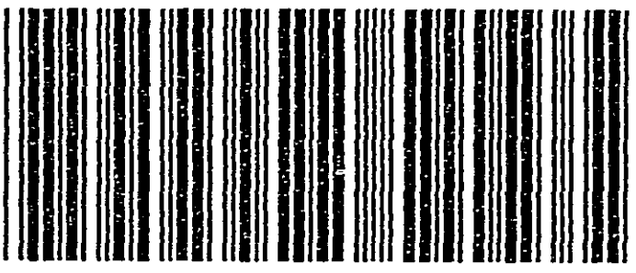
Australian Red Cross Society Wounded and Missing
Enquiry Bureau files, 1914-18 War
1DRL/0428

2890 Private
Alfred Cecil Greber

52nd Battalion



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52nd. A. I.

Pte. A.V. Greber 2890

M. April 24/18

"I last saw Pte. Greber on the 24th April/18 at Viller Bretteneaux. The Germans made a counter attack in the afternoon of the 24th April the action was most severe. Pte. Greber and I got into a shell hole to get out of the way of the bombardment which was very heavy. A shell burst right inside the shell hole killing him instantly Nothing of him could be found when the stretcher bearers arrived"

Eye Witness Yes

Description 5ft. 5 dark, no scars, no nickname, age abt. 18. Belonged to Queensland.

Informant. Pte. E.J. O'Neill M.M. 2952
52nd. Australian Infantry,
B. Coy. attached H. Q.
Military Hospital
Herne Bay.

Home address, c/o Mrs. Kelly,
Brsibane Street,
West Ipswich, Queensland

6/8/18
Mary Dexton

52nd. Battn. Greber, A.C. 2890.

M. 24/4/18.

I saw a shell land right on top of Greber who was a runner in B. Coy., while we were advancing at Villiers Bretonneux. It absolutely blew him to pieces, and it was practically impossible to recognise any part of him or to bury him.

52nd. Battn. Topping, H. Pte. 3501.

14. A. Dartford. 27/8/18.

R.D.B.

(SR)

52nd. Battn. Greber, A.C. 2890.

M.24/4/18.

He was a dispatch carrier in D. Coy. While we were in the line at Spoil bank, Ypres, we saw a shell land right on top of Greber, absolutely blowing him to pieces. It was quite impossible to find any part of him sufficent for identification.

52nd. Battn. Douglas, C.R. Pte. 3132.

A. 12. Dartford. 31/8/18.

R.D.B.

52nd Battn.
A.I.F.

GREBER
A.C. 2890

"Missing 24-4-18"

He was in B.Coy. Refer to Pte.E.O'Neil, B.Coy. 52nd Battn., who is now at Weymouth, for he saw him killed by a shell when in a shell hole and he was blown to pieces. They were together and O'Neil was wounded at the same time. They could not gather up remains of Greber for burial

Informant. Morrison. Cpl.E.C. 2486
B.Coy. 52nd Battn.,
3rd A.A.H.,
DARTFORD.

Repeated from O'Neil

W.Oman
London
3-9-18

Off.M.

52nd Australian Infantry. GREBER.
A I.F. A.C. 2890.

"Missing 24.4.18."

I last saw him on the 24th April 1918 at Villers Bretonneux The Germans made a counter attack on the 24th April in the afternoon, the action was very severe. Private Greber and I got in a shell hole to be out of the way of the bombardement which was very intense, and it was not possible for us to get on. A shell burst right inside the shell hole killing Private Greber instantly. No remains of his body could be found when the stretcher bearers came. No personal belongings were found. The ground was held.

Eye Witness:- Yes.

Description:- 5ft.5in. darl, no scars, no nickname, age about 18, belonged to Queensland.

Home address.
c/o Mrs. Kelly.
Bristane Street.
West Ipswich
Queensland.

Informant:- Pte. E.J.O'Neill M.M. 2952
52nd Australian Enfantry B Co. H.Q.
Military Hospital,
Herne Bay, Kent.

Mary Sexton.
London.
26.9.18.
J.E.A.

Off. M.

A.I.F. 52nd Battn.

GREBER
A.C.2890

"MISSING 24.4.18"

Killed in Action 25.4.18 - previously reported Missing 24.4.18
Cert. by A.I.F. Hqrs 4.12.18

London
6.12.18

C.F.H.

A.I.F. 52nd Battn.

GREBER
A.S.C 2890.

"Killed 25.4.18"

He was B. Company's Headquarters Runner. 5ft.6ins, dark and 20. I know nothing personally of the casualty, but E.J. O'Neill M.M., runner in B. Company, 52nd Battalion, now returned to Australia, told me that Greber who was his mate and came from the same place in Queensland, was blown to pieces by the shell that wounded him during the Villers Bretonneux stunt of April 24th 1918.

Informant:- 3456 H.G. Brown,
51st Battn,(formerly 52nd)
C. Coy, 9th Platoon,
Dinant, Belgium.

W.H.K.
London
11.1.19.
H.G.

Off.M.
K.in.A.

Original Statement Echelon. 2122/1/21.

HV.

COPY.

Statement made by 2952.Pte E.J.O'NEILL 52nd Bn., AIF re. No 2890. Pte GREBER A.C. 52nd Bn., A.I.F.

Missing 24.4.18.

On 25th April we were in the line ,2890 Pte Greber A.C. and I were proceeding from Battalion Headquarters. to the front line when we ran into a barrage and took shelter in a shell-hole. We were there about five minutes when a shell dropped just outside the hole we were in. Stretcher bearers came along half an hour later . I asked them to look for Pte Greber but no trace of him could be found, nor have I heard or seen him since.

Dated at Weymouth. (Sgd) E.J.O'NEILL.

Statement made and signed before me.(Sgd) W.J.ESTALL Capt.

Statement made by No.3501. Pte. TOPPING, H. 52nd. Bn.
Re. No.2890. Pte. GREBER. A.C. 52nd. Bn.
Missing. 24.4.18.

Pte. A.C. Greber. No.2890. 52nd. Battalion. was in the same Coy. as myself in the 52nd. Battalion. About 8.a.m. on the 25th. April, we were doing a counter attack on the village of Villers Bretonneux. Pte.Greber was near me when a 5.9. shell landed near him. I went to his assistance and found that he was already dead, being blown to pieces by the shell.

Dated at Longbridge Deverill. (Sgd). H. Topping Pte. 3501

Statement made and signed before me,
(Sgd). H. Dentraband. Lieut:
57th. Battalion. A.I.F.

"Bleak House"
Beltinge Road
Herne Bay, Kent

26th August 1918

Sir

I would be much obliged if you would give me the Home address of Greber A.C. 2890. Private. 6 2nd Battalion Australian Imperial Force. He has been reported Missing Since April 24th 1918. I have been asked by one of his comrades who gave me details of Private Greber's death on 24th April to obtain his home address for him as he wishes to write to Private Greber's relations.

I should be much obliged if you could possibly let me know the home address + I hope I am not bothering you. yours truly

Mary Deaton

August 29th, 1918.

Miss Mary Sexton.
Bleak House.
Beltinge Road.
Herne Bay. Kent.

Dear Madam.

In answer to your letter of 25-8-18 about -

2890 Pte. A.C. GREBER. 52nd Battalion. A.I.F.

We regret that we are not allowed to give you the address of his relatives or next of kin. If you will send a letter addressed to the Gothic Office with his full regimental particulars we shall forward it for you to them. We should also be glad if you would let us know what information you possess of Pte.Greber's casualty and the circumstances under which he was Missing as we are anxious to send all details to our Melbourne Office, for whom we are making enquiries.

Yours faithfully,

(Miss) LAW

Secretary.

2890
A.C Greber
52 Battn
M 24.4.18

"Bleak House"
Beltinge Road
Herne Bay Kent

11th September 1918.

Dear Madam

In answer to your letter of the 29-8-18 about 2890 Private A. C. Greber 52nd Battalion A. I. F. you asked me if I would let you know what information I possess of his casualty & the circumstances under which he was missing. I am only too pleased to assist you in this matter & I enclose you a Report about Private Greber. Private E. J. O'neill who gave me the information is not in the Military Hospital now but is at Monte Video Camp Weymouth. I know him well & know his information to be reliable.

I shall always be pleased to assist you if you let me know.

Yours faithfully
Mary Deeton

Please excuse delay in answering letter but I have been so busy with convoys coming in lately.

[redacted]