

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

**4222 Private
Edwin Johnston Irwin**

14th Battalion



1410514G

Have

18th November. 1917. ✓

14th AUSTRALIANS

IRWIN, S.J. 4222

Edwin Johnston
K. April 11th. 1917. Det. 3/B.

He was dark, medium build, and about 27 or 28 years of age. He was killed by shell at Bullecourt in "No Man's Land" on April 11th, 1917. He was killed instantly. ~~Pt. F.W. Green~~ Irving of the 14th Batt., B.Co., now with the Battalion, took everything off him, and sent ~~it~~ to his people in England I think. He went to see them when he was on leave I think.

Informant: Gilbert, C.A.E. 2932
14th Australians, B.Co., VIII. Pltn.
Australian Camp, Rouelles.

GIL. M

Written Pt. F.W. Green 20.11.17.

14th Batta.
A.I.F.

Irwin.
E.J. 4222 ✓

"Killed in Action 11.4.17"

Edwin Johnston

Concerning No.4222: Pte.E.H.Irwin, killed on the 11th April last. I can tell he was killed right enough as I was by his side when he fell. He died instantly as the bullet that struck him went to his heart. We were in a charge at the time and he fell before we reached our second objective, so as I had to go on I had no time to bury him but I took all his papers and wallet and went on with the fighting, intending to return and bury him later, but before I got a chance to go back to him, the Germans counter-attacked and after some hard fighting they drove us out and forced us to retire on to our own original front line so I can't tell you if he was buried at all. Some one might have buried him before the attack, if so he would be buried on the field near Bullecourt. His mother lives in Belfast Ireland and whilst on furlough I went and saw her and told her all but kept it from her that I did not know whether he was buried at all, but I told her some of his sisters and I dare say they kept it from the mother. Was it her that was enquiring. If he was buried there is a chance that some of the lads would stick a piece of wood or a board on his grave with his name and number on it, but I hardly think there would be time for that as we

14th Battn.
A.I.F.

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Irwin.
E.J. 4222 ✓

Edwin Johnston

lost heavily that fatal morning. If ever I go near that part again I will have an eye open for his name on the numerous crosses on the battle field.

Letter from:-

4224 Pte. T.W. Irvine
B.Coy. 14th Bat'n.
France 26.11.17.

London.
28.12.17.

H.

December 6th, 1917.

4224 Pte. T.F. Irvine,
B. Coy, 14th Bttn,
A.I.F., B.E.F.

Dear Pte. Irvine,

We have to thank you very much for your letter in answer to our enquiry concerning

4222 ^W E.J. IRVINE,
14th Battalion,
A.I.F.

Edwin Johnston

The detailed information you have sent will be of much assistance to us and of great value to our enquirers as they will learn through you that death was instantaneous which is always a comfort to friends and relatives.

Our enquiry came to us from our Melbourne Bureau, but names of enquirers are not cabled or sent us, merely the particulars of the soldiers enquired for. We presume those enquiries are made on behalf of the next of kin or relatives.

We should indeed be grateful if you could as you suggest send us word if later you discovered his name on any cross in the neighbourhood.

We very much regret that we have not yet been able to collect any information concerning

4223 J.F. IRVINE,
14th Battalion,
A.I.F.

"Missing 11.4.17"

but we have entered your name as enquirer and shall inform you immediately we receive anything.

Sgt. W.C. Groves, has not yet written to the Red Cross

and the only address we have for him is Limburg; but as that is merely a temporary camp from which men are usually sent off to other permanent camps we should suggest when you wrote to Sgt. Groves that you address your letters

C/o Prisoners of War Depot, ^{army}
Australian Red Cross, B.R.C.S.,
36, Grosvenor Place, S.W.1.

and we should always be able to forward these, as we receive notification of change of address from time to time from the men themselves and from the official lists sent from Germany.

With all good wishes,

Yours faithfully,

SECRETARY,

V. D
J. L.