

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

**2970 Private
Benjamin Parsons Salt**

57th Battalion



2400801F

A.I.F. 57th Bttn.

SALT
Pte Benjamin
Parsons 2970.

"WOUNDED 8/8/18"

Killed in Action 8/8/18 - Previously reported Wounded
Cert. by A.I.F. Hqrs 12/9/18

London
14/9/18

P.I.

A.I.F. 57th Battn.

SALT
Benjamin Parsons
2970.

"WOUNDED 8/8/18"

Wounded 2/occasion 8/8/18 No further report
Cert. by A.I.F. Hqrs 29/8/18.

No further report. Prob: M.
Cert. by Rouen Letter 2/9/18.

London
4/9/18.

P.I.

57th Battn.
A.I.F.

SALT.
B.P. 2970.Pte.

"Killed in Action 8-8-18"

I knew that he was in the trenches and a shell burst in the trench, and he was killed on the spot. The ground was held.

Eye-Witness:- Yes.

Description:- "Ben" fair haired; "almost white" young.

Home address:-

Nanewkato.
P.O. Victoria.

Informant:- Sutcliffe, Edward. 2004.Pte.

57th Battn.A.I.F. (excellent)
Mc 5 Hospital.

READING.

A.L. Valgay.

London.

7-10-18.

J.E.A.

P I.

57th Battn.

A.I.F.

SALT.

B.P.

2970.

"Killed in Action 8-8-18"

He was in D. Company, and I saw him wounded near Harbennieres, when he was hit by fragments of shell very badly all over. One arm was cut off. He was taken to a dressing station at once, and was unconscious at the time. I was wounded by same shell and was about 10 yards away from him at the time. Casualty happened about 10 o'clock at night, at which time he was on duty while we were asleep. I knew him fairly well and he enlisted in New South Wales. He had friends in England. Refer to Ptes Dancy and Cummins, of 57th Battalion, and now in France, for they carried him out to the 14th Field Ambulance with me. He rallied a little when we got to the dressing station, but I do not think he would survive his wounds.

Informant:- Pte Herict, N. 4512.

Note:-

D. Coy. 57th Battn.

Written Dancy and

3rd A.A.H. DARTFORD.

Cummins. 3-10-18.

W. Oman.

London.

7-10-18.

J.E.A.

P I.

Havre.

6th. October. 1918.

57th. Australians.

Salt, B. P. 2970.

~~W.~~ unoff. M. K. A. August. 8/1918.

I knew Private Ben Salt, D. 15. he came from Sydney in the 7th. to the 57th. Reinforcements in April 1917. He was about 20, medium height and built, fair, clean-shaven, single; a good soccer player. I was about twenty yards from him when he was killed instantly by a shell in our front line at the right of Harbonieres about midnight on August 8th. 1918. I examined the body after. He would be buried by our Pioneers. We went forward the next day. Seven men of the same Platoon were killed by the same shell. Sergeant. A. Farrands, Privates, Paddy Edwards, Kerno, L/Cpl Fife, Private McPhee. I saw all the bodies lying near Salt.

Inf:- Private. H. Baxter. 2023.
57th. Australians. D. 14.
Australian Conv. Camp.
Rouelles.

RDM.

CP.

57th Battn.
A.I.F.

B.P. SALT.
2970.

c "Killed in Action 8-8-18"

He was in D.Coy. Refer to Pte Barthleson.^A "D" Coy. 57th Battalion now in France for he saw him, dead. I saw him on a stretcher near Villers Bretonneux after he had been hit by pieces of a shell all over the body and one of his arms was off. I knew him well and he came from New South Wales and his people live near Manchester, England. I cannot give any further details.

Informant:- Sig. Hobbs. A.2205.

D.Coy. 57th Battn. A.I.F.
3rd A.A.H. DARTFORD.

W. OMER.
Kendal.
7-10-18.
J.F.A.

Note:- Written Barthleson. 5-10-18.

P I.

Havre.

19th. October. 1918.

57th. Australians.

Salt, B. P. 2970.

K. A.

~~W.~~ unoff. ~~W.~~ August. 8/1918.

It was reported by men who came back after the stunt at Peronne on this side of the Somme just before we went into Peronne, that he had been killed. I was back at H.Q. myself. One of the men who told me this was Private. B. Allen (57. B.) I remember them coming back and saying that 'poor old Salt was killed' I knew Salt well; he was a runner at Bullicourt and we came over from Australia together in the 'Afric' He came from U.S.W. He was fair haired.

Inf:- Private. J. Sparkes. 2981.
57th. Australians. D.
Hospital Ship.

WSM.

CP.

Havre.

21st. October. 1918.

57th. Australians.

Salt, B. P. 2970.

K. A.

~~W.~~ unoff. ~~W.~~ August 8/1918.

I was on the opposite side of the Sunken Road ~~max~~ where he and some others were entrenched; this was near Villers Bretonneux. A shell came right in the trench and killed several including a Sergeant (Sergeant Farrants) I know one of these men was Salt. I saw him on a Stretcher afterwards and he was dead then. We had to go forward then and I did not see him again. He was fair haired, very straight, young looking and clean-shaven.

Inf:- Corporal, E. T Hardy, 3326.
57th. Australians, D. 13.
Havre Hospital.

WSM.

CP.

Havre.

23rd. October. 1918.

57th. Australians.

Salt, B. P. 2970.

~~W. unoff. H.~~ August. 8/1918.

I knew Private Benjamin Salt, D. 15. he was an Englishman but joined in H.S.W. and came in the 7th. to the 57th. Reinforcements in the 'Afric' in 1916. I was with him in our front line trench at Harbonieres on the night of August 8th. 1918, dark, when he was hit by shell in the body and stomach. My mate (who was killed after) bandaged him and he was carried right away to the R.A.P. It was reported to the Battalion that he died of wounds and is buried in the Military Cemetery at Harbonieres.

Inf:- Private. A. Barthelson. 3115.
57th. Australians. D. 15.
Australian Camp.
Ronelles.

RDM.

P.1
Ed
Luf
OP..

A.I.F. 57th Battn.

SALT
B.P. 2970

"KILLED IN ACTION 8/8/18"

Re 2970 Pte B.P. Salt, 57th Battn., who was seriously wounded on the 8/8/18. Pte Salt belonged to 15th Platoon, D Coy., The Battalion had reached its objective and had dug themselves in, our platoon had dug one trench for themselves in together when a shell landed in the middle of the trench killing eight men and wounding two. Pte Salt was one of the wounded, he was carried to the dressing station at Harbonnieres where he died shortly afterwards. He would not be buried on the field, but would be taken back to the Military Cemetery. His description would be about average height fair, fresh complexion, age 20.

Letter from: - Pte H.R. Cummings, No. 2253
France.

14/10/18.

London
31/10/18.

P.I.

A.I.F. 57th Battn.

Pte.

SALT
Benjamin 2970

"KILLED IN ACTION 8/8/18"

Informant says, that Pte Salt was killed during our advance on 8/8/18 near Harbonnieres on the Somme, by a shell fired into the trench, and he died, soon after, at an Aid Post there. The Cpl. saw him, after death, just outside the Aid Post but knows nothing about his burial. Ground was held.

Eye-witness: - As reported

Description: - Tall and fair - went by name of Ben in regiment.

Informant: - 2257 Cpl. Roy Allen., (Probably accurate)
57th Battn., A.I.F., D Coy.,
No. 1 War Hpl.,
Exeter.

Home address: - Elcho St.,
Hamilton,
New South Wales.

P.I.

Hazel Turner
9/10/18.
London
29/10/18
RDS

Havre

31st Octr 1918.

Australians. 57.

Salt B.P. 2970.

~~W. A.~~ 8th August 1918.

He was in D. Company with me. He was about 5 feet 8, fairly sturdily built, fair, clean shaven, about 20 years old. He came from England. We had just dug ourselves in after an attack on the 8th August and a shell landed in the trench by Salt. I saw him while he was being dressed, and he was very badly knocked about. The E/Bs took him to the D/Station, about 3/400 yards S.E. of Harbonnières. I spoke to the S/Bs on the return and they ~~did not~~ did not think he could live. I heard he died at the D/Station but I do not know where he was buried.

Inf:- L/Cpl W.G. Yonville EG. 2272.

A.I.F. 57.- E.

Havre Hospital.

ACH.

2.5.11

P.P.

57th Battn.
A.I.F.

SALBY
B.P. 2970.

"Killed in Action 8-8-18"

He is in D.Company. 15th Platoon. I knew him well. He was 5ft 8, fair, and about 19 years old. At Bayon Willers on August 8th 1918 at 1.30 p.m. we were advancing when ~~shell~~ Salt was hit on the back and shoulder with a shell, a bad wound. He was not conscious when the S/Bs carried him away. I know nothing of his Burial. Refer Sgt P.Lindon. 57th Battalion. D.Coy. 16th Platoon.

Informant:- T.L.Keane.2033.
W.M.K. 57th Battn. D.Coy. 15th Pl.
London. B.29.DARTFORD.
11-11-18.
J.E.A.

P I.

2970
B. P. Salt
57 Bm
K in A. 8.8.16. France.
P.I.

Miss Vera Deakin,
Mrs. Red Cross Society.

Dear Madam,

In answer to your letter of
the 3-10-18, requesting in-
formation of 2970 B. P. Salt
57th Bn, who was seriously
wounded on the 8-8-16. He be-
longed to 1st Platoon, Dor-
set Company. The Battalion had
reached its objective, and had
digged themselves in, our platoon
had dug one trench for
themselves in together, where

a shell landed in the
middle of the trench, killing
eight men and wounding
two. Pt. Salt was one of the
wounded, he was carried to
the dressing station at Har-
boniers where he died shortly
afterwards. He would not
be buried on the field, but
would be taken back to the
Military Cemetery. His description
would be about average height,
fair, fresh complexion, age 20.

Yours faithfully,

W. H. P. Cunningham

No. 2233

To
Mt-A. Barthleson
S. Co
57 Battn
A. I. F

about
2970 Mt-B P. Salt
57 Battn
A. I. F

KinA 8.8.18

Written 3.10.18
mss

G.C.

To

M. Dancy

57 Bathu
A.I.F.

about

2970 Pt B.P. Salt

57 Bathu
A.I.F.

K/A 8.8.18

Written 3.10.18

M.R.G.

G.C.

To

Pt. Cummings

57 Battery

A.I.F.

about

2970 P.B.P. Salt

57 Battery

A.I.F.

K/A Aug 8. 18

Written 3.10.18

MRS

Mrs. E. Salt.

8.10.18

82 Earls St

Long Sight

Manchester.

Dear Madam

In further answer to your
inquiry about your son.

2970 Plt B.P. Salt.

57 Batt. A.I.F.

we regret to inform you that we have
received ~~unofficial~~ ^{judicial} information
from men in the same Batt.

Plt Heriot ^{was} ~~stated~~ ^{that} he saw
a man ^{seriously} ~~wounded~~ ^{by fragments of shell} near Haubonne.

He was taken to a Dressing Station
and was unconscious at the time.

He was about 100 yds away
from Plt Heriot at the time.

Plt Heriot was on duty at the time
which was about 10 pm.

He adds that he had friends in the
Batt.

This report ~~was~~ confirmed by
Sgt. ^{in the same hospital} Hobbs who knew him well
& saw him ~~after he died~~ on a
stretcher near Villers Bretonneux
~~say he was~~ very severely wounded
~~but~~ gives no further details
though he adds that ^{on Sept} he had
relatives living near Manchester
we regret that our information
is so sad ~~but feel it must~~
~~be some consolation~~
to assure you of our deepest
sympathy in your loss & should we
receive further evidence we shall
immediately advise you.

20

10th August 1918.

Australians. 25

Taylor Lieut. B.

11th June 1918. Lot D/B.

My brother informed me that he was killed by a bomb, he was wounded in the stomach at an advanced post near Morlancourt. He lived for several hours. Several others were killed and my brother helped to bury them, so it is likely he would be buried also.

Inf. - Ste. A.J. Langombe Co. 7685.
A.I.F. 25. A. Co.
Australian Corp.
Rouelles.

A. I. F. 31.

STUBBIE, L.H. 4138.

11th April 1918. Det. D/B.

I happened to get back to the Battr. a week after he was killed by a shell in an old barn near Bouzencourt not very far from Villers-Bretonneux. I saw the place and I visited his grave which is just alongside the barn, near a canal bank. There is a cross up.

He was A. Coy. III pl. and I think he came over with the 9th. Reinf.

GGP.

Informant:- Turnbull, R.H. 3638. 31 A. III.
A.T. "Cambria".

Calais
12.8.18.

Yo

31.10.18

Mr E. Salt
82 Fair St
Longsight
Manchester

20-10-18
100005
files

Dear Madam - We beg to acknowledge
& thank you for your letter of 29th inst
concerning 2940 Plt B.P. Salt Sy^a B.I.F.
who is officially reported killed in action
on 12-9-18. A letter addressed
to 2023 Plt R.H. Baxter
Sy^a Battalion A.I.F.
B.E.F.

should certainly reach him.
Again assuring you of our
sincerest sympathy in your loss

RECEIVED
1930 OCT 31

Am. I. F. 49th Btn

IBBOTSON
Eldred 2680

Adm. 4th M.P. 2 years 14-10-18.
Cert. by Am. I. F. 29-10-18.

London
30-10-18

"WHEREABOUTS"

P.I.

Mrs P. Salt.
89 Earl Street
Long Sigh
Manchester

15-11-18.

Yours

Dear Madam In further
reference to your enquiry
for 2970 Tfr: B. P. Salt. 54th Bate.
A.I.F. we beg to inform you
that we have received an
unofficial report from 3115-
Tfr: A. Barthelsson of the same
unit. He stated that he
was with Tfr Salt in the front
line trench at Harbomieres
on the night of Aug 8th when
he was wounded by a shell in
the body. They bandaged him
& he was carried to the
Regimental Aid Post & later
it was reported to the Battalion

that he died of wounds & was
buried in the Military Cemetery
at Harbourside — We have
received unofficial reports
from several other men of
the same unit confirming
the above report. 2233 T.R.

W. Cummings, 2033 T.R. T.L.

Keane, 2857 Cpl: Ray Allen

2272 V/cpl: Venables, 5326

Cpl: P. T. Hardy — we are
now closing our inquiries as
we feel we are unlikely to
obtain further particulars.
Should we however receive
any other details we will
advise you — Hoping
that this information may
be of some assistance to you.
With sincere sympathy —

84981

Salter

12A FAB

AS

in 5 Gen H. washed
knives when he arrived
England.

Mr Black

27 Harvey Ln Gdn

SW.

17 10. 18.

Wm Black (Black) 13-11-18.
27. Harrington Gardens
S.W.

Dear Madam

In reply to your
inquiry for 34981 ^{1st} Lt. G.S.
Salter 12th Australian Field
Artillery Brigade A.I.F. we
^{request} to inform you that he
was admitted into the Bethnal
Green Hospital on 5-10-18
suffering from a severe
gun shot wound in his left
leg which necessitated its
amputation. Hoping that he is
making satisfactory progress

1st Bn.

WATERS (HQ)
WATERS
Harry 769

"WHEREABOUTS"

Cert. by A.I.F. Hqs. List 7/10/18

Wounded 29/9/18

Adm. 3rd Casualty Clearing Station Gun shot wound shoulder right

Trans: to Queen Mary's Hl. Hl. 2/10/18

Disch 1/11/18 - granted furlough and report to. Command Depot Burdett
18/11/18

Cert. by A.I.F. Hqs 18/11/18

London
13/11/18

P.I.

18/9/18.

82, Earl St,
Longsight
Mps

Re. 2970. Pte Benjamin P. Salt.

Dear Madam, 57. Batt. A. F. F.

With reference to your letter of the 17th inst, I thank you very much for seeking the dreadful news, and I shall be greatly obliged if you will make further enquiries as regards whether he is buried, or not,

Your immediate attention to this will oblige.

Yours faithfully
W^{ts} E. Salt

pc 25513

C.

82, Carl St
Longsight
✓ m/c
Aug 27th

Dear Sir or Madam,

Having been recommended to write to you, by the British Red Cross Society.

I wish to know if you could give me any information as regards my son: Benjamin, P. Salt No. 2970, Australian Imperial Force, who is reported to have been wounded on the 8th inst, and if he is seriously wounded or slight, and where he is, as I am very anxious to know, Trusting you will favour me with a speedy reply and oblige

Yours Faithfully
M^{rs} E. Salt

Sept. 6th, 1918.

Mrs. F. Salt.
82 Earl Street.
Longsight.
Manchester.

Dear Madam.

In reply to your enquiry dated 27-8-18 regarding -

2970 Pte. B.P. SALT. 57th Battalion. A.I.F.

We beg to inform you that he was wounded for the second time on 8-8-18, but since then there has been no further report and we very much fear that he may be prove to be missing. We are making every possible enquiry in the hope of finding his whereabouts, but had he been admitted to hospital we would surely have heard ere this. Assuring you of our sincere sympathy with you in your anxiety, and with deep regrets for not being able to give you more hopeful news.

Yours faithfully,

(Miss) *Mr. Macmillan*

Secretary.

September 17th, 1918.

Mrs. E. Salt.
82 Earl Street
Longsight, Manchester.

re 2970 Pte. BENJAMIN PARSONS SALT. 57th Btn. A.I.F.

Dear Madam.

We deeply regret to inform you that the above soldier who was previously reported Wounded is now reported Killed in Action on 8/8/18.

We are making further enquiries in the hope of learning full details of his death and will forward immediately to you any information we receive.

Assuring you of our sincere sympathy in your loss.

Yours faithfully,

(Miss) *Law.*

Secretary.

October 22nd, 1918.

Mrs. E. Salt,
82 Earl Street,
Longsight.
Manchester.

Dear Madam.

In reference to your enquiry for details as to the death and burial of 2970 Pte. B.E. SALT. 57th Battalion. A.I.F. We beg to inform you that we have received an unofficial report from 2023 Pte. W. Baxter of the same unit. He stated that he knew Pte. Salt well and that he came from Sydney in the 7th Reinforcements joining the 57th Battalion in April /17. He describes him as fair clean shaven, about 20 years of age, of medium height and build.

Pte. Baxter stated that he was about 20 years from Pte. Salt when he was killed instantaneously by a shell in our front line trenches at the right of Harbonnières about midnight on August 8th he also examined him before he was buried by our pioneers the next day. They moved forward.

We are continue our enquiries and will advise you should we receive any further particulars and trust that it will be some comfort to have this assurance of his instantaneous death.

Assuring you of our sincere sympathy.

Yours faithfully,

(Miss)

Secretary.

Vera Pearce

6657

82, Carl St.

Longlight.

Manchester.

Dear Mrs Deakin:-

31.10.18

I have received your very welcome letter, giving further details of 2910.

Pte B. P. Salt, 5th Battalion, and I am sure I am very thankful to you.

I have written to Pte. Baxter but could not make his address out, so I shall be greatly obliged if you could give it to me, we have written to several of the boys, but have had no answers, but I suppose you will be able to understand how upset I am, because he was my only son,

Thanking you again for your letter
I remain

Yours Sincerely

M^{rs} B. P. Salt.