London,
1.8.18.

NOTE.

Written Allen. 1.8.18.

H.G.

P.

to Miss V. Deakin 7473 France
Secretary Australian Red Cross 44 Balto 29 August 1918
London / K. A. 30.3.18 P. 2 (ca)
44 Balto. Re. No. 7473. Pk. Fry. I. L.

In reply to your enquiry the above
named soldier was killed by piece of
shell on 30 March during an Enemy Attack
near Sailly-le-Sec on the Somme. He was
buried just behind the post where he was
killed and a cross was erected. As
this ground is now well behind our
lines there should be no difficulty in
finding the grave. I have no map reference
but the spot is about 1/2 mile in front
of Sailly-le-Sec between that place and
Sailly-Laurette. This is all the information
I can give of this man. He was about
5ft 9" Medium Build & Fair complexion.

12

Yours Faithfully

A. E. Allen

etc 7473