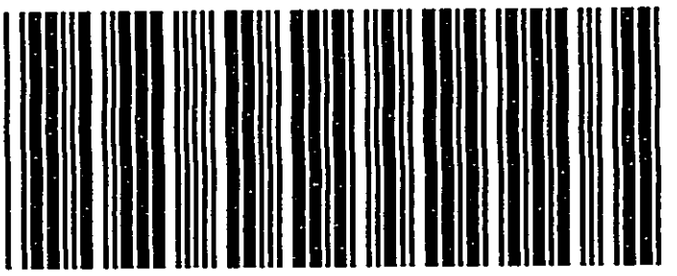
Australian Red Cross Society Wounded and Missing
Enquiry Bureau files, 1914-18 War
1DRL/0428

1990 Private Joseph Ricks

18th Battalion



2300108E

A.I.F.
16th Btn.

RICKS
Dvr. Joseph 1990B

Killed in Action 3.5.17.

Buried in Germany
Cert. by Chpt. Mills 10.10.19.

Name.	Unit.	Casualty.	Cause of Casualty.
S.			London. 17.10.19.

18th A.I.F. B. J. RICKS, 1990.

Killed 3.5.17. Det.D/B.

Informant knew him well and knew his number. His initials were "D.J." as stated in the list. He was killed instantly by a shell whilst carrying ammunition to the front line at Bullecourt. The Battn. recovered his Pay Book.

Reference: Driver W.Samuels, 1997.

No.11 Stationary, Rouen, 10.8.17.

VMH.

Asking HQ to verify 20.8.17

18th A. I. F.

Ricks, Pte V.J. 1990,
A. Coy

(K. 3.5.17. Det: D & B)

"Pte G.F. (Not D.J.) was killed by shell whilst carrying ammunition to the front lines. He was hit in the head at Bullecourt on 3rd May 1917."

Eye-witness: No, told by the ammunition carrier who was with him at the time

Description: tall, fair, medium build, big blue eyes, come from Burwood, Sydney

Informant: Dvr W. Samuels, 1997,
18th A. I. F., Transport,
Norfolk War Hospital,
Norwich.

Home address:
75, Burfitt St,
Leichhardt,
Sydney, N.S.W.

14th August 1917.
Edgar Rice.

18th A.I.F.

Ricks, R.J. Pte. 1990
A. Co. 1.Pl.

(K. May 3/17)

"Joe" Ricks was with a carrying party at Bulle court on May 3rd. A Whizz bang caught him and his head was blown right off."

Eye-witness: No. Told by J. Doyle, D.Co. who saw it.

Description: 6ft. heavy build, fair complexion, light eyes.

Informant:- Pte. H.J.Muldoon, 9.
18th A.I.F. B.Co. 13. Pl.
Napsbury War Hospital, St.Albans, Herts.

Home address: Vale of Clywdd
New South Wales.

S

Sept. 30
G.

Write Pte Doyle
11-10-17

18th Batn
A.I.F.

RICKS
or B. J. 1990b?
as per letter

Killed in Action 3.5.17."

Regarding the death in action of 1990 Pte. B. J. Ricks. His death was caused by a very severe shell wound in the brown of the head and death was instantaneous and he suffered no pain. He was faithful until death performing his duties brave and truly, carrying ammunition till the last-as he lay dead and his burden lay beside him, on the death stricken battlefield at Bullecourt.

I am sorry to say I cannot furnish you with information regarding his burial as circumstances at that time would not permit burying parties to operate and as my division left that front I had no chance of finding out any particulars.

Later the situation improved and there is very little doubt that he was not buried by some other English or perhaps other Australian Division further than this I cannot give you any information.

Letter from:- Pte. J. Doyle.
D. Coy., 18th Batn
France. 22.10.17.

London.
5.11.17.

S

18th. BATTALION A.I.F. Transport Sec
late 20th. Btn. 3rd. Rfts.

RICKS J. Driver
No. 1990.

Killed 3/5/17.

Informant described Ricks as about 5 feet 11 inches high, heavy build, fair hair, aged about 26, a widower with one daughter. Informant and Ricks left Australia together per "Runic" 1915.

Informant states that on 3/5/17 the Battalion was in action at Bullecourt. They hopped over at 5 a.m. and about 10 minutes afterwards Ricks was killed outright by fragments of a shell. Informant was about 2 yards away and saw Ricks hit and was himself wounded by the same shell. Informant was able to walk away and left Ricks lying where he was killed and never saw him again, neigher could he tell me where Ricks was buried.

According to Informant Ricks was a well liked chap.

Informant:- Sergeant T. Buckley, D.C.M. 1894,
18th. Battalion.
Home Address:- 500 Glenmore Road, Rushcutter's Bay.

W.E.G.
Anzac Buffet.
13/6/19.

SYDNEY BUREAU.

(11-10-17)

Pt. J. DOYLE

D Coy 18 Batt.

A 1+

B 9+

about

1990

Pt. B. J. RICKS.

A. Coy. 18 Batt

A 1 F

K. 3-5-17

12.10.17.
A.9.B.

Ack. P.C. 29-10-17

1990B J RICKS
18 Batt
K/A 3-5-17 S3.

Pte J Doyle
D. Coy 18 Batt
A I F
France 22/10/17

To The Secretary.
Australian Red Cross.
Society.

Your letter to hand underdate 12/10/17 asking information regarding the death in action of 1990 PTE B.J. RICKS. His death was caused by a very severe shell wound in the crown of the head ~~but~~ and death was instantanious and he suffered no pain. He was faithful untill death performing his duties brave and truly carring ammunition till the last as he lay dead his burden lay beside him on ~~[illegible]~~ the death stichen battlefield of Bullecourt.

I am sorry to say I cannot furnish you with information regarding his burial as circumstances at that time would not permit burying parties to opperate and as my division of that front I had no chance of finding out any particular.

later the situation improved and there is very little doubt that he was not buried by some other English or perhaps other Australian Division, further than this I cannot give you any information.

Yours faithfully

G. J. Doyle