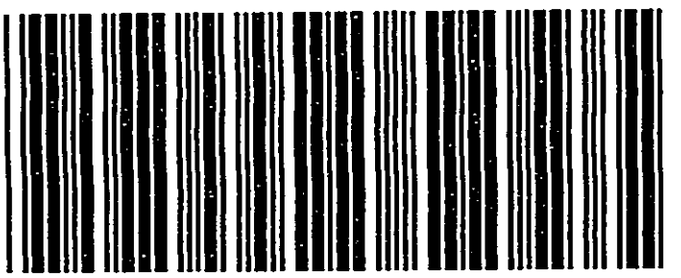
Australian Red Cross Society Wounded and Missing
Enquiry Bureau files, 1914-18 War
1DRL/0428

1793 Lance Sergeant Thomas Ritchie

3rd Battalion



2310303C

3rd Battn. RITCHIE T. 1793

K. 18/9/18

Ritchie was Sergeant of my Company. It was during a general advance at Herricourt on 18th Sept. 1918. I was with Sgt. Ritchie and we had been a little in advance and were returning to theline when Sgt. Ritchie was hit by a machine gun bullet in the back. He at once fell and I jumped into a shell hole and endeavored to pull Ritchie in too but three more bullets caught him ere I succeeded, and 5 minutes later (about 12.30 p.m.) he died in my arms and I was the only one with him when he died. I have no idea as to where he was buried. Ritchie was a Bathurst lad, short and fair. He was sergeant of No. 3 Platoon when he was killed and was a general favorite among the boys.

L/C. McGurrigle
3rd Battalion

Private Address:-
C/o Miss McGurrigle,
522 Marrickville Road
Dulwich Hill
SYDNEY

A.L.Runcie,
H.M.A.T. "BOONAH"
10/6/19.

Sd Enq

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A.I.F. 3rd Battn.

RITCHIE
T. 1795

"KILLED 18/9/18"

Was a Sgt. in B Coy., 3rd Battn., short, slight, very small, medium complexion I saw him hit in the head by a sniper in the advance at Hargicourt on 18th September about 11.30 a.m. He was killed straight out. I saw his body lying there for a while, but Tommies took over that sector almost immediately and probably they buried him, he was not buried by our Coy.

Informant:- Pte L. Wyer 5779,
B Coy., 3rd Battn.

This account was confirmed by Sgt. Mjr. G.H. Green, B Coy., 3rd Battn.

HSC

London
19/3/19
JEA

S

3rd Battalion. A.I.F.

RITCHIE. T.
Corporal No.1793.

"Killed. 18.9.18".

Ritchie and I lived at Bathurst, I knew him very well, long before he enlisted. I also knew his parents very well, they live at Bathurst. I have already sent full particulars of his death in No Man's Land to his mother.

Informant:- Private V.B.Perkins, No.772,
3rd Battalion.

PrivateAddress:- Bathurst.

W.C.W.
No.4, Australian General Hospital,
Randwick.
17. 3. 19.

S

SYDNEY BUREAU.

3rd BATTALION.

RITCHIE, T. Corporal.
No. 1793.

"KILLED 18.9.18"

Informant described Ritchie as about 5 ft 2 to 4 inches high, medium build, aged about 28.

Informant states that they both belonged to B. Company, 6th Platn of which Ritchie was in charge being at the time Temporary Sergeant. On 18.9.18. the Battalion was in action in front of the village of Roisel about 10 miles beyond Peronne. They hopped over at 6.30.a.m. and about 10. a.m. while Ritchie and Private M. C. Cambage were going forward with a Lewis Gun, a shell lobbed on the team and killed both men outright. Informant was about 50 yards away and saw the whole occurrance, but could not wait to investigate as he had to keep going. He never heard anything more of either of the two men.

According to Informant Ritchie was a well liked chap.

Informant: J. H. Thomas 2881. Corporal.
3rd Battalion. B. Company.

Private address:
21 Perrett Street,
ROZELLE.

W.E.G. Victoria Barracks, SYDNEY.
3.4.19.

SYDNEY BUREAU.

3rd BATTALION. A.I.F.

RITCHIE, Corporal
T. No. 1793

"Killed 18-9-18".

Informant described Ritchie as about 5'4" high, medium build, dark complexion, aged about 26. Informant states that they both belonged to "B" Company.

On 18/9/18 the Battalion was holding the line in front of Hargicourt. About 10.30 a.m, while the Battalion was evacuating the position and coming back to our back lines, Ritchie was hit three times by snipers, one of the bullets going through his heart and killing him outright. Informant was alongside Ritchie and saw him fall and also helped to bury him in the front line in open ground in front of Hargicourt. His disc was put on the grave so that it could be identified.

According to Informant Ritchie was well thought of by his mates.

Informant;- 3113, Pte. R. Joynes,
"B" Company - 3rd Battalion.

Private address;- 541, Harris St., ULTIMO.

W.E.G.
A.I.F. Furlough Bureau,
Sydney.

SYDNEY BUREAU.

3rd Battalion, A.I.F. RITCHIE, T. Cpl. 1793.

"Killed, 18/9/18."

Informant described him as about 5 ft 6 inches, slight build, dark complexion, about 26 years old. They both belonged to "B" Company.

On 18/9/18 the Battalion was in action at Hargicourt. They hopped over at 5.30 a.m., and about 2 hours afterwards - when the objective had been taken, and they were digging in - Ritchie was killed outright by a machine gun bullet. Informant was about 10 yards away, and saw Ritchie fall, and went over to him, but had to go on, and never saw Ritchie again; he was told Ritchie was buried where he fell. The objective was captured

Informant adds he was a nice chap, and well thought of by his mates.

Informant - Private J.W.Birse, No.3025,
3rd Battalion.
Private Address - Abermarle Street,
Marrickville.

W.E.G.
Anzac Buffet,
Sydney,
17/5/19.

SYDNEY BUREAU.

A.I.F. 3rd Btn

RITCHIE
Thomas 1793

"W. Fulham M.Hpl 7th March"

Admitted Fulham Military Hpl - 7-3-17 - suffering from deviated Septum
Cert. by letter from O.C. 1-6-17

Gun shot wound scalp and left shoulder
Cert. by A.I.F.Headquarters 8-6-17

Now convalescent and is marked for Harefield next week
Cert. by 'phone 9-6-17.

S

London
11-6-17

Att.
3rd Battn. M.T.Corps.
A.I.F.

RITCHIE.
T. 1793.

"Killed in Action 18-9-18"

Ritchie belonged to the 3rd Division and attached to us from the 9th Field Ambulance. He was wounded on one of the cars whilst driving on the Peronne Sector, about the early part of September. He was sent to the C.C.S. and then came over to England. I saw him myself the early part of September and I was told that he had gone to England.

Eye-Witness:-
Description:- "Tommy" medium height, age 22, he came from New South Wales. Nickname "Pug".

Home address:-
Nestor.
Sydney.
N.S.Wales.

Informant:- Godfrey.C.11744. Sgt.
(Certain he came to Blighty - not killed)

Note:- No trace in Hospital Index of Pte Ritchie having been sent to England.
R.B.Sidebottom.
London.
3-2-19.
J.E.A.

S.