

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

Lieutenant  
Bertie Danson Rush

30th Battalion



2380310H

30th Battn.  
A.I.F.

RUSH, M.C.  
B.D. Lieut.

"Died of Wounds 4-9-18"

Ad: 15th A.Fld Amb .

No further report.

Cert: by A.I.F. Hqs 9-10-18.

London.  
10-10-18.

*copy for London*  
P I.

30th Battalion, A.I.F.

RUSH B.D. Lieutenant.

"Died of Wounds, 3/9/18."

Informant states that on the 4/9/18, the Battalion was before Halle in front of St. Quentin in action. They hopped over that morning from one side of the Somme, and crossed the river. About 5 or 6 p.m. Informant saw the Lieutenant in a house in the village at Halle, both of them having been wounded. They were carried out together and saw each other again at the 1st Dressing Station. The Lieutenant was still alive, but in a very bad way, as it was thought that he had not long to live, he was placed alongside a window. Informant left the Dressing Station and never saw the Lieutenant again, but heard that he got as far as Rouen and died there. The Lieutenant was hit while they were resting, having been going hard all day. According to Informant, the Lieutenant was a well liked officer.

Informant - Private E. Davies, No. 4767,

"A" Company, 30th Battalion.

Home Address - C/o Mrs King,

"Beulah",

Angel Road, Strathfield.

T 3.G.

No. 4 Australian General Hospital,  
SYDNEY.

17/1/19.

SYDNEY BUREAU.

*not sent to 1.*

S  
P-1  
17/1/19

30th Battn.  
A.I.F.

RUSH "M.C."  
Lt. B.D.

"Died of Wounds 4-9-18"

Re Lt.B.D.Rush, 30th Battn. He was admitted (unconscious) to this Ambulance on the morning of 4-9-18 with a severe shell wound in the head. He died about 1 p.m. the same day, and was buried by the C/E Chaplain at the Military Cemetery - Herbecourt (exact location Sheet 62 c.H26c.1.1.).

Letter from:- The O.C.,  
15th Aust.Fld.Amb.  
16-10-18.

London  
25-10-18  
M.I.S.

P.I.

*Typed copy for [unclear]*

Revre  
Australians. 30.

15th November 1918.

Rush (MC) Lieut B.D.

D/W 4th September 1918. Det D/B.

This officer was killed on the left of Peronne. He had charge of D.Coy., and during the night Fritz was bombarding. While he was in the trench he was hit by a piece of shell in the head. I saw him at our D/Station, and he was practically dead. I don't know about burial.

Inf:- Pte J.F. Spencer "No" 3876.  
A.I.F. 50. A.III.  
Austra. Conv. Depot.

CWEG.

*J.F.S.*

*P.I.  
S.*

PP.

30th Battn.  
A.I.F.

RUSH - "M.C."  
Lieut. B.D.

"DIED OF WOUNDS 4-9-18"

Of D.Coy. about this date at Peronne about 7.30 in evening.  
He was in a dugout when gas shell burst. Was killed almost instantly.  
Same shell killed Lieut. Murdock D.C.M., M.C., I saw his body 10 mins.  
after, do not know where hit as he was covered up and I only saw his  
face. Was buried in a churchyard near the Somme about  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile from  
village. Cross erected. I was at the burial next day. Lieut.  
Murdock was buried alongside him.

Informant - Orth L/Cpl. F.A. 880  
30th Battn. D.Coy.  
1st A.A.H.  
HARRFIELD.

A.D.G.  
12-11-18  
London  
23-11-18  
J.E.A.

S.

3 Oth Battn.  
A.I.F.

RUSH. "M.C"  
Lieut. B.D.

"Died of Wounds 3-9-18"

He was in D.Coy. and was killed on the left of the out-  
skirts of Peronne by shell when death was instantaneous. Casualty  
happened in supports the night before moving into front line.  
Another Officer and a batman were killed by the same shell and  
the three were buried close by, between the Canal and Peronne  
near a deserted village. All was in order. He was a very pop-  
ular officer and came from New South Wales. He was in charge of  
the Reinforcements on the Ceramic.

Informant:- Pte Bell.L.4000.  
N.Burns Priddle. B.Coy; 30th Battn.  
London. 3rd A.A.H.DARTFORD.  
25-11-18.  
J.E.A. S & P I.

30th Battalion, A.I.F.

RUSH, B.D. Lieutenant.

"Died of Wounds, 3/9/18."

Informant stated that the Lieutenant was his Commanding Officer, but could give me no particulars as to the Lieutenant's death. He saw his grave, alongside an old Church in a village near Peronne, on the same side of the River Somme as Peronne. This was on the afternoon of the day following the Lieutenant's death. - A cross, with the Lieutenant's name thereon was put on the grave; there were a few other graves nearby

Informant - Driver G.W.Pritchard, No.516,  
30th Battalion.

Home Address - Matcham,  
Via. Gosford.

W.E.G.  
Victoria Barracks,  
Sydney,  
12/5/19.

SYDNEY BUREAU.

A.I.F.  
30th BATTALION.

RUSH, Lieutenant  
B.D.

"Died of Wounds 3/9/18".

Informant states that they both belonged to "D" Company - the Lieutenant being Informant's Section Commander. On 3/9/18 the Battalion was close to Peronne. They were going into action next day, but on this particular day were in reserves. The Lieutenant was badly wounded by a shell, which killed Lieutenant Murdoch and Private Morris. Informant, who was a Stretcher-bearer, carried the two latter out and saw Lieutenant Rush being carried out in an unconscious condition by some other Stretcher-bearers. He heard that Lieutenant Rush died from his wounds very shortly after he was hit. Informant could give me no details as to where the Lieutenant was buried.

Informant:- No. 4346, Pte. J. Cruickshank,  
"D" Company - 30th Battalion.  
Private address:- Cocopara, BYBYA, N.S.Wales.

W.E.G.  
Victoria Barracks,  
Sydney, 13/5/19.

SYDNEY BUREAU.



30th BATTALION, A.I.F.

RUSH.  
Lieutenant B.D.

"DIED OF WOUNDS, 3.9.18."

Informant states that they were both in D. Company.  
On 3.9.18 the Battalion was about 2 kilometres away from Peronne, going into the line. About dusk when they were between the Supports and the Reserves, a shell fell near to the Lieutenant who, at the time, was standing on the top of a parapet, and badly wounded him. The same shell killed Lieutenant Murdoch instantly. Informant was about 50 yards away and saw the shell explode. He also saw stretcher-bearers taking Lieutenant Rush away. He was in a very bad state and the stretcher-bearers afterwards told Informant that he died within a quarter of an hour. He was buried near Peronne about 200/300 yards away from where he died, but Informant was not present at the burial.

According to Informant, he was an officer exceedingly well liked by his men.

INFORMANT: Private A.G. Bourke, 4503,  
D. Coy, 30th Battalion, A.I.F.

Home address: Wongwibinda, Via ARMIDALE.

W.E.G.  
Victoria Barracks, SYDNEY.  
13.5.19.

SYDNEY BUREAU.

30th BATTALION, A.I.F.

RUSH.  
Lieutenant B.D.

"DIED OF WOUNDS, 3.9.18."

Informant could give me no particulars of how the Lieutenant met his death, but about six months ago saw his grave on the roadside near a little church, about 3 kilometres from Peronne. It was in good order, with a cross with his name etc. thereon. He was buried alongside another officer and a private who were killed at the same time. They were in separate graves.

INFORMANT: Private H.J. White, 4122,  
30th Battalion, A.I.F.

Home address: "Gladstone", Lennartz St, ENFIELD.

W.E.G.  
Anzac Buffet, SYDNEY.  
19.5.19.

SYDNEY BUREAU.

O.C.'s Draft.

Oct. 11<sup>th</sup>

O.C.

15<sup>th</sup> Aust. Fld Amb.

B. & J.

France.

Lieut. B. D. RUSH. M.C.

30<sup>th</sup> Bn. A.I.F.

D. S. W. 4.9.18.

MEMO.  
— from —  
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**B**anks' Restaurant

2, NEEDLESS ALLEY,  
New Street, Birmingham.

M. Australian Red Cross . Oct 4<sup>th</sup> 1918.

Dear Sirs.

Can you send me full particulars  
as to where my Cousin, Lt. B. D. Rush  
M. G. 30<sup>th</sup> Battalion A. I. F., lies buried.  
I hear he died on Sept 4<sup>th</sup> 1918 in the 15<sup>th</sup>  
Australian Field Ambulance. Thanking

Yours in anticipation of a reply.

Yours faithfully

C. W. Banks

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October 11th, 1918.

C.W. Banks, Esq.  
Banks Restaurant,  
2, Needless Alley.  
New Street.  
Birmingham.

Dear Sir.

In reply to your enquiry dated - 4/10/18, regarding  
Lieut. B.D. RUSH. "M.C." 30th Battalion. A.I.F. who died of  
wounds in the 15th Australian Field Ambulance, B.P.F. on  
4/9/18. We beg to inform you that we are pursuing our enquiries  
and will let you know any further particulars that may come to  
hand.

Assuring you of our sincere sympathy.

Yours faithfully,

(Miss)

Secretary.

*W. H. Bullen.*

15th Dist Field Ambulance

D. O. Lieut. Rush. "M.C."  
30 31

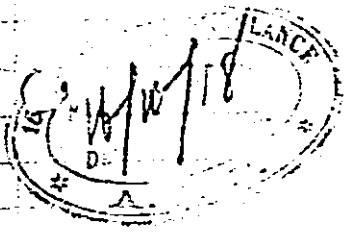
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Unit Vera Dead Pm. (Secretary) P. 1  
Unit Red Cross Society. 2.

The LIEUT. B. J. RUSH. 30th Batta. A. I. F.

The above officer was admitted (unconscious) to this Ambulance on the morning of 11/9/18, with a severe skull wound in the head. He died about 1 pm. the same day, and was buried by the Church of England Chaplain at the Military Cemetery VERBECOURT (exact location sheet G.C. 426c. 1.1.)

11-6-18  
15th Dist Field Ambulance



W.S.

Tel.: VICTORIA (8576  
8577  
8576

ALL COMMUNICATIONS  
TO BE ADDRESSED TO

THE SECRETARY.

WOUNDED AND MISSING  
— ENQUIRY BUREAU —

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY.



AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY.

86. GROSVENOR PLACE.

LONDON S.W. 1.

October 11<sup>th</sup>.

O.C.  
15<sup>th</sup> Aust. Hd Amb.  
B. P. F. France.

Lieut. B. D. RUSH. 'M.C.' 30<sup>th</sup> Bn. A.I.F.

Dear Sir,

We have been asked by the relatives in Australia to obtain the fullest details possible of the wounds, death and burial of the above, who died in your Hospital on 4.9.18 and would greatly appreciate any information that you may send us.

As we have been informed by various C.O.'s and Adjutants that the receipt of notes of thanks only causes them unnecessary inconvenience, unless you ask us to acknowledge your reply to the above we will not do so, and trust that you will understand that we appreciate it none the less.

With apologies for troubling you,

Yours faithfully,

(Miss)

Vera Deakin.

Secretary.

*V. Deakin*

December 11th, 1918.

C.W. Banks, Esq.,  
Bank(s) Restaurant,  
2 Needless Alley,  
New Street. B'Ham.

Dear Sir,

With further reference to your enquiry for your cousin Lieut. B.D. RUSH. "MC". 30th Battalion. A.I.F. We beg to inform you of the following report which we have received from the O.C. of the 15th Australian Field Ambulance. He stated:- "Lt. Rush M.C. was admitted (unconscious) to this ambulance on the morning of the 4.9.18. with a severe shell wound in the head. He died about 1.p.m. the same day and was buried by the Church of England Chaplain at the Military Cemetery Herbecourt. The exact map reference of the grave being sheet 62 C.H.26.c 1.1."

We have also received the following unofficial reports of his death from men in his unit.

3876 Pte. J.F. Spencer stated that whilst in a trench on the left of Peronne - he was severely wounded in the head by a piece of shell.

4000 Pte. L. Bell interviewed at the 3rd Australian Auxiliary Hospital, Dartford, stated that the casualty occurred when they were in supports on the outskirts of Peronne, the night before they were to move into the front line. He was buried close by near a deserted village between the Canal and Peronne. Our informant added that he came from New South Wales and was a very popular officer.

Should any further particulars reach us we would immediately advise you and trust the above reports may be of some value to you.

Yours faithfully,

(Miss) V. J.

Secretary.

*W. R. S.*



July 31st, 1919.

C:W.Banks Esq.,  
Banks' Restaurant,  
2, Needless Alley,  
New Street,  
Birmingham.

Dear Sir,

With further reference to your enquiry for your cousin Lieut. B. D. Rush, M.C., 30th Bn. A.I.F., we beg to inform you that we have received the following unofficial information from men of the same Battalion who have returned to Australia.

4346. Pte. J. Cruickshanks states that the Lieutenant was badly wounded by a shell when near Peronne. He was carried away unconscious, and informant <sup>says died</sup> very shortly after.

4503. Pte. A. G. Bourke confirms the above statement. He was about 50 yards away when the shell exploded which killed Lieut. B. D. Rush.

516. Dvr. G. W. Pritchard states that he saw Lieut. B. D. Rush's grave next to an old church in a village near Peronne, a Cross bearing the Lieutenant's name was erected, and the grave kept in good order.

This information is confirmed by 4122. Pte. R. J. White, 30th Bn. A.I.F..

Hoping these reports may be of some value to you,

Yours faithfully,  
(Miss)

SECRETARY. *DS.*