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

3452 Sergeant Thomas O'Rourke

55th Battalion



2060605J

55th Battn. A.I.F. O'ROURKE

Sgt. T. 3452

Killed 30/9/18

Buried Roisel Communal Cemetery Extension, 6¼ miles E.N.E. of Peronne, 6.6E.,SSP. 4459/29

Extracted from Capt. Spedding's List of 16/10/19

Melbourne

29/12/19

A.I.F. 55th Btn

O'RURKE
Sgt, Thos. 3452

"K/A.30-9-18 - dtls D/B"

Buried Hesbecourt Com: Cem: Ext: 8 mls E.N.E. of Peronne
Lt.Spedding's list.

3

London
13-5-19

A.I.F. 55 O'ROURKE. T. 3452.

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

This man was a Sgt. He was about 5 ft.7 in height, thick set and with a very heavy jaw. He was about 32 or 33 and was a printer at Goulburn N.S.W. He was in A Co.

I saw O'Rourke about 10 O'clock in the morning and he then appeared to have only a slight flesh wound in the leg. I and others picked him up and put him into a shell hole and left him. When we came back late in the afternoon, some of the men left the party and went over to the shell hole and found him dead. There were no marks of further wounds on him and it was believed that he died from shock. We left him, and afterwards a party was sent out to bring him in and I knew nothing more personally. There could be no doubt whatever that he was taken to the rear and properly buried, I should say somewhere near Bullecourt.

Reference: Sgt.A.A.Kearns, 1676. A.
No.10 General. Rouen. 7.12.18.

GPO. S

Havre 11th December 1918.

Australians. 55. O'Rourke T. 3452.

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

I knew him well. He used to be in the Ordnance, and had not long transferred to us. He was killed during an attack near Bellicourt by a bullet. I saw him fall wounded and he was afterwards found dead. His body was buried I think, at Hargicourt Cemetery.

Inf:- Corporal C. Henry No. 4933.
A.I.F. 55. A. I.
Austra. Conv. Depot.

CWSG.

PP.

A.I.F. 55th Btn O'ROURKE
T. 3452

"K.Sept. 30/18"

He was a Sgt.55th Btn A.l. 5/7 medium 40 years of age. Came from Goulbourn N.S.W. At Bellecourt on Sept. 30/18 at 2 p.m. we were holding our objective when O'Rourke was killed instantly by a shell. He was buried in a military cemetery., at Hesbecourt behind Bellecourt and a cross was erected.

Informant: Cpl. A.H.Emerson 2648
55th Btn A.Coy.

Note: P.Buckley S/B. 1625 gave similar evidence.
W.M.K.
London
27-3-19
J R.A. S

"Killed 30.9.18."

Informant described O'Rourke as about 5 ft 8 in. high, fairly stout, fair complexion, aged about 28-35. Had been an Armour Sergeant.

Informant states that O'Rourke was in A. Company. Informant belonged to B. Company, but on this particular day was in O'Rourke's Platoon. On 30.9.18 the Battalion was in action at Bellicourt. They hopped over at 6 a.m. About half an hour later, after they had advanced about 400 yards, O'Rourke was hit in the left wrist or arm. Informant was about 5 yards from him and saw him clutch at his wrist and fall, at the same time telling Informant that he had been hit. Informant had to keep going and never saw O'Rourke again, but it is his opinion that he was killed by a subsequent shot, as there was nothing in the first wound to have a fatal result so quickly.

According to Informant O'Rourke was a well liked chap.

Informant; Sergeant L. Brown, No. 3017.
B. Company.
Home address: Anglo Road, Campsie.

W.H.G.
No. 4 Australian General Hospital, RANDWICK.
13.2.19.

SYDNEY BUREAU.

A.I.F. 55th Btn.

O'ROURKE,
T.I. 5452

Bedson,
A.L. 5331

K. 30/9/18.

These men were killed by the same gun and buried in the same Cemetery as Lieut.Jackson and Sgt.Sullivan.
They were killed outright.
I buried them myself.

Informant:- Lieut.Matthews, AR
55th Btn.

W.H.Hacker, Sgt.
H.T."Orca"

S. Cl S-G

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS INFORMATION BUREAU-MELBOURNE.

55th BATTALION.
A.I.F.

O'ROURKE, Sergeant.
T. No. 3452

"Killed 30/9/1918".

Informant described O'Rourke as about 5'5" high, medium build, fair complexion, aged 40/2.

On 30/9/18 the Battalion was in action at Bellicourt. They hopped over about 6 a.m. and during the stunt O'Rourke was killed. Informant did not see this happen, but later on in the day saw O'Rourke lying dead at the Battalion Headquarters, to which he had been brought for burial.

Informant was present at the burial and could not tell me the place of burial.

According to Informant O'Rourke was well thought of by his mates.

Informant;- 3121, Sergeant W. Ryall,
55th Battalion.

Private address;- Market Street, RANDWICK.

Y.M.C.A.
Anzac Buffet, Sydney.
26/5/22.

SYDNEY BUREAU.

S.Cd Staff.