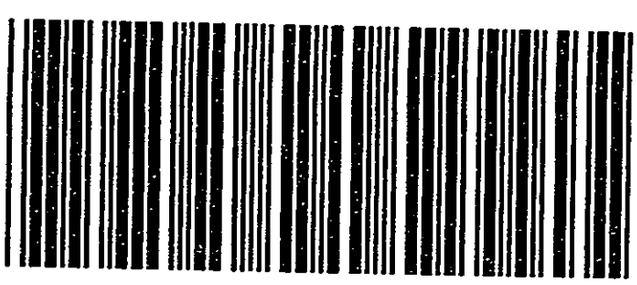
Australian Red Cross Society Wounded and Missing Enquiry Bureau files, 1914-18 War
1DRL/0428

2175A Private William Herbert Hilborne

53rd Battalion



1330608L

53rd Battn.
A.I.F.

Hilborne.
Wm. Herbert 2175A

Died of Wounds on 26.9.17 at Anzac Corps Central Bureau - Buried Menin Road South Military Cemetery near Ypres.

M.A. Searcher at H.Q.
19.3.18.

London.
21.3.18.

S.

53rd Battalion. HILBORNE, W.H. Pte. No.2175

Died of Wounds, 26-9-17.

Informant described Hilborne as about 6'9" high, medium build, fair complexion, aged about 24. Came from Forbes.

Informant states that on 25-9-17, the Battalion was going into the line, prior to the Polygon Wood stunt next day, and while marching along Hilborne was hit by a shell. Informant did not see him hit, but saw him a few minutes afterwards. He was quite conscious, and Informant spoke to him. He was then carried away by the Stretcher Bearers, and Informant saw no more of him. When the Battalion came out of the line however, it was reported that Hilborne had died of his wounds.

Informant - Private F.H.Kite, No.2192,
53rd Battalion, "A" Company,
Home Address - "Yarraville",
Forbes, N.S.W.

W.E.G.
Mosman Ferry Boat, Sydney,
11-6-18.

53rd BATTALION, A.I.F. HILBORNE W.H. Private No.2175a

"Died of wounds 26.9.17"

Informant described Hilborne as about 5 feet 10 inches high, medium build, fair complexion, aged about 22.

Informant states that they both belonged to "D" Company. On 26.9.17 the Battalion was holding the line at Polygon Wood. At about dusk some stretcherbearers came to the Company Headquarters and said that Hilbourne was lying wounded about 200 yards away. Informant went out with the Stretcherbearers to give them a hand and they found Hilborne badly wounded. He was conscious and smiled at Informant and his companions but could not speak. Informant helped to put him on the stretcher but did not accompany him to the Dressing Station. The stretcher bearers afterwards told Informant that Hilborne died just as he reached the Dressing Station. So far as Informant was aware Hilborne was hit while running a message. In Informant's opinion he was sure to have been decently buried seeing that he died at a Dressing Station

Informant added that Hilborne was very well liked by his mates.

INFORMANT : Private M. Lennon, No.3181,
"D" Company, 53rd Battalion
Present address "M" Ward, Randwick Military Hospital

W.E.G.
No.4 Australian General Hospital,
RANDWICK
2.9.18

SYDNEY BUREAU

53rd Battalion.

HILBORNE
HILBORNE, W.H.
2175A

Died of wounds 26/9/17.

Hilborne left Australia with me in July 1916 as 4th Reinf. to 53rd Battn. His initials were W.H. and his No.2175. His people lived in Bristol England. I left the Battn. in May last. About a fortnight ago through a letter I heard from J.A.Anderson now Cpl. who knew Hilborne and left Australia with him and me as 4th Reinf. to 53rd Battn. We all left Forbes together. Anderson wrote to his sister who showed it to me that Hilborne had died of wounds towards the end of September. Anderson's brother was killed about the same time.

Informant: Jones, C.A. Pte 2184
53rd Battnl 4th Reinf.
No.4 Australian General Hospital,
RANDWICK.

A careful witness.

H.S.O.
11/12/17.

SYDNEY BUREAU.

53 A I F. Hilborne, W H. 2175A

D/W. Sept. 26/17. Det. D/B.

I saw him with both legs off lying in the open. We had gone over at 6 am. attacking Polygon Wood and he had not got more than 30 yards. Darwood was killed outright by the same shell; I saw the shell burst. S/Bs went to him straight away and did the best they could. Hopkins and K C Brown, 2023, (who has asister in a Hosp. at Boulogne -No. 20 something) carried him out; they told me that he died from shock and I think they said that they got him to the D/S. They thought that he would be buried at Ypres but I am not sure about that.

He was a big strapping lad, about 5'10", 23 at the most and fair.

Inf:- Kear, E. 3179A.
A T 'Stad Antwerpen'
Calais. 21 I 18.

CR

Taken from Slips

(In Burial) Letter D Hopkins returned not with Bttn. 4.3.18

Written Pte. Hopkins & Brown 21-2-18

53rd Battn.
A.I.F.

Hilborne.
W.H. 2175A

"Died of Wounds 26.9.17"

Hilborne and I were wounded in Polygon Wood by the same shell. I was able to walk out. He was badly wounded and carried away on a stretcher but I cannot say where. The last I saw of him was on the stretcher in a streteher shell hole probably going towards (Battalion) H.Qrs. D.S.

Informant:- H.G.Walker 2757
53rd Battn. D.Coy.
Hut 9 Westham.

W.A.Rand

London.
26.2.18.

S.

A. I. F. 53. HILBORNE, W.H. 2175A.

D/S. September 26th, 1917.

I knew him well. He was 5 ft 10, 11 stone, very fair complexion, very pleasant chap, aged 26/28. I saw him about 10 p.m. on September 25th at Polygon Wood. He was right beside me when a big shell got him in legs and body. I had no chance of speaking to him. I saw S/Bs put him on stretcher but I do not know where he died. L/Cpl. Hubbard, of D. Coy, was in charge of the S/Bs and is still up line and is now attached to the A.M.C. and has the DCM. He could give all information. He saw the casualty and I think he attended to him. Hilborne was in D.XIV.

PHE.

Reference:- Pte. F.Kafer. 134. D.XIV.
No. 1 Can. Cen. Hosp.

Etaples
7.3.18.

S

Written Hubbard
14-3-18

53rd Battn.
A.I.F.

Hilborne
W.H. 2175A

"Died of Wounds 26.9.17"

re 2175 Pte.W.H.Hilborne. I am very sorry that the only information I can give you is that he left the A.D.S. for the next of relay Dressing Station where he would be picked up by the ambulance. He was quite conscious when he left so presume he got some distance back and in that case he would be buried in a soldiers' cemeterey.

Letter from:- K.C. *Brown*.
France 6.3.18.

London.
19.3.18.

S.

53rd Battn.
A.I.F.

HILBORNE
W.H. 2175A

"Died of Wounds 26-9-17"

Hilborne was wounded on 26th Sep. at the hop-over about half way over towards Polygon Wood by a shell. He was badly hit, but I cannot say nature of his wounds. I could not wait to examine. I saw him hit and thought at the time that he was killed. I went on and can't say where he was taken to be buried A.Anderson, 53rd Battn., B.Coy., was killed outright by same shell.

Informant. White F.C. 2016
53rd Battn., D.Coy.,
Hut 10,
WESTHAM.

W.A.Rand
London
19-3-18

8.

53rd Battn.
A.I.F.

Hillborne.
W.H. 2175A

"Died of Wounds 26.9.17"

Pte.K.C.Brown 2023 of same Coy.D. (S.B) dressed him and carried him to the dressing station at I think Clapham Junction and may perhaps give further details.

Informant:- E.Kear 3179
53rd Battn.
Dartford.

L.P.J.

London-
27.2.18.

S.

Note Written Brown 27.2.18.

Havre 30th January 1918.

53rd A.I.F Hillborne W.H. No. 2175A.

D/W 26th Septr 1917. Det 2/B.

I did not know Hillborne well, and did not see him killed. It occurred in the action of the 26th Septr at halfway house, Polygon Wood when we had his leg blown off. Death had been instantaneous.

I was told by his bosom friend, L/Cpl Smith of the 53rd Battn D.Co. 15th Pltn, who could give all information. I left the Battn 8 days ago, and Smith was with them then.

Inf:- Pte W. Walmsley No. 3228.
53rd A.I.F. D.Co. 15th Pltn. M.G.C.
Australian Camp.
Houelles.

S

PM.

Reported Missing

53rd Battalion,
A.I.F.

HILLBORNE W H.,
No 2175A.,

" Died of Wounds. 26-9-17".

He was in C.Coy. and was wounded either the 24th or 25th September at Polygon Wood near Ypres by shell which took off both his feet. He was taken away by Stretcher-bearers, one of whom W.J.Hill, 53rd A Co. told me that he was very bad. Word that he was dead came down the lines later.

Informant:- KITE F.H., No 2192., 53rd Battn. A.Coy.
Westham.,
2.2.18.,

W.A.Rand.,

Note:-Report by S/B Hill.,

S.,

London.
16.2.18.

XXXX Havre. 1st January 1918.

53rd A.I.F. Milborne W.H. No. 2175 A.

D/W 26th Septr 1917. Det D/B.

I knew Hill, Bonne for 9 months. He was in the Battn which I joined. He was medium height, medium build, fair, about 21, had a scar behind the ear and was a farmer in civil life from N.S. Wales.

On the Ypres front, on the left of Polygon Wood, we were at the tape to go over at 5 o'clock in the morning of the 25th September when a barrage was put up for a quarter of an hour. Hill was hit; he had both legs blown off below the knee. Cpl Hubbard and Brown S/Bs carried him out to the Regimental Aid Post and then to Hospital. It was officially reported he died of wounds there. All burials from Hospitals took place at cemeteries and graves were marked by crosses.

Inf:- Pte G.R.J.Hill No.3234 B
53rd Battn D.Co. XIV Pltn.
Australian Camp.
Rouelles.

Written Hubbard & Brown 15.1.18

PM.

A. I. F. 53. HILBOURNE, W.H. 2175A.

D/W. September 26th, 1917.

He was hit by a shell at Polygon Wood on September 28th while going into the line. His legs were badly smashed. I saw him lying there and helped to carry him back. He was in a bad way. We left him at the D/S. I heard he died there. He belonged to XIV pl. D.Coy.

Reference:- C.Evans. 2038. D.Coy.

I saw him taken away to the D/S. L/C.W.J.Hill, 2176, A.Coy, helped to carry him. That is the last I know of him.

Reference:- O.W.Smith. 2247. D.Coy. SA.
Menty.

Identity cert. from Battn records.

Etaples
22.1.18.

Hilborne Gen. Corps non-effec/2175 A

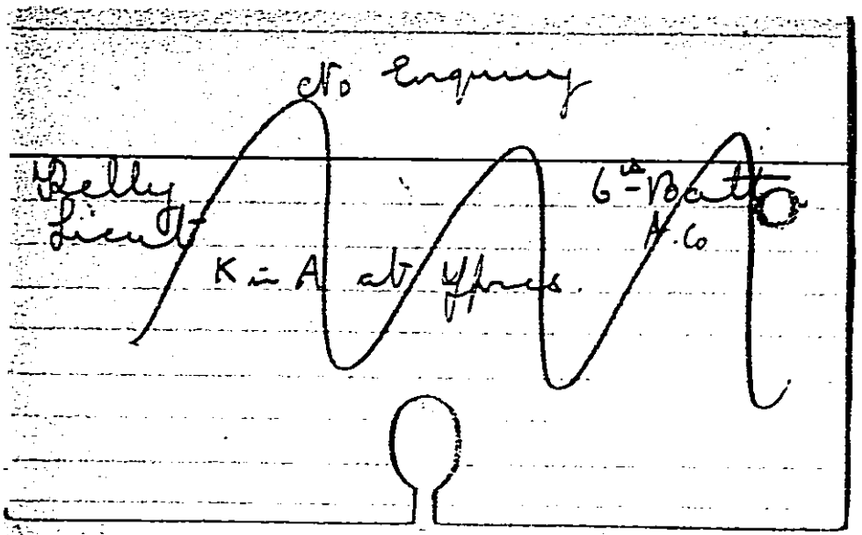
Wm Herbert D.32007 5 3 Battn

D/W 26.9.17. Where? Burial?

At at Angle corps Central Bureau

Buried Menin Rd. South Mil Cemetery Ham Yprus

Rec'd S. 18.3.18 card in ed box



No Enquiry

Kelly
Lieut

6th Batt
A.Co

K in A at Ypres.

ack pe
14 3/15

2175 A
W. H. HILBORNE
53 Batt
D/W 26.9.17
S
3

France
6 March

The Secretary
W. M. Inquiry Bureau
Aust. Bt. B.R.C.S.

Dear Miss Deakin

I am in receipt of your inquiry of 27.2.18/Re 2175 Pte W. H. Hillborne 53 Batt, I am very sorry that the only information I can give you is that he left the A. D. S. for the next relay Dressing station where he would be picked up by the ambulance. He was quite conscious when he left so presume he got some distance back, & in that case he would be buried in a soldiers Cemetery.

Hoping that this may help you to trace him further.

I remain
Yours faithfully
K C Brown

S/B