

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

**5054 Lance Corporal  
Henry Charles  
Brighton**

**6th Battalion**



0531001A

6th Bttn  
AIF

BRIGHTON  
H.C. 5054

"Whereabouts"

Wounded in Action 30.10.17.

Cert. by AIF HdQtrs 14.12.17.

Wounded and Missing at

Cert. by Rouen letter 18.12.17.

P.I.

London.  
21.12.17.

A.I.F. 6th Bttn

BRIGHTON  
H.C. 5054

"WOUNDED"

Wded & Missing 30-10-17

Cert. by A.I.F. Hqrs 20-12-17.

London  
15-1-18

OFF.M. & P.I

6th Battn.  
A.I.F.

BRIGHTON,  
H.C. 5054

"Wounded and Missing 30.10.17."

He was with me in a dugout in the front line at Passchendaele Ridge, about Oct 29th, when he was hit through the right side of the jaw with a piece of shrapnel and went to rush back to the dressing station while a heavy enemy barrage was on. I was wounded myself by the same shell and hope to go back to Australia. He belonged to C.Coy, 1st Pltn. Well built, dark complexion. Came from Mildura. We called him Charlie.

Informant:- Pte. A. Kennedy,  
6th Battn, C.Coy, XI Pltn,  
( Childs St,  
Stawell,  
Victoria, Australia )

London  
12.2.18.

P.I.  
Off.M.

ORIGINAL STATEMENT ECHOLON

1751/1/17

C O P Y

Statement made by No. 7031 Pte Kennedy A. 6th Btn.

re No. 5054 L/C Bighton H.O. 6th Btn  
Wnd and Missing 30.10.17.

I last saw the above H.O.O. about 6.a.m. on the morning of the 30th October 1917. near railway bank at Passchendaele. He was then wounded badly on the right side of face. He left for dressing station under a heavy barrage.

*3 copies*

*P1  
of missing*

Dated at Monte Video this 9th day of March 1918.

(Sgd) A. Kennedy.

Statement made and signed before me

(Sgd) C. Thompson.  
Lient.

6th A.I.F.

Brighton Pte. H.C. 5054,  
C. Company.

(W. & M. Oct. 30/17)

"Brighton was a married man with two children.  
He was a Machine Gunner and No 1 on his gun and had been made  
L.G. He was blown to pieces left of Zonnebeke Rd. The body  
was not found; I was one who helped search for it."

Eye-witness::

Description::

Informant: Pte. H. Esmore 2109,  
6th A.I.F., C. Coy.,  
Napsbury War Hospt.,  
St. Albans.

Home address:  
Korumburra,  
South Giff's Land.

2/4/18,  
Albert Hill.

*copy.*

*P. 1  
3/1/18*

Havre.

1st. May. 1918.

6th. Australians.

Brighton, H. C. 5054.

H. C. M. October. 30/1917.

Brighton was wounded in the neck and left us to go to the D/ station. He did not arrive having been killed by a shell on the way. His remains were afterwards buried and his Brother-in-law Bingham told me that he had seen the grave. We were all mates together in our homes in Australia and in the Battalion.

Inf:- Private; C. H. Abbott. 5026  
6th. Australians. H. C.  
H. C. "Pamela".

GPO.

per 2/18

P 1  
5/18

Walter P. Bingham 21.5.18.

A.I.F. 6th Btn

BRIGHTON  
H.O. 5054

"Dead & Missing"

Killed in action 30-10-17 - previously reported Missing & Wounded  
Cert. by A.I.F. Hqrs 31-7-18.

London  
2-8-18

OFF.M. & P.I.

6th Btn.

BRIGHTON, H. C.  
Pte/ 5054.

Kid. in act. 30/10/17.

"I knew Casualty. He was a well built man, about 5 ft. 10 ins. in height, dark complexion, about 29 years of age. Casualty was in an out-post in the front line at Passchendaele where he was wounded by a piece of H.E. shell. He was carried back and nothing more was heard of him to my knowledge."

Informant:- Pte. H. A. Ford,  
No. 5091, 6th Btn.

Private address:-

Opoho,  
Dunedin, N.Z.

H.A.F.  
11/4/19.

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS INFORMATION BUREAU-MELBOURNE.

6th Btn.

BRIGHTON, H.C.  
Pte. No. 5054

Kid. in act. 30.10.17.

"I knew Casualty. He was a medium built man, about 5' 8" in height, dark complexion about 26 years of age, known as Charlie. Casualty was in the advance at Passchendaele and after going successfully through the advance was in charge of a machine gun crew near the outpost, when an H.E. shell landed alongside him killing him instantly. His body was never found to my knowledge."

Informant:- P.J. Skilton  
No. 4339

Private address

Buma Street,  
Williamstown.

H.A.F.  
25.4.19.

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS INFORMATION BUREAU-MELBOURNE.



6th Btn.

BRIGHTON, E.C.  
Fte. No. 5054

Kld. in act. 30.10.17.

"I knew Casualty. He was a man about 5' 10", stoutly built, dark complexion about 24 years of age. Casualty was advancing at Moncheke Ridge and was in charge of Lewis Gun team whilst going round to see if his men were alright. An H.E. shell exploded in the trench alongside of him killing him instantly. I did not see Casualty killed but I saw his body while being relieved by the 11th Btn. I do not know where he was buried."

Informant:- Lieut. Aubrey.

Private address

C/o I.C.A.  
51 Queen Street,  
Melbourne.

T.O.F.  
11.7.19.

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS INFORMATION BUREAU-MELBOURNE.

(21. 5. 16)

Pt Bingham

6<sup>th</sup> Balt. A. 1.7.

Abroad

abt.

5-05H

Pt H.C. Brighton

6<sup>th</sup> Balt. A. 1.7.

W/M. 30. 10. 17.

21. 5. 18.  
0. 7. 13.

February 14th, 1918.

Mrs. L.M.B. Pearce  
6, Bedford Villa,  
Bergalston, Devon.

Dear Madam,

With reference to your enquiry for

5054 Pte. H.C. BRIGHTON, 6th Battalion, A.I.F.

who is officially reported Wounded and Missing since

30.10.17, we are forwarding an unofficial report given by

Pte. A. Kennedy, of the same Battalion. He states : " H.C.

Brighton, was with me in a dugout in the front line at Passchen-

dassle Ridge about 29th October, when he was hit through the right side of the jaw with a piece of shrapnel, and went to rush back to the dressing station while a heavy enemy barrage was on. He belonged to C. Coy, and came from Mildura. He was well built, with a dark complexion. We called him Charlie.

We are doing our utmost to obtain further information concerning Pte. Brighton and will advise you as soon as we succeed.

Assuring you of our sympathy in your anxiety.

Yours faithfully,

MR.

SECRETARY.

February 1st.

8

L.M.B. Pearce,  
6, Eadford Villa,  
Bersalston, Devon.

Re 5054 H.C. BRIGHTON, 6th Battalion, A.I.F.

Dear Sir,

With reference to your enquiry for the above soldier who was previously reported Wounded. We regret to inform you that he is now reported Wounded and Missing since 30.1 0.17.

Further enquiries are being made and we hope soon to send you detailed information.

Yours faithfully,

SECRETARY.

*JMB. for LdL*

12.8.12.17 6 Bedford Villas  
Percalston  
(Devon  
Dec 7/17

X Australian Red Cross Society  
London.

May I ask if you can  
kindly assist me in tracing  
an Australian Soldier -  
I wrote him about four weeks  
ago & have had the letter  
returned to me being marked "wrong  
address unknown" his number is

5054 Pte H. C. Brighton  
2nd Infantry Brigade  
16th Bn  
6th Bn Abroad  
Australian Force  
France.

W.A.

I shall be grateful for any  
information respecting them

Yours faithfully  
L M D. Pearce C

A

## British Red Cross Enquiry Department.

Have you already applied to the British Red Cross Society, London? .....

Regiment Australian Imperial Force.

\*Battalion 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion (abroad).

Company 2nd Infantry Brigade.

Platoon .....

Surname Brighton.

Christian Names Mr. C.

Rank Private.

Regimental Number 5054.

Approximate date of casualty Not known.

Nature of casualty, viz.: 

<del>Killed</del>
Wounded
Missing

P.O. am.  
27.12.17.

Is this Information { Official? .....  
Non-Official? ..... }

Where did casualty occur? France.

Permanent address of enquirer Mrs. Pearce,

6, Bedford Villas,

Brix Alston, Devon.

Date of present enquiry December 10<sup>th</sup> 1917.

\*N.B.—The battalion given should, if possible, be that in which the missing man was serving in the field, and at the time when the casualty took place.

8

15th April, 1918.

Miss L.M.B. Pearce,  
6, Bedford Villa,  
Berealston,  
Devon.

Dear Madam,

With reference to your enquiry concerning:

5054 Pte. H.C. Brighton, 6th Battrn., A.I.F.

We have received the following unofficial report from-

2109 Pte. H. Esmore, 6th Battrn., Haysbury War Hospital, St. Albans.

He states that Pte. Brighton was a married man with 2 children and at the time of his death was a machine gunner, and No. 1 on his gun. He was killed instantaneously on the left of the Zonneheke Road, and informant helped to search for his body, of which they could find no trace.

We regret that these details are so indefinite, but are continuing our enquiries, and hope to send you further particulars at a later date.

Yours faithfully,

(Miss)

Mrs Craven  
SECRETARY.



Miss L. M. B. Pearce,  
6, Bedford Villas,  
Berealston,  
Devon.

24th May 1918.

Dear Madam,

With further reference to your Enquiry for 5054,  
Pte. H. C. Brighton 6th Battalion, A.I.F., we regret to inform  
you of an unofficial report of his death which we have received  
from one of his friends.

5026 Pte. C. E. Abbott of the same unit stated that  
Pte. Brighton was wounded in the neck and whilst on his way  
to the dressing station was unfortunately killed instantaneously  
by a shell. Our informant further stated that Pte. Bingham who  
was Pte. Brighton's brother-in-law, told him that your friend  
had been buried and he had seen the grave.

We have written to Pte. Bingham and on receipt of his  
reply we will immediately advise you.

Although we must emphasize the fact that this evidence  
is purely unofficial, we fear there is now very little hope of  
your friend being alive.

2.

With sincere sympathy.

Yours faithfully,

Miss

*W*

Secretary.

*W*

*Bere Alston*  
L.M.B. Pearce, Esq.,  
6, Bedford Villa,  
~~Bedford Villa,~~  
Devon.

*Bere Alston*  
5th August, 1918.

Dear Sir,

We very much regret to have to inform you that as we feared from the nature of the unofficial evidence already sent you,

5054 Pte. H. J. Brighton, 6th Batta. A.I.F., previously reported "Wounded & Missing", is now officially reported as "Killed in Action" on 30-10-17.

Should we receive further details we shall immediately advise you.

Assuring you of our sincere sympathy.

Yours faithfully,

(Miss)

SECRETARY.

*EBuckle*

August 6<sup>th</sup> 1918

6 Bedford Villas.  
New Abbeys  
Levon.

Dear Miss Watson

May I ask your acceptance  
of my heartfelt thanks, both for your kind  
sympathy, & for all the expenses you have  
made for 5034 St. H. L. Brighton 6<sup>th</sup> March 1917.  
Now officially reported, killed in action.  
It is a great & bitter loss for his poor wife  
& his all, but we have the consolation of knowing  
he did his duty. As he always did, for  
he was one of the best.

Again gratefully thanking you, I should  
you receive any further details, I feel  
assured you will send them to me.

Yours truly

Very gratefully yours.

(Mrs) Louisa M. B. Pearce  
(formerly Brighton)