

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

**113 Private  
Quintin John Hunter**

**9th Battalion**



1390906S

Pte. R. J. Hunter 113  
9 B.A.

see under

Pte. L. A. Breed 2695  
9 B.A.

7/11/17.

9th Batta  
AIF

HUNTER  
Quinton John 113

"Missing 7.5.17."

Killed in Action 7.5.17 prev. reported Missing  
Cert. by AIF HQtrs 28.12.17.

B & P.I.

London.  
2.1.18.

A.I.F.  
9th. Battalion.

HUNTER, 113.  
Quinton John.

"Killed in Action 7.6.17".

No trace Germany.

Cert. by Capt. Mills. 10.10.19.

London.  
10.10.19.

B. P. I

9th Batn  
A.I.F.

HUNTER  
Q. J. 113

"Missing May 7th 1917"

During relief in Communication trench which became congested some men jumped over the top to hasten matters. I saw Hunter go over the top and a shell met him and blew him all to pieces, not a sign left. He was not buried for obvious reasons. It was at Bullecourt I knew him well as he was a pal of mine on the Gallipoli Peninsula I think he came from Brisbane and was a grocer Medium height and dark, A very popular chap and everybody liked him.

Witness:- F.M. Carlill 746  
9th Batn Royal Berks Reading.

W. Alison  
London.  
26.10.17.

B

9th Battn.  
A.I.F.

Hunter.  
Pte. Q. J. 113

"Missing 7.5.17"  
(Bel.Killed)

Re Pte. A. J. Hunter. I am sorry I can't give you any details as regards his fate. My chums say he was blown up by a shell and all I remember is that he failed to answer our roll call after the battle. I knew him well, he was a man about 5'8", and clean shaven, very dark. We used to call him Quince.

Letter from:-  
G.A. Bartlett

London.  
30.10.17.

B.

9th Battn.  
A.I.F.

Hunter.  
Q. J. 113

"Missing 7.5.17"

I saw him blown all to pieces in a trench at Bullecourt. For obvious reasons he was not buried. I just knew him. I think he came from Queensland, he enlisted there. Medium height, Dont remember anything else

Witness:-

John O'Brien 243  
9th Battn.

Royal Berks. Reading.

W. Alison.

London.

31.10.17.

B.

9th Infantry, A.I.F.,

*Quinton John*  
Hunter, Pte. A.I.F., 113,  
A. Coy.,

11. May 7th 1917.

"At Bullecourt on May 7th we were on our way out of the line and the Germans were heavily shelling the communication trench we were passing through. Hunter was about fourth behind me. Two just there were blown to bits and several were wounded. From then Hunter has been posted as missing, and as we were a mile from the Germans and coming out of the line he cannot have been made prisoner. I am positive he must have been killed. 10 mins. before the shell came amongst them I was talking to him."

Eye Witness: Not of death.

Description: A Queenslander, dark, complexion, about 5ft.8ins, single, about 22.

Informant:-- Pte. H.H. Walsh, 66608,  
9th Inf: A.I.F., A.Coy. IV Pl: *B*  
Now Sig.

5th Southern General Hosp:  
Milton, Southsea.

14.8.17. Home address:-- Camboon, Via Rockhampton,  
E.C. Hughes. Queensland.

(COPY)

Statement made by No. 6608 Pte Walsh A.H. 9th Bnre: No. 113 Pte Hunter A.H. 9th Bn  
Missing 7.5.17

At Bullecourt on 7th May when we were about three quarters of a mile behind the line, filling out after being relieved Pte Hunter was about the third man behind me. I was speaking to him three minutes before me a shell came over and fell in the trench behind me killing men on both sides of Pte Hunter but no trace of him could be found.

Dated at Dartford this 4th day of September 1917.

(Sgd) A.H. Walsh.

Statement made and signed before me

(Sgd) B Ingram

B.  
2



9th BATT. A.I.F.

M. May 7th. 1917.

*Blindfold* FRANCE  
HUNTER. A.J. 113.

KEYES. A. 6270.

Hunter was in B. Coy and Keyes was in A. Coy, a young fellow of 18 or 19 and came from Brisbane. They both were blown up at the same time by a shell, while holding the line at Bullecourt. I was fairly near to them at the time in the same trench but did not see the shell drop. I had only just passed along the trench and had spoken to them and when I returned a few minutes later there was nothing but a big hole at the place where I had spoken to them and nothing has been seen of them since. They can't be prisoners for Fritz did not come over. WSI

Ref ---Pte T.H. Anderson. 6214.  
No 16 Gen. Hospital.

*B.*

Le Troport. Sept 4th. 1917

9th BATT. A.I.F.

M. May 7th. 1917.

*A. J.* FRANCE  
HUNTER. A.J. 113.

KEYES. A. 6270.

They were in A. Coy. 4 Plat. to which I belong. Keyes was quite a young fellow. They disappeared on the day on which we were relieved and left the front line at Bullecourt. On that day I was helping the stretcher-bearers and was the last to come out with them. On the way down the sap leading from the front line we came across ~~somebody~~ a man named Edwards with his legs blown off, but he died before he could tell us anything. There did not seem to be any hole made by a shell near to where he was lying, perhaps he had been on top and been blown into the sap. Later we found that Hunter and Keyes had not turned up and we heard that they had been last seen with Edwards going down the sap. At first we hoped that they would turn up, but no trace was ever found of them. They must have been killed by a shell coming out for they could not possibly be prisoners; if, as I was told, they were with Edwards, they must have gone about 300 yards down the sap on the way back. It is possible they may have got out of the sap and tried to come back along the top. JHA

Ref ---Pte Flood. A1035. No 3 Gen. Hospital.

NOTE. Of course informant had not seen them going down the sap. He had only heard afterwards that they had started down it.

Le Troport. Sept 5th. 1917

*B.*

Barre

7th September. 1917.

9th AUSTRALIANS

<sup>Q-7</sup>  
MUTTER, A.J. 113

M. May 7th, 1917.

He was in A. Co., II. Pltn. His people came from Taringa, Queensland, but he was not living ~~with~~ with them. I do not know where he lived. I had known him for about 2 1/2 years, and knew him very well. His number is 113. I was told by Corpl. J. Fletcher of A. Co., that he had seen him killed. Fletcher is with the Battalion now.

Informant: Pt. W.T. ~~Boyle~~ Boyle, 312  
9th Australians, A. Co., IV. Pltn.  
Australian Camp, Reussles.

CMR.

Written Cpl Fletcher 13.9.17

B.

9th Batt. A.I.F.

HUNTER B. J. IIS.  
"A" Coy. No 4 Platoon.

"M. May 7th., '17. "

" We were coming out of Bullecourt, on May 7th., when a shell exploded, killing Hunter and another instantly, and wounding three others. We had no time to look after burying them, but I should say that the Coy., which took over from us, would look after the burial. Hunter came from Cairns, Queensland; and I knew him quite well, through being in the same Coy."

Description. Hgt 5ft9. Very Dark. Dark moustache.  
Slight build.

Witness. Bryce Sgt. C. 89.  
9th Batt. "A" Coy.,

Taken at the 3rd Training Battalion.  
Durrington. J.G.W.  
September 18th., '17.

S. Whitmee.  
No 4 Command Depot,  
Codford.

B.

A.I.F. 9th

HUNTER: A J. 113.

M. 7.5.17.

There was nobody called A.J.Hunter in the Co., but there was a man called Quentin J.Hunter whom I knew well, and his No. was 113. He was in A Co. 2 Pl. He comes from Cairns N. Queensland. Before joining up he was a clerk with Buras, Philp & Co. at that place. I was told by Cpl. Fletcher, 300 of A Co. and Sgt. G.A.Bartlett, 657, of A Co. 2 Pl. that they had seen a shell burst amongst a large No. of men, including Q.J.Hunter, L.A.Creed, A.G.Edwards and G.H.Spencer. After the explosion the bodies of Edwards and Spencer were recognised, but those of Hunter and Creed were past recognition. This occurred about 11 p.m. on the 7th May at Bullecourt. Sgt.Bartlett and Cpl. Fletcher were with these men at the time and they were all leaving our trenches as they had just been relieved and they were quite close to the men who were killed.

Reference: Pte. B.H.Kendrick, 319. A Co. 2 Pl.  
No.8 Con.Camp.  
Boulogne. 24.9.17.

Written Sgt Bartlett  
3.10.17

AGL. B

9th Battn.  
A. I. F.

Hunter.  
Pte. Quintin John 113

"Missing 7.5.17"

Re 113 Pte. Q.J.Hunter. I am almost certain he was killed coming out of the trenches in front of Bullecourt as the two men who came out with him were killed. Description:- Height about 5'8 1/2", medium build, complexion dark, clean shaven, features inclined to be sharp. His initials are not A.J. but Q.J. the number is the same. Enquiries in his company but with no result.

Letter from:-

Cpl. J. Fletcher

France.

26.9.17.

London.

6.10.17.

B.

9th Battn.  
A.I.F.

Hunter.  
Q. J. 113

"Missing 7.5.17"

Creed.  
L. A. 2695

"Killed in Action 7.5.17"

Re 113 Q.J.Hunter and 2695 Les Creed. They were personal friends of mine. Creed was killed on the Hindenburg line with two others Cpl. Jones and Ed Spencer on the morning of 7th May 1917 by the same shell. 113 Q.J.Hunter was my particular pal. I saw and spoke to him as his platoon was going out after being relieved on the night of the 7th May. His platoon was very heavily shelled on the way out two men being killed, two wounded and two missing. My friend Hunter was one of the missing. I came out later but never saw Hunter again. I have made many enquiries since, but have been unable to get any information concerning him. Both Hunter and Creed were too well known to me to allow any mistake in identification. I wrote to Hunter's sister on May 20th but not having the proper address she may not have got it as it is possible the letter was on the "Mongola" which carried that mail. I addressed the letter Miss Hunter, Tarringd, Brisbane, Queensland. Hunter carried on his person all his mother's and sister's addresses and private letters from them. I can give no further information of him I fear the worst.

Letter from:- 317 Pte. W.J. Rian

London.

9th Battn. France. 27.9.17.

8.10.17.

B.  
B.  
B.

9th Batt: A.I.F.

Hunter. Q.J. 113.  
D. Co.

(in May 7/17)

"I was in the trenches and he with others when relieved, were retiring when a shell caught them and I have not the slightest doubt that they were blown to pieces."

Eye-witness: Yes.

Description:

Informant: Capt. E.A.S. Carroll.  
9th Batt. A.I.F.  
3rd London General Hospital.  
Wandsworth.

Oct. 17/17.  
Charles Whelm Lowe.

Bl  
B  
4  
(C)

ackd  
P.C. 5-10-17

France

26.9.17

To

The Secretary A.R.C. Society

Reference No 113 The Quintin John Hunter  
of the Ninth Battalion A.I.F. M 7-5 17 B 4

I am almost certain he was killed coming  
out of the trenches in front of Bullecourt as the two men  
who came out with him were killed.

Description

Height about 5' 8"

Medium Build

Complexion Dark

Clean Shaven

Features inclined to be sharp

His initials are not A.J. but Q.J. the number is the same  
Enquired in his Company but with no results.

Yours sincerely

Cpl. J. Fletcher.

ackd  
letter 6-10-17

113 Q. J. HUNTER

9th Battalion

M 7-5-17

(Cd)

France

September 27th 1917

4

To the Secretary

to the Honorary Missing Soldiers Enquiry Bureau 9th Bn

Australasia Branch

M 7-5-17

PRM

Your note of August 29th just received

S  
B

Re: 113 Q J Hunter & 2695 - See brief note 5

Personal friends of mine. Grid was  
killed in the Hundred line with  
two other Corp Jones & Ed Spencer on  
the morning of 7th May 1917 by Abc.  
Same shell 113 Q J Hunter was in  
particular bad I saw & spoke to him  
as his platoon was going out after  
being relieved on the night of the 6th May.  
His platoon was being heavily shelled  
on the way out two men being killed  
two wounded & two missing. My friend  
Hunter was one of the missing.  
I came out later, but never saw  
Hunter again. I have made many



217  
inquiries since but have been unable  
to get any information concerning him.  
Both Hunter & Speed were too well known  
to not allow any mistake in identification.  
I wrote to his <sup>father</sup> sister on May 20th but not  
having the proper address she may  
not have got it as it is possible the  
letter was on the "Herald" which said  
that could I addressed the letter. I am sure  
Samuel Bonham Gland "Hunter" carried  
on his person all his mother's & father's  
addresses & private letters from them.  
I can give no further information  
of him. I fear the worst. I am sure  
you for God's sake.

Yours faithfully  
317 2nd St. N. W.  
J. H. Ballou

The action at  
the "Herald" being  
line papers of  
course to the battle  
of Bull Run.  
1862

S. 15

RECEIVED  
14.3.18  
HOUSE TERRACE

Ward, C. 1.  
3 L. G. Off.

To Mrs Lyall,

Dandemonia S.W.18.

I would be very much obliged if you could let me have any information re the following man. Pte. Quintan HONTER. 9<sup>th</sup> Light Battalion. A. I. F. who was reported missing on the 16<sup>th</sup> May 1917. I do not know the serial number. As I shall be returning to Australia in two weeks time, I would like to know if any information as soon as possible.

Yours faithfully,  
H. P. (P. 113)  
Lt.

Lt.H.S.Pelt,  
Hard C.I., 3rd London General Hpl.  
Wandsworth, S.W.18.

15th March, 1919.

Dear Sir,

Your letter of 8th inst., has been forwarded to us from  
Charlton House Terrace as we are the only organisation that  
deals with enquiries for wounded and Missing Australians. With  
reference to your enquiry for :- 115 Pte. J. Hunter, 9th Btnn  
A.I.F., we much regret to inform you that he is now officially  
reported killed in action on 7-5-17, having previously been  
reported Missing on that date.

We are forwarding an unofficial report given by a man of his  
Battalion, 6608 Pte A.H. Walsh, states, "At Bullecourt on 7th May  
when we were about three quarters of a mile behind the line filling  
out after being relieved, Pte. Hunter was about the third man behind  
me. I was speaking to him, three minutes before a shell came over  
and fell in the trench behind me killing him and the men on both  
sides of him instantly."

This report is confirmed by 89 Sgt. Bryce and 746 Pte. F.M.  
Garrill. In spite of our efforts to do so, we have never been able  
to obtain any details of Pte. Hunter's burial, and we fear there is  
little hope of any further news being received now.

Regretting we should have to forward such sad news and  
assuring you of our sympathy.

Yours faithfully,

*L. S. Ryan*  
SECRETARY.