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

147 Private
Harry Kickbush

42nd Battalion



1510306G

42 A. I. F.

Kickbush. H. 147.

K. Oct 4/17

"On October 4th, at the foot of Hill 40 near a Pill Box by the Railway. Kickbush was having a meal when a high explosive shell hit him and killed him. I saw him killed and he was buried at the foot of Hill 40. I was an observer for Headquarters."

Eye-witness:
Description:

Informant: Pte. Madden, 1195,
42 A.I.F., H.Qrs.,
Bath War Hospital, Ward 2.

Home address: Bath War Hospital.

B.

23/12/17.
John E. George.

42nd. Battn.
A.I.F.

KICKEUSH
H. 147.

Killed October 4/17.

At Zonnebeke Ridge in the trench killed by shell outright buried at bottom of the Zonnebeke Ridge. I helped to bury him. 7 in all buried here. Cross up to them. Charles and Woods were two, forget the others. I knew him well he was my mate. Small, brown hair a Queenslander.

Inf: Hillman, 1909,
Ward 22, Herefield.

D.P. Dickson,
London.
6.1.18.

B.

42nd Battn
A.I.F.

KICKBUSH
H. 147

"Killed Oct 4th 1917"

I know he was in a dugout with Lieut. Hogg a shell struck the dugout and blew it up. They were never seen again.

Witness:- Saw dugout go up

Description:- very smallman, dark, quite a lad.

Informant E. Falvey 2081
42nd Battn
A.I.F.

London.
7.1.18.

B

42nd Battn.
A.I.F.

Kickbush.
H. 147

"Killed 4.10.17"

Near Zonnebeke on Oct.4th Kickbush was killed probably instantaneously, by a shell which fell into a group of about 9 men killing them all. They were all buried close by where they fell, but not in a cemetery. No crosses or peieces of wood with their names was put one the spot where they were buried. I assisted to bury Kickbush on the 5th the day after he was killed. I knew him.

Eye-witness: Yes as above.

Description:

Informant:- Cpl.A.Anderson 6
42nd Battn. A.Coy.
Clopton W.Hospital.Stratford-on-Avon.
Home address:
Australia.

13.12.17.
H.S.
London.
9.1.18.

B.

42nd Battn.
A.I.F.

KICKBUSH,
H. 147

"Killed 4.10.17."

Sgt. Mjr. Dorkin, 42nd Battn, A.Coy, who was with the company when I left 17 days ago, told us that Kickbush was killed outright, blown to pieces, just outside Batt Hd Qtrs on Oct: 6th at Hill 40 near Passchendaele.

Informant:- W.S.Roberts 2676,
42 Battn, A.Coy,
Hut 20,
Westham.

W A.Rand.

London.
20.2.18.

B.

Note Written Sgt.Major Dorkin 20.2.18.

42nd Battn.
A.I.F.

Kickbush.
H. 147

Mays.
E.W. 1927

"Killed in Action 4.10.17"

I believe Lieut.Barnes 42nd Battn. A.I.F. can give all information with regard to above two men.

Informant:- Major A.C.Moyes
42nd Bat tn.
3rd London Gen.Hospital
Wandsworth.

15.2.18.
H.I.B.

London.
26.2.18.

B.

William Barnes
27-2-18

42nd Battn.
A.I.F.

Kickbush.
H. 147

"Killed 4.10.17"

Was in A.Coy. H.Qrs. I saw him killed by a 9.2. shell. Was killed instantly. It happened at Ypres during the stunt on Oct.4th. We had reached our 3rd objective and had dug in. He was practically blown to pieces. It was impossible to bury him. He was on Original Battn. man.

Informant:- 2377 L.Palmer
42nd Battn.
Harefield.

W.C.J.

London.
7.3.18.

B.

42nd Batt. A.I.F.

Kickbush.H. Pte. NO.I47.
A.Coy.

Killed oct 4th I9I7. Det. D.B.

He was killed by a shell at Ypres. He was buried to the left of the railway line going into Ypres, Pardre Wood officiated at the grave. I could not say whether a cross was erected. I knew him in the coy, I could not say where he came from.

Description. Height. 5-2. Complexion. Dark. Stout Built.

Witness. Pte. Kelly.L. No. 2I00. A.Coy. 42nd Batt.

Taken at
NO.3.C.D.Hurdcott.
4-3-I8.
S.W.

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

B

42nd Batt. A.I.F.

KickBush.H. Pte. NO.I47.
Head Quarters.

Killed oct 4th I9I7. Det. D.B.

I saw him killed by a shell at Hill 40, in front of Passchendaele. He was buried where he fell, by a party from the batt, A cross was erected bearing full particulars. The R.C. Pardre officiated at the grave. I knew him in the coy, I could not say where he came from.

Description. Age. 20. Height. 5-2. Complexion. Dark. Well Built.

Witness. Pte. Stewart.F. NO.2397. A.Coy. 42nd Batt.

Taken at
NO.3.C.D.Hurdcott.
2I-3-I8.
S.W.

S.Whitmee.
No.4.Command Depot
Hurdcott.

B

42nd Batt. A.I.F.

Kickbush.H. Pte. NO.147.

A.Coy.

Killed Oct 4th 1917. Det. D.B.

He was killed by a shell close to an orchard, near the railway line, at Passchendaele. He was buried close to where he fell, by a party from the coy, I could not say if cross was erected. I knew him in the coy, He was an original batt man. I could not say wherehhe came from.

Description. Age. 22. Weight. 5-2. Complexion. Dark. Nuggety Built.

Witness. Pte. Sullivan.T.P. NO.1018. A.Coy. 42nd Batt.

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

Taken at
NO.3.C.D. Hurdcott,
23-3-18.
F.C.H.

B

A. I. F. 42. KICKBUSH, H. 147.

K. October 4th, 1917.

I knew him well. He was in A.Coy and the only man of the name. He was a little, nuggety chap. Pte.D.I. Duff of A.Coy, Sig.Sect. now up line, told me he saw Kickbush completely blown to pieces by a shell. He had been wounded a little time before and was on a stretcher when the shell killed him. Duff was wounded in the nose by the same shell. I have heard precisely the same account from others. This happened in front of a big pill box near the Railway line at Passchendaele about October 4th.

PHE.

Reference:- R.F.Carter. 1628. A. Sig.Sect.
1 Can. Gen. Hosp.

Etaples
1.4.18.

A.I.F. 42. KICKBUSH, H. 147.

K. Oct. 4th, 1917. Det. B/B.

Kickbush was in A. coy. and was killed in the advance when we went over at Hill 40 at Passchendaele in Oct. I forget the date. He was Capt. Dunbar's runner and was with him up at in a shell hole where A. coy. H.Q. was. Capt. Dunbar came down wounded to Battn. H.Q. where I was and I was sent up to A. coy. H.Q. with a message. It was about 1½ miles from Battn. H.Q. and when I got there I saw Kickbush lying there dead. He was a little dark chap of about 18 or 19. I cannot say anything as to his burial.

Inf. Pte. S. G. Neale, 1060, Bn. H.Q. runner.
32. Sat. Hosp.
BOULOGNE. 1.4.18. JT.

42nd Battn.
A.Coy
A.I.F.

KICKBUSH,
H. 147

"Killed 4.10.17."

I saw him killed at Ypres. He was caught by a shell which severed both his legs, death being instantaneous. He was in supports at the time. I knew him very well, he came from Queensland and was the only man of this name in the company. I assisted to bury him in the field at place of casualty and marked the grave with a cross bearing his number name and unit.

Informant:- Pte.A.J.Morris, 3161,
42nd Battn A.Coy, 2ndPltn,
3.A.A.H. Dartford.

W.Oman.
London.
8.4.18.

B

42nd Batt. A.I.F.

Kickbush.H. Pte. NO.147.

A.Coy.

Killed Oct 4th 1917. Det. D.B.

I saw him killed by a shell whilst we were holding the lines at Hill 40, he wasxbadly knocked about. He was buried close to where he fell by a party from the coy, a temporary cross was erected with his particulars written in indelable pencil. I knew him in the coy, He was an original batt man. He came from Queensland.

Description. Age. 20. Height. 5-7. Complexion. Medium. Well Built.

Witness. Pte. Humphries. E. NO.3055. A.Coy. 42nd Battn

Taken at
NO.4.C.D.Hurdcott.
26-4-18.
F.G.H.

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

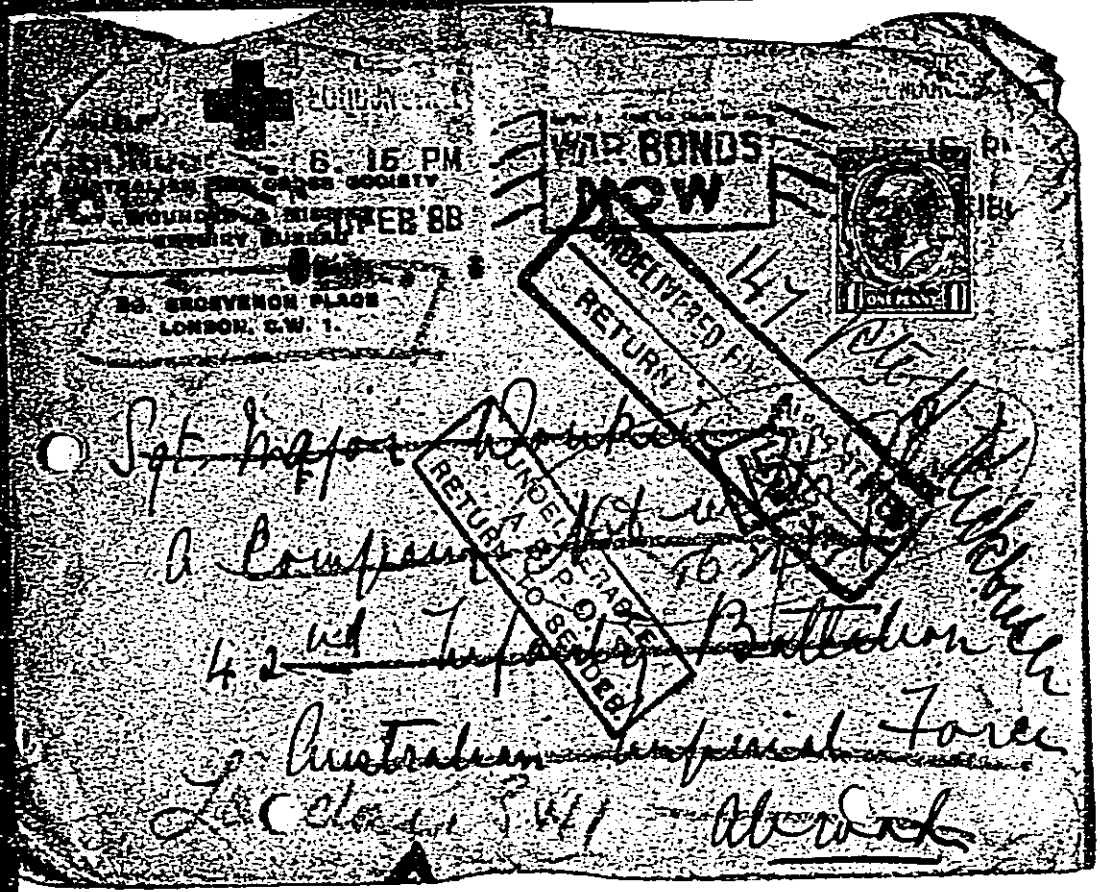
P1
B Coy 42nd

16.2.18

S/Mjr. Dowkin
A. Coy.
42nd Battn
A.I.7.

about –
147 Pte. H. Kickbush
42nd Bttn.
A.I.7.

K. 4.10.17


6.15 PM
FEB 88
WAR BONDS
NOW
UNDELIVERED
RETURN TO SENDER
RETURN TO SENDER
Sgt Halfpenny
A Company
42nd Battalion
Australian Imperial Force
Aberdeen

Somewhere in France
22nd May. 1918.

To
The Secretary
Red Cross Society

147 Pte Harry Kickbusch
42 Bltn

Dear Sir.

I have received your two letters with reference to my Brothers Death in France. for which I thank you very much, and was very pleased at the prompt replies received from your Society. and at the full details which you have supplied.

Yours Sincerly
Wm Kickbusch
Corporal
4th A.R.O.D.

1520 Cpl. W. Kickbush,
4th. Australian Broad Gange Railway
Operating Company,
A.I.F., B.E.F.

15th. May 1918.

Dear Sir,

We beg to inform you that we have received another unofficial report respecting your brother, 147 Pte. H. Kickbush, ~~43rd~~ 42nd Battalion, A.I.F., which you may like to have, though it only confirms the information previously sent you. 3055, Pte. E. Humphries of same unit, interviewed at the 4th. Command Depot, Hurdcott, states that he saw your brother killed by a shell while they were holding the lines at Hill 40. He was buried close to where he fell by a party from the Company - and a temporary Cross was erected with his name and particulars written in indelible pencil. Pte. Humphries describes him as 5ft 7in. in height, well built, of medium complexion and aged 20.

Assuring you of our renewed sympathy.

Yours faithfully,

(Miss) F. F. G.

Secretary.

4t. May, 1918.

1520 Cpl.W. Kickbush,
4th Australian Broad Gauge Railway Operating Coy,
Australian Imperial Force, B. E. F.

Dear Cpl. Kickbush,

We have received your enquiry concerning your brother Pte.H.KICKBUSH, and write to tell you that a 147 Pte. Harry Kickbush, 42nd Battalion, A.I.F. is officially reported to have been Killed in Action on 4-10-17 and think this must be the man to whom you refer. It seems particularly sad that you should have only been so recently advised of his death - we have received a cable & letter of enquiry for him from our Brisbane Bureau and have sent there a number of unofficial reports of his death which we have received from time to time from men of his unit.

All the reports certify he was instantaneously killed by a shell at Ypres.

1909 Pte. Hillman stated as follows:- "Pte. Kickbush was killed at Zonnebeke Ridge in a trench by a shell. I helped to bury him, - 7 in all were buried there and a cross was erected. I know him well - he was my mate. He was small and had brown a Queenslander".

Cpl. A.Anderson and 2676 W.S.Roberts and various others confirm this report and two men further certify that a chaplain officiated at his burial.

We feel it may be some comfort to you to know his death was instantaneous. With our very sincere sympathy and trusting all is well with you yourself.

Yours faithfully,
(Miss) Irene McConnell

SECRETARY.

20. 2. 18.

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY

(WOUNDED AND MISSING INQUIRY BUREAU).

~~54, VICTORIA STREET,~~

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

Telephones:
VICTORIA { 6576 8577 8578

Telegraphic Address:
"QUESTMAN. LONDON."

Sgt. Mjr. Donkin
A Coy. 42nd Battn. A.I.F.
Abroad

Dear Sir,

We are making enquiries for a man of your unit

47 Pte. H. Kickbush 42nd Battn. A.I.F.
K. 4.10.17.

and have been told that you may be able to help us by supplying some information.

We should be most grateful for any details you can send us concerning Pte. H. Kickbush but our enquirers wish especially to know whether he was buried, if so, whether it was on the field or in a soldier's cemetery where the grave would be registered. We would also be glad if you could add a short description of his personal appearance or any points that might help to prove his identity.

Yours faithfully,

(Miss) Vera Deakin.

SECRETARY.

NOTE In your reply kindly quote name, initials and number of casualty enquired for, as without these particulars delay and confusion is caused in identificationof the soldier about whom you are writing.

answered 3.5.18

France
24th April 1918

To
Secretary
Australian Red Cross Society

Sir,

I have just received word that my Brother W. Kickbusch was killed in Action in France on October 4th 1917. I would be very pleased if you could find out further particulars about him. The only information I received was as follows. "Your Brother was killed in Action on 4th October 17" I am sorry to say that I do not know what his regimental number was, nor what Company or Battalion he was serving in. I was not even aware that he was in France. My Address is. No 1520 Corporal W. Kickbusch, 4th Australian Broad Gauge Railway Operating Company Australian Imperial Force, France. So if you can supply me with further particulars re the above I shall be very much obliged.

William Kickbusch
Corporal.

147 PC Harry Kickbusch 42nd Bn