

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

387 Sergeant  
James Leslie Stark

49th Battalion



2610102C

49th Battn. A.Coy. 3rd Pltn.  
A.I.F. Late 2nd L.H.

STARK  
Sgt. J.L. 387A

"Killed 1-4-18"

I saw him killed at Bresle, near Albert. He was caught by a shell which landed in his dug-out. I assisted to dig him out after the explosion, and found that his head had been blown off. I knew him well, he came from Yocwomba, Queensland, where he was engaged as a bank clerk prior to enlistment. I assisted to bury him in the field at place of casualty, alongside of Lt. Murchieson, who was killed by the same shell, and marked their grave with crosses, bearing all their full identification particulars.

Informant. Stacey Cpl. J. 2246  
49th Battn. A.Coy. 2nd Pltn.,  
3rd A.A.E.,  
DARTFORD.

W. Oman  
London  
9-5-18

P.I.

49th A.I.F.

Stark. Sgt. J.L. 387A.

(K. April 1/18.)

"I state that Sgt. Stark was killed just behind Bresle near Albert at 10.15 p.m. while asleep, by a shell and he was buried in the open field by a padre. A rough cross was erected at the time, but the Battn. have sent up another since. A Mr. Murchison was buried in the same grave."

Eye witness: No. Told by: The Asst. Adjt.

Description: Medium height, fair, blue eyes, slight, very popular.

Informant: 2/Lt. P.C. Blewett.  
49th A.I.F. A Coy.  
3rd London General Hospital,  
Wandsworth.

Home address:  
C/O Mr. Hendry.  
23 Gerda Rd.  
New Eltham. S.E.9.

4/5/18.  
F.A. Davis.

91

A.I.F.

49.

STARK, Sgt. J. L. 367A.

N. April 1/13. Det. D & B.

I knew Stark well. At one time he was A.M.S. in A Co. He was killed not far from Albert - I was about 150 yards away at the time and did not see him fall. Neither did I see him buried, but I was speaking to the Padre, a Major in the 15th Bde. C.E. just before he went down to conduct the service. The following morning I saw his grave, and the small cross that had been put up over it. I was told by those who had seen him killed that his death was instantaneous. Stark was a real good fellow.

Reference: M/OpI. Ball, 5696.

No. 3 General, Hougen. 14.5.13.

OPD.

P 1

Havre  
A.I.F. 49.

14th May 1918.

Stark Sgt J.L. 387 A.

K. 1st April 1918. Det D/B.

He was in A.Co. III Pltn. He was my Platoon sergeant, and on the 1st April he and the officer had dug in a little 'Pozzy' on the Main Road from Amiens to Albert. They had just got ~~down~~ laid-down to have a sleep, when a small shell came, killing both. I saw it happen. We buried them just near. Stark was in the Australian Light Horse at first, he worked in a Bank. He had brown hair, large eyes, clean shaven.

Inf:- Pto J.R. Evans No: 4779.  
A.I.F. 49. A.Co. III Pltn.  
H.S. 'Carrisbrook Castle'. P

CWS.

ed

Bayre.

17th. May. 1918.

49th. Australians.

Stark, J. L. sergeant, 387A.

K. April. 1/1918. Detal D/B.

I know that he was killed in an advance outside Burr; probably by a M. G. Bullet. He was medium height, fair, ruddy complexion, very red eyelids, about 25.

Inf:- Corporal. R. F. Baylis. 3119.  
49th. Australians. C. 10.  
H. S. "Grantully Castle".

HJG.

91

49th Batt. A.I.F.

<sup>Stack</sup>  
~~Stack~~, J.L. Sgt. NO.387A.

A.Coy.

Killed April 1st 1918, Det. D.B.

He was killed by a shell blowing in his dugout, whilst we were between Dernancourt and Albert. He was buried close to where he was killed, The C, of E, Pardre officiated at the service, I could not remember his name, A cross was erected over the grave bearing full particulars. I knew him in the coy, I could not say where he came from.

Description. Height. 5-10, Complexion. Fair. Slight built.

Witness. Pte. Cossart, P.N. NO.4754. A.Coy. 49th Batt.

Taken at  
NO.4.C.D.Hurdcott.  
18-5-18.  
S.W.

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

PI ea  
Duff

49th Batt:

Stark, Sgt. J.L. 387 A.

K, 1/4/18.

He and Lieut Murchison were in a trench on a hill near Breille (?) between Albert and Amiens when a shell landed in the Dugout killing them both outright. They were buried just where they fell and the Padre placed a very small cross on the grave.

49th Batt:

Page, E.W. Pte. 2062.

12 A. Dartford. 23/5/18.

R.D.B.

R.D.B.

PIED  
2011



49th Battn. A.Cy.  
A.I.F.

STARK  
Sgt. J.L. 387A

"Killed 1-4-18"

I did not see the casualty, but I saw his dead body lying in the sunken road, just behind the village of Bailleul, on <sup>\*Badiere</sup> the Somme. He was killed at night time by a shell which landed on top of his dug-out. He was very badly blown about. I knew him very well, he came from Toswoomba, Queensland, where he was employed in a big soft goods store prior to his enlistment. He was buried at place of casualty, as I saw his grave, which was marked with a Cross, bearing his No., name and unit.

Informant. Herbert Pte. S.V. 3631  
49th Battn. A.Coy. 3rd Pltn.,  
3rd A.A.H.,  
DARFORD.

W. Oman  
London  
27-5-18

P.I.

49th Battn.  
A.I.F.

STARK  
Sgt. J.L. 387A

"Killed 1-4-18"

We were in reserve trenches on Somme, near Albert, and a shell dropped in the trench and killed him instantly, and 3 or 4 at the same time. He was in A.Coy 3rd Pltn., in charge of the Pltn. at the time, I think. I was about 50 yds. away at the time, but went up to where it happened and saw his dead body. The S/Bs. took his body out to be buried, but I don't know where he was buried. I knew him well, as we used to play football together. He was a tall thin man, about 25, and was very well liked by everyone. I do not know where his home was.

Informant. McArthur A. 1960  
B.Coy. 5th Pltn. 49th Battn.,  
No. 1 Command Depot,  
SUTTON VENNY.

B. F. German  
London  
27-5-18

P.I.

49th Battn.  
A.I.F.

Sgt. J.L. STARK.  
387A.

"Killed in Action" 1-4-18.

He was with an officer in a dug out about 150 yards from me behind the village of Brag? Somme at about 10.p.m. at the beginning of April 1918 when they were both practically blown to pieces by a direct hit from a shell.

He was an original man and belonged to A.Co. About 5 ft 6 ins fair. The only man of the name in the Battalion.

Informant:- Pte.H.Jones.1348.  
49th.A.I.F. B.Co H.C.  
HAREFIELD.

A.G.Campbell.  
London.  
1-6-18.

P I.

49th Battn.  
A.I.F.

Sgt. J.L. STARK.  
387A.

"Killed in Action" 1-4-18.

He was in a dug out in reserves near Albert with Lt Murchison of A.Coy 49th Battn.A.I.F. on April 1st 1918. when they were both killed instantly, being practically blown to pieces by shell. I was about 12 yards off and saw the place immediately afterwards. They were buried on the spot, which is on the side of the Sunken Road on the right of Hendencourt. about 600 yards from the Village and on the right hand side of the road going towards Albert. I was present at the burial service, the padre of the 49th A.I.F. being in charge. Stark was a Sgt in A.Cpy. 2 Pltn. about 25, tall, thin and fair. The only Stark in Co. There is a cross over the grave.

Informant:- Pte.A.D.Griffin. 3483.  
49th A.I.F. A.2.  
HAREFIELD.

A.G.Campbell.  
London.  
1-6-18.

P I.

Med.

2nd A.L.E. Regt.

STARK  
Pte J.L. 387.

Inflamed scar.

Admitted Govt. Hosp. Sohag, 24/3/16.

Transferred Govt. Ho sp. Assiut 25/3/16.

Discharged 5/4/16.

Hospital Index

CAIRO.  
3/6/16.

B

W. J. & Co. Ltd. London, England. Binder and holes in leaves Pat. No. 2718, 1906.

STARK  
387

No. 387a.

Sgt. J. L. Stark,

"A" Company, 49th Battalion, A.I.F.

Reported killed on 1.4.1918.

*Amquon d'Hervey . 18415*

Miss Rentoul,  
C/o Col. Murdoch,  
Australian Red Cross Society,  
36, Grosvenor Place,  
S.W. 1.

May 18th, 1918.

Dear Madam,

We regret to inform you that we have received two unofficial reports respecting -

387a Sgt. J. L. STARK, 49th Battalion, A.I.F.

which only confirm the official report of his death.

2246 Cpl. J. Stroyan of same unit, recently at the 3rd Australian Auxiliary Hospital, Dartford, stated that he saw Sgt. Stark killed at Bresle, near Albert by a shell which fell into his dugout. Cpl. Stroyan helped to dig him out, and found that he had been killed instantly. He also helped to bury him on the field, beside Lt. Murchison who had been killed by the same shell.

2/Lt. P. S. Blewitt of same unit, lately at the 3rd London General Hospital, Wandsworth, S.W. 18, confirmed the above report, adding that Sgt. Stark was asleep when killed and was buried in the open field by a Padre. Rough crosses were erected at first, but the Battalion have sent up another since. Lt. Blewitt obtained this information from the Assistant Adjutant. He describes Sgt. Stark as slight, of medium height, fair with blue eyes and very popular.

We are continuing enquiries and will advise you of any further information we may obtain.

Yours faithfully,

(Miss) F. J. G.  
SECRETARY.