

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

**132 Corporal
James Button**

40th Battalion



0660901M

A.I.F. 40.

BUTTON, Gpl.J. 132.

K. Oct 13th 1917. Dets.

Button was a corporal or temporary corporal in A.III. and was killed on Oct.12th at Passchendaele between 5 and 6 in the morning while waiting to go over just on the right of the Menin Road. I saw him a few minutes after he was killed. Next day I saw him again still lying in the same place. They got his paybook etc but I cannot say where he was buried. He came from Perth in Tasmania near Longford where I come from.

Inf: Pte W.Kelty. 218. A.II.
No. 52 Stat.Hosp.
BOULOGNE. 16.4.18.

JT

P.1

Havre.

7th. May. 1918.

40th. Australians.

Button, Corporal, J. 152.

R. October. 13/1917. Dets. D/B.

I knew Button well in Australia; his people lived at Perth in Western Australia; he was a labourer. In February I was on leave, I met private. Ernest Button (a brother of the above who was batman to the H.O. of the 40th. Battalion; he went back to his Battalion early in February) told me that he knew that his Brother was killed, and that he had all particulars and had written home about it.

Inf:- Corporal, W. T. Manning. 2271.
26th. Australians. D. 15.
Australian Camp.
Ronelles.

HEG.

Written Button

22.5.18

P1

40th Battn.
A.I.F

BUTTON,
Cpl. J. 152

"Killed 13.10.17."

I was told by Pte. Erny Heege (40 A.III) that he saw Cpl. Jim Button (40 A.III) killed, on October 12 at Passchendaele. He was beside him and "reckoned he was shot dead". He could probably give the Red Cross all particulars.

Eye-witness:- No. *told by Pte Erny Heege.*

Description:- Single, a farmer, he came out with Br.

Informant:- Pte. M. Scadlon, 2082,
40th Battn, A.Ccy, III Pltn,

Home address: 3rd Southern General Hospital

Port Cygnet,
Tasmania.

H.M. Pickard Cambridge.

London.

17.4.18. NOTE Written to Erny Heege 16.4.18. P.I.

A.I.F. 40th Btn

BUTTON
Cpl James 133

"WHERRABOUTS"

Killed in action 13-10-17
Cert. by A.I.F.Hqrs 16-2-18.

P.I

London
18-2-18

40th Battn.
A.I.F.

BUTTON
Cpl. James 132

"Killed in Action 13-10-17"

Re my brother 132 Cpl. J. Button, 40th Battn., reported to have been killed on or about 12-10-17, at Passchendaele, near Ypres. You ask if there are any points upon which I am not satisfied, and furthermore, you desire, if possible to assist me. In this you have my entire thanks, and such details as I am able to give. My brother was last seen, according to one of my mates, lying in a shell hole behind our line, on the day of Oct. 12th, and was believed to have been wounded. The case was reported to some S/Bs. who at once went to find him, but they were informed before reaching the place, that he was dead. Nothing more is known or was seen of him. Extensive enquiries on my part to find a burial party who may have buried him or to find anyone who may have seen his body, have proved fruitless. There is a glimmer of hope in the possibility that in the darkness he may have crawled by mistake to the enemy's line. I should like to make enquiries through the Prisoners of War Society, to ascertain, if possible, if he is a prisoner. No communication has reached me to this effect. I should be greatly indebted to you if you could inform me, how best to make enquiries in this direction. I have notified my people that I am leaving no stone unturned, to ascertain the real facts.

Letter from:-

Button Pte. E. J. 134
40th Battn.

London
8-6-18

FRANCE. 30-5-18

P. I.

22.5.18

J. 50

B

Rev. Ernest Rutton

40. A. P. F.

Abouk written:

132. Chl. J. Rutton

40. A. P. F.

15. 13-10-14.

Recd.

22.5.18

16-4-18

to the Energy Neige
111 Pth

A. Coy
40' Surf. Bottom
A. 1-7

Abstract Apr 5 Bottom
132

40' Surf. Bottom
A. 1-7

OK 13/10/17

Initial
16-4-18

UV

France. May 30th - 1918.

132

Cpl James Button

40th Batta

131 A 13-10-17

P1

to the Secretary -
Wounded and Missing Inquiry Bureau -
36 Grosvenor Place -
London. S.W. 1.

Dear Miss Deakin,

Your communication, relative to my brother - 132. Cpl. J. Button -
40th Batt. A. I. S. reported to have been killed on or about Oct 12th 1917 - at
Passchendaele, near Ypres. To hand - you ask if there are any points upon which
I am not satisfied, and furthermore, you desire, if possible to assist me -
In this you have my entire thanks - and such detail as I am able to give -
My brother, was last seen, according to one of my mates, lying in a shell-hole
behind our line of the day of Oct 12th, and was believed to have been
killed - The case was reported to some stretcher bearers, who at once
tried to find him, but they were informed, before reaching the place, that
he was dead - Nothing more is known or was seen of him - Extensive
inquiries on my part to find a burial party who may have buried him
or to find anyone who may have seen his body - have proved fruitless -
There is a glimmer of hope in the possibility that, in the darkness, he may
have crawled, by mistake, to the enemy's line - I should like to make
inquiries through the Prisoners of War Society - to ascertain, if possible, if
he is a prisoner. No communication has reached me to this effect - I
should be greatly indebted if you could inform me, how best to make
inquiries in this direction - I have notified my people that I am leaving
no stone unturned, to ascertain the real facts.

Thanking you sincerely for your kind assistance in this case - and for all
past favours - I remain

Yours,
most gratefully.

Approved by

W. J. Clark

(P/E)

E. J. Button - 134 -
40th Battalion.

A. I. S.

France

To P.C. 15.2.18

O.C. Australian Red Cross, Enquiry Dept.

12/2/18.

I would be thankful for
any information regarding: - No. 132, Cpl. Burton,
S., A. Coy., 40th Battalion. (Sgnd.)

No. 1958.

Cpl A.M. Young,
No. 2 Company
No. 1 Command Dept
Moston Lane
Herts.

20th February 1918.

1958 Cpl. A.H. Young,
2nd Coy,
1st Command Depot,
Sutton Veny,
WILTS.

Dear Cpl. Young,

In reply to your inquiry about - 132 Cpl. J. Button,
4th Bn. A.I.F., we deeply regret that we have very sad news to
send you. He was officially reported killed in Action 16-2-18.
No details are reported, but should you wish us to obtain details,
we shall make inquiries and will advise you of any information
we may receive. Will you at the same time send us your full
regimental particulars, so that we may then more easily trace
you when you leave Sutton Veny?

With much sympathy in the loss of your friend and
awaiting your reply.

Yours faithfully,

Flora K. P. St. George
for Secretary.

No 2 Company
No 1 Command Dept.
Sutton Perry.

To: -

132 Cpl James Button
The Secretary, 40th Bde

I am very thankful for the reply you sent me regarding my friend Cpl. J. Button, but there still remains a little doubt in my mind. Cpl J.

Button, 132, was attached to 40th Bde. (not 16th).

Enclosed you will find your reply of 2nd Feb, and I have marked what may be only a typographical error.

I would feel very thankful for any information you can give me about my friend, or allay

any doubt I may have about the official report of his death. Yours sincerely,

William Young

Reg. No. 1958

Cpl. A. M. Young
A Company.
40th Bde
10th Int Bde. AIF

Tel: VICTORIA { 8576
8577
8578

ALL COMMUNICATIONS
TO BE ADDRESSED TO
"THE SECRETARY."
WOUNDED AND MISSING
— ENQUIRY BUREAU —
AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY.



AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY.

36. GROSVENOR PLACE,
LONDON. S.W. 1.

20th February 1918.

1958 Cpl. A.M. Young,
2nd Coy,
1st Command Depot,
Sutton Veny,
WILTS.

Dear Cpl. Young,

In reply to your inquiry about - 132 Cpl. J. Button,
46th Btn, A.I.F., we deeply regret that we have very sad news to
send you. He was officially reported Killed in Action 16-2-18,
No details are reported, but should you wish us to obtain details,
we shall make inquiries and will advise you of any information
we may receive. Will you at the same time send us your full
regimental particulars, so that we may then more easily trace
you when you leave Sutton Veny?

With much sympathy in the loss of your friend and
awaiting your reply,

Yours faithfully,

Vera Deakin

Secretary.

V. A. S. J. G.

16th March, 1918.

1958 Cpl. A. M. Young,
No 2 Company, No 1 Command Depot,
Sutton Veny, Wilts.

Dear Cpl. Young,

We regret exceedingly that a clerical error should have occurred in our letter of Feb. 27th, respecting 132 Cpl. James Button, 40th Battalion, A.I.F., We fear that there is no grounds for doubting the official report of his death in action but we shall add his name to our enquiry list, and do our best to obtain information of which we will at once advise you.

Kindly let us know when you leave Sutton Veny.

Yours faithfully,

W. J. St George
SECRETARY.

19th April, 1918.

1918 Cpl. A.H. Young,
2nd Coy, 1st Command Depot,
Sutton Vaux.

Dear Sir,

We beg to inform you that we have received an unofficial report respecting -

132 Cpl. JAMES BUTTON, 40th Battalion, A.I.F.
from 2082 Pte. H. Scanlon, of same unit, who was interviewed in the 3rd Southern General Hospital, Oxford. He stated that he was told by Pte. Erny Heege of the same unit, that he saw Cpl. J. Button killed instantly on Oct. 12th, 1917 at Passchendaele. Pte. Heege was beside Cpl. Button at the time and could give particulars.

We have written to Pte. Heege and will at once advise you on receiving his reply.

With best wishes.

Yours faithfully,

(Miss) F. J. Geary

SECRETARY.

2nd May, 1918.

1958 Pl. A. H. Young,
2nd Coy, 1st Command Depot,
Sutton Veny, Wilts.

Dear Sir,

In further answer to your enquiry about -

132 Cpl. J. BUTTON, 40th Battalion, A. I. F.

We beg to inform you that we have received an unofficial report from 218 Pte. W. KELLY, of same unit recently at the 32nd Stationary Hospital, who states that he saw Cpl. Button a few minutes after he was killed at Passchendaele Oct. 12th. He cannot give any particulars as to burial, but knows that his pay-book etc were removed.

Cpl. Button and Pte. Kelly came both from Tasmania and from the same neighbourhood.

We are making further enquiries and will advise you at once of any information we may obtain.

Yours faithfully,

(His) *J. P. G.*

SECRETARY.

1956 Cpl. A.M. Young,
A. Coy, 40th Infantry Battalion,
Australian Imperial Force,
E. M. F.

June 12th, 1918.

Dear Sir,

With further reference to your enquiry for your friend -

132 Cpl. J. BUTTON, 40th Battalion, A.I.F.

We regret to inform you of an unofficial report of his death, which we have now received in a letter from France from his brother 134 Pte. E.J. Button of the same unit, who stated that according to one of his comrades his brother was last seen lying in a shell hole behind the lines on the day of Oct 12th, and was believed to have been wounded. The casualty was reported to some stretcher bearers who went at once to find him but before reaching the spot they were informed that he was dead. Nothing more was seen or heard of him Pte. Button made extensive enquiries hoping to find a burial party who had buried his brother but all his efforts proved fruitless.

We regret that we have only such indefinite information to send you and if any further reports should reach us we will at once advise you.

With good wishes.

Yours faithfully, W.

[Handwritten signature]
W. V.