

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

Lieutenant  
Frank Phillip Holder

54th Battalion



1350902K

A.I.F. 54th Battn.

HOLDER F.P.  
Lieut.

"Killed 1/9/18"

I knew Holder before either of us came over here. There were five of us together in a wood on the morning of September 1st. The Germans were shelling us hard - one shell came over our way and killed two, wounded myself and another. Lieut. Holder had both his legs and an arm blown off. He said "My dear Mother, My dear Mother," and then he died. He only lived about three minutes, after he was hit. Three quarters of an hour later we were all picked up by our Stretcher Bearers and Lieut. Holder was buried in the nearest Cemetery the same day. I was an eye-witness. The ground was held. Description:- Small, thin and pale, was always much respected by his men.

Informant:- 1625 Pte. E.D. Barrett, (Quite genuine  
54th Battn. C. Coy, and accurate.)  
11th Platoon,  
Edmonton Hospital.

Home Address:-  
Sydney,  
Australia.

M.H. Greve,  
London  
24.11.18.  
H.G.

S.  
P.I.

54th. Batt'n. "C" Coy.

Holder, Lieut. F.P.

Killed. Sept. 1/18. Det. D/B.

When we were attacking the retreating Germans at Perrone, I saw Lieut. Holder hit by a shell, which killed him instantly, this happened about 11 a.m. We then had to leave him there and carry on, then I was hit about 10 minutes after. Lieut. H. was in charge of the Coy at the time. He had just rejoined the Batt'n, and was well liked by everybody.

Witness. Asprey, Pte. R.W. 3594. No. 4 Platoon. 54th. Batt'n.

Taken at,  
No. 4 C.D.  
Hurdcott. Oct. 21/18.

By,  
C.H. Brown,  
No. 4 C.D.  
Hurdcott.

S.  
P. 1.

A.I.F. 54th Battn.

HOLDER

F.P. Lieut.

"Killed 1/9/18."

Outside Peroone, just before we entered on the 1st September 1918, day time (morning) I was with Lieut. Holder when a shell blew off one of his legs and he died at once. He had been wounded just before in a finger. I went back two days later with the Stretcher Bearers and brought back his body and also the body of his Coy Commander, D.A. McArthur. Lieut. Holder was buried at Veulleres. He was in C. Coy. His Christian name was Philip. I was Coy Commander of A. Coy, and knew him well. The ground was held. Description - 5ft. 6 or 7, very thin, very sharp featured, dark hair - called "Joe".

Informant:- Lieut Charles Wm. Harvey (Accurate)  
54th Battn. A. Coy,  
3rd London General Hospital,  
Wandsworth.

E. Giddell,  
17/10/18.

S.P.I.

54th Bttn. "C" Coy.  
A.I.F.

HOLDER.

F.P. Lieut.

"Killed 1-9-18."

"Lt. Holder was in C. Company, and in the line on Sept. 1st during the attack on Peroone. He fell on the outskirts of Peroone and died instantly from the effects of a bullet wound. I was wounded later the same day, so did not see his burial, but I am sure, as it was an advance, he would be buried in a small battalion cemetery near Peroone. It was reported to me by Lt. Agnew of C. Coy, about 7.15 am. Ground gained (an advance)

Informant:- Lt. John Adams.  
54th Battalion A.I.F.  
Spec Milt. Surgl.  
Shepherds Bush.

Eye-witness:- No.

Alice Hoare-Ward. Description:- A slight built fellow, rather London. sharp featured. brown eyes, fair complexion.  
25-10-18.

NOTE:- Written Lt. Agnew, 24-10-18.

S.  
P.I.

54 Battn.

A.I.F.

HOLDER

Lieut. F.P.

"KILLED 1-9-18"

I knew Lieut. Holder was killed in evacuation to a C.C.S. - wounded in trigger finger - at Peronne on Sunday, Sept. 1st. He is buried at Herbecourt, and a Cross marks his grave - and a White Cross, erected by me should mark his grave, also white corner stones. He was a comrade of mine.. I was not an eye-witness, but Capt. Hunt of the 54th Battn.Q.M. told me. He was tall, fair, clean-shaven, dimple in his chin. Nickname "Jerry". The ground was held.

Home Address:-

Terguo

Lyminge Road  
Croydon.

Informant - Buckley.Pte.E.J. 18082  
(Well educated man)  
9th Fld.Amb.  
Ford House Hosp.  
DEVONPORT.

G.M. Jackson

17-10-18

London

31-10-18

H.G.

S.

P.I.

Bayre.

29th. October. 1918.

54th. Australians.

#holder  
Holden, Lieut. P. P.

K. September. 1/1918. Dets. D/B.

He was killed on September 1st. at Peronne when we were advancing. He was in charge of my Company. I did not see him fall but heard he was missing when we got further on. He was killed during the barrage and could not have advanced more than about 100 yards when he was killed. I was wounded soon after myself and saw no more of him. Sergeant Chapman (53. D.) would be able to give more particulars than I can.

Inf:- Private. W. P. Towle. 2241.  
54th. Australians. D. M.G.  
Hospital Ship.

WOM.

J. A.

C. S. 10.

CP.

S. P. 1.

A.I.F. 54th Battn.

HOLDER  
Lieut F.P.

"KILLED IN ACTION 1.9.18"

On 1st September about 8 o'clock in morning during our attack at Peronne, he was attending to a Machine Gun which had got jammed. Was killed outright by shell, same burst, killed 2 or 3 others. His body was taken out following day and buried in Herbecourt Military Cemetery - cross erected & I have seen his grave. I did not see his body after he was killed, but saw him wrapped up ready for burial

Informant:- Pte. C.W. Kirby., 2865  
54th Battn., C Coy.,  
Anzac Buffet.

A.D.G.

London  
1.11.18  
HG

54th Battn.  
A.I.F.

HOLDER.  
F.P. Lieut.

"Killed in Action 1-9-18"

I attended the funeral of Lieut Holden. (54.D.) in a little cemetery near the C.C.S. outside Peronne. A Chaplain was there and the majority of the battalion attended. A little cross was put up afterwards but I did not see it, as we moved on and another part of the line. He had been killed during the attack at Peronne and was buried about Sept 4th. The O.C. 1st Lieut Mc Arthur. (54.C.) was buried the same day. The ground was held.

Eye-Witness:- He attended his funeral.

Description:- Rather fair, slight build, fairly tall, out about 18 months or two years.

Home address:-

Elm Oaks.

Trundle.

N.H.S.W.

Hilda M. Pickard-Cambridge.  
London.

7-11-18.

J.E.A.

Informant:- Garrett. John. C. 2531. L/Cpl.  
(very Intell) and seemed accurate)

54th Battalion. A.I.F. C.IX Pl.  
3rd S.G. Hpl. Town Hall.

OXFORD.

S & P I.

54th Battn.,  
A.I.F.

HOLDER,  
F.P., Lieut.

"Killed in action - 1-9-18."

"He was in "D" Coy., Refer to Sgt. Stringer, T., Pioneer Sgt, 54th Battn., for he was in charge of burying party who buried Lt. Holder.

Informant:- Pte. Isaac E.G., 3069,  
H.Q. "B" Coy., 54th Battn.,  
3rd A.A.H., Dartford.

W. Oman,  
London,  
8-11-18..

Note:- Written Sgt. Stringer 4-11-18.

S. P.I.



54th Battn.  
A.I.F.

HOLDER.  
Lieut. F.P.

"Killed in Action 1-9-18"

Re the late Lieut. F.P. Holder. of this Battalion. He was killed in action during the battle of Peronne. He was hit by an enemy shell and death followed almost immediately. (date 1-9-18). He was buried with full Military Honors in the Military Cemetery at Herbecourt, Somme. The Revd Hailliday officiating at the grave side. A regimental cross has been erected and the Grave is kept in good repair by the French people, who have once again returned to their homes in that area.

Letter from:- W.L. Agner. Lieutenant.

C. Coy. 54th Battalion. A.I.F.  
FRANCE. 30-10-18.

London.  
13-11-18.  
D.W.B.

S.

54th Battn.  
A.I.F.

HOLDER  
Lieut. F.P.

"KILLED 1-9-18"

I saw this Officer on the night of the 30th Aug./18 at the Railway Siding between Clery Sur Somme and Peronne. He was killed by Machine Gun fire on the following morning about 8 a.m. - this was during the Peronne attack. I saw his body brought back to a little wood near Feuillers (this is about 5-6 kilometres from where he fell) and he was buried by our pioneer Sgt. in a cemetery in Herbecourt - a padre conducted the service. Lieut. McArthur was buried alongside him. A Cross was erected over his grave. Death was instantaneous. The ground was held.

Informant - Fraser. Lieut. A.F.

(quite reliable)

54th Battn. C. Coy.  
3rd Lon. Gen. Hosp.  
WANDSWORTH.

C.G. Thomson  
9-11-18  
London  
18-11-18  
H.G.

S.  
P.I.

A.I.P. 54th Battn.

HOLDER.  
Lieut. F.P. Holder.

"Killed in Action 1/9/18."

Lieut. F.P. Holder was killed in the taking of Peronne on the 1st September 1918, and was buried at Herbecourt. Map location C.62.H.26.C.1.1.

Letter from:- 1833 Tom Stringer,  
Sgt. 54th Battn., A.I.P.  
France.

P.I.S.

London  
18.11.18.  
I.E.D.

"Killed 1/9/18."

I knew Mr. Bolder, he was a 1st Lieutenant, and was the only officer of that name in the Battalion last September. He was killed instantly by a shell, which also killed No. 3635, Farrar, on 1/9/18, in the attack on Peronne, and I helped to carry him back to a village called Bulle, and the Pioneers took him further back to a Cemetery for burial, but I am certain it was he, and that he had been killed instantly. He fell quite near the front under Peronne, this was after we had driven the Germans back 2000 yards. We captured Peronne, and this 2,000 yards in 20 minutes. The Germans simply bolted once we started to advance, and only put up a fight with his machine guns."

*Spl. info*

Informant - Sergeant J.A. Hitchison, No. 858,  
54th Battalion, "B" Co., 5th pltn.  
Home Address - Daniel Street, Granville.

H.S.O.  
Anzac Purlough,  
Hawson Chambers,  
23/12/18.

✓

Miss Vera Deakin.

Secretary.

Aust R Cross.

36 Grosvenor Place.

London. S. W. I.

FRANCE.

30/10/18.

Lieut F. P. Holder

54 Bn

Kia 1-9-18

S. (cd)

2.

Dear Miss Deakin.

In reply to yours of 24/10/18 re the late Lt F.P. ~~HOLDER~~ HOLDER. of this Battalion. He was killed in action during the battle of PERONNE. He was hit by an enemy shell and death followed almost immediately. (Date 1/9/18)

He was buried with full Military Honors in the Military Cemetery at HERBECOURT, SOMME, The Revd Halliday officiating at the Graveside.

A Regimental Cross has been erected, and the Grave is kept in good repair by the French people, who have once again returned to their homes in that area.

Yours faithfully.

W. H. Agnew. Lieutenant.

G. Coy. 54th Battalion. A. I. F.