

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

**5332 Private  
John Barnes Evans**

**20th Battalion**



1020905H

Havre

16th August. 1917.

20th AUSTRALIANS

EVANS, J.B. 5332

K. April 15th. 1917. Det. D/B.

*Web!*  
He was a Signaller. I knew him well. He came from H.S.W. He was about 5ft.6" in height and well built, a well educated and smart man. He was killed in a Sunken Road running parallel in a village called Lagnicourt on the 15th April. The Germans broke through two Battalions of the 1st Division. He was in a dugout and a shell fell on it and killed him and 5 ~~other~~ other signallers. I saw it happen and he was blown up and killed instantly. I went up and looked at the six men. I was able to identify Evans without doubt, though he was much disfigured. He was a particular pal of mine and I could tell by the way his putties were done up and a little signallers badge that he used to wear on his shoulder. I also saw his case and paybook taken off by the C.S.Maj. He and the other 5 signallers were buried by the Padre the same afternoon, who held a little service and afterwards a cross was erected with their names on it, but I did not see the cross as we evacuated soon after.

Informant, Stretcher Bearer Grant, A.R. 5344  
20th Australians, C.Co., XII. Bn.  
Havre Hospital.                      G.L.T.                      S  
M

Havre

18th August.1917.

20th AUSTRALIANS

EVANS, J.B. 5332

Z. April 15th. 1917. Det. D/B.

He was in A. Company., and was killed by a shell in a sunken  
road at Lagnicourt about 11.30a.m. His body was buried out in the  
open about 400 yards south of Lagnicourt, and a cross has been  
put over his grave. He came from Victoria and is a married man  
with two children. His head was about blown off.

Informant: V. Ronan 6892  
20th Australians, A.Co.  
Australian Camp, Bouelles.

EBS.

S  
M

20th Battn.  
A.I.F.,

EVANS.  
J.B. 5332.

KILLED 15.4.17

Evans was killed outright by a shell on Sunday  
15th April 1917., while on duty as signaller at Laquicourt  
and is buried between Laquicourt and Vaux nearer the corner.,  
A cross being erected.,

Informant;- McNeill, J.W. 5382.  
20th Battn.  
B. Coy.  
Hut 49.  
Westham.

W.A. Rand .

London.  
15.2.18..

Note;- From informant's manner I think he was  
eyewitness but omitted to ask., 445.

S.M.

20th Battn.  
A.I.F.

EVENS  
J.B. 5332

"Killed 15-4-17"

A shell lobbed right on him, killing him instantly in a sunken road at Lagnicourt. We buried him on the spot and put up a sort of a Cross. He came from N.S.W., and was one of the best.

Informant. <sup>7</sup>Haillon J.B. 4137  
20th Battn.,  
War Chest.

W. Alison  
London  
6-3-18

S.  
M.

20th Battalion. A.I.F.  
14 Reinf.

EVANS, J.B.  
(H.Q.) 5332 Pte  
15 2475-95-2.

Killed in Action 17/4/17.

I knew a man called Evans who was a Company Signaller in A.Co. No.2 Platoon No.6 Section whose initials were J.B. but my nominal Roll (produced) shows his number as 5352. This man was killed by a shell whilst in a dug out at Laquicourt in April last. I was about 50 yards away at the time but saw the shell land in the dug out where I knew Evans was at the time and just afterwards some of his mates came down and said Evans had been killed. Evans was slightly below medium height, dark and medium build. My roll shows that he was married, his age as 33 his initials as J.B. but his No.5352. Methodist religion and a fitter by trade.

Informant: Brown, W. Cpl. 334 <sup>2nd</sup>  
20th Battalion. A.Co. 11 Platoon,  
No.4 Australian General Hospital,  
RANDWICK.

A VERY CAREFUL WITNESS.

H.S.O.  
6/11/17.

SYDNEY BUREAU. ✓

20th Battn.

14R

15  
Killed 17/4/17.

EVAES, J.B.  
5332 Pte

Informant described Evans as about 5ft 4 in. high, stout, dark, aged 30 to 35. Came from Sydney where Informant thought he had something to do with telephones. The following is Informant's narrative "On 15/4/17 (not 17/4/17) the Huns broke through at Lagnicourt at about 4.a.m. We were driving them back when Evans who was Company Signaller was laying a telephone line between Vaux and Lagnicourt, following up the Company that was driving back the Germans. The Commander of "A" Coy. which was working with our Company "B" established his Headquarters near Lagnicourt. A shell (a 5.9 inch) fell right on top of the Headquarters and killed three of the occupants including Evans." Informant added that Evans was one of the best of soldiers and well liked.

Informant: McArthur, C.G. Pte 5623  
20th Battn.

No.4 Australian General Hospital, RANDWICK.

Private address 90 Darley Road, MANLY.

Pte. C. Peacock No. 5628 20th Battn. 28 Osborne Road Manly confirmed the above and added that Evans was buried at Lagnicourt and he saw a rough cross over his grave with the usual particulars thereon.

W.E.G.  
15/1/18.

S. McArthur SYDNEY BUREAU. ✓

20th Btn.

EVANS, J.B.  
Pte. No. 5332

killed in action 15/4/17.

"I knew Casualty. He was short man, well built, dark complexion about 35 years of age, known as "Jack". Casualty was a Signaller and was with myself in A. Company. On the left of Lagnicourt Casualty was going up the line, and he just got to the front line when a whizz bang exploded near us killing Casualty instantly and L/Cpl. Harris and Pte. Jackson and about four other men. I was two yards from Casualty at the time of his death. He was most severely wounded about the abdomen and legs. He was buried just near where he fell with another man."

Informant:- F. Dawson,  
No. 5568

Private address  
3 Solander Road,  
Dacey Village, N.S.W.

T.C.F.  
22.11.18.

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS INFORMATION BUREAU - MELBOURNE.



A.I.F.  
20th. Battn.  
not 19th. Bn.

EVANS. 6352.  
John Barnes.

"Killed in Action 10.4.17".

No trace Germany.

Cert. by Capt. Mills. 10.10.19.

London.  
17.10.19.

M.S.