

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

**3852 Private
Walter Henry Harrison**

1st Battalion



1280712L

A.I.P. 1.

HARRISON, W.H. 3852.

W/M Oct 3rd 1917.

Harrison was in my company and we were very chummy together. On the morning of Oct 3rd the Battalion went over for an attack on a German position near Poelcapelle. I was with the Hqs following up, and the next day I saw Harrison's brother who was in A.Co and he told us that his brother had been wounded and that he was making an energetic search for news of him. The only thing however that was picked up was the man's paybook. This brother was Cpl.C.Harrison, 950, 1st Battn.

Inf: L.Broadhead. 2430. 1.Hqs.

No. 7 ~~Stat~~ Hosp. 51 ~~km~~

BOULOGNE. 25.3.18.

MH

P.I

S

me note way

Note written Bristol 5-4-18

Havre.

4th. June. 1918.

1st. Australians.

Harrison. S. H 3852.

W. A. M. October 3/1917.

He was in A. Coy. 3rd. Pltn. I heard a letter read from L/Corporal DesKardie, 1st. Battalion, A. 3. from Australia after he had been discharged on account of wounds received by the same shell that struck Harrison on October 3rd. or 4th just before going over. The letter stated that DesKardie had seen Harrison knocked & that he did not consider that he would live. DesKardie himself had his legs broken & would give full details. He intended preparing for Holy Orders. I don't know his address. Harrison was a nice chap, dark, medium height.

Inf:- Private. R. G. Stafford. 6090. P.1
1st. Australians. A. 3.
Australian Camp.
Rowellies. S

Cas.

1952

With Sydney Bureau interview re DesKardie.

Havre.

5th. July. 1918.

1st. Australians.

Harrison. W. H 3852.

W. A. M. October 5/1917.

He was in A. Coy; 3rd. Pltn. The only Harrison I know was a Corporal on the M. G., about 5 feet 7, dark, slim, clean-shaven, about 24. On the 4th. October we were near Passchendaele. We were attacking. I heard Harrison was wounded in the hop-over & that he was taken to the ~~2nd~~ D/Station where he died of wounds. I was told this by Private Lamb, 1st. Australians, A. Coy, now a barber at the War Chests Club, London.

Inf:- Private. W. R. Boyden. 7075.
1st. Australians. A. 3.
Australian Camp.
Rowellies. S
P.1

REF.

Winter Pte. Lamb 22.7.18.

1st Battn.
A.I.P.

HARRISON.
W.H. 3852.

"Wounded and Missing 3-10-17"

I heard it read out in Orderly Room in Casualty List
that Harrison was killed. This was about a month or there-
abouts after he was missing.

Informant:- Vickers.E.C.756.
1st Battn,D.Co.
WESTHAM.

W.A. Rand.
London.
20-7-18.

S & P I.

1st Battalion

HARRISON, Private, W.H.
3852.

Killed in Action 3/10/17.

Informant called in reply to our letter.

On 4th October Informant and Harrison were side by side in a charge near Zonnebeke. While advancing they were both hit and wounded by the same shell. They lay together in a shell hole for about half an hour and then Harrison left to try and find a dressing station. Informant did not see him again.

Reference - F. Degotardi, 6973,
1st Battalion.

Informant will call on Harrison's father.

2/9/18.

D.W.

SYDNEY BUREAU.

J. A.

C. H. K.

P. I.

S.

1st Batta.
A.I.F.

HARRISON
Walter H. 3852

"Wounded & Missing 3-10-17"

Re 3852 W.H.Harrison. I am sorry to state that I do not know Cpl. Harrison of the 1st Batta. If there is a man of the 9th Battn. I may be able to know what happened to them or his whereabouts. I have never belonged to the 1st Battn., and do not know of any N.C.O. of that name in A.Coy. of the 9th Battn.

Letter from:- Lamb. H. 934
3rd Pltn. A.Coy.,
9th Battn. 3rd Bde.,
4th Command Depot,
HURDCOTT. 1-10-18.

London
5-10-18

P.I.
S.

A.I.F. 1.

HARRISON, W. 3852.

Rel. K.

W/M. Oct. 3rd, 1918.

I saw Harrison of C.Co., (I think XI pltn.) blown to pieces by a h.e. shell at the cross roads just near Passchendaele Ridge about 4 p.m. in the afternoon before the hop-over. He was about 50 yards from me. The shell got eight of them - they were standing at the cross roads and appeared to be having an argument about the road. I think only one (I don't know name) got out of it, and he had his foot blown off. I don't know anything about his burial.

I know Harrison's initial. He came from Armidale Camp, where I first knew him. We left Sydney Nov. 25th 1916, in the Beltana, 6th rfs. for 33rd battn. He - Harrison was a man of about 36 or 37 years, 5ft 6 or 7, medium complexion, married man. He was a great pal of mine and a good fellow.

Inf. Pte. C. C. Bell, 2769, C.XII.

No. 3. Aust. Gen. Hosp.

ABBEVILLE. 12.8.18. HEH.

no slip

31 Sandy Lane
Stockport
Feb 24 - 1918.

The British Red Cross Society.

18. Carlton House Terrace.

London

Ans
4.3.18

Sir / I would deem it a great
favour if you would make
inquiries, re the following
soldier, reported wounded
and missing October 3rd 1914.
He was last seen by a
comrade, wounded and
proceeding to a dressing
station -

Nothing further has been
heard of him.

3852 L/cpl. Walter Henry Harrison

A. Coy. 1st Battalion

Australian Imperial Force
France.

If anything is known of
the above soldier I would
be very grateful for any
news

Thanking you in
anticipation
yours faithfully
Mary Blaney.

*Miss Hoddinott
Angela Ruffel
Victoria 81
N.W.*

September 2nd, 1918.

Miss M. Clancy.
31 Sandy Lane.
Stockport.

Dear Madam.

We regret to inform you of unofficial evidence about -
3852 Pte. W.H. HARRISON. 1st Battalion. A.I.F.
given by 2769 Pte. C.C. Bell when in the 3rd Australian General
Hospital, B.M.F. which we fear leaves no hope of his being alive.

Informant stated that he saw Pte. Harrison killed
instantaneously by pieces of a high explosive shell at the cross
roads near Passchendaele Ridge about 4 p.m. on 3-10-17 just
before they hopped over. He was about 50 yards from informant who
saw him killed with several others who were standing there
apparently arguing about the road. Only one man escaped alive
but unfortunately he cannot tell us his name. Pte. Bell knows
nothing of Pte. Harrison's burial, - they had been in camp
together in Armidale, New South Wales, leaving Sydney on 25-11-16
in the Beltana as 6th Reinforcements for the 33rd Battalion, and
he describes Pte. Harrison as 36 or 37 years of age, 5'6" in height
and of medium colouring.

While emphasising the purely unofficial character of this
evidence we fear that there is now no hope of Pte. Harrison being
alive as so many months have passed since his casualty occurred.
We have therefore removed his name from our enquiry list as we feel
that we are unlikely to obtain information of a different or more
definite character although Pte. Harrison is still reported officially
as Missing on 3-10-17. If further details are received we shall
immediately advise you and trust that our ^{up to} evidence has been of
some assistance to you.

Regretting that our evidence has all pointed to the same
conclusion.

Yours faithfully,

(Miss) SPURMAY.
(L.A.W.)

50

Re 3852 Plt W.H. Harrison
1st Batt 7.1.F.

W A Missing 3.10.17
Missing draft sent.

FRONT B. E. F.

ION AS TO		Battalion and Regiment.		Co.	Pla-	Casualty.
ank	Field Artillery	Bde	1	2	K. Aug 10/14	Det 20 th B
N BY	A. J. F.					
ank		Battalion and Regiment.		Co.	Pla-	Home Address.
ank	Art. Field Artillery	Bde	1	2	21 Mackenzie Street	Rozelle
						Sydney.

F. INFORMANT

in (1st person).

hours after the Lord had been killed
time and he was blown to pieces
we could of him close to the gun.
the 56 division tommy's in August
the date. It happened about 10 A.M.
in Egypt. We were both in
he up in January we both came

ER (THE FOLLOWING :-

1. give name, number, etc.,
the man who told him.

RECEIVED
4 FEB 1918
CARLTON HOUSE TERRACE

ormant says a man was killed,
death instantaneous, and was
body buried, and if so where?

Instantaneous

there any other man of same
e in Co. or Battalion?

no

Slight build. 5ft 5. medium complexion
clean shaven "Mac"

Signature of
Searcher

R. C. P. and

Date of Report

Jan 28th / 18

950 Col.C. Harrison,
A.Coy, 1st Infantry Battn,
AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE,
B. E. F.

5th April, 1918.

Dear Sir,

We are making enquiries on behalf of our Sydney Bureau concerning your brother - 3852 W.H.HARRISON, 1st Battalion, who is "Wounded & Missing 3-10-17". We understand that you also are making all enquiries about him and would be glad to know whether you have succeeded in gathering any definite news about him. We presume that our enquirers in Sydney are your people, and if you are forwarding home any news we do not wish to distress them by repeating the same statements, therefore if you will let us know anything you have learned we shall be very grateful.

Assuring you of our very deep sympathy in your great anxiety.

Yours faithfully,

SECRETARY.

8th April, 1918.

Miss Hoddinott,
Anzac Buffet,
Victoria Street,
London. S. W. 1.

Dear Madam,

With reference to your enquiry concerning:-

3852 Pte. Walter Henry Harrison, 1st Battalion, A.I.F., who is officially reported as wounded and missing on 3-10-17. We have received the following unofficial report from, 2430 1st Battalion Headquarters Staff, 53rd General Hospital, B.E.F.

He states that he knew Pte. W.H. Harrison well, and that they were in the same Company. On the morning of Oct. 3rd, the Battalion went over to attack a German Position, near Poelospella. Informant was with Headquarters following up, and on the next day he saw 950 Cpl. C. Harrison, of A. Company, 1st Battalion, who told him that his brother had been wounded, and that he was making an energetic search for him, but the only thing that was picked up was Pte. W.H. Harrison's pay-book.

We regret that these details are so indefinite, but we have written to Cpl. C. Harrison, and hope to send you further particulars at a later date.

Yours faithfully,

SECRETARY.

K.C.

22. 7. 18.

Pt. Lamb

A Coy

1st Batta. A.I.F.

abroad

AM.

3852

Cpl. ~~W.~~ W. H. Harrison

A Coy. III Ptn.

1st Batta. A.I.F.

W/M. 3 10. 17.

22. 7. 18.

A.I.F.

UV

Miss Houldinott,
Nurse Rickett,
Victoria Street,
N.W. 1.

July 24th, 1918.

Miss M. Clancey,
31, Sandy Lane,
Stockport.

Bear Madam,

In further reply to your enquiry we regret to inform you that we have received an unofficial report from 7075 Pte. W.P. Boydon, of the same unit who was interviewed in an Australian Camp in France about

3052 Pte. ADAM HENRY HARRISON, 1st Battalion, A.I.F.

He states that he was in A.Coy, 5th Battalion. The only Harrison- he knew was a Corporal on the machine gun about 5'7" in height, dark skin, clean shaven, and about 25 years of age. They were attacking and he heard that Pte. Harrison was wounded in the hop over and that he was taken to the Dressing Station where he died of wounds. He was told this by Pte. Lamb 1st Australians, A.Coy, now a barber at the Wat Chest Club, London."

We have a further unofficial report also from 756 Pte. W.C. Vickery, 1st Battn. who was interviewed at Westham Camp, Weymouth, who states:- "I heard it read out in Orderly Room in the Casualty list that Harrison was killed. This was about a month or thereabouts after he was missing."

We must emphasise the purely unofficial nature of this evidence although we fear there is no hope of Pte. Harrison's being alive and we are continuing our enquiries for information which will throw light on his ultimate fate.

As soon as we receive further particulars we shall advise you. Assuring you of our sincere sympathy.

Yours faithfully,

(Miss)

Secretary.

h.

*Miss Hoddinott
Aus as Buffer
Victoria SW.*

September 2nd, 1918.

Miss M. Clancy.
31 Sandy Lane.
Stockport.

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some assistance to you.

Regretting that our evidence has all pointed to the same
conclusion.

Yours faithfully,

Am.
(Miss) SECRETARY.

ack P. H. H. H. H.
3.9.18

119

3852

Walter H. Harrison
1st Bn

1st Coy 12th Cav
H. I. F.

Hurdston

1.1.1918

W. H. H. 3.10.17 S

P. 14 (ed)

To

The Secretary
Engineer Bureau
Anti-Aircraft

Re the enclosed letter

of which I received today. I am sorry to
state that I do not know of Harrison of
the 1st Bn. If there is a man of the 9th Bn
who is missing I may be able to know
what happened to them or his whereabouts.
I have never belonged to the 1st Bn & do not know
of any one of that name in A Coy of the 9th.

I am

Yours sincerely
H. H. H.