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

4137 Private
Joseph Horrobin

25th Battalion



1370411H

A.I.F. 23rd Btn

HARROWER
No. 4137

"M. 5-8-16"

Killed in action 5-8-16 - previously reported Missing
Cert. by A.I.F.Hqrs 8-8-17.

Time Cancel 11.8.17.

Mrs Perrin
Kyrewood
49 Endlesham Rd.
S.W.12.

P.I.

London
10-8-17

A.I.F. 25th Btn

HARROBIN
J. 4137

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P.I. Off M.

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25th Battn.
A.I.F.

HORROBIN.
Joseph. 4137.

"Killed in Action 8-8-16"

His people - "Acton" Kingarroy, Queensland. wrote to me last week - saying that a returned soldier - name not mentioned, had informed them that he had seen Harrobin in London. They have asked me to find out definitely about this man. Would be glad if the Red Cross would enquire.

Sgt. Booth 2956. U.F.C. Emp. Southall 13.12.18

Note:- I have made enquiries into the official records that have any connection with this action and can find no justification for the statement that this soldier is alive. Two extracts from the report on the action reads as follows:-

"On 29-7-16 an attack was made against a strong enemy position, The attack was unsuccessful and "was necessary to fall back., on the original line. The shell fire was exceedingly heavy and that, although stretcher bearers were able to go out under cover of a heavy fog, a distance of 800 yards had to be searched. and this and the fact of the fact of the heavy fog, make it probable that some wounded and dead were left lying out in "No Man's Land". On 5-8-16 the attack was also against the same strong enemy position. On this occasion the attack was successful but the Artillery Fire was exceedingly heavy for a period of two days and two nights and many were

25th Battn.
A.I F.

-2-

HARROBIN.
Joseph. 4137.

blown to pieces and rendered unrecognisable, which would account for him having been reported Missing".

"None of the evidence forthcoming tends to show that the person to whom it refers, is now alive, or is a Prisoner of War".

Cert: by ~~M.A.~~ N.C. Searcher at Hqrs 20-12-18.

London.
7-1-19.

Off. M. & P I.

25th Australians

Horrobin, J. 4137, D. Coy.

M. August 5th 1916.

Informant states that on Sept (?) at Pozieres Horrobin was killed by a shell. No traces of him were left.
Richards 25th Batt. A.I.F. (home address Wooroolin, Queensland, Australia,) told informant.

Description.

Informant: E.J. Jones, 2757,
12th Machine Gun Coy., A.I.F.,
Kitchener's Hospital, Brighton.

Home address: Tongoora,
Queensland, Australia.

21.2.17.
Mrs. Macholl.

Written Pte Richards 28.2.17 GM

1 slip in files

answered 22-5-17

"KYREWOOD,"
49, ENDLESHAM ROAD,
S.W. 12.

May 16th/17.

Dear Sir,
re J. Horrobin 4137,
23rd A. I. F.
M. Aug: 5/16.

Can you give me any news of this man? —

Yrs truly,
Jessie Perrin.

Cof E 2652

28.7-1817

Horrobin — J. 4137. 25. Bn ~~46 Stations~~

"All the members of the Battalion who took part in the operation at Pozieres on 29.7.16 & 5.8.16 and at Flers on 5.11.16 & 14/15.11.16 were paraded. The names on the attached list were read out & the statements which are attached here & were taken down by the Court.

NOTE There is no statement attached for Horrobin.

The Court then proceeded to consider the circumstances of the operations above referred to.

On 29.7.16 an attack was made against a strong enemy position. The attack was unsuccessful & it was necessary to fall back on the original line. The shell fire was exceedingly heavy, & that although Stretcher Bearers were able to go out under cover of a heavy fog, a distance of 800 yards had to be searched & this & the fact of the

11th A.I.F. Green 2/Lt. L.J.

(14/A March 21/18)

"Lt. Green was killed when coming out of a pill-box going to the assistance of one of his wounded men and he was hit by a whiss bang at Holebeke. He was buried at a little cemetery at Boomsaeelle. We sent his body back by some pioneers who had ample time to take him and I heard someone saw his grave afterwards".

Eye-witness: Yes.

Description: Very tall, dark.

Informant: 2/Lt. G.C. Murray,
11th A.I.F.,
3rd London General Hospt.,
Wandsworth.

Home address:
c/o Miss Crombie,
21 Woodburn Terrace,
Edinburgh.

May 20/18,
V. Arnold Davies.

Hanobin. Cont 2

fact of the heavy fog make it probable that some wounded & dead were left lying out in "No man's Land".

On 5.8.16 the attack was also against the same strong enemy position - On this occasion the attack was successful but the Artillery Fire was exceedingly heavy for a period of two days & two nights, & many were blown to pieces & rendered unrecognizable, which would account for their having been reported Missing -

The Records of the Battalion were then examined & it was found that 28 O/ranks originally reported after the Fund operations at Pozieres as Missing are now officially reported Prisoners of War in Germany, that of those originally reported Missing after operations at Flers, none have been officially reported as Prisoners of War.

The Court also compared & examined returns, certificates, & letters, from Rec... Anzac Section, 3rd Eschelon, & unverified

19th A.I.F. Prendergast W.J. 4209

K. March 14/18. Dets D/B.

"I saw Pte: Prendergast (19. D.) after he had been killed, in March, at Ploegsteert. He was wounded while out on patrol, and died at Catharine Post, after he was brought back. The Post was only manned at night, so he was left out there all day he died, and brought back the next night. While I was on my way up, I passed him in the sap being brought away. I think one of the stretcher bearers who carried him back after he died was Pte. Oates, (19. B. VI.) There is a cemetery at the back of Ploegsteert. He was probably buried there."

Eyewitness. Yes.

Description. Dark. 19 reinforcements. I can give no particulars.

Informant. Pte. Edward J. Corbett, 5121
19 A.I.F. B. Coy. V. Pltn.
3rd Southern General Hospital,
The Base, OXFORD.

Home address.
Railway Hotel,
Temora, N. S. W.

3rd May 1918.
H.M. Pickard Cambridge.

Written Date
23.5.18

Harrobin Cont 3.

Statements of various men which are attached hereto, according to which all the said Missing Men have been ~~continually~~ Continuously unheard of since the said operations —

Finding

The Finding of the Court is as follows.

(1) That none of the evidence forthcoming tends to shew that the person to whom it refers, is now alive, or is a Prisoner of War.

(2) So far as the operations at Pozieres are Concerned.

(a) That in view of the lapse of time since the said operations, it is ~~improbable~~ that any Officers or other ranks, other than those whose names have already appeared in the Official Lists, will now be found to be Prisoners of War —

(b) That where no evidence is forthcoming the nature of the operation was such as to render it probable that the persons about whom nothing is known either by

(No. 2) Informant:

Pte Ernest Bradley, 1884,
19th A. I. F., D. Coy, XIV Pltn,
3rd Southern General Hospital,
New College Gardens,
Oxford.

Home address:
76, Terrace Rd,
DulwichHill,
Sydney.

3rd May 1918.
Hilda M. Pickard-Cambridge,

Harrobin Cont- 4

Members of the Bhus or Official Records were Killed in Action

(iii) So far as the Operations at Flers are Concerned

That where there is not satisfactory evidence of them having been K/A. it is advisable to allow a further ~~period~~ period of time to elapse before posting as K/A those who are now posted as Missing.

(iv) That the officers & other ranks whose names appear on the list attached hereto & marked with the letter A- may be presumed to have been K/A on the dates shown.

President Harold H. Page. Major

19th A. I. F. Prendergast, W.J. 4209,

(4. March 14/18. Det D & B)

"I know that the Prendergast (19. D. XIII) went out on patrol one night about March 14-15 at Kloegatwert. A River ran between our lines and those of the enemy, and our men expected that the Germans were a long way off. Our party had only gone out 15 or 20 yards when they came upon a German secret post (on our side of the River). The enemy opened fire machine gun fire and also bombs. The Prendergast was wounded in the stomach by a bomb, and was carried to our post, where he died, as soon as he was brought in. He was buried probably at Kloegatwert, but I have not seen his grave. He was brought in from No Man's Land by Alec Murray (19. D. XIV) No. 1240, also by Tom Madderman (19.D)".

Eye-witness: One informant saw him being carried in, told by the two men who brought him in

Description: Sharp [illegible], clean-Shaven, 23 about, 10 Reinforcement I think.

(No. 1) Informant: Pte James Bennett [illegible]9, 19th A.I.F., D. XIV, 3rd Southern General Hospital,

Home address: New College Gardens, Oxford.

Written Murray Madderman 23.5.18

1 Albert Rd, St. Mary's Cray, Kent. P. T. O.

Geo Cross

Private Inquiries.

413

Batt^n 25. K. Aug 8th 16. Horrobin, Joseph

His people. "Acton" Kingarroy Q. wrote to me last week - saying that a returned soldier - name not mentioned - had informed them that he had seen Harrobin in London. They have asked me to find out definitely about this man. Would be glad if the Red Cross would inquire

Leg Booth
2956
V Engineers

Dec 13. 18.

W/O Bennett
Does not want a copy of this
See notes of Col. 2652
HQ 20.12.18

May 23rd, 1917.

Mrs. Perrin,
Kyrewood,
49, Endlesham Road, S.W. 12.

Dear Madam,

In reply to your enquiry for 4157 Pte J.Horrobin, 25th Battn., A.I.F., we regret to state that he is still officially reported "missing" as from 5-8-16.

We have a very sad unofficial report given indirectly by one of his comrades - No. 2757 Pte E.J.Jones, 12th M.G.Coy stated that he was told by Pte Richards of 25th Battn. that in September at Pozieres, Pte Horrobin was killed by a shell and no trace of him was left.

Up to the present this is the only news that we have been able to obtain, however, we are continuing our enquiries and shall at once advise you when other details come to hand.

Yours faithfully,

R. D.

2956.Sgt Booth.
5th Engineers. A.I.F.
B.E.F. France.

January 21st 1919.

Dear Sir,

In reply to your enquiry for 4137.Pte.J.Horrobin. 25th Battalion. A.I.F. stated to have been seen in London, we have made enquiries into the official records that have any connection with this action and can find no justification for the statement that this soldier is alive. Two extracts from the report on the action reads as follows:-

"On 29-7-16 an attack was made against a strong enemy position. The attack was unsuccessful and ~~#~~ it was necessary to fall back on the original line. The shell fire was exceedingly heavy and that, although stretcher bearers were able to go out under cover of a heavy fog, a distance of 800 yards had to be searched and this and the fact ~~of the fact~~ of the heavy fog, make it probable that some wounded and dead were left lying out in No Man's Land." On 5-8-16 the attack was against the same strong enemy position. On this occasion the attack was successful but the Artillery Fire was exceedingly heavy for a period of two days and two nights and many were buried under the earth thrown up by the falling shells, which would account for him having been reported "Missing".

"None of the evidence forthcoming tends to show that the person to whom it refers, is now alive, or is a Prisoner of War".

We hope this information may be of some assistance to you, and would like to assure Pte Horrobin's family of our sincere sympathy.

Yours faithfully,

(Miss) Vera Deakin (per V.W.F.

Secretary.