Street, John Rendall

A.S.C. Bean-Tracey period

**Service number:** 746  **Rank:** Private

**Unit:** 25th Battalion

**Date of death:** 29 July 1916: Killed in action

**Cemetery or memorial details:** Courcelette British Cemetery, France

**War Grave Register notes:** Age 44. Son of the late Philip Wood Street and Sarah Rebecca Street. Native of Bathurst NSW.

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Boer War Nominal Roll - John Rendell Street

**Rank:** Trooper

382 Trooper John Rendell Street, NSW Citizens' Bushmen, “D” Squadron; known age at enlistment, February 1900 28 years

**Unit:** NSW CITIZENS' BUSHMEN

**Conflict:** South Africa, 1899-1902 (Boer War)

**Notes:** Murray Remarks: Invalided, Australia, 06/02/1901
Name: John Randall Street
Unit: 25th Battalion, 7th Infantry Brigade.
Joined on: 4th Jan 1915.

Questions to be put to the Person Enlisting before Attestation.

1. What is your Name? John Randall Street
2. In the Parish of
   near the Town of Candoblin,
   in the County of New South Wales
3. Are you a natural born British Subject or a Naturalized British Subject? N.B.—If the latter, papers to be shown.

4. What is your age? 42 years 6 months
5. What is your trade or calling? Station Hand
6. Are you, or have you been, an Apprentice? If so, where, to whom, and for what period? No
7. Are you married? No
8. Who is your next of kin? (Address to be stated) Sister
9. Have you ever been convicted by the Civil Power? No
10. Have you ever been discharged from any part of His Majesty's Forces, with Ignominy, or as Incorrigible and Worthy, or on account of Conviction of Felony, or of a Sentence of Penal Servitude, or have you been dismissed with Disgrace from the Navy? No
11. Do you now belong to, or have you ever served in, His Majesty's Army, the Marines, the Militia, the Military Reserve, the Territorial Force, Royal Navy, or Colonial Forces? If so, state which, and if not now serving, state cause of discharge. No
12. Have you stated the whole, if any, of your previous service? Yes
13. Have you ever been rejected as unfit for His Majesty's Service? If so, on what grounds? No

Age: 42 years 6 months
Height: 6 feet 2 inches
Weight: 12 stone 12 lbs.
Chest Measurement: 34 inches
Complexion: Fair
Eyes: Blue
Hair: Brown
Proceeded to join M.E.F.  Embarked Gallipoli

Descended Peninsular

9.1.16 H.M.S Hororata Disembarked ex Mudros
Proceeded to join B.E.F.
Disembarked Marseilles

9.6.16 Offence Absenting himself without
Report leave from 8a.m.to 6p.m. 3.6.16
AWARD 5 days P.P. No 2

26.7.16 C.O. 25th Bn. Reported Missing

26.7.16 C.O. 25th Bn. Previously reported missing

Court Enquiry Now Killed in Action

ANZAC SECTION 3rd ECHELON G.H.Q. B.E.F. (Sgd) F.T.L

Embarked at Brisbane per H.M.A.T. "Asneas" on 29/6/15

29/7/16. MISSING.
29/7/16: Reported MISSING in Action. France.  (See BMFO 48/9-1)
Ref. D.O. 75 Sub para 4797 Delete complete entry re Missing.
Read in lieu KILLED IN ACTION 29/7/16.
ALEXANDER ARNOLD of No. 3 Hospital Wandsworth in England Private in the Army DO SOLEMNLY AND SINCERELY DECLARE as follows:-

I am a Private in the 25th Battalion A.I.F. lately in France my number being 3757 having been wounded at Ypres and am now an inmate of the above Hospital.

I knew and was well acquainted with John Kendall Street of Queensland, Australia, also a Private in the 25th Battalion his number being 746.

He was known by me and others in the Battalion as Jack Street. He wore the Boer (South African) War Badge.

We were together with our Company at Pozieres on or about the 29th day of July last past engaging the Enemy and were in the same shell hole. After making a fruitless attack and being fired on by the enemy. I was within three feet of Jack Street when he was mortally wounded in the body. I called out, "Is that you, Jack?" He replied, "Yes, I have it in the back!" Our attack took place about midnight, and we had to retire as best we could about 3 a.m. on 30th July. It was during, or just before, the final retirement that Jack Street was wounded.

Before we so retired I saw that he was dead; I am absolutely certain on this point.

The retirement was so complete and sudden that we had no time to save Jack Street's dead body, and accordingly had to leave it behind us.

Jack Street was of a good, cheerful disposition, had light brown hair turning to grey, which was curly - short curls. In my opinion he was about 30 to 40 years, I should say and about six feet high.
In course of conversation with myself and mates he said he had been droving in Queensland and often freely knocked down his cheque and spent his money freely after being paid for work done, that he had a Mother and three sisters in New South Wales and that one of them was married.

He spoke of his sister Maude, that he had another sister I think called Mayone. He shewed us a photograph of a cottage with some trees in front of it, stating it was his Mother's home.

He said he had a nephew with a commission in one of the earlier battalions. He would drink freely, if he had the opportunity.

In the rush and excitement of the fighting my memory may not be very exact as to actual details, but I distinctly state that the soldier I saw mortally wounded, and whose body was abandoned, was the man known as Jack Street, No. 746 of the 25th Battalion, A.I.F.

My brother, Frederick William Arnold, who was in the original 25th Battalion, on arrival in Sydney on its way to the Front, reminded me to-day that the Twenty-fifth Battalion, A.I.F. encamped in Moore Park, Sydney.

I did not remember before what Park it encamped in, although I was informed by one of the original members of the battalion that it was in some park in the neighbourhood of Sydney.

I did not know of the encampment of my own knowledge as I was a private in reinforcements to the 26th Battalion and was ultimately transferred to the 25th Battalion at Armentières about the end of May 1916.
Read the next report; reality of war! "------ he was not going to let the Germans take him, and he shot himself!"

On about 29th July at Pozieres, he last saw Jack Street, C. Company, IX Platoon, when they were going up to the trenches at night. They went straight over at mid-night to try and take some German trenches, but failed, and had to come back. They could not get past the German Barbed Wire, as it had not been touched, and they could not get through. The next day four or five men in the IX Platoon told Informant that they had seen Jack Street wounded out in the open, and that he had said that he was not going to let the Germans take him, and he shot himself. Informant states that the wounded could not get back. There were some stretcher-bearers, but one of them was killed. He was a tall man, dark, over 30 wore South African ribbon, old battalion man.

COPY RED CROSS REPORT

25th Aust. I. Force

Missing July 29th 1916

Informant states that "On July 29th 1916 when we were going over - on the Somme advance - Street got hit, a glancing wound on the head, and in the arm near the shoulder, but he kept going and went forward with us as long as his strength lasted.

Owing to the barbed wire not being thoroughly cut, he was getting surrounded by the Germans, or thought he was. He said he could not be taken prisoner. He put his rifle under his chin and shot himself. I was quite near and saw him do it. In a few minutes he would have been saved. There were men coming out to us as they saw how we were placed."

Reference H.J. Matthews 178
25th A.I.F.
1st Western Gen. Hosp.
Hayakerley.

Home address - Gibb Street
Kilmin Grove
Brisbane

"Missing 29-7-1916"

At Pozieres he was very badly hit in No Man's Land and thinking we were going to lose the ground and be taken prisoner he shot himself through the head.

Reference:-- Riley, 490,
Ward 31,
Harefield Hosp.
11-10-16.
are correct, and to my mind they clearly identify the man as being Private no. 746, 26th Battalion A.I.F. who I know was in Camp at Moore Park Sydney on his way to the front.

He was of a somewhat dissipated character and was employed on a station in Queensland droving and working generally and was free with his money when he had it. The reference in the Document to the three sisters is correct, the married one would be my wife, Maria Matilda Dowling, formerly Street, and the sister, Marjorie is alive and resides in England. The nephew with a commission would be my son, Lieut. Max Russell Leailey Dowling of the 4th Battalion A.I.F. who died from wounds received at Pozieres, in Hospital at Rouen on or about 30th July 1916. The cottage with trees in front would be the cottage at Double Bay, near my own house at Darling Point Sydney, in which his mother (since deceased) resided when he was passing through Sydney.

I have no doubt as to the Death and truth of Arnold's declaration. I would like to wind up the estate of deceased and would be much obliged if a Certificate of his death could be procured without delay.
John Rendell Street (1832 - 1891)

Biographical Note

John Rendell Street, company director and Member of the Legislative Assembly, was born in 1832 at 'Woodlands', Bathurst, NSW, son of John Street and Maria Wood Street, nee Rendell. He married firstly Susannah Caroline Lawson (1836-1872) in 1860, by whom he had seven children. Susannah Caroline Lawson was the daughter of William Lawson (1804-1875) of Veteran Hall Prospect, NSW and his wife Caroline, nee Icely.

Street was the first managing director of the Perpetual Trustee Coy Ltd and was elected a member of the NSW Legislative Assembly for the seat of East Sydney (1887-1891). After the death of Susannah Street he married secondly Anna Maria Smith (1841-1913) in 1883, having no issue. Street died in 1891 at 'Birtley', Sydney, NSW.

Personal

Son of John Street, landowner and pastoralist, and Maria Rendell. Married (1) Susanna Caroline Lawson on 4 December 1860 at Prospect and had issue, 2 daughters and 5 sons. Married (2) Anna Maria Smith on 23 April 1883 at Geelong, Victoria, and had no issue. Church of England.

Additional Information

Personal papers in the Mitchell Library, State Library of New South Wales: Street family - further papers, 1861 - 1972, together with Lillingston family papers, 1819 - 1925, and Ogilvie family papers, 1824 - 1896 (MLMSS 1686) (ADD ON 2203); photographs in the PICMAN Database.
160 Russell Street Bathurst

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