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

561 Private Lachlan Norman Munro

21st Battalion



1850908V

21st M.G.Coy,
A.I.F.

MUNRO,
Lachlan N. 561

"Missing.

Killed in Action 27.10.17. Previously repcrted Missing.
Cert. by Hqrs 11.3.18.

London.
16.3.18.

Off.M.
Melb.
P.I.

21st M.G Coy,
A.I.F.

MUNRO,
L.N. 561

"Missing 12.10.17."

I sent him out on a message at Zonnebeke, but he did not return and we posted him as missing. Subsequently speaking to 1st Div Pioneers who said they had buried him down from Zonnebeke in the field. They did not say whether the greve was marked. I do not think they did mark it. I have heard from members of the company that they knew he was dead.

Informant:- 6/S/M. V.C.Hooks, 24,
21st M.G.Coy
Hut 10,
Westham.

W.A.Rand.

P.I.
Off.M.

London.
26.2.18.

NOTE Written Adjtuant 1st Div Pioneers 25.2.18.

21st.M.Gun.Coy. A.I.F.

Munro.L.N.No.561.

Missing.Oct.12/17.

I saw his grave at Belgian Battery Corner.A cross was erected with his name and particulars.I only knew him in the company,and I could give no description.

Witness. Carther.J.Sergt. No.4740. 21st.Mas.Gun.Coy.

Taken at
No.4.C.D.
14-2-18.
F.G.H.

S.Whitmee,
No.4.C.D.
Hurdcott.

P.1

21st Mach.Gun Coy.
A.I.F.

Munro.
L.N. 561

"Killed in Action 27.10.17"

Full enquiries have been instituted amongst our various Companies in reference to No.561 L.N.Munro and I very much regret without success. Of course, it is possible that this chap was buried by some of our men, yet it seems improbable, as we invariably receive a report to that effect. If the Official report states "Missing", I think it should be considered as authentic for I can assure you that when occasion offers itself we use every endeavour to give full details.

Letter from:- A.H.Lydall M.C.
1st Pion.Battn.
12.3.18.

London.
20.3.18.

M.
P.I.

21st Battn.M.G.Coy.
A.I.F.

Munro.
L.N. 561

"Killed in Acti n 27.10.17"

I regret that I can give no further information concerning the man other than that contained in the official intimation. His name does not appear in my return.

Letter from:- Lieut.R.C.Cliffe
Burial Officer.1st Aust: Div.
10.3.18.

Note Lieut.Cliffe asked Mr.Hughes to ask on parade whether any man knew of Pte.Munro's burial - above report is Lieut.Hughes' reply.

London.
20.3.18.

M.
P.I.

21st Mach.Gun Coy.
A.I.F.

Munro.
L.N. 561

"Killed in Action 27.10.17"

I saw him dead, killed by a shell which he had all to himself, dying instantly in a Pill Box at Westhoek. Don't know if buried. Victoria. 5'7 or 8" We called him "Snowy" Fair.

Informant:- I.Smith 335
21st Mach.Gun. Coy.
War Chest.

W.Alison.

London.
28.3.18.

M.
P.I.

Havre

30th March 1918.

21st Aust. M.G.Coy.

Munro L.N. No. 561.

~~M.~~ 12th Octr 1917.

I know Pte Snowy Munro of the 21st M.G.Coy, attached to M. , as a runner on 12th Octr 1917 at Polygon Wood. He was about 20 years, medium height, and build, fair, clean shaven. I was told by a man of the same Company, whose name I do not remember, that Munro was killed in a dugout, and that his body was found.

Inf:- Pte C.A.Dickinson No. 393.
21st Aust. M.G.Coy.
Australian Camp.
Rouelles.

RM

21st Machine Gun Co.

MUNRO, L. N.
Pte. 561.

K. in act. 27/10/17.

"I knew Casualty. He was a well built man, about 5 ft. 6 ins. fair complexion, about 23 years of age, known as "Snowie". Casualty was carrying a message to Co. Headquarters, Zonnebeke Road, to Brigade Headquarters. I saw him just before leaving at about 1 a.m. and he was never seen again. Believed to have been killed outright."

Informant:- Pte. R. Chisholm,
No. 282, 21st M. G. Co.

Private address:-
Parker Street,
Malvern.

H.A.M.
14/3/19.

Note:- Informant says that very little information can be got about this Casualty.

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS INFORMATION BUREAU—MELBOURNE.

21st Machine Gun Co.

MUNRO,
L.N., 561

K. 27/10/17.

I knew casualty, he was a stout built man, about 5'6" in height, fair complexion, 22 years of age. Casualty was in Support Lines at Passchendaele. He was a runner and was carrying a message from Battalion to Company Headquarters when he was wounded by a piece of high explosive shell. I did not see him hit but found him dead in a pill box some little time after, believed to have died of wounds there.

WALKER,
F., 341
Private Address:- 18 Webster Street,
Ballarat.

N.A.T.
1/8/19.

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS INFORMATION BUREAU—MELBOURNE.

21st M.G.Co.

MUNRO, L. N.
Pte. 561.

K. in act. 27/10/17.

"I knew Casualty. He was about 5 ft. 6 ins., well built, fair complexion, 20 years of age. Known as "Snowie". He was an original 2nd Machine Gun Co. Casualty was running from Co. Headquarters, which was in a pill-box near Zillebeke, to Brigade Headquarters, when a shell landed killing him instantly. I did not see his body, but a runner came back and told the O.C. of Co. Headquarters."

Informant:- Pte. C. F. Shreeve,
No. 338, 21st M.G.Co.

Private address:-
Garfield P.O.

S.V.P.
15/8/19.

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS INFORMATION BUREAU—MELBOURNE.

April 9th 1918

No. 3564 Sgt. D.Munro,

6th Battn, A.6. Ward,

3rd Aust. Aux. Hospital,

Dartford.

Dear Sir,

We regret to inform you that we have received an unofficial report from an eye-witness, of the death of your brother, 561. Pte. Lochlan Norman Munro, 21 Machine Gun Coy, A.I.F. which confirms the official report of his being killed in action. 735 Pte. Smith of the same Coy. states that he saw him killed instently by a shell, in a pill-box at Westhoek, but he can say nothing as to burial. He describes your brother 5ft 7 or 8ins in height, and so fair that he was nicknamed "Snowy", and adds that he came from Victoria.

With our sincere sympathy in your loss.

Yours truly.

F. J. Geape

SECRETARY

561 L.N.Munro
21 M.G.C.
Ack. 18-3-18 gnJ K/A 27.10.17 M & P.I
1st Aust. Pioneer Bn. 4

12th March, 1918

Secretary,
Aust. Red Cross Society,
36, Grosvenor Place,
London, S.W.1, [illegible]

Reference attached.

Full enquiries have been instituted amongst our various Companies in reference to [illegible]. 661, L.N. MUNRO; and I very much regret without success.

Of course, it is possible that this chap was buried by some of our men, yet it seems improbable, as we invariably receive a report to that effect. If the Official report states "Missing", I think it should be considered as authentic for I can assure you that, when occasion offers itself, we use every endeavour to give full details.

[signature] Capt & Adjutant.

561. L. N Munro 21st M.S.C.
K/A 27.10.17

Lt Col Commg
1st Bn Coldstream
Guards

Lt Col Cliff asked Lt Hughes
to ask on parade whether
any man knew of the number
Wanted - Also report to
Lt Hughes tonight.

(i)

Mrs A. E. Hour 20.2.17

Huntly Walk

Victoria

(ii) Mrs Paul Brown

Mannella Estate

Via Rochester. Victoria

Re. 561. Pte F. N. Hour No. 2154 M.G.C.

A.I.F.

Missing 12.10.17

Australian Draft Sent.

Thanks, FRONT France

K.D.S.—V. 1930.

TION AS TO

Rank	Battalion and Regiment.	Co.	Platoon	Casualty.
Pt	53rd Batt: A.I.F.			K/I. Oct 20th/17 Sel dol.

I BY

nk.	Battalion and Regiment.	Co.	Platoon	Home Address.
	53rd Batt: A.I.F.	B		None in England - On Leave from France

INFORMANT

irst person).

nded at Anzac Ridge and
He is buried in the Cemetery

THE FOLLOWING :—

e name, number, etc., an was told him.

t says a man was killed, instantaneous, and was uried, and if so where?

y other man of same o. or Battalion?

Signature of Searcher Gertrude Mac Pherson

Date of Report 13-2-18.

Missing Draft. 14. 1. 18.

3564 Lgt. D. Munro
A. 6. Ward.
No 3. Aus: Aux: Hospital
Dartford.

about 5-6. Pte L. N. Munro
21. M. G. Coy.

4th Battn
A.I.F.

MOORE
J. 200

"Killed March 4th 1917"

I saw him killed by a shell instantly in front of La Barque on the right of Thilloy, Bapaume. He was buried in the open near to where he was killed. I helped make the cross andplaced it on his grave.
He was an original Battn man. I joined up Sep. 3rd 1914. He was very stout rather dark & very fine

3564 Sgt. D.Munro,
A 6, Ward, 3rd Australian
Auxiliary Hospital, Dartford.

4th March, 1918.

Dear Sir,

We very much regret to inform you that we have now received an unofficial report concerning your brother :-

561 Gnr. L.N. MUNRO, 81st H.C.Coy, A.I.F.

who is officially reported missing on 12.10.17.

240/S/Bdr.V.C.Monks, of the same unit writes from Westham (hut 10) saying that he sent Gnr.Munro out on a message at Zonnebeke and he did not return and was posted as Missing. Subsequently when speaking to the 1st Div. Pioneers C/S/L.Monks was told by them that they had buried Gnr.Munro in the field, near Zonnebeke, but they did say whether the grave was marked.

We have written to the Adjutant of the 1st Div.Pioneers for a verification of this statement and will communicate with you as soon as we receive his reply. We are also continuing our enquiries and will advise you immediately if any further reports reach us.

Regretting that we have not better news to give you and with sincere sympathy in your anxiety.

Yours faithfully,

SECRETARY.

K.C.

The Adjutant,

1st Aust. Pioneers Bttn, Australian

Imperial Force, B. E. F.

19th March, 1918.

Dear Sir,

We thank you very much for the trouble you have taken in trying to get information concerning - 561 M.H.HUNRO, 21st M.G.Coy.- and regret that the unofficial report was without foundation.

Yours faithfully,

SECRETARY.

14.1.14

From 3561 Sgt D Munro
A6 Ward
No 2 Australian Aust Hosp
Dartford Kent

To Australian Red Cross
Sec Enquiry Bureau
Dear Sir

I beg to make enquiries concerning my brother 561 Pte L.H. Munro 21st Machine Gun Coy reported missing Oct 22nd 1916
So far I have been unable to learn anything to enlighten me as to what happened to him Trusting you may know something of his whereabouts and communicate same with me.

Gratefully Yours
D.P. Munro.

I hope and trust you will find some trace of him and we will reward you

Ans. 20-2-15

North Huntly
24th 1917

Dear Mrs Thomley

I am writing you a few lines to ask you could you kindly find out any news of my poor Boy a Private J. H. Munro, has been missing since the 27 October 1917. and we cant get any trace of him as the defence department, and trace him I would be thankful if you could find any thing of his whereabout. he may be killed or he was an epileptic and has fainting over him, and if you could find any trace of him, I am sure his family will not forget you, I have also two more Brothers wounded and are lying in the Hospital, it would be a great relief to me as I am his Sister, and for the sake of his poor Mother I do hope you could find whether he is a prisoner of War, I saw in the Paper where a Soldier from Australia is advising people to write to you, Corporal Gale, hoping to get some news

Yours Respectfully
Mrs A. E. Howe
Huntly. North, Victoria
Australia

No 361 Private J. H. Munro
Australian Pioneers 21st Machine Gun Company
Australian Imperial Force abroad
on active service

I hope and trust you will find some trace of him and we will reward you

Aus. 20.2.18

North Hunty
24th 1917

Dear Miss Thomley

I am writing you a few lines to ask you could you kindly find out any news of my poor Brother Private S. H. Munro, has been missing since the 27 October 1917. and we cant get any trace of him as the defence department cant trace him I would be thankful if you could find any thing of his whereabouts. he may be killed, as he has an aged Mother and his parting over him, and if you could find any trace of him, I am sure his family will not forget you, I have also two more Brothers wounded and are lying in the Hospital, it would be a great relief to me as I am his Sister, and for the sake of his poor Mother I do hope you could find whether he is a prisoner of War, I saw in the Paper where a Soldier from Australia is advising people Aus with to you, Corporal Gale, hoping to get some news

Yours Respectfully
Mrs A. E. Howe
North Hunty, Victoria
Aus

No 611 Private S. H. Munro
Australian 21st Machine Gun Company
Australian Imperial Force abroad

my address

Mrs A E Hosier
South Gum Tree
Via Bendigo
Victoria
Australia

Annetta Estate
Via Rochester
26.12.1918

Dear Miss Chomley,

I saw an advertisment in our paper that if any one desiring to know anything about Missing Soldiers to write to You and You might find out something about my Brother for me He has been Missing since the 24th of October his name is Pte Lachlan R Munro 21st Machine Gun Coy No 561 At Service France as we have heard nothing since he was reported missing we think he might be a prisoner of War I would be so Gratefull if You could find out something for me as the suspense is Terrible and his poor Mother is breaking her heart as he was her Youngest son and there are also 2 more sons wounded in France My Adress will be

Mrs Paul Power
Barnsdella Estate
Via Rochester

Pannetta Estate
Via Rochester.
26.12.1918

Dear Miss Chomley,

I saw an advertisement in our paper that if any one desiring to know anything about Missing Soldiers to write to You and you might find out something about my Brother for me. He has been missing since the 24th of October his name is Pte Lachlan J Munro 21st Machine Gun Coy No 561 A Service France as we have heard nothing since he was reported missing we think he might be a prisoner of War I would be so grateful if You could find out something for me as the suspense is terrible and his poor Mother is breaking her heart as he was her youngest son and there are also 2 more sons wounded in France My Adress will be

Miss Paul Brown
Pannetta Estate
Via Rochester

The Adjutant,
1st Divisional Pioneers,
Australian Imperial Force,
Abroad.

February 26th, 1918.

Dear Sir,

We have been making enquiries on behalf of our Australian Bureau concerning - 561 Pte.MUNRO, 51st Machine Gun Coy, A.I.F. who is reported Missing 12-10-17. Recently we have received an unofficial report to the effect that this soldier's body was found by the 1st Divisional Pioneers and buried by them in the field.

We have applied again to A.I.F. Headquarters for information concerning him, but have met with no report other than Missing 12-10-17.

We hesitate to trouble you in the matter, but feel ourselves obliged to do so and will be most grateful for the sake of our enquirers if you will kindly inform us whether you have any record of Pte.Munro 561 having been buried by men of your unit, or if our informant has confused two men with similar names and particulars.

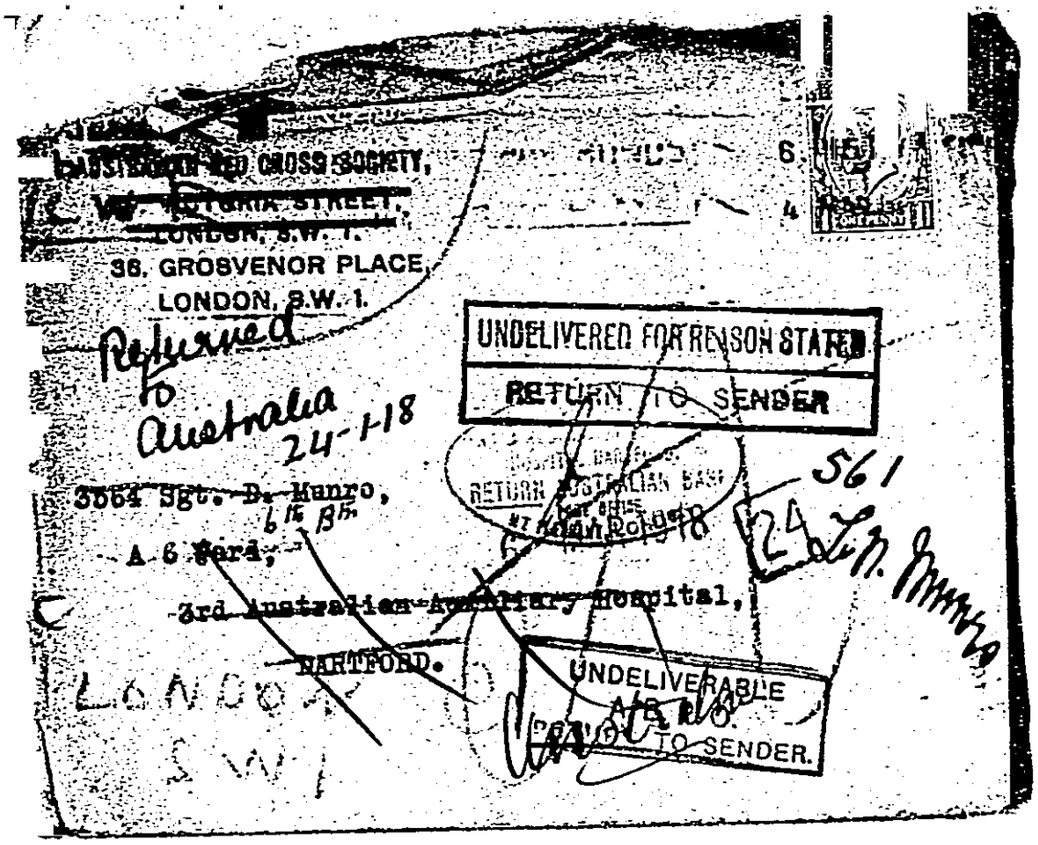
With apologies for troubling you, and thanking you in anticipation.

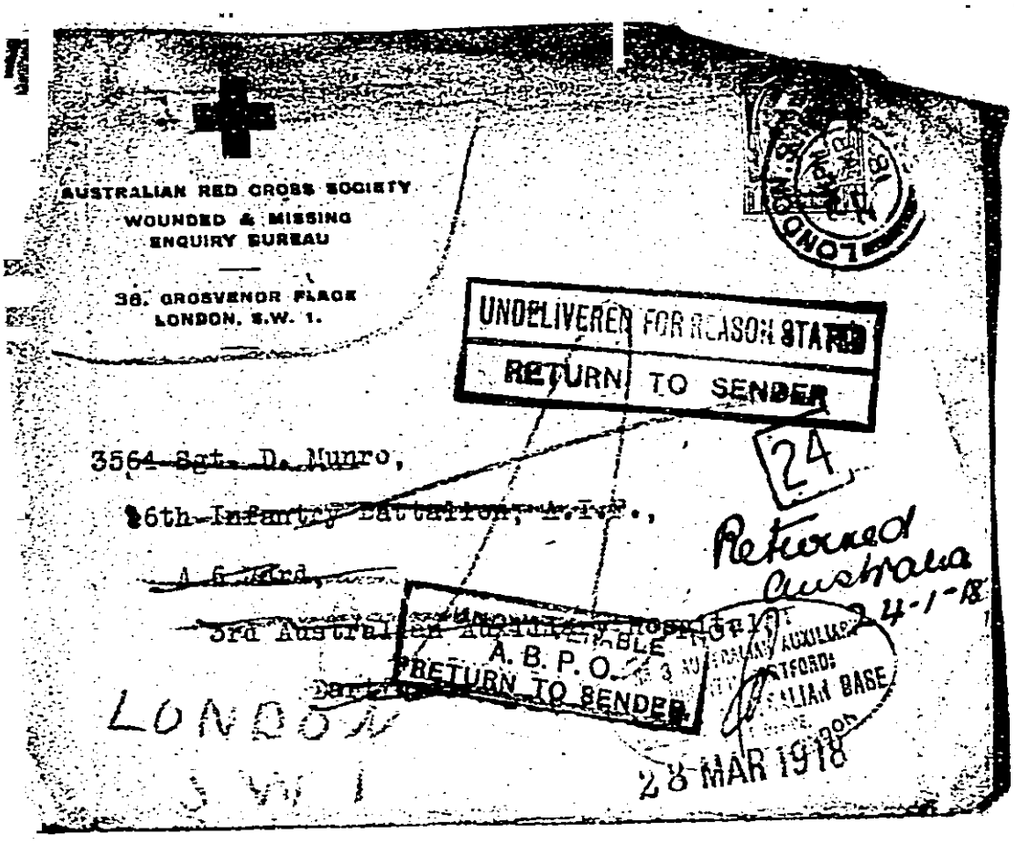
Yours faithfully,

SECRETARY.

NOTE
---. We have been informed by various C.O'S and Adjutants that

the receipt of notes of thanks only causes them unnecessary inconvenience. Unless you ask us to acknowledge your reply to the above, we will not do so, and trust that you will understand that we appreciate it none the less.


36, GROSVENOR PLACE,
LONDON, S.W. 1.
Returned
to
Australia
24-1-18
3564 Sgt. D. Munro,
A 6 Ward,
3rd Australian Auxiliary Hospital,
HARTFORD.
UNDELIVERED FOR REASON STATED
RETURN TO SENDER
RETURN AUSTRALIAN BASE
UNDELIVERABLE
RETURN TO SENDER.
561


AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY
WOUNDED & MISSING
ENQUIRY BUREAU
38. GROSVENOR PLACE
LONDON, S.W. 1.
LONDON
UNDELIVERED FOR REASON STATED
RETURN TO SENDER
24
3564 Sgt. D. Munro,
26th Infantry Battalion, A.I.F.,
3rd Australian
Returned Australia 4-1-18
UNDELIVERABLE
A. B. P. O.
RETURN TO SENDER
AUSTRALIAN BASE
28 MAR 1918
LONDON
S.W.1

Tel.: VICTORIA {8576 8577 8578

ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO BE ADDRESSED TO "THE SECRETARY," WOUNDED AND MISSING — ENQUIRY BUREAU — AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY.

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY.

36, GROSVENOR PLACE,
LONDON, S.W. 1.

27th March, 1918.

3564 Sgt.D.Munro,
A. 6. Ward, 3rd Australian Aux. Hpl,
DARTFORD.

P.I.
returned Aus:
24-1-18

Dear Sgt. Munro,

In further answer to your enquiry for your brother :-

561 Pte.L.H.MUNRO, 21st M.G.Coy, A.I.F.

We regret to inform you that he is now reported officially as Killed in Action 27-10-17, having previously been "Missing". We have received the following answer to our enquiry to the Adjutant of 1st Div. Pioneers who states:- "Full enquiries have been instituted among our various coys in reference to Pte.L.H.Munro and I very much regret without success, Of course it is possible that this man was buried by some of our men, yet it seems impossible as we invariably receive a report to that effect. If the official report states Missing I think it should be consider as authentic for I can assure you that when occasion offers itself we use every endeavour to give full details."

4746 Sgt.J.Carthew, 21st M.G.Coy, informs us "I saw Pte. L.H.Munro's grave at Belgian Battery Corner. A cross was erected with his name and particulars. I only knew him in the Coy and I could give no description.

Regretting that we have such sad information to send you and assuring that we will continue our enquiries and forward any further information we may receive.

Yours faithfully,

Vera Blake

SECRETARY.
(Lt.)

Tel.: VICTORIA {8576 8577 8578

ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO BE ADDRESSED TO "THE SECRETARY," WOUNDED AND MISSING — ENQUIRY BUREAU — AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY.

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY.

36, GROSVENOR PLACE,
LONDON, S.W. 1.

3564 Sgt. D.Munro,
A 6, Ward, 3rd Australian
Auxiliary Hospital, Dartford.

4th March, 1918.

P.I. returned Australia 24-1-18

Dear Sir,

We very much regret to inform you that we have now received an unofficial report concerning your brother :-

561 Gnr. L.N. MUNRO, 21st M.G.Coy, A.I.F.

who is officially reported Missing on 12.10.17.

24C/S/Mjr.V.C.Monks, of the same unit writes from Westham (hut 10) saying that he sent Gnr,Munro out on a message at Zonnebeke and he did not return and was posted as Missing. Subsequently when speaking to the 1st Div. Pioneers C/S/M.Monks was told by them that they had buried Gnr.Munro in the field, near Zonneke, but they did say whether the grave was marked.

We have written to the Adjutant of the 1st Div.Pioneers for a verification of this statement and will communicate with you as soon as we receive his reply. We are also continuing our enquiries and will advise you immediately if any further reports reach us.

Regretting that we have not better news to give you and with sincere sympathy in your anxiety.

Yours faithfully,

Vera Beaker

SECRETARY.

per K.C.