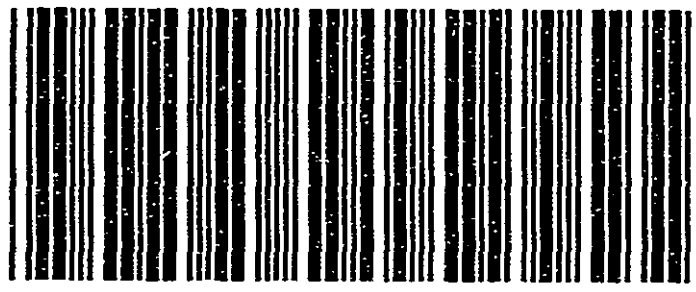
Australian Red Cross Society Wounded and Missing
Enquiry Bureau files, 1914-18 War
1DRL/0428

3030 Private
Henry Arthur
Bellchambers

39th Battalion



0330901G

39th Ba ttn.
D.Coy.
A.I.F.

Bellchambers
H.A. 3030

"Missing 12.10.17"

I saw him killed at Ypres. He was caught by a shell and was very badly knocked about, death being instantaneous. I knew him very well, he came from W.A. and it was his first time in the trenches. He was the only man of that name in the Coy. I was wounded soon after myself and do not know place of burial and cannot refer to anyone forparticulars.

Witness:-
Pte.J.H. Delahunty 1268
39th Battn.D.Coy. 16th Pl.
3rd A.A.Hospital.
Dartford.

W.Oman.

London.
2.2.18.

Off.M.

L STATE[illegible]

C O P Y

Statement made by No.1868 Pte Delahunty H.A.39th Btn

re No.3030 Pte Bellchambers H.A.39th Btn
Missing 12.10.17

On the 4th of October, while moving up to Broadseinde ridge, as the enemy were shelling very heavily, we men halted and took cover in a shell hole. Private H.A. Bellchambers was next to me on the way up and while we were sheltering in the shell hole, he was killed by a shell. He said 'My God, I'm hit' and died immediately.

Information in regard to this case could also be given by Lance Bettington, L/Cpl, 39th Battalion, now in Dartford hospital.

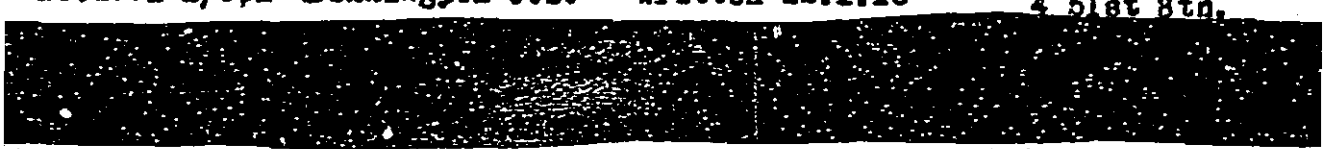
Dated at Hurlcott this 14th day of January 1918

(Sgd) J.A. Delahunty

Statement made and signed before me

(Sgd) G. Stewart-Smith.
Captain
4 51st Btn.

No.2771 L/Cpl Bennington J.S. Written 22.1.18



IGINAL STATMENT ECHELON. 1669/1/78

C O P Y

Statement made by No.2771 L/CPl Bennington J.S. 39th Btn

re No.3030 Pte Bellchambers H.A.39th Btn
Missing 12.10.17

The last I saw of this man was on the take off line, previous to the attack, he was then alright. This was on the 4th October 1917.

Dated at "A" Sub.Depot.Weymouth this 28th day of January 1918.

(Sgd) J.S. bennington.

Statement made and signed before me

(Sgd) C. Thompsom.
Lieutenant.

BELLCHAMBERS.

39th Australian Imperial Force Bellchambers H.A. 3030

(H. Oct. 12. 17).

" I was told by Pte. Smith (39. A of 7th Reinforcements) that Pte. Harry ? Bellchambers was killed instantaneously by machine gun fire,when he tried to rush a Pill Box, in front of all the others at Ypres. I understood that this happened on Oct. 4th and that the position was taken afterwards but I may be mistaken. On Oct. 12th, the ground was not taken. I knew Pte. Bellchamber and Pte. Smith, as we were all the 7th Reinforcements together. I do not know what Company H. Bellchamber was in. "

Eye Witness - No. Pte. Smith, 39. A.7th Reinforcement told him. Cannot give number or Christian name.

Description - From Woornable ? Victoria. I was in camp with him on Salisbury Plain.

Informant :- Pte. Alex.R. Gilmore, 3068,
Home address:- 6th Pltn. B Coy. 39 Aus I Force
140, Cromwell St, 3rd Southern General Hospt,
Collingwood, Durham Buildings, Oxford.
Victoria.

14.2.18.
H.Pickard Cambridge.

3030
Bellchamber.H.A. Pte. NO.3030

39th Batt. A.I.F.

NO.II.Platn. C.Coy.

Missing Oct 12th 1917.

I saw him hit by a machine gun bullet whilst going over the top with a Lewis Machine gun at Passchendaele Ridge. I went back later to find his body but it could not be found. I knew him in the coy. He came over on the transport Ballarat leaving 19th Feb 1917.

Description. Height. 5-7. Complexion. Fair. Medium built.

Witness. Pte. Woods.C.J. NO.3155, C.Coy. 39th Batt.

Taken at
NO.4.C.D.Hurdcott.
7-3-18.
S.W.

S.Whitmee.
NO.4.Command Depot
Hurdcott.

39th A.I.F. Bellchamber Pte. H.A. 3030,

(M. Oct. 12/17)

"Pte. Bellchamber was killed instantaneously by a machine gun at Passchendale on Oct. 12th. He was endeavouring to take the gun, when members of his Company saw him killed and told Pte. Facey. One of his mates had a pipe of his, which he forwarded to his people in Australia. This man's name was Kincade of Ballarat".

Eye-witness: No, not known.

Description:

Informant: Pte. John Facey 3066,
39th A.I.F.,
No. 1 Hospt.,
Exeter.

Home address:
19 Pine St.,
Quarry Hill,
Bendigo,
Victoria, Australia.

March 6th 1918,
I. Turner.

39th Battn.
A.I.F.

BELLCHAMBERS,
H.A. 3030

"Missing."

Killed in Action 12.10.17. previously reported Missing .
Cert. by I.B/436

London.
18.3.18.

P.I.

Off.M.

[redacted]

A.I.F. 39th Battn.
C Coy.

BELLCHAMBER
H.A. 3030.

KILLED 12/10/17.

I saw him killed at Passchendaele. He attempted to capture a German M/C Gun, and was shot through the stomach death being instantaneous. I knew him well, he came from Ballarat Victoria. We lost the ground so I cannot give any details of burial and I cannot refer to anyone.

Witness:- 3066, Facey Pte F.J.
39th Battn., C Coy., 11 Ptn.,
3 A.A.H.Dartford.

W. Oman.

London
6.5.18.

P.I.
OFF.M.

39th Btn.

BELLCHAMBERS? H.A.
Pte. 3030.

Killed in action 12/10/17.

I knew Casualty, he was a man of medium build, about 5' 7, dark complexion, about 20 years of age, known as Harry. Casualty was taking part in the advance at Passchendaele and while going forward to attack a machine gun position was killed by machine gun bullets. I did not witness his death but saw his body later on. I do not know where he was buried.

Informant:- Pte. S.R. Roberts, No. 3[illegible]

Private address:-
21 Hoddle Street,
North Richmond.

H.A.T.
25.7.19

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS INFORMATION BUREAU—MELBOURNE.

39th Btn/
A.I.F.

BELLCHAMBERS
Henry Arthur. 3030.

"Killed in Action 12.10.17"

No trace Germany

Cert. by Capt. Mills. 10.10.19.

London
24.10.19.

Off.H. &.M. (S.O.)

14th May, 1918.

6781 Pte.C.Bellchambers,
24th Battalion, A.I.F.,
C/o Australian Base P.O.
Mount Pleasant, W.C. 1.

Dear Sir,

With further reference to your enquiry for your brother-

3030 Pte. H.A. BELLCHAMBERS, 39th Battalion, A.I.F.

We regret to inform you that we have received a further report about him from 3065 Pte. Facey, 39th Battalion, A.I.F., who wrote from the 3rd Australian Auxiliary Hospital, Dartford, and confirmed his previous report. Pte. Facey said that he saw your brother killed instantaneously at Passchendaele whilst attempting to capture a German machine gun. The ground was lost so Pte. Facey was unable to give any information concerning your brother's burial.

With renewed expressions of our sympathy and assuring you that we shall advise you of any further report that are received.

Yours faithfully,

(Miss) Mrs Stanfield

SECRETARY.

39th Battn.

BELLCHAMBERS
H.A., 3030

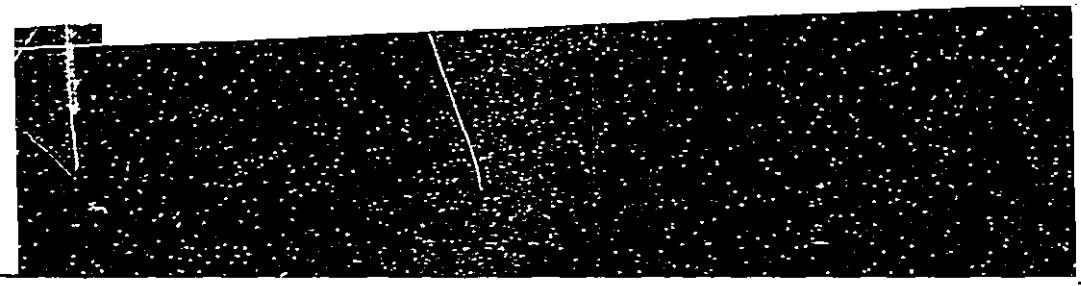
K. 12/10/17

I knew casualty, he was a medium built man, 5'10" in height, fair complexion, about 24 years of age. Casualty was at Passchendaele during the advance. He was going over the top in attack when he was killed instantly by a bullet. I was three yards away at the time of his death. He was buried where he fell.

Informant:- 2404
W. Crowley
FAWKNER P.O.

N.A.T.
12/9/19

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS INFORMATION BUREAU-MELBOURNE.



Will you Kindly put the following name in next Enquiry list.

Pte L. C. ~~Wt~~ Witcombe 6612

14th Bnt. A. I. F.

A Co:- Reported Killed four months ago.

Please ask for Det. D&B.

& send any news to Pte C. Bellchambers, & to

Pte C. Bellchambers
6481.
24th A. I. F.
was at Tooting Grove,
leaving in a fortnight
for Harefield.
Send letter to
Mount Pleasant P.O.
Aus. Base P. Office,
Mount Pleasant
London.
W.C.1.

also send information
to Australia.

Australia.
Yrs truly-
Jessie Perrin.

6781 Pte.C. ellchambers,
24th Infantry Battalion, A.I.F.,
C/o Australian Base Post Office,
Mount Pleasant. W.C.1.

11th March, 1918.

Dear Sir,

With reference to your enquiry through Mrs. Perrin for - 3030 Pte. H.A.BELLCHAMBERS, 39th Battalion, A.I.F., - who is officially reported Missing since 12-10-17, we much regret to forward the following unofficial report given by 3068 Pte. Alex. Gilmore, of the same Battalion. He states "I was told by Pte.Smith, that H. Bellchambers was killed instantaneously by machine gun fire when he tried to rush a pill-box in front of all the others at Ypres. I understood that this happened on October 4th and that the position was retaken afterwards but I may be mistaken. On October 12th the ground was not taken. "

We cannot of course vouch for the accuracy of any unofficial evidence and would advise you not to accept it as conclusive in the absence of more definite information. We are doing our utmost to trace Pte.H.Bellchambers and will advie you as soon as we succeed.

Concerning - 6612 Pte. WITCOMBE, (whose initials we have as E.J. and not as stated by Mrs. Perrin, L.E.) 14th Battn, A.I.F., we are pleased to inform you there is no official report of his death in action. According to official record Pte.E.J.Witcombe, was admitted to 1st Australian Auxiliary Hospital, Harefield on

12-2-18, suffering from influenza .

We trust that he is the subject of your enquiry. Will you advise any Australian enquirers for these two men to apply for information concerning them to our Office in

60 Market Street,
MELBOURNE.

with which we are in constant communication both by cable and letter. All news we are able to obtain concerning them will be at once sent there.

With good wishes for your recovery.

Yours faithfully,

Miss Ryan

SECRETARY.

5781 Pte.C.Bellchambers,
24th Battalion, A.I.F.,
C/o Australian Base P.O.,
Mount Pleasant. W.C.1.

14th March, 1918.

Dear Sir,

We regret to inform you that we have received the following unofficial report about your brother - 3030 Pte. H.A. BELLCHAMBERS, 39th Battalion, A.I.F., - given by 3155 Pte.Woods of the same unit, now at Hurdcott. He stated that he saw him hit by a machine gun bullet, whilst going over the top with a Lewis gun at Passchendaele. He went back later to find his body, but without success.

We much regret that this report is so unsatisfactory, but are continuing enquiries, and will at once advise you of any information we may receive as we realise how anxious you must be.

With sincere sympathy.

Yours faithfully,

F. S. G.

SECRETARY.

Tel.: VICTORIA 8576 8577 8578

ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO BE ADDRESSED TO "THE SECRETARY," WOUNDED AND MISSING — ENQUIRY BUREAU — AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY.

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY.

36, GROSVENOR PLACE,
LONDON, S.W. 1.

6781 Pte.C.Bellchamber,
24th Battalion, A.I.F.,
C/o Aust.Base P.O.,
Mb.Pleasant, W.C.1.

22nd March, 1918.

Dear Sir,

We very much regret to inform you that - 3030 Pte.H.A. BELLCHAMBER, 39th Battalion, A.I.F. - has now been officially reported Killed ~~in Action 18-10-17~~.

We are sending you another unofficial report given us by 3066 Pte.John Facey of the same unit. He states that Pte.Bellchamber was killed instantaneously by a machine gun on 12th [illegible]. He was endeavouring to capture the gun when he his mates saw him killed. One of them a man named Kincade picked up his pipe and sent it home to your people.

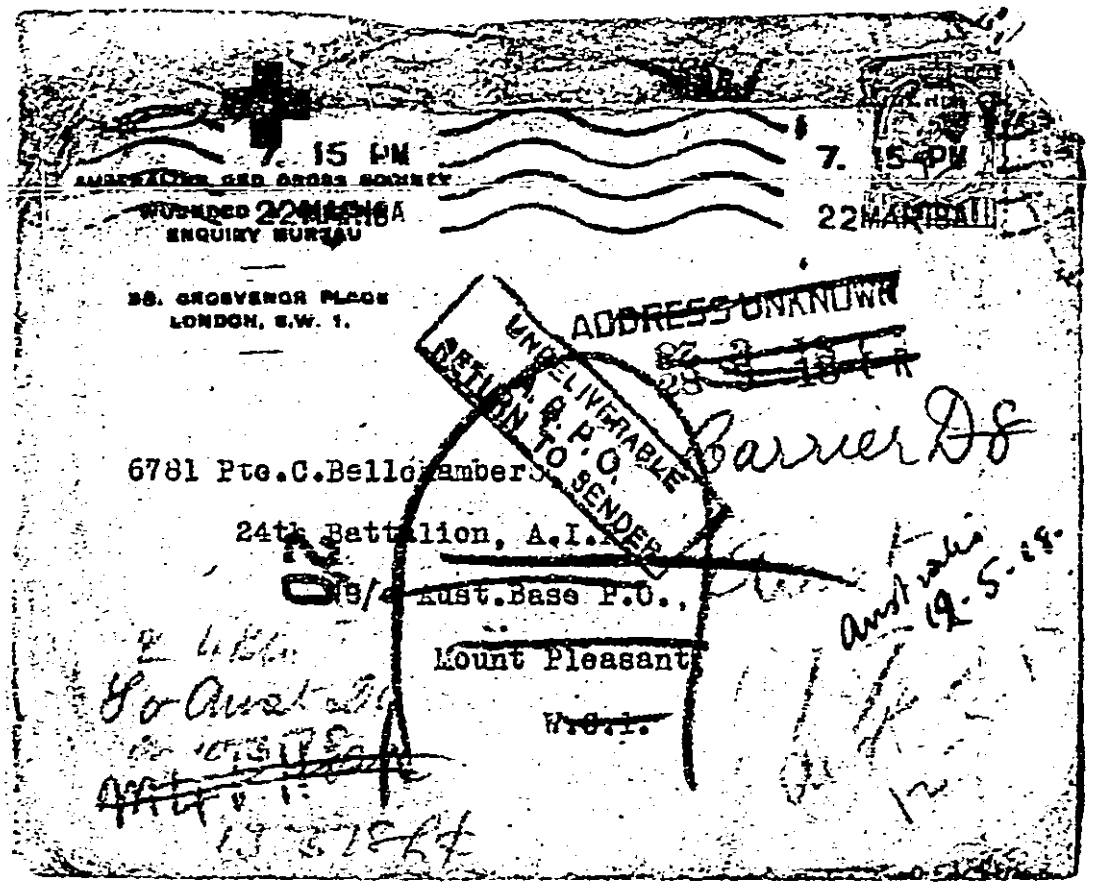
We are sorry to have to send you such sad news but your brother died in a brave attempt and we hope this will be of some comfort to you.

Should we hear any further details we will at once write to you again. With a renewal of our sympathy.

Yours faithfully,

Vera Deakin

SECRETARY.
(T.Mc.)



7. 15 PM
AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY
WOUNDED 22 MAR 18 A
ENQUIRY BUREAU

38, GROSVENOR PLACE
LONDON, S.W. 1.

7. 15 PM
22 MAR 18 A

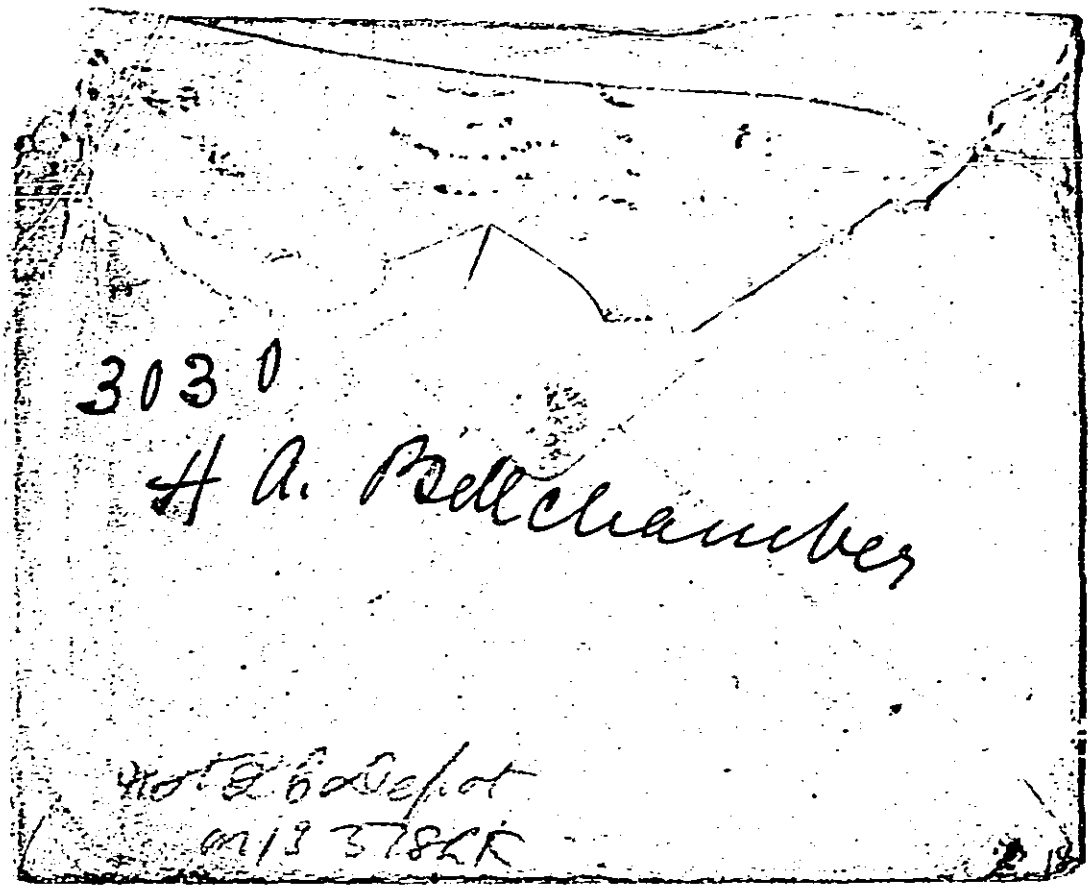
ADDRESS UNKNOWN

UNDELIVERABLE
A.R.P.O.
RETURN TO SENDER

Carrier D8

6781 Pte.C.Bellchamber
24th Battalion, A.I.F.
N9/4 Aust.Base P.O.,
Mount Pleasant
W.C.1.

Australia 19.5.18.



3030

H A. Bellchamber

Not Ed Depot
M13 378LK

6781 Pte.C.Bellchamber,
24th Battalion, A.I.F.,
C/o Aust.Base P.O.,
Mt.Pleasant, W.C.1.

22nd March, 1918.

Dear Sir,

We very much regret to inform you that - 3030 Pte.H.A. BELLCHAMBERS 39th Battalion, A.I.F. - has now been officially reported Killed in Action 12-10-17.

We are sending you another unofficial report given us by 3066 Pte.John Facey of the same unit. He states that Pte.Bellchambers was killed instantaneously by a machine gun on 12th Oct, he was endeavouring to capture the gun when he his mates saw him killed. One of them a man named Kincade picked up his pipe and sent it home to your people.

We are sorry to have to send you such sad news but your brother died in a brave attempt and we hope this will be of some comfort to you.

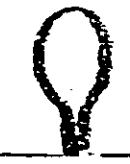
Should we hear any further details we will at once write to you again. With a renewal of our sympathy.

Yours faithfully,

Miss McConnell
SECRETARY.

Bellchambers ~~[illegible]~~ 6781.
~~[illegible]~~ Aust: 12.5.18.
(Chas Ernest) Hopkins address 24th Bn.
MD.3

Sec in Gen: Corresp. under
Inq: for 3030 H.A. Bellchambers 39th Bn.



LAW.