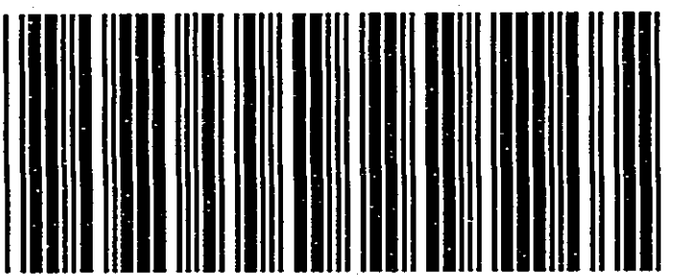
Australian Red Cross Society Wounded and Missing
Enquiry Bureau files, 1914-18 War
1DRL/0428

6326 Private
Percy Everett Russell

32nd Battalion



2380707R

32nd Battn.
A.I.F.

RUSSELL.
P.E. 6326.Pte.

"Killed 19-2-18"

P.E.Russell is buried forward of the Messines Ridge, near a German Pill Box, just left of Wind Vane. The Pill Box was used for A.M.C. He came from Niabing, near Wagin. W.Australia.

Eye-Witness:-

Description:-

Home address:-
Midton.
Wagin.
W.Australia.

Informant:- Taylor.O.J.143A.Pte.(very good)
Ontaric Hospital.
ORPINGTON.

V.E Herrin.
London
18-9-18.
J.E.A.

P I.

Havre

10th August 1918.

A.I.F. 32.

Russell P.E. 6326.

X. 19th February 1918. Det D/B.

I knew him well. He came from Katanning, In West Australia, and had been a farmer. On the 19th February we were at Messines holding the line. They were standing to when a Minnenwerfer came and burst right on the parapet. Russell was badly wounded in the lung, and I saw him being taken away on a stretcher. He died where they were taken to the D/Station. He is buried at the R.A.P. on Messines Ridge.

Inf:- Pte A.W.Beeck No. 4029.
A.I.F. 32. C. Ill.
Australian Conv. Depot.
Rouelles.

CWSG.

PP.

32nd. Battn. Russell. P.E. 6326.

K. 19/2/18.

I saw Russell wounded on the chest and shoulders, by a minnewerther while he was on guard in the front line at Messines.
I helped to carry him to the R.A.P. he was conscious, but in great pain. He died before we reached the post, and we left him at the R.A.P. cemetery at Messines where I saw him buried next day. A cross was to be erected.

32nd. Battn. Stubbs-Mills, D. 1058.

A.11. Dartford . 29/5/18.

R.D.B.

K.A.

P.N.

Havre

5th Septr 1918.

Australians. 32.

Russell P.B. 6326.

K. 19th February 1918. Dot D/B.

He was killed by a T.M. shell at Messines. He was taken out and buried just behind Battn H.Q. I knew him. He came from Western Australia, where he had been a farmer.

Inf:- Pte G. Duggin No. 2601.
Aust. 32. H. Q.
Australian Conv. Depot.
Rouelles.

XXX. CRR.

P/1

PP.

Havre

13th Septr 1918.

Australians. 32.

Russell P.E. 6326.

K. 19th February 1918. Det D/B.

C. Co. XII Pltn. He and I came out in the same reinforcement in October 1916. At Messines in February one afternoon we were in the front line. Russell was quite near me when a shell got him in the ribs. He said to me 'I'm finished'. I said 'Cheer up, you'll be in Blighty in a few days'. He said 'Oh No! Joe, i'm done'. He was put on a stretcher and taken to the D/Station about 500 yards back. He died on the way and was buried in the Cemetery attached to the D/Station. I've seen the grave, it's marked with a cross.

Inf:- Pte P.C.O'Reilly No. 6310.
A.I.F. 32. C. XII.
Ambulance Train.

Home address:- 420 Beaufort Street, Perth.

JHD.

PP.

17.7.18

6326

Plt P. E. Russell

32 Bttn

See under

6229

Plt Walter Bell Corbett

16 Bttn

5, Kings Parade.
Shallowfield.
Manchester.
September 2-9-18.

Rudkell ?

Dear Madam,

Thanking you for your kindness, in sending a letter giving information of how 6.32.6. Pte. P.C. Rossell, 32 Kth meet his death. I should also be very grateful, to receive any further news of him. that may come to hand.

yours faithfully,

Miss C. Pledger.

5, Kings Parade.
Fallowfield,
Manchester.
Sept. 30-9-18.

Dear Madam,

Thanking you for your letter, of the 25 September, which contains the information given by, 6310. Pte. P. O'Reilly, and 10058. Pte. Stubbs-Mills, of the 32nd Battalion, A.I.F. concerning the death, of 6326. Pte. P. G. Russell, 32nd Battalion of the same Regiment and Battalion. Thanking you very much, for your kindness, in giving me the information.

I remain,

Yours sincerely
Miss. E. Pledger.

5, King's Parade
Fallowfield
Manchester
July 14th 1918.

Rec'd 17.7.18

Dear Sir,

We have been informed officially that Pte. J. H. Russell, No. 326, "C" Coy, 32nd R.F. has been killed, and we hold a parcel in trust for this soldier we should be very grateful if you could possibly obtain his parents address which we believe is somewhere in New South Wales) so that the parcel could be sent on to them.

We might add that this man was a friend of a relative of ours — Pte. Walker Corbett Dixon we also understand of N. Wales. 6229 16 Batt.

Any information that you can offer us in regard

x Sub

To these two men we
owe much. They received
& enclosed a stamped
addressed envelope for the
Labour Dept reply.
Yours sincerely
A. F. Pledger.

Australian Agency
54 Victoria St.
London, S.W.

Mrs.H.C. Pledger.
5 King's Parade.
Fallowfield.
MANCHESTER.

August 31st, 1918.

Dear Madam.

In further answer to your enquiry for -

6326 Pte.P.H. RUSSELL. 32nd Battalion. A.I.F.

We regret to inform you of the following unofficial evidence given by No 4029 Pte. A.W. Beech of the same unit when in an Australian Camp in France. He stated - "I knew Pte. Russell well. He came from Katanning in West Australia and had been a farmer. On the 19th February we were at Messines holding the line. They were standing to when a minnewerfer came and burst right on the parapet. Russell was badly wounded in the lung, and I saw him being taken away on a stretcher. He died while they were taking him to the dressing station. He is buried at the Regimental Aid Post on Messines Ridge."

We are continuing our enquiries and as soon as we receive further information we shall advise you.

Trusting that it will be some consolation to know that Pte. Russell did not live long after being wounded.

Yours faithfully,

(Miss) LAW

Secretary.

September 25th, 1918.

Miss E. Pledger.
5 King's Parade.
Fallowfield.
Manchester.

Dear Madam.

In further answer to your enquiry for - 6326 Pte. P.E. RUSSELL. 32nd Battalion. A.I.F. - We beg to inform you of unofficial evidence given by men of his unit which we trust will be of some assistance to you.

6310 Pte.P.O'Reilly when interviewed on an Ambulance train in France stated that when they were in the front line at Messines one afternoon in February he was quite near Pte.Russell when he was wounded in the ring and he saw him removed on a stretcher to the dressing station about 500 yards distant. His death took place on the way down and he was buried in the cemetery attached to the dressing station in a grave marked by a cross which informant has seen. They had come from Australia together in the same reinforcements in October 1915.

1056 Pte. Stubbs-Hills who was in the 3rd Australian Auxiliary Hospital, Dartford, stated that he saw Pte.Russell wounded in the chest and shoulder by a minnewerfer, while he was on guard in the front line at Messines and he helped to carry him to the regimental aid post. He died before they reached there and Pte. Stubbs-Hills saw him buried next day in the Cemetery at Messines.

Should we receive further details of his death we shall immediately advise you and trust that it will be some consolation to know that Pte. Russell did not live long.

With our sincere sympathy.

Yours faithfully.

(Miss)

Secretary.

PH R for DNS