

2nd Aus. F. A. Bgde,

6/10/1918.

Dear Mrs. Boulton:

It is with the very greatest regret that I write to inform you of the death of your son Lieut. S. P. Boulton of our 6th Bty. who was killed in action on the morning of the 3rd inst. during heavy enemy shelling of the Bty position.

We buried him, side by side with 3 other Officers of the Brigade who were killed the same morning, in the Military Section of the Civil Cemetery at Roisel (East of Peronne) and the Unit will erect substantial crosses over the graves.

I know how miserably inadequate all expressions of sympathy must seem to you at such a time, but I do want to assure you that we all feel very deeply for you in your sorrow.

Throughout the Brigade your son was highly respected and well liked and we who were privileged to be his comrades very deeply mourn his loss, and can imagine something of what his death must mean to his loved ones in far off Australia.

Please accept our deepest sympathy
with you all

Yours faithfully,

(Sgd.) T. Theodor Webb.
Chaplain,
2nd. Aus. F.A. Bgde.

2nd Aves. F. A. Bgde
6. 10. 18

Dear M^{rs} Boulton

It is with the very greatest regret that I write to inform you of the death of your son Lieut J. P. Boulton your 6th Bty who was killed in action on the morning of the 3rd inst. during heavy evening shelling of the Bty position.

We buried him, side by side with 3 other officers of the Brigade who were killed the same morning, in the military section of the Civil Cemetery at Roisel (East of Peronne) and the Unit will erect substantial crosses over the graves.

I know how miserably inadequate all expressions of sympathy must seem to you at such a time but I do want to assure you that we all feel very deeply for you in your sorrow.

Throughout the Brigade your son was highly respected and well liked and we who were privileged to be his comrades very deeply

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of what his death must mean to his loved ones
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Please accept our deepest sympathy with you
all.

Yours faithfully

T. Theodor Weth, Chaplain

2nd Aus. F. A. Bde

FRANCE,

14/10/18.

Dear Mrs. Boulton:

I am writing to you to express my sincerest sympathies in the death of your son, killed in action, near Namroy early on the morning of 3rd inst. It will be consoling for you to hear from me as his Commanding officer and to know that everything was done that could be done from a Medical point of view to save him.

It was on the morning of our attack on the Beurevoir Line subsequent to our successful operation on the Hinderburg Line that the Germans subjected our Battery positions to a heavy shell fire, with both gas and H.R. Very little cover was available and the officers, three in number, your son included, had constructed a small place to sleep by digging into the side of a railway embankment. For the time being this dugout had passed comparatively safe, although the shelling had gone on for some time. Eventually a gas shell fell and exploded on the parapet, filling the dugout with a deadly cloud of gas.

At the time your son was standing up and three pieces from the bursting shell entered his back. He fell, seriously wounded. Lt. Watson, one of the other two officers who were lying down at the time, seeing his helplessness at once adjusted your son's gas respirator. It was apparent the wound was serious as he was almost unconscious. He received immediate attention and was then taken to a Field Ambulance Station close by, where he died some few hours afterwards when every effort made to save him had failed. He was buried the day following in a Military Cemetery at Roisel by Capt. Webb, Cop. E. Minister attached to this Brigade. The Division General, myself, several of your son's brother officers and men from his Battery were present at the burial.

I would ask you to kindly accept my sincerest sympathy in your sad loss. Your son was a sterling boy with many good qualities. He was loved by his brother officers and respected by his men, and his death has been a serious loss to the Brigade.

I am,

Yours very sincerely,
David H. Mesre.

France

14/10/18.

Dear Mr Boulton,

I am writing to you to express my sincerest sympathies in the death of your son, killed in action, near Haucourt early on the morning of 3rd inst. It will be comforting for you to hear from me as his commanding officer, to know that everything was done that could be done from a medical point of view to save him. It was on the morning of our attack on the Beaumont ^{line}, subsequent to our successful operation on the Hindenburg line that the Germans ignited our Battery positions to a heavy shell fire, with both gas & H.B. Very little cover was available & the officers, three in number, your son included, had constructed a small place to sleep by digging into the side of a railway embankment. For the time being this dug out had proved comparatively safe, although the shelling had gone on for some time. Eventually a gas shell fell

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dog out with a deadly cloud of gas. At
the time your son was standing up &
three inches from the bursting shell entered
his back. He fell seriously wounded. Lt
Watson one of the other two officers who
were lying down at the time seeing his
helplessness at once adjusted your son's
gas Respirator. It was apparent the
wound was serious as he was almost
unconscious. He received immediate
attention & was then taken to a Field
Ambulance Station close by where he
died some few hours afterwards when
every effort made to save him had
failed. He was buried the day following
in a Military Cemetery at Pozuel by Capt
Walter Ross MacDermott attached to this Brigade.
The Divisional General myself several
of your sons brother officers & men from
his Battalion were present at the burial.
I would ask you to kindly accept my
sincere sympathy in your sad loss.
Your son was a sterling boy with
many good qualities he was loved
by his brother officers & respected by his
men & his death has been a
serious loss to the Brigade.

I am, yours very sincerely

Richard Moore
Lt Col

29.10.18.

Dear Miss Charles:

In reply to your letter asking for particulars of Liet. S.P. Boulton's death, I will give you all the particulars I can gather at present, and if I can find out anything further I'll only be too glad to let you know.

On the morning of Oct. 3rd. he had just got out of bed, and was preparing to go forward on Observation Duty. Just then a gas shell burst very close to him, and badly wounded him in the shoulder and back. He was carried to an advanced dressing station and received medical attention almost immediately. He was conscious for a very short time, but did not appear to be suffering any pain. He soon lapsed into unconsciousness, and died shortly afterwards. These are about all the facts I can give you.

The officer who was with him when he was hit is at present in hospital at Welwyn, and I am sure if you could spare the time, he would gladly give you any information he knew. His name is Lieut. W.T. Watson, M.C.D.C.M., also the then Bty. Commander, Major Alf Dodd is in Wandsworth Hospital. Either of these officers could give you more information than I can. At the time of the occurrence I was adjutant of the Bde. Mr. Boulton was buried with full military honours in Rosiet Cemetery by Chaplain T.T. Webb a large number of officers and men were also present, including our Division Commander.

Please allow me to offer my deepest sympathy. I knew him very well, in fact he was a pal of mine, and I personally regret his loss very, very much. His quite unassuming manner made him generally liked, and his death was a deep blow to us all. You can rest assured that everything possible was done for him.

I expect to be on leave very soon, and if convenient for you, would like to tell you what I've tried to write.

Your s sincerely,
(Major) A. M. Mullin.

H.T. No. 7.

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

POSTMASTER-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT, NEW SOUTH WALES.

No.

OFFICE DATE STAMP.

CABLEGRAM.

This message has been received subject to the Post and Telegraph Act and Regulations.
All Complaints to be addressed, in writing, to the Deputy Postmaster-General.



St 3432

Number and Route.	Station from, Date and Time Lodged.	Number of Words and Official Instructions.
Cable no 55 via Pacific	France 11-40-31 st	12 words. Dora Boulton Brisbane N.S.W.

NOTE.—The figures at bottom of form indicate time the Cablegram was received at this Office.

Just heard Steeve's
Death. Sincerest sympathy
writing

Captain Boulton

10-15 am
5th Nov 1918.

90 Sir W. Napier
Chilton Haugh
Chert
Taruham
Surrey
17/11/18

Dear Miss Charles.

I am afraid
you will think it very rude
of me for not having written
you before but I must plead
my inability to do so was
due to a bad right arm
which was operated on &
necessitated my lying up
for another fortnight. However
all is well now & I hope to
be well on my way to
Australia soon.

I am afraid I am
unable to tell you much
more about the sad death.

of my dear friend fellow
 Officer Stephen Boulton, Chau
 Mrs McMullin has already
 told you. I informed her
 of the full particulars
 just in case anyone should
 write. However in case she
 has not outlined the occurrence
 quite clearly I will let
 you know herein.

We were in
~~action in rear of the village~~
 of Joncourt & were under
 a very heavy bombardment
 from 77. mm. 4.2 & 5.9 shell.
 when a message came
 the Steve was to report
 for O.P. duty. He was in
 the act of putting on
 his jacket when a
 gas shell entered the
 dugout we were all
 occupying & he got 4 pieces

in him. One in the right arm one in the back one in the left groin & one near the heart. Lieut Watson immediately put on Steve's gas mask & after adjusting our own we pulled him out on to a stretcher & got him away to the dressing station. Just before he left us he lost consciousness although for 20 mins after he was hit he put up a wonderful fight. His pain was so bad that he did not feel it & he never spoke again & died without recovering consciousness. He was buried alongside Capt Hollis Capt Kirkland & Lieut Fisher of our

+

brigade who were killed
the same day. Crosses are
being erected & all
necessary precautions taken
to ensure that his grave
is looked after.

I wish you all to
accept the heartfelt
sympathy of the officers
N.C.Os. & men of the battery
on the loss of one of the
bravest & best gentlemen it
was ever our chance to
meet & as he was so long
with us I assure you he
was sorely missed by all.
His kit will be forwarded
to his mother through A. J.

Kit stores. Hoping you will
forgive me for not having
written before
Believe me
Yours Truly

Arthur W Dodd
Major.

C/o Sir W. Napier,
Cherton Hangar,
Churt,
Faruham,

SURREY.

20/11/1918.

Dear Mrs. Boulton:

In the first place I wish to apologise for not having written you the news of your brother in laws sad death, but believe me when I say it was entirely due to my own indisposition that I have been unable to write.

As you no doubt know, poor Old Steve was in action with us near Joucourt and had just been detailed for the duty of F.O.O. For the attack which was taking place at 6 a.m. He was in the act of putting on his coat when a shell came into the dugout we three (Watson Steve and myself) were occupying and severely wounded Steve in four places burning and gassing Watson and I.

After adjusting his gas helmet we managed to drag him into another shelter which was close by and found he was wounded in the left groin, back shoulder and right arm - all bad wounds. He put up a gallant fight and although suffering intense pain he was so bad he could not feel it.

We said good-bye to him just before he left for the C.C.S. and he then became unconscious and never regained consciousness passing away on his way to the C.C.S.(advanced). He was buried at Roisel cemetery along with Lieut. Fisher, Capt. Hollis and Capt. Kirkland who were also killed on the 3rd inst.

It was a terrible blow to me to know that poor old Steve had gone and I can assure you he was a real man in all the dealings I had with him during our years acquaintance. He was a fine officer, capable and lived the clean life of a brave gentleman.

Please accept on behalf of myself the Officers or C.O's and men of the 6th Battery their heartfelt sympathy on your sad loss. I feel that whenever I look at his photo that it will always remind me of one of the best pals I ever had.

His kit and all belongings must be forwarded to his next of kin and I am afraid I am unable to help you in any further way with regards to this as A.I.F.

20/11/1918
SURREY.
Barnham,
Chart,
Cherton Hanger,
C/O Sir W. Napier.

Headquarters are naturally very strict on nobody touching any effects of deceased Officers.

Please accept for your husband and yourself my sympathy and believe me to be

Yours faithfully

(Sgt.) ARTHUR W. DODD

Major.

As you no doubt know, poor Old Steve was in action with us near Montfort and had just been detailed for the duty of P.O. for the attack which was taking place at 6 a.m. He was in the act of putting on his coat when a shell came into the dugout we three (Watson, Steve and myself) were occupying and severely wounded Steve in four places burning and gassing Watson and I.

After adjusting his gas helmet we managed to drag him into another shelter which was close by and found he was wounded in the left groin, back, shoulder and right arm - all bad wounds. He put up a gallant fight and although suffering intense pain he was so bad he could not feel it.

We said good-bye to him just before he left for the C.O.S. and he then became unconscious and never regained consciousness passing away on his way to the C.O.S. (advanced). He was buried at hospital cemetery along with Lieut. Fisher, Capt. Hollis and Capt. Kirkland who were also killed on the 3rd inst.

It was a terrible blow to me to know that poor old Steve had gone and I can assure you he was a real man in all the dealings I had with him during our years acquaintance. He was a fine officer, capable and lived the clean life of a brave gentleman.

Please accept on behalf of myself the Officers of O.C.'s and men of the 6th Battery their heartfelt sympathy on your sad loss. I feel that whenever I look at his photo that it will always remind me of one of the best pals I ever had.

His kit and all belongings must be forwarded to his next of kin and I am afraid I am unable to help you in any further way with regards to this as A.I.F.

To Sir W Napier
Chilton Hauger
Churt
Sarnham
Surrey
20/11/18

Dear Mrs Boulton,

In the first
place I wish to apologise
for not having written you
~~the news of your brother's~~
pawes sad death, but
believe me when I say
it was entirely due to my
own indisposition that I
have been unable to write.

As you no
doubt know poor old Steve
was in action with us
near Juncourt & had just
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2

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which was taking place
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Steve & myself) were occupying
& severely wounded Steve in
four places burning & gassing
Watson & I. After adjusting
~~his gas helmet~~ we managed
to drag him into another
shelter which was close
by & found he was wounded
in the left groin back
shoulder & right arm.
all bad wounds. He
put up a gallant fight
& although suffering
intense pain he was so
bad he could not feel it

1 DR/L/0138. ADD1

brave gentleman.

Please accept on behalf of myself the Officers & NCO's & men of the 10th Battery & their heartfelt sympathy on your sad loss. I feel that whenever I look at his photo that it will always remind me of one of the best pals I ever had.

His kit & all belongings must be forwarded to his next of kin & I am afraid I am unable to help you in

any further way with regards to this as A. I. F. Headquarters are naturally very strict on nobody touching any effects of deceased officers.

Please accept for your husband & yourself my sympathy & believe me to be

Yours faithfully
Arthur W Dodd
Major

We said good bye to him just before he left for the C.C.S. & he then became unconscious & never regained consciousness passing away on his way to the C.C.S. (advanced). He was buried two days later at Roisel Cemetery along with Lieut Fisher Capt Hollis & Capt Kirkland who were also killed on the 3rd just.

It was a terrible blow to me to know that poor old Steve had gone & I can assure you he was a real man in all the dealings I had with him during our years acquaintance. He was a fine officer, capable, & lived the clean life of a

Horseferry Road,

L O N D O N,

3/12/1918.

Mrs. O.M. Boulton,
GLADESVILLE.

Dear Madam:

It has been my privilege recently to visit the little Cemetery at Roisel, where the mortal remains of your dear son have been laid at rest. I went to see the Grave of my own Boy, and he lies with over twenty other lads side by side, and one of them is your Boy. I thought you would like to have a line from somebody who had stood with bared head at the Grave, and had reverently read the loving inscription placed upon the central wooden Cross that has been erected at the head of each Grave.

Roisel is about nine miles east of Peronne. The town has been completely destroyed, not one habitable house being left. Strange to say, however, beyond two or three shell holes, that of course have done a little damage, the ancient little Cemetery is unharmed. It is almost in the middle of the town, or what used to be the town, within 200 yards of the Railway Station, so that the lad rests not out in No Man's Land, but in an old established Cemetery (Roman Catholic of course), that has around it a brick fence, and that contains some really fine monuments. Right in the very centre of the Burial Ground is a steel Crucifix, some twenty feet high. It represents our Saviour as looking out upon the desolation on all sides, but as protecting God's Acre whose soil has been made sacred by the bodies of our brave dead. On the day that the Armistice was signed, whilst shouts of rejoicing could be heard in every direction, I stood alone, with a lump in my throat, feeling in no mood to wave flags, though deeply grateful that hostilities had ceased and that no more precious human lives would have to be sacrificed.

Please pardon these few lines, but I thought you would like to have them. I write as one who has been bereaved like yourself, and who, like you too, is sustained through God's grace, by the memory of a noble lad who has died for me.

With sincere and prayerful sympathy,
sincerely yours,
Senior Chaplain, A.I.F. Met. (Sgd. A.T. HOLDEN.

IN REPLY PLEASE QUOTE



ADVANCE AUSTRALIA

TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS:
"ADINAUST, LONDON"
CABLE ADDRESS:
"STRALIS, LONDON"
TELEPHONE:
VICTORIA 8860 (8 Lines)

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F.,

130, HORSEFERRY ROAD,
LONDON, S.W. 1

Mrs. O.M. Boulton,
Coolah, Rose Street,
GLADESVILLE,
NEW SOUTH WALES,
AUSTRALIA.

3rd December, 1918.

Dear Madam,

It has been my privilege recently to visit the little Cemetery at Roisel, where the mortal remains of your dear Son have been laid at rest. I went to see the Grave of my own Boy, and he lies with over twenty other lads side by side, and one of them is your Boy. I thought you would like to have a line from somebody who had stood with bared head at the Grave, and had reverently read the loving inscription placed upon the central wooden Cross that has been erected at the head of each Grave.

Roisel is about nine miles east of Peronne. The town has been completely destroyed, not one habitable house being left. Strange to say, however, beyond two or three shell holes, that of course have done a little damage, the ancient little Cemetery is unharmed. It is almost in the middle of the town, or what used to be the town, within 200 yards of the Railway Station, so that the lad rests not out in No Man's Land, but in an old established Cemetery (Roman Catholic of course), that has around it a brick fence, and that contains some really fine monuments. Right in the very centre of the Burial Ground is a steel Crucifix, some twenty feet high. It represents our Saviour as looking out upon the desolation on all sides, but as protecting God's Acre whose soil has been made sacred by the bodies of our brave dead. On the day that the Armistice was signed, whilst shouts of rejoicing could be heard in every direction, I stood alone, with a lump in my throat, feeling in no mood to waive flags, though deeply grateful that hostilities had ceased and that no more precious human lives would have to be sacrificed.

Please pardon these few lines, but I thought you would like to have them. I write as one who has been bereaved like yourself, and who, like you too, is sustained, through God's grace, by the memory of a noble lad who has died for me.

With sincere and prayerful sympathy,
I remain,
Sincerely yours,

A. T. Holden

SENIOR CHAPLAIN (METH.)
AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE

Major Dodd says:

"We were in action in rear of the village of Joucourt, and were under very heavy bombardment, when a message came that Steve was to report for O.P. duty. He was in the act of putting on his jacket when a shell entered the dugout we were occupying, and he got 4 pieces in him.

We got him on to a stretcher and got him away to the dressing station. Just before he left us he lost consciousness altho' for 20 minutes after he was hit he put up a wonderful fight. I don't think he suffered, and he never spoke again, he died without recovering consciousness.

Major Dodd speaks of him as "my dear friend" and fellow Officer, and says crosses are being erected and all necessary precautions taken to safe guard the grave, and to ensure it is looked after.

I wish you all to accept the heartfelt sympathy of the Officers of the Battery, also of the N.Cs and men on the loss of one of the bravest and best gentlemen it has ever been our chance to meet. He was so long with us I assure you he was sorely missed by us all. His kit will be forwarded to his Mother through the A.I.F. Kit Stores. "

Major Dodd was wounded in his right arm, but he has now got better, and writes from Sir. W. Napier's at Farnham with whom he is staying. He hopes to be soon on his way to Australia. I sent him your address.

Again so much love

Yours lovingly

COUSIN BESS.