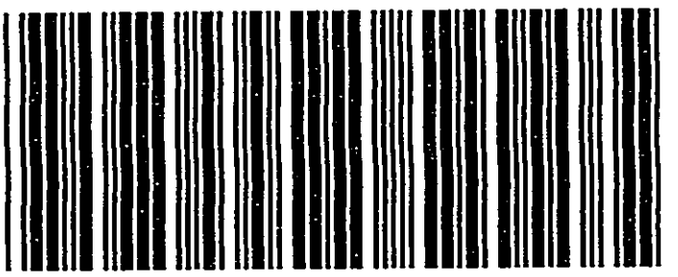
Australian Red Cross Society Wounded and Missing
Enquiry Bureau files, 1914-18 War
1DRL/0428

7317 Private
William Palmer Ritchie

36th Battalion



2310305E

A.I.F. 36th Bttn. RITCHIE.
William Palmer 7317.

Killed in Action.12.10.17.

No trace in Germany.
Cert by Captain Mills.14.10.19.

London.
17.10.19. S & P.I.

A.I.F. 36th Btn

L.SHL
Wm. Palmer 737

"MISSING"

Killed in action 12-10-17 - previously reported Missing
Cert. by A.I.F.Hqrs 15-4-18

S & P.I.

London
17-4-18

36th A. I. F. Ritchie, W.P. 7317.

(K. Oct. 12/17. Det: D & B)

"I was beside a Pte Ritchie (36. D. XV.) when he was killed instantaneously, by a shell on Oct. 12th in the Ypres Sector. We were going up to the lines to make an attack, and were on the side of a road behind the front line when he was killed. Pte Crebert was killed by the same shell. I am sorry I do not know whether they were found and buried. We took some ground further on that same morning, but had to retire back again."

Eye-witness: Yes

Description: New hand, 1st experience, fair and young

Informant: L/Cpl Clarence Elbourne, 1105,
36th A. I. F., D. XVI,
3rd Southern General Hospital,
New College Gardens, Oxford.

Home address:
Hingham,

27th April 1918. H. S. M.
H.M. Pickard-Cambridge.

P1
S

8.10.19.

Final Draft to

Miss E. A. Osborne
45 Lowishead
Worcester

about

7317 W. P. Ritchie
36 Bu.

... from

Enquiry included in W.S.M. Cable { No. 122 of May 21-1918

Enquiry included in Deferred Cable { No. of

Name and Address of Enquirer { Mrs Mansell
64 Leake St
Victoria Park East

Relation of Enquirer to Enquiree. { Mother

State if Next-of-Kin. Yes

Oncards McGuire Henry Greig Secretary.

Missing draft. 24.1.18.

Miss A. Osborne

45 Lowis-med.

Forester

Pte. 7317 Pte W. P. Ritchie

36 Batt. A.I.F.

15th Battn

F

Vaubell
T.F. 6578

Killed 15.10.17

saw him killed at Zonnebeke. He was standing in the doorway of a cellar of an old

19th April, 1918.

Miss E.A.Osborne,
45, Lowismed,
Worcester.

Re 7517 Wm.Palmer Ritchie, 36th Battn. A.I.F.

Dear Madam,

We regret to inform you that the above soldier, who was previously reported "Missing", is now reported "Killed in Action", on 12-10-17.

We are making further enquiries in the hope of learning details of his death, and will send you any information that we receive.

Regretting the distressing character of this news.

Yours faithfully,

(Miss)

SECRETARY.

Havre 6th April 1918.

2nd Aust. Pioneers Sanderson J.A. 1505.

K. 24th January 1918. Lot 9/9.

I knew Pte Jack A. Sanderson of B.Co. VI Pltn, about 26, short medium build, dark clean shaven, single. I helped to bury him in a Military Cemetery near Pont de Nieppe on the 24th January 1918. He had been killed instantly by a shell. There was no cross on the grave but one would be placed there later.

Ref:- Pte P.C.Curran No.1597.
2nd Aust. Pioneers B.Co. VIII Pltn.
Australian Corps
Rosalie.

DM.

BRITISH RED CROSS
AND
ORDER OF ST. JOHN.

Office Hours:
11 a.m. to 5 p.m. (Saturdays excepted).
Interviews:
Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

MIDDLESEX BRANCH OF THE ENQUIRY DEPARTMENT FOR WOUNDED AND MISSING.

Patron - - MRS. LEOPOLD DE ROTHSCHILD.

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Hon. Deputy Director - G. H. EXETER, ESQ.
Hon. Secretary - - MRS. P. G. DARVIL-SMITH.
Hon. Assistant Secretary MISS I. SEQUEIRA.

79, Bishopsgate,
London, E.C. 1.
Telephone No.: WALL 3561

Clerk 23.1.18

Jan 21st 18

Dear Madam,

I shall be glad to know if you can obtain any information regarding Pte William P. Ritchie. 7317.
24 Reinforcements.
63 Battalion
A. I. F.

Kindly send all information to
Mrs Osborne.
145. Dorsmead.
Worcester.

I have enclosed letter received from Mrs Osborne.

Yours faithfully,
K. Darwil-Smith.
Hon: Secretary.

E. A. Osborne.
46 Lawrence.
Worcester.

17. 1. 18.

Dear Sir or Madam. Ack 24.1.18

I should be awfully obliged if you could forward me any information regarding. 7314. Pte. William P. Ritchie
L. Company
24 Reinforcements
6 3 Battalion
Australian Imperial Force.
On Active Service Abroad.

Changed to 36th Battalion on the cable & Reported Missing.

Believe Me to Remain
Yours. Faithfully
Miss. Elsie. A. Osborne.

18th May 1918

Miss E.A.Osborne
45 Lowismed
Worcester.

Dear Madam,

We regret to inform you that we have received an unofficial report respecting - 7317 Pte W.P.Ritchie, 36th Btn, A.I.F, from 1105 L/Cpl. Ebourne of ~~same unit,~~ interviewed at the 3rd Southern General Hospital, New College Gardens, Oxford. He states that Pte. Ritchie was next to him when he was killed instantly by a shell on October 12th 1917. The Battalion were advancing to an attack and were on the side of a road behind the front line, in the Ypres sector, when the casualty occurred. Cpl.Ebbourne can give no report as to burial.

We are continuing our inquiries for details and will advise you of any information we receive and trusting that it will be some consolation to know that his death was instantaneous,

Yours faithfully,

(Miss) F. S. G.

Secretary