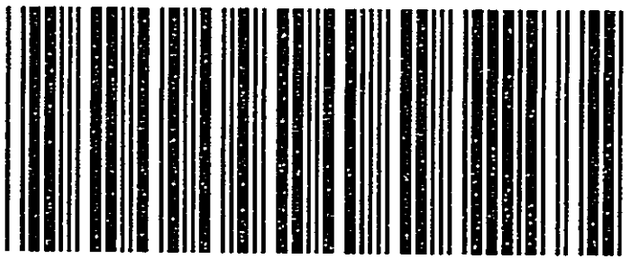
Australian Red Cross Society Wounded and Missing
Enquiry Bureau files, 1914-18 War
1DRL/0428

366 Private
Harry Clarence Dilger

40th Battalion



0920607O

A. I. F. 40. DILGER, H.C. 366.

K. January 31st, 1917.

He was a Lewis gunner and was killed by a shell at Armentieres on January 31st. He was in the front line trench at the time when the Germans raided us. My cousin, Pte. L.Brisnehan, 1037.B.Coy. 40th bn. was with Dilger when he was killed and gave me the facts himself. My cousin's present address is Pookwood Aux.Hospital, Benfield, England. Dilger came from Swansea, on the East coast of Tasmania, where I knew him. He belonged to VII pl.B.Coy.

SA.

Reference:- Pte.M.E.Bresneham.1811.B.Coy.
No. 3 A.B.H.D.

Written Pte Bresneham 16.5.17

Etaples
27.4.17.

40th A. I. F.

Dilger, H.C. 366,

(K. Jan 31st/17. Det: D & B)

"I saw Harry Dilger (40. B.) killed instantaneously by a shell about January 31st at Armentieres. I was in the next post about ten yards away. The Germans raided our trench that night, but we drove them back. Harry Dilgar was buried in the cemetery at Armentieres. I have seen his grave. There is a cross put up."

Eye-witness: Yes

Description: Medium height, young

Informant: Alvernley Owen, 942,
40th A.I.F., D.Coy, XVI Plat.,
3rd Southern General Hospital,
The Base, Oxford.

Home address:
Tavanna,
Tasman's Peninsula,
Tasmania.

3rd May 1917.
Hilda M. Pickard-Cambridge.

40th Batt. A.I.F.

DILGER, Pte H.C. No. 366
"B" Coy, 40th Batt.

Killed Jan. 31/17. Dat, D./B.

~~XXXXXXXXXXX~~

A cousin of witness wrote him on Feb.4th to say H.C.Dilger was killed on Feb. 1,'17, and that he was to be buried in Banjean? Cemetery on Feb. 5th. The writer had seen the body and said that "it was not knocked about much, and that the R.C. Chaplain had written to Dilgers mother.

Witness. Pte A.W.Dilger, orig. "B" Coy, 12th Batt.
now "D" Coy, 69th Batt.

25th May, 1917.
S.W.

Worgret Camp,
WAREHAM.

40th A. I. F.

G

Dilyer, Pte.H.C. 366.

(K. Jan. 31/17)

I heard that Harry Dilyer had been killed, and as he was a pal of mine went down to see it really was he, and saw him on a stretcher. He was killed instantaneously and was buried at Armentieres.

Eye-witness: Yes.

Description:

Informant:- Pte. L.C.Maingay, 877.
40th A.I.F. D.Co.
County of London Hospital, Horton

H

Home address:
Staina, Tasman's Peninsula
Tasmania.

May 23.
Dorothy Williamson

40th A.I.F.

Dilger Pte. H.C. 366.

(K. Jan. 31st 1917 Det. D/B)

"I happened to be with Dilger's Coy., near Armentieres on the night of Jan 31st. He was hit on the back of neck by a piece of shell and died instantaneously".

Eye-witness: Saw him immediately afterwards.

Description: A short chap, dark.

Informant: Pte. C.M. Arnold 768,
40th A.I.F., B. Coy., XV Plt.,
Nevan Military Hospt.,
Sandgate.

Home address:
Triabunna,
East Coast,
Tasmania.

June 9th 1917,
L.M. Cleghorn.

40th Battn.
A. I. F.

Dilger.
H. C. 366.

"Killed 31.1.17."

This man was killed instantly on January 31st 1917 in an attack at Armentieres. The enemy were counter-attacking, when Dilger was hit by a fragment of shell. I saw him killed, and took charge of his effects. I also gave evidence as to his death and identity at the Board of Inquiry that was held at Battn.Headquarters. I gave orders for his burial at Military Cemetery at Armentieres, but did not see his grave. I was officer in charge of L.M.Guns. Dilger was assisting in M.G.Sect. He was quite a boy, brave and faithful.

Witness:-
Capt. A. D. Mackinnon.
40th Battn. (L.M.G.S.)
Perham Downs Camp.

A. R. McPhee.

London.
12.6.17.

H.

40th A.I.F.

Dilger H.C. 366.

(K. Jan. 31/17 Det. D/B)

Informant states that "Dilger came from Tasmania. He was killed instantaneously behind our own trenches. He belonged to F. Coy. I saw his body lying in the trench before it was taken away to be buried".

Eye-witness: Yes

Description: As above.

Informant: J. Harvey 406,
40th A.I.F., B. Coy.,
Fulham Military Hospt.,
Hammersmith, W.

June 23/17,
V. Cholmondley.

40th A. I. F., Dilger, Pte H. C., 366,

K. Jan. 31st 1917. Det: D/B.

"I saw Dilger's body after he had been killed. He was killed during an enemy raid on our lines at Cowgate locality, Armentieres Sector. I was sent to identify the bodies of Ptes. Dilger and Abelson, behind the New Zealand Sector at Romingham (where the N.Z. dead were generally buried). The bodies were sent there in error, and I cannot say whether they were eventually buried there or in the 3rd Division Cemetery at Armentieres, but it would be one of these two places."

Eye Witness: Yes.
Description: Was in B. Coy., short and dark, a Roman Catholic.

Informant:-- Sgt. Rowland John Mason, 453,
40th A. I. F., B. Co., VII Pl:
Horton, County of London War Hosp:
Epsom.

Home address:-- Barrington, near Sheffield,
Tasmania.

26.6.17.
P.L.Waterhouse.

40th Battn.
A.I.F.

DILGER
Harry Clarence

"Killed in Action 31-1-17"

At Armentieres - Buried at Bonjeau Military Cemetery, Armentieres. Next of Kin - Mother:-
Maty Elizabeth Dilger,
Swansea,
Tasmania.

amd
~~Cert. by~~ Searcher at A.I.F:Hqts. 15-6-18

London
18-6-18

H.

Dilger.

"Killed in Action 31.1.17." H. C. 366.

Pte. Bresnchan 1037 40th Battn. A.I.F. B. Coy. has handed me your letter with reference to 366 H. C. Dilger, killed 31.1.17. Pte. Bresnchan saw Dilger killed on the 31st January in the trenches at Armentieres and was wounded himself about an hour afterwards, so he does not know whether Dilger's body was carried out or not or where he was buried. Dilger was 19, only a small lad with dark hair and eyes, thin face and a sharp nose. I give you the description in Bresnchan's own words.

Letter from:-
The Commandant.
Popeswood Aux. Hospital,
Binfield, Berks.
16.6.17.

London.
4.7.17.

P.I.
H.

4oth F Btn.

DILGER
Harry Clarence 366

Killed in Action 31.1.17.

Buried in the Honcour Cemetery Armentieres in Grave 194.
Section IV. Row D or E. German list of graves in Cemetery.
Cert. by Hqrs letter from Capt. Mills. 28.7.19.

London.
3.10.19.

H.

Mrs. E. S.
18 Telephone: 14
Bracknell 40.

POPESWOOD AUXILIARY HOSPITAL,
BINFIELD. Berks

June 16th 1917

To The Secretary

Pt. Breschini 1037. 40. A.V.F

B.C. has handed me your letter with reference

L 366 H. C. Dilger Killed 31. 1. 17.

Pt. Breschini saw Dilger killed on the 31st January in the Trenches at Armentieres & was wounded himself about an hour afterwards so he does not know whether Dilgers Body was carried out or not or where he was buried. "Dilger was 19, only a small

- lade with dark hair & eyes, thin face & a sharp nose" / give you the description in Brisbane one word

Yours truly

J. L. Bellin Smith

Commandant

~~Blackall~~ ~~Brisbane~~ 10/5/

Dilger, H. C. 366

DILGER R1

Km A 31-1-17 C