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

309 Sergeant George Ritchie

18th Battalion



2310203B

A.I.F.
18th Bn.

HITCHIN
George 309

Killed in Action 20.9.17.

No trace in Germany.
Cert. by Capt. Mills 10.10.19.

London.
17.10.19.

S.

A. I. F. 18. RITCHIE, G. 309.

K. September 20th, 1917.

This man was a Sgt, his name was George. In front of Anzac House, Ypres, we were digging in when a shell landed and I saw Ritchie hit in the chest. He died within a few seconds. The body was taken back to Anzac and buried later. We advanced twice after that.

EMR.

Reference:- C.B.Cook. 6280.
No. 6 Conv. Depot.

Etaples
30.12.17.

18th Batt.A.I.F.

Ritchie.G. Sgt. NO. 609. 309.

A.Coy.

Killed Sept 20th 1917. Det. D.B.

I was told by Pte Kenna of the same coy, that Ritchie and Lieut Smith had been killed near Anzac House, Ypres. He helped to carry their bodies into a dugout, and later on when they came to look for the bodies to bury them they could not be found, Ther had been a heavy bombardment during the day so it is almost certain they had been buried by a shell.

Informant.
~~Description~~. Pte. Farrell. D.S. NO.6375. A.Coy. 18th Batt.

Description.Height. 5-6. Complexion. Fair. Nuggety Built.

Taken at
NO.4.C.D. Hurdcott.
8-I-18. S.W.

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

Letter returned. Not with 18th Batt. 26.1.18.

Written Kenna 15.1.18

18th Battn.
A.I.F.

RITCHIE,
G. 309

"Killed 20.9.17."

He was a Sgt. I saw him dead killed right out by a shell on the creek at Polygon Wood. We held the ground, so probably buried. 5ft 7 or 8 and fair. I just knew him.

Informant:- R.J.Reynolds 2975,
18th Battn,
War Chest.

W.Alison.

London.
1.3.18.

S.

18th Battalion, A.I.F.

RITCHIE
Sergeant O. 309.

KILLED. 20.9.17.

Informant described Ritchie as about 5 feet 4 inches high, nuggety build, fair complexion, aged about 24.

Informant states that they both belonged to "A" Coy., he being in No. 3 Platoon and Ritchie in No. 2 Platoon. On 20.9.17 the Battalion was engaged in the Battle of Menin Road. He saw Ritchie just before they went over at 5.30 a.m. he being in the next platoon. He also saw him as they went over, and was later on told by Private Stone that he had seen Ritchie hit by a piece of shell and killed instantly. He was hit at a place called Anzac House, near the German Front Line.

Informant added that Ritchie was "was one of the best in the world", and well liked.

INFORMANT;- Sergeant J. Wills, 4565.
"A" Coy, 18th Battalion, A.I.F.
Home address:- Frederick Street, Sans Souci.
W.E.G.
No.4 Australian General
Hospital, RANDWICK.
11.3.18.

SYDNEY BUREAU.

S C

18th Australian Imperial Force Ritchie, G. 309

(K. Sept. 20, 17. Dets D & B

" I knew Sgt. George Ritchie, - 309 (18. A 1.or II ?) very well. He was one of the best men that ever lived. After the attack was finished and we had dug ourselves in, on Sept. 20 - near Anzac House (Ypres) he was killed instantaneously by a shell. I saw it happen. We took him to a Pill Box and he was probably buried close to the same spot. I have not seen his grave. He was the only Sergeant in the Company who was trusted to lead his Platoon. He came safely through and got his Platoon into order. "

Eye Witness - Yes.
Description - Rochdale - single, original Battalion.

Informant :- Officer Cadet(now) Frank Wilkins, 2767,
4th Pltn. A Coy. 18 Austradian I Force,
3rd Southern General Hospital,
The Base, Oxford.

Home address :-
Thornton Street,
Wellington,
New South Wales.

18.3.18.
H.M.Pickard-Cambridge

S

18th Battn.
A.I.F.

RITCHIE
G. 309

"Killed 20-9-17"

Ritchie was a Sgt. in A.Coy. I saw his body on the ground up at Passchendaele, while we were advancing. He was then dead, and had evidently been killed outright. I cannot say anything about his burial.

Informant. Paske W.O.D. 414
18th Battn., A.Coy.,
WESTHAM.

W.A.Rand
London
19-3-18

8.

18th Battn.
A.I.F.

Ritchie.
G. 309

"Killed 20.9.17"

Ritchie was a Sgt. same No.1. Pltn. as myself, and was killed by a shell at Anzac House, being blown to pieces. I did not see the casualty nor his body nor can I say anything as to burial. Pte.Champness - known as "Ranji" - now gone to Australia was in No.1. platoon also and told me.

Informant:- Cpl.F.G.Copeman 2352
18th Battn.
A.Coy.
W estham.

W.A.Rand

London.
6.4.18.

S.

18th Battalion, A.I.F.

RITCHIE G. Sergt.
No. 309.

"Killed 20/9/17"

I knew Ritchie well, I met him in France. He was in B. Coy He came from the country. He was 5ft 8in in height, medium complexion, clean shaved. I was in England with him when on leave. I saw him killed on 20th September 1917 at Ypres near Menin Road, just in front of Anzac House, a shell struck him, and he was killed at once. He was a real tip-top fellow.

Informant: P. Brown, Corpl. No. 1891, 18th Battalion,
No 4 Australian General Hospital,
RANDWICK.

Home address:
Carrington Street,
Bexley.

17/6/18.

SYDNEY BUREAU.

A.I.F.
18th. BATTALION.

G. Ritchie. Sergeant.
No. 309.

"Killed in Action 20/9/17".

I was in A. Company which was Ritchie's Company, on the 20th. September we went over in the Menin Road Stunt, Ypres. I was wounded and at the Dressing Station was told by several that Ritchie was killed outright, early in the day.

Informant:- J. A. Newcome, 1977,
18th. Battalion.

Coast Hospital,
Little Bay,
25/7/18.
B.M.

C. Sutton
S. V

18th BATTALION.

SERGEANT G. RITCHIE.

No 309

KILLED 20/9/17.

I was in A Company with Sergeant Ritchie. On the 20th September after we got to our objective at Menin Road we were in a small trench when a shell burst and killed Ritchie outright, and wounded several others. I had to move Ritchie to get a wounded man out. I was wounded myself just a little later, and do not know whether he was buried.

Lieutenant Moore saw Ritchie after he was killed. Private J. J. O'Donohoe was also present when Ritchie was killed.

Informant:- J.J. Manglesdorf, 5627.
18th Battalion.

Little Bay Hospital.
28/8/18.
E.J.M.

SYDNEY BUREAU.

18th BATTALION, A.I.F. RITCHIE G, Sergeant, No.309

"Killed 20.9.17"

Informant described Ritchie as about 5 feet 6 or 7 inches high, medium build, fair complexion, aged about 27.

Informant states that they both belonged to "A" Company. On 20.9.17 the Battalion was in action at Polygon Wood. They hopped over at 5.45 a.m. They had not gone very far when Ritchie was hit by a shell and killed outright. Informant was only about three or four yards away and saw him fall. Informant had to continue in the advance and had no time to investigate further. Burial parties afterwards went out and there is no doubt that Ritchie was buried.

According to Informant Ritchie was well liked by his mates.

INFORMANT ; Private F. Howard, No. 2922.
18th Battalion A Co

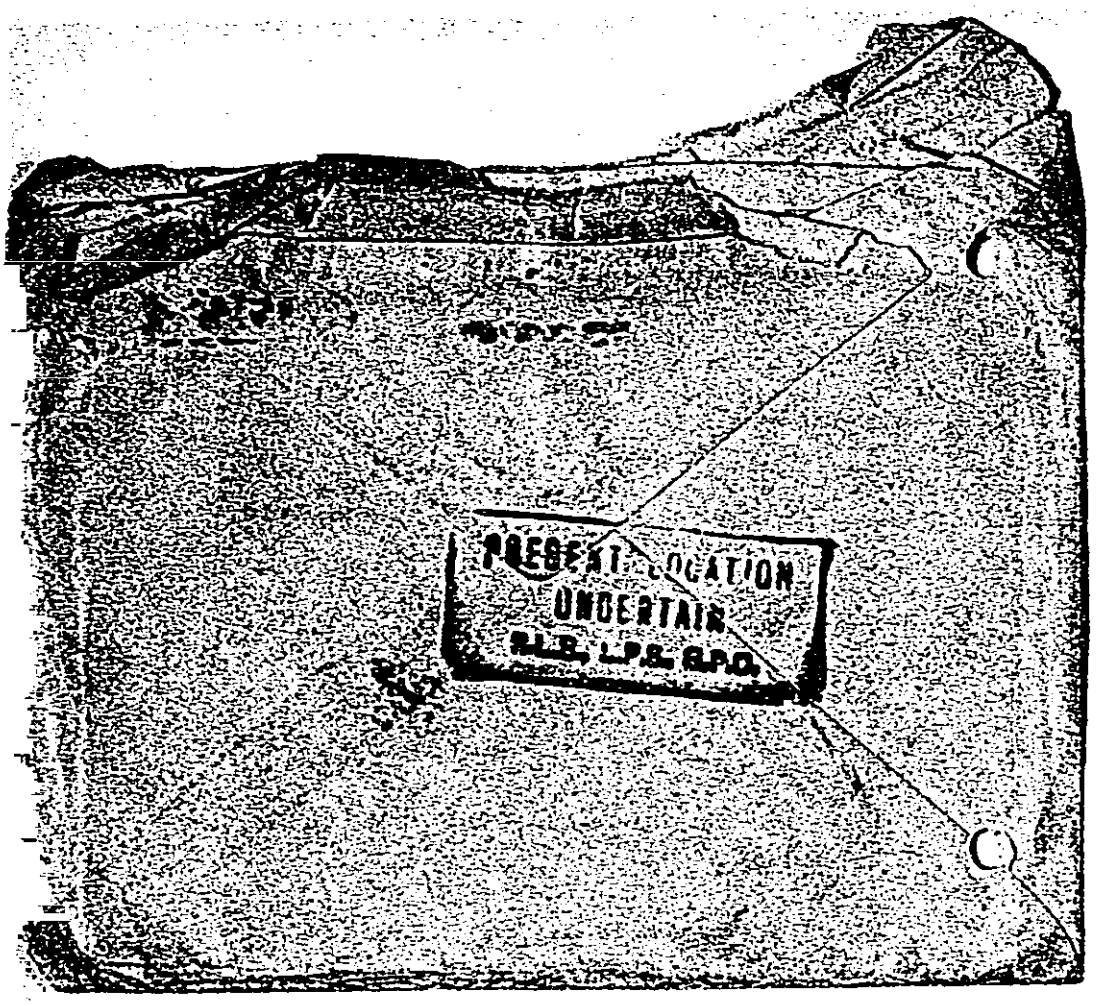
Home address: Bigga, Via Goulburn, N.S.W

W.E.C.
No.4 Australian General Hospital,
RANDWICK

10.9.18

SYDNY BUREAU

WAR BONDS NOW
15 JAN 18
WAR BONDS NOW
30 GROSVENOR GARDENS LONDON S.W.1
26 JAN 1918
UNDELIVERABLE AS ADDRESSED
RETURN TO SENDER
SW1


PRESENT LOCATION
UNCERTAIN
R.L.B., L.P.L. & P.O.

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY
(WOUNDED AND MISSING INQUIRY BUREAU),
~~54, VICTORIA STREET,~~
36, GROSVENOR PLACE, LONDON, S.W. 1.

Telephones:
VICTORIA 8576 8577 8578

Telegraphic Address:
"QUESTMAN, LONDON."

15-1-18

Pte Kinnear
A. Coy.
18th A.I.F.
B.E.F.

Dear Sir,

We are making enquiries for a man of your unit 309 P. Ritchie A. Coy 18 A.I.F. reported Killed in action 20.9.17. 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 P. Ritchie 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 should 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

Kennear Got with 18th Bttn

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