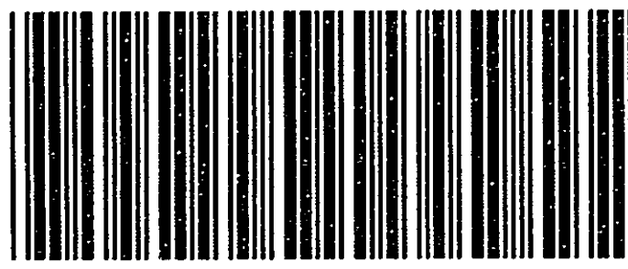
Australian Red Cross Society Wounded and Missing
Enquiry Bureau files, 1914-18 War
1DRL/0428

6812 Private Alexander Ernest Palmer

7th Battalion



2080510G

A.I.F.
7th Btn.

PALMER
Alex Ernest 6813

Killed in Action 4.10.17.

No trace Germany.
Cert. by Capt. Mills 10.10.19.

London.
14.10.19.

P.I. & S.

A.I.F. 7th Btn

PALMER
A.E. 6812

"Wded OctX"

Wounded & Missing 4-10-17 - previously reported Wounded
ert. by A.I.F.Hqrs. 27-2-18.

S

London
12-3-18

A.I.F. 7th Battn

PALMER
Alex Ernest 6812

"Wounded & Missing 4/10/17"

Killed in Action 4/10/17.

Previously reported Wounded & Missing.
Cert. by A.I.F. Hqrs 5/7/18.

London
9/7/18.

S
P.I.

81

A.I.F. 7. PALMER, A. E. 6842.

W. & M. Oct. 4th, 1917.

Palmer was in my section and he was a tall, smart, well built solderly fellow, clean shaven, about 38 years old and came from Sydney, N.S.W. On Oct. we were waiting for a hop over to take Anzac Ridge Ypres salient and were lying in shell holes or any other places where we could get cover as the Bosche barage was very heavy. Palmer was in a hole about 15 yards from me, and while thus waiting a shell skimmed my hole and then burst between the two spots, and a piece struck him in the back of the neck. His mates then shouted out that he was hit and J. Gunn, one of the section went and bound him up. Our movements at the time were of the leap frog order and S/Bs were told not tocarry men out till we had reached our objective. Palmer therefore was left where he was hit and from that point I am unable to say what really became of him, but from the circumstances we all thought that he and many others were buried by continual shell fire.

S
R.1

N.W. Inf. Cpl. J. Smith, 5755, 6.B. Coy. gas N.C.O.
No.53. Gen. Hosp,
BOULOGNE. 2.7.18. HH.

Written Pte. Gunn 12.7.18.

7th Bttn. A.I.F. PALMER.
A.E. 6812.

"Killed in Action 4-10-17."

re your enquiry about - 6812 Pte.A.E.Palmer. We commenced an attack at Menin Road near Ypres on the 4th October last at 6 a.m. Palmer and I were in the same platoon and section and were together up to the time he got wounded. During the advance and at about 10 a.m Palmer, myself and a few others were too far ahead and our O.C. - Capt. Hopkins - blew his whistle and signaled to us to come back and while doing so a shrapnel shell burst close behind us and Palmer got hit in the back and another soldier named Harry Marshall got hit in the leg and I helped Marshall to a shell hole and on looking round I noticed Palmer lying on his stomach about 20 yards away. I went to assist him to the same place as I took Marshall to but Palmer thought he was better where he was so remained lying where he was, he was only slightly wounded and was quite cheerful and said he had got a nice little blighty, nothing dangerous. I told him our stretcher bearers would come along soon and fix him up. I left him there as the Capt. signalled for us to advance that was the last I saw of Palmer. The rest is second hand information I gathered from our Platoon stretcher bearer - Pte. NELSON - We got back to our billets about the 7th of Oct. I saw Nelson and asked him how Palmer and Marshall got on and Nelson said he bandaged their wounds and told them to take shelter in a pill box until the shelling eased off a bit and then walk back to the

7th Bttn. A.I.F. (2) PALMER.
A.E. 6812.
"Killed in Action 4-10-17."

dressing station, their wounds were only slight so they were both able to walk. Marshall got hit in the calf of the leg.

Now Marshall was the only man who could have told what happened after they both left the Pill Box unfortunately he died in a hospital at Etaples and is buried in the cemetery there. What I think happened was they were both walking back towards the dressing station when a shell burst near them killing Palmer and wounding Marshall seriously, probably Marshall was unconscios until he died so was unable to give an account of what happened then, of course I am only guessing.

Pte. Harry Marshall and Pte. Nelson belonged to B.Coy. also. I first met Palmer in Camp in N.S.W. in June 1916, we were together all the time until Oct 4th. He was about 5'9" in height, hair dark thin face, fresh complexion, two or three teeth missing in the top jaw, and clean shaven. he walked very straight and upright."

Letter from - 6756 Pte.J.R.Gunn.
No 2 Coy. Littlemoor Camp.
Weymouth.

London.
4-10-18.
J.E.A. S.

M.B.H.Davidson, Esq,

Migvie House, N. Silver Street,

Aberdeen.

War Just Matin Bureau

July 12th. 8

Dear Sir,

re 6812 ALEX ERNEST PALMER, 7th Bttn, A.I.F.

We deeply regret to inform you that the above soldier who was previously reported Wounded and Missing is now reported Killed in Action 4-10-17.

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

Regretting the distressing character of this news.

Yours faithfully,

(MISS) MR.

SECRETARY.

12.7.18

Pte J. Gunn
7th Battn. C.1.7.
abroad

Abt
6812

Pte A. E. Palmer
7th Battn. Cc 1.7

W/M 4.10.17

12.7.18
a.1.B.

To 24.4.18

The Hon. Sec.
War Information Bureau
Inquire House
N. Silver St
Aberdeen N.B.

Re. 6812 Pte A.E. Palmer 4th Batt A.I.F.

W.A.M. 9.10.17

Missing Draft sent.

HOSPITAL 5 Southern Milton Section. Ports

INFORMA

Fill in exactly as List.	SURNAME.	Christian Name.	Regtl.No.
	Hawksford	T. H.	2944

GIV

	SURNAME	Christian Name.	Regtl.No.
	Sinclair	Donald	2158

STATEMENT

(to be take

NOTE. In all cases state fully what informant says he saw or heard and give DATE AND PLACE of occurrence.

3 At West Hoek Ridge. on the

We were going in to relieve in the 2nd Section - He was which burst alongside the shell Palmore was mom not far from where he u up with name etc. He h

PLEASE ALSO ANSW

1. Was Informant Eye-Witness?	Yes.	2. If n of
3. Was the ground held or lost?	Held.	4. If I (a) (b)
5. Did Informant know Christian Name, Initials or No. of man enquired about?	No.	6. Was nan
7. Give Informant's description of man enquired about—any nickname, marks, scars, etc.	From Sydney. Th	
8. *Searcher's opinion of Informant's accuracy and intelligence*	Reliable -	

Reports should always be written very clearly in ink, or typewritten.

29.9.19.

Final Draft ii

T. B. M. Davidson Esq.
Tilgrie House
N. Silver St.
Aberdeen

abant

682, A. E. Palmer
T. B.

ABERDEEN

WAR INFORMATION BUREAU,

Hon. Secretary—
Miss DAVIDSON.

Migvie House,
N. Silver Street,
Aberdeen.

April 24. 1918.

The Australian Red Cross Society
Inquiry Bureau

24.4.18

Dear Sir,

6812 Pte, Alex. E. Palmer, 7th, Aus. Inf.

We have had enquiry concerning the above named man reported wounded and missing Oct. 4. 1917.

We regret that we have no further information as to his company or platoon.

We shall be obliged by your placing his name on your Enquiry List, and by your sending us any information you may receive.

Yours sincerely,

M. U. N. Davidson

Hon. Sec.

July 18th, 1918.

M.B.H. Davidson, Esq,
Hon.Sec. War Information Bureau.
Migvie House, N. Silver Street,
ABERDEEN.

Dear Sir,

With further reference to your enquiry for -

6812 Pte. A.E. PALMER, 7th Battalion, A.I.F.

We beg to inform you that we have now received unofficial evidence of his death from one of the men in his Battalion.

5755 Cpl. J.Smith, interviewed recently in hospital in France made the following statement:- "Palmer was in my Section, and he was a tall, smart, well built soldierly fellow, clean shaven, about 38 years old, and came from Sydney, N.S.W. On Oct we were waiting for a hop over to take Anzac Ridge, Ypres salient, and were lying in shell holes or any other places where we could get cover as the hostile barrage was very heavy.
Palmer was in a hole about 15 yards from me, and while thus waiting, a shell skimmed my hole and then burst between two spots, and a piece struck him in the back of the neck. His mates then shouted out that he was hit and J.Gunn, one of the section went and bound him up. Our movements at the time were of the leap frog order and S/bs were told to carry men out till we had reached our objective. Palmer therefore was left where he was hit and from that point I am unable to say what really became of him, but from the circumstances we all thought that he and many others were buried by continual shell fire."

We have written to Pte. Gunn and are continuing our enquiries and as soon as any further information reaches us we will immediately advise you.

Yours faithfully,
(MISS) [signature]
SECRETARY.

July 23rd, 1918.

2933 L/Cpl. J.B. Harper,
att. 5th Australian Field Ambulance,
B. E. F.

Dear Sir,

With reference to your enquiry of 13th inst., for 6812 Pte. A.F. PALMER, 7th Battalion, A.I.F.

We much regret to inform you that he is now officially reported Killed in Action on 4-10-17. having previously been reported Missing on that date.

We forward the following unofficial report given by 5755 Cpl. J. Smith, of the same unit:-

"Palmer was in my section, he was a tall well built soldierly fellow, clean shaven, about 38 years of age, and he came from Sydney. In October we were waiting for an attack to take Anzac Ridge, Ypres Salient and were lying in shell holes or any other places where we could get cover as the Bosch barrage was very heavy. Palmer was in a hole about 15 yards from me, and while thus waiting a shell skimmed my hole and then burst between the two spots and a piece struck him in the back of the neck. His mates then shouted out that he was hit and one of the section went and bound him up. Our movements at the time were of the leap frog order and stretcher bearers were told to not to carry men out till we had reached our objective. Palmer was therefore left where he was and from that point. I am unable to say what really became of him, but from the circumstances we all thought that he and many others were buried by continual shell fire."

We are doing our utmost to obtain further and more definite information concerning Pte. Palmer's fate and will advise you as soon as we succeed.

Regretting we should have to forward such sad news and assuring you of our sympathy.

Yours faithfully,

Miss Ryan

SECRETARY.

6812
A. E. Palmer
7th Bath
K in A 4.10.17

Time N.B.

S
2

Ack. 25.9.18
KMB

For God, For King & For Country.

Y·M·C·A
WITH
H.M. FORCES ON ACTIVE SERVICE

PATRON
Y.M.C.A. NATIONAL COUNCIL
H.M. THE KING.

PATRON
MILITARY CAMP DEPT
H.R.H. DUKE OF CONNAUGHT

Reply to _____ Company _____ Bat. _____ Regt. Weymouth Sept. 24th 1917

Stationed at _____

To the Sec Red Cross

7 Bn

Sir,

Re your inquiry about No 6812 Pte A T Palmer I'll tell you the story so far as I know it.

We commenced an attack at Menin Rd near Tyres on the 4th of October last at 6 Am. Palmer & I were in the same platoon & section & were together up to the time he got wounded during the advance & at about 10 Am Palmer myself & a few others were too far ahead, & our O.C Capt Hopkins blew his whistle & signaled to us to come back, & while doing so a shrapnel shell burst close behind us & Palmer got hit in the back & another soldier named Harry Marshall got hit in the leg I helped Marshall to a shell hole & on looking round I noticed Palmer lying on his stomach about 20 yds away, I went to assist him to the same place as I took Marshall to but Palmer thought he was better where he was so remained lying where he was, he was only slightly wounded & was quite cheerful & said he had got a nice little blighty, nothing dangerous. I told him our stretcher bearer

For God. For King & For Country.

Y·M·C·A
WITH
H.M. FORCES ON ACTIVE SERVICE

PATRON
Y.M.C.A. NATIONAL COUNCIL
H.M. THE KING.

PATRON
MILITARY CAMP DEPT
H.R.H. DUKE OF CONNAUGHT

Reply to _____ Company _____ Bat. _____ Regt _____ 1917

Stationed at _____

(2)

could come along soon & give him up, I left him there as the Capt. signalled for us to advance, that was the last I saw of Palmer. The rest of the story is second hand information I gathered from my platoon stretcher bearer Private Nelson, — We got back to our billets about the 7th of Oct. I saw Nelson & asked him how Palmer & Marshall got on & Nelson said he had dressed their wounds & told them to take shelter in a pill box until the shelling eased off a bit & then walk back to the dressing station, their wounds were not slight as they were both able to walk Marshall got hit in the calf of the leg. Now, Marshall was the only man who could have told what happened after they left the Pill box unfortunately he died in a Hospital at Etaples & is buried in the Cemetery there. What I think happened was they were still walking back towards the dressing station when a shell burst near them, killing Palmer & wounding Marshall seriously probably Marshall was unconscious until he died as was unable to give an account of what happened there of course I'm only guessing. Private Harry Marshall & Private Nelson belonged to B Coy also.

For God. For King & For Country.

Y·M·C·A

WITH

H.M. FORCES ON ACTIVE SERVICE

PATRON
Y.M.C.A. NATIONAL COUNCIL
H.M. THE KING.

PATRON
MILITARY CAMP DEPT
H.R.H. DUKE OF CONNAUGHT

Reply to _____ Company _____ Bat. _____ Regt _____ 1917

Stationed at _____

(3)

I first met Palmer in Camp in N.S.W in June 1916 we were together all the time until Oct. 4th. He was about 5 ft. 9 ins. in height, hair dark, thin face, frost complexion, two or three teeth missing in the top jaw, & clean shaved, he walked very straight & upright.

I think Sir I've given you all the information I can think of meantime, if there are any more particulars you wish to obtain will be very pleased to oblige.

Yours Sincerely
6756 Pte J.R. Gunn
No 2 Coy Little Moor Camp
Weymouth

J.C.A.