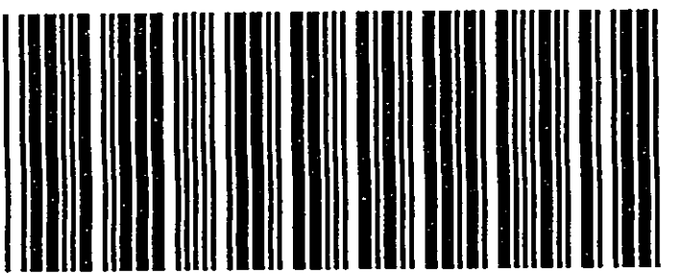
Australian Red Cross Society Wounded and Missing
Enquiry Bureau files, 1914-18 War
1DRL/0428

3452 Private
John Priddle Rowe

54th Battalion



2370405L

A.I.F. 54th Bttn, ROWE.
C.Coy, 11th. Pltn. J.P. 3452.

"Killed 25.9.17".

"I saw him killed at Polygon Wood. He was caught by a shell fragments of which hit him about the chest killed him instantly. He was badly knocked about. He had only been with the Batth a fortnight when the casualty happened. He was buried at Place of Casualty, I saw the grave, and it was marked with a cross bearing his number, name and unit.

Witness:- 3233 Pte.J.S.Ogilvie,
54th Bttn, C.Coy, 11th Pltn,
3rd Aust.Aux.Hpl,
Dartford.

W.Oman, S.
London.
14-2-18. 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 in the reports Dept.

54th batt. A.I.F. Rowe.J.P. Pte. NO.3452.
C.Coy.

Killed Sept 25th 1917. Det. D.B.

I saw him lying dead in the front lines at Polygon Wood the night be before we hopped over, He was buried close by where he was lying there was no grave near the spot where he was buried. A cross was erected bearing full particulars, by his mates from the coy.
I knew him in the coy, He came over with the 9th reinf of the Batt. He came from Lithgow, N.S.W. He was a married man.

Description. Age. 22. Height. 5-7. Complexion. Dark. Well Built.

Witness. Pte. Rowe. A.N. NO.7453. D.Coy. 54th batt.

Taken at
NO.4.C.D.Hurdcott.
15-1-18.
F.G.H.

S.Whitmee.
NO.4.Command Depot
Hurdcott.

54th Battn.
C.Coy.
A.I.B.

Rowe.
J.P. 3452

"Killed 25.9.17"

Refer to Pte.D.Shearer C.Coy. 54th Battn. who is now in France and who saw him killed at Polygon Wood and can give full particulars.

Witness:-
Pte.H.J.Reeve 3454
54th Battn. C.Coy. 11th Pltn.
3rd A.A.Hospital.
Dartford.

W.Oman.

London.
29.12.17.

S.

Note Written Pte.Shearer
17.12.17.

ROWE J.P. Private
No.3452.

54th BATTALION A.I.F.

KILLED 25/9/17

Informant described Rowe as about 5 ft. 6 inches high, nuggety build, aged about 34. Came from Balmain. Left Australia in "Anchises" in January,1916.

Informant states that both belonged to "C" Company, No.11 Platoon. On 25/9/17, the Battalion were holding the front line at Polygon Wood. Both had been on gas guard and Informant succeeded Rowe in this duty. When he came off duty he lay down about a foot away from Rowe, and about five minutes before Rowe was struck, they had a talk with each other. They then tried to get a sleep, when a shell came over into the trench, burst near Rowe, killing him outright.

Informant added that Rowe was "one of the best", and left Australia with him. He was a married man.

INFORMANT:- Private E. W. Oughton, No.3438. "C" Company, 54th Battalion.
Home address:- 26 Gipps Street, Paddington.

The undernoted stated that he was about 12 yards away from Rowe when he was struck, the shell bursting about 3 yards from Rowe. Informant was asleep at the time, but saw Rowe's body after he was killed. Lance-Corporal F. Murphy, No.5400. 54th Battalion.
Home address:- Griffiths, N.S.Wales.

W.E.G.
8/3/18.

No.4 Australian General Hospital,
RANDWICK.

SYDNEY BUREAU.

S.C.A. Bath

Havre 23rd Nov. 1917.

54th AUSTRALIANS ROWE, 3452 J.P

K. 25.9.17. Det. D/B.

He was in D Co., 11th Pltn. I knew Rowe for a few days only. He came with late reinforcements. He was medium height, thickset, dark, about 22, and had a hump on the shoulders. He came from N.S.W. At Polygon Wood we were in supports behind the 1st line. We went into action at 5 a.m. on the 25th. A shell burst and I saw Rowe very badly cut about. He didn't move - death was instantaneous. He was covered over in the trench, and afterwards had a Field Burial.

Informant: Pte. E.W. Holmes, 3211
54th Australians, D Co., 11th Pltn.,
Australian Camp, Rouelles.

PM

54th Battn
AIF

ROWE
J.P. 3452

"Killed 25.9.17."

I came over with him. Refer to Pte. D. Shearer C.Coy., who was alongside of him when he was killed and was slightly wounded by same shell. He is now with Batn.

Witness:-
J. Foley 3375
54th Batn
Dartford
4.12.17.

London.
27.12.17. Note Pte. Shearer written to

S

54th Batn
C Coy.
A.I.F.

ROWE
5452 J.P.

"Killed 11.9.17."

I saw him killed at Polygon Wood. He was caught by a piece of shell which hit him about the body killing him instantly. I knew him very well he came from Balmain Sydney and was a married man and was the only man of that name in the Coy. We held the ground but I do not know place of burial and I cannot refer to anyone for particulars. I feel certain that he would be buried at place of casualty.

Witness:- L/Cpl. E. Murphy 5400
54th Batn C.Coy., 11th Pltn.
3rd A.A.Hospital,
Dartford.

W.Oman
London.
27.11.17.

S

A.I.F. 54th Btn

ROWE
John Priddle 3452

"K/A. 25-9-17"

No trace Germany
Cert. by Capt. Mills 10-10-19.

S

London
18-10-19

54th Battn.
A.I.F.

ROWE
I.P. 3452
J

"Killed 25-9-17"

Ypres. Was killed at once by a shell in the trenches. I saw him killed and also buried, just near where killed. I was present at burial. Was a cobber of mine. Came over from Sydney together.

Informant. Ward 3482
Ward 31,
HAREFIELD.

D.P.Dickson
London
9-3-18

S.

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.

17.12.17

Pte. D Shearer

C. Coy.

5-4th Batn

A.I.F

B.E.F

Admit

341 5-2 Pte J.P. ROWE

C. Coy. 5-4th Batn

A.I.F.

K. 25-9-17

24-12-17

S