

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

**3114 Private
John Boyd**

52nd Battalion



0490205K

A.I.F. D.Coy. 52nd Btn

J. BOYD
3114

"K/Action"

Killed in action 24-4-18

Cert. by A.I.F. Hqs 3-6-18.

London
5-6-18

P.I.

FRANCE.

52nd BATT. A.I.F.

BOYD. J. 3114.

K. April 24th. 1918. Det.

He was killed on the night of the 24th April during a raid to the German line. Most of those who got killed on the raid were caught by machine gun fire. They were all buried on the spur at Hangard Wood where a cross was afterwards erected with all their names inscribed on it. Here is a list of their names in my pocket book and here is Boyd's name and number, 3114.

WSI.

Ref ---Pte C.W. Negus. 2228.
No 16 Gen. Hospital.

P.1

J. A.

Le Treport. June 24th. 1918

52nd Battn.
A.I.F.

BOYD.
J. 3114.

"Killed 24-4-18"

I was formerly in the 52nd Battalion, and was with them at Villers Bretonneux on the night of 24th April when Boyd, whom I knew well, was killed. Two or three days later I went out with a party and found him dead in a shell hole. I and another man, whose name I do not know, and a Padre buried him on the spot where we found him.

Eye-Witness: - Not of death.

Description: - About 5ft 7 or 8 ins, age about 26 years, and weighed 10½ - 11stone. He had people in Eng; but was married to an Australian wife. *C.A. Jack*

Home Address: -
Park Avenue.
Rockhampton.
Queensland.

Informant: - Chippendale.R.S.2640.Pte.(Reliable)
50th A.I.F. D.Cc.
Guildford War Hpl.

John Comber.
London.
24-7-18.
J.E.A.

P I.

A. I. F. 52nd Bn.

✓ BOYD, J. 3114. (D. Coy.)

✓ COOPER, G. H. 3131a

✓ HILL, F. C. 3284a

✓ JONES, G. A. 3638a

All E. April 24/18.

These 4 men were killed outright by the same H.E. shell outside Villers Bretonneux on the Corbie Road, on the 24th April. I saw this happen; it was about 6.0 p.m. and I looked at their bodies. The Battn. was going up to the attack on Villers Bretonneux at that time; they took the place next day. These men were buried on the same day in ~~several~~ separate graves by the Pioneers near Corbie Road in a small Cemetery I think by Hamlet Wood. Boyd was about 23 or 24, his name was Jack.

Reference: Pte. J. McDonough, 2218, 49 Bn. H.Q. late 52.A.

IV.

No. 5 General, Rouen, 30.8.18.

ET.

(SR)

91.

May 31⁷⁶
P.C. 7. 6. 18.

Dear Sirs would kindly send to
us any information concerning
my Brother Pt J Boyd.

~~No 3114~~

~~D Company~~

~~52nd Battalion~~

~~France & I 4th~~

as I had my letters returned to me
this morning & written across
them say he as been killed in
action on the 3/5/18 I am sending
you the envelope as you know
he as a wife & 2 children in
Australia but his father &
Mother & all belonging to him
live in Carlisle so you can
guess we are anxious to

know about him so if you would
please send me all particulars.
I will only be too pleased to
know I remain his loving

Sister M^{rs} G^l H. Hethrington

3 Barnes Ct

St Nicholas

Botchergate

Barlisle

As my husband is in France
as well & it is 6 weeks since
I heard from my Brother.

Mrs. G.H.Hetherington

3 Barnes Street, St. Nicholas.

Butcher Gate, CARLISLE.

June 10th

Dear Madam,

In answer to your enquiry about - 3114 Pte. J. BOYD, 52nd Btn. A.I.F. we very deeply regret to inform you that he is officially reported killed in Action 24-4-18. No particulars have as yet been received, but we are making further enquiries for details of death and burial, the result of which we will at once forward to you.

With sincere sympathy and regret at having such sad news to send you.

Yours faithfully,

(Miss) *F.S.K.*

SECRETARY.

notified, H. D. ...

... 31st Bn.

LONG, H. A. J. 1384.

Killed Sept. 26/19. Det. D/S.

His initials were H.A.J. He was in C. Coy. X Pl.
 Our offensive started on the morning of the 26th Sept.,
 on the east side of Polygon Wood. Long was killed on the morning
 of Sept. 27th, after an advance, and while we were
 digging in between our trenches and Fritz's trenches.
 I saw him dead; he was hit all over the head, and I
 helped to bury him that morning in a shell hole, separ-
 ately. He gained our objectives that day, but I was
 myself wounded about a hour later after that burial.
 Long came from H. B. ... he joined with the 5th Bn. at
 Armentieres on the 11th July, 1916.

even has been ...

Reference: Pte. R. M. Cahill, 31. H.VII.

Ho. E. General, Remen, 4.5.18.

NY.

July 2nd, 1918.

Mrs. G.H. Hetherington,
3, Barnes Street,
St. Nicholas, Botchergate,
Carlisle.

Dear Madam,

We regret to inform you that we have received an unofficial report respecting your brother -

3114 Pte. J. Boyd, 52nd Battalion, A.I.F.

which confirms the official statement that he was Killed in Action.

2228 Pte. C.V. Nagus of the same unit, interviewed at the 16th General Hospital, in France stated that Pte. Boyd was killed during a raid on the German line, on the night of April 24th. Most of the casualties in that raid were from machine gunfire, and those who were killed were all buried on the spur at Hangard Wood, where a cross was afterwards erected, with all their names on it.

Pte. Nagus had a list of their names in his pocket book, and among them was that of Pte. Boyd.

We are continuing enquiries and will at once forward you any information we may obtain - meantime accept the assurance of our sincere sympathy with you and your family.

Yours faithfully,

(MISS)

SECRETARY.

7. J. G.

July 26th, 1918.

Mrs. J. Hetherington,
3, Barnes Street,
St. Nicholas, Botchergate,
Carlisle.

Dear Madam,

We regret to inform you that we have received the following unofficial report from 2640 Pte. R. S. Chippendale 50th Battalion, A.I.F. when in Guildford War Hospital about

3114 Pte. J. BOYD, 52nd Battalion, A.I.F.

He states:- "I was formerly in the 52nd Battalion and was with them at Villers Bretonneux on the night of 24-4-18 when Boyd, whom I knew, ~~well~~ was killed. Two or three days later I went out with a party and found him dead in a shell hole. I and another man whose name I do not know, and a padre, buried him on the spot where we found him.

We shall be pleased to give you any further information and will let you know when we have fuller news of same.

Assuring you of our most sincere sympathy and trusting that it will be some consolation to know that he was buried.

Yours faithfully,

(Miss)

Secretary.

Cord Lindsay

17th September 1918.

Mrs. G. H. Hetherington
3 Barnes St.
St. Nicholas,
Botchergate,
Carlisle.

Dear Madam,

In further answer to your inquiry for your brother -

No. 3114 Pte J. Boyd, 52nd Btn A.I.F.,

we beg to inform you of another unofficial report given by a man of his unit when in No. 6 General Hospital B.E.F.

Informant - 2216 Pte J. McDonough stated that he saw your brother and three others killed instantly by a high explosive shell outside Villers Bretonneux on the Corbie Road about 5 p.m. on 24-4-18, while the battalion ^{was} going up for the attack on Villers Bretonneux, which they took next day. These four men were buried by the Pioneers on the same day in separate graves, near Corbie Road in a small cemetery by Hamlet Wood. Pte. McDonough describes Pte Boyd as about 23 or 24 years of age and adds that his name was Jack.

Should we receive further information of your brother's death ^{trust} we shall immediately advise you and that it will be some consolation to know that he was killed instantly and died without suffering.

Assuring you of our sincere sympathy,

Yours faithfully, SECRETARY.

Lace