

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

1937 Corporal  
Christopher Ryder  
Palmer

44th Battalion



2080601H

PAIMER  
Opl. C.R. 1937

14th Bata  
A.I.F.

"Missing 4.6.17."

Killed in Action 4.6.17. prev. reported Missing  
Cert. by A.I.F. HdQtrs 4.12.17.

P

London.  
7.12.17.

(COPY)

Statement made by No.1859 Cpl Lawrence G.A. 44th Bnre No.1957 Cpl Palmer G.P. 44th BnReported Missing 4.6.17

Cpl Palmer took part in a raid at Messines on 4.6.17 I did not take part in it, I did not see Cpl Palmer killed nor did I see his body. I do not know anyone who could give any information about him.

Dated at Dartford this 26th day of August 1917.

(Sgd) G.A. Lawrence.

Statement made and signed before me

(Sgd) B. Saffraux.

P.

44th A. I. F.

Palmer, Cpl G.R. 1937,  
A. Company

*100m  
2108*

(M. June 4th/17)

"I was one of a raiding party near Ploegsteert on June 4th. We were bringing 5 prisoners back across No Man's Land under machine gun fire. I was the last man of the party and Cpl Palmer passed just before me. He was hit and fell into a shell hole among the German barbed wire. I passed close by him, but could not help him as I had a prisoner to look after. A search party went out later but could not find him. There was no other man of the same in the company or Battalion. This happened about 2 p.m."

Eye-witness: Yes

Description: No special marks

Informant: Pte L. O'Donnell, 1879, 44th A.I.F., A.Coy.  
Home address: Richmond Hospital, Dublin.

24th August 1917.  
E.J. Gwynn.

*Prisoner of war*

*ad  
P.*

44th Battn.  
A. I. F.

Palmer.  
Cpl. C. R. 1937

"Missing 4.6.17"

He was in A.Coy. He was killed coming back from a day-light raid at Prowe Point (Ploegsteert) on June 4th. I was in the raid. I did not actually see him knocked, but was told by one of the men who was next to Palmer and saw him killed. I cannot remember his name, but am certain the above statement is correct.

Witness:- Cpl. W. J. Miles 422  
44th Battn. Harefield.

W. G. J.

London.  
20.8.17.

P.

105/24  
B 160842

44th Australian I.F.

Palmer, Cpl. C. R. 1937  
M. June 4/17.

"I know that Cpl. Palmer (44.B.) went out on a daylight raid about one o'clock on June 4th from Toronto Avenue, at St. Yvon, near Ploeghaert Wood. Nine men from each Company went out with two officers. Lieut. F. Gaze (44.D.XIII) was in charge of B & D Companies. As I was second in command he asked me not to come with him, as he did not want to run the risk of our both being wounded just before the big battles two days later, so I stayed with a Reserve party waiting in the trench for them to come back. As Cpl. Palmer did not return with the others, I took four men out to patrol No Man's Land after dark about 10 p.m. to look for him. We found 2 wounded men and one dead man, but found no trace of Cpl. Palmer, although we went right up to the German barbed wire. We could not go through it on account of the Machine Guns'

Eye-Witness: No, Informant saw him go out, and went to look for him afterwards.

Description: Informant had only known him a short time and could give no particulars.

Informant:- Sgt. Percy Stewart Pantin, 740.

44th Australian I.F., D Coy., XIII Pl  
3rd Southern General Hospital,  
The Base, Oxford.

5.7.17.

F.M. Pickard-Cambridge.

Home Address:- 24 Lacey Street, Perth,  
Western Australia.

A.I.F. 44.

PALMER, C.R. 1937.

M. June 4th 1917.

I knew him. It was during a daylight raid that we made at the Catacombs or rather from the Catacombs. I saw him in the Catacombs and he left them and went out with the rest of us to the German line. He reached the German line and started back with us when we had finished the raid. He got hit on the way back and was never seen again by us. He was close behind L/C O'Connor who was also returning and O'Connor thought he was still behind him, but he could not notice very carefully as he was looking after a German prisoner. But when he did so look round properly he found that Palmer had completely vanished.

Inf: Pte C. Monkspeed. 958.  
No. 7 C.C.

BOULOGNE. 20.7.17.

Written Lefl O'Connor 4.8.17

RAOI

44th Battn.  
A. Coy.  
A. I. F.

Palmer.  
Cpl. C.R. 1937.

"Missing 4.6.17"

We went over on a raid and coming back I saw him in No Man's Land. Then the German's barrage came over us and he was within 20 yards of our wires, and when I looked again nothing could be seen of him. We held the ground. Quite certain he is not a prisoner. He must have been hit by a shell and blown to pieces. I knew him very well. No other of same name in Company.

Witness:-

Pte. S. Froome 2567.  
44th Battn. A. Coy.  
3rd Aust. Aux. Hospital.  
Dartford.

W, Oman.

London.

29.7.17.

P.

100m  
2100m

44th A.I.F.

PALMER. Cpl. C.R. 1937.  
B.Coy.

M. June 4/17

"I knew Palmer and shook hands with him when he left to take up his position about June 4/17. A raiding party was formed from the Battalion and Palmer was Corporal of this party. The party returned without him and I was told by them that he was last seen in No Man's Land in a shell hole and they think wounded. Time about 2.30 p.m. quite light. No other man of that name."

Eye Witness:--

Description:-- 30 to 35 years old, tall, fair, well-built, rather stout. Up to 7th June, heard no further news. We left Australia together and were friends.

Informant:-- Signaller J. Thompson, 1914  
44th A.I.F. B.Coy.  
County of London Hospital,  
Horton,  
Epsom.

Home address:- Moss Street,  
30 July 1917. East Fremantle,  
W.J. Parker W. Australia.

*Pring alive  
Ed, above  
P 15pm above*



44th. Batt. A.I.F.

*L.R.*  
Palmer, Cpl. NO. 1937. - A. Coy.

1

Missing. June 4th 1917.

Palmer was killed in a night raid at Armentieres, near Hooplins.  
I could not say how he was killed. We left him in Fritz trench.  
I only knew him in the Batt, he came over with the 2nd or 3rd Reinf.  
He joined up the Batt as a L.Cpl. He came from W.A. He was a married man.

Description. Age. 30. Height. 5-10. Complexion. Redish.  
Well Built.

Witness. Pte. Swainston. T.C. NO. 210. A. Coy. 44th. Batt.

Taken At  
NO. 3. Command Depot.  
Hurdcott.  
31-8-17.  
S.W.

NO. 4. Command Depot.  
Cedford.

*P.  
Pres. in above  
led.*

44th. Batt. A.I.F.

Palmer. Cpl. C.R. NO. 1937.  
No. 1. Plat. A. Coy.

Missing. June. 4th 1917.

One of our Officers <sup>ad.</sup> told me he left Palmer lying in a shell hole in no-man's land, Messines. Palmer was wounded and there was no chance of getting him back as we had to evacuate the part we held. I knew him well, we were mates in the Batt.

Description. Height. 5/7. Complexion. Dark  
well built.

Informant. Pte. Peterson. N.S No 2141.  
A. Coy. 44th Batt.

Taken at No. 3. G.D.

~~Hardcott.~~ 17-8-17.

*Estham* S.W.

NO. 4. Command Depot.  
Codford.

*R. L.*  
*R. J. A.*  
*estham*  
*17-8-17*

44th A. I. F.

Palmer, Cpl. G.R. 1937.  
A Coy, ? Pl.

(M. June 4/17.)

"I was told by the men of Cpl Palmer's Platoon that he had been blown to pieces by a shell during a raid in a German trench near Messines at about midday on the 4th June 1917. I was told about it the day it happened but I do not now remember the names of any of the men who spoke to me on the subject."

Eye-witness:-- No.

Description:-- Tall, well built, dark, Good bomber and well liked by his platoon.

Informant:-- Pte. W. S. Treby, 617,  
44th A. I. F. C Coy, XI Pltn.  
Duchess of Connaught's Canadian  
Military Hospital, Taplow, Bucks.

Home address:--

1. 8. 17.  
W.H. Savage. Lt. Col.

*P  
10pm 11/5/17*

Statement made by No.1879 Pte O'Donnell L.44th Btn

re No.1937 Cpl Palmer C.R. 44th Btn  
Reported Missing 4.6.17

I was with Cpl C.R. Palmer on the 4th June 1917. and saw him struck with a M.G. bullet. He fell into a shell hole at the enemies wire, but I was unable to go to his assistance and I was escorting prisoner to our own lines, and could not say whether he was killed or taken prisoner. A patrol went out in search of him the same night but was unable to find him.

I made the above statement to an officer in hospital at Boulogne.

Dated at Dublin this 2nd day of August 1917.

(Sgd) L. O'Donnell

Statement made and signed before me

(Sgd) McAlister Smith.

Ed P  
P. 27a.  
2

ORIGINAL STATEMENT ECHELON.

2480/3/3

(COPY)

Statement made by No.1879 Pte D'donnell L. 44th Btn

re No.1937 Cpl Palmer C.R. 44th Btn  
Missing 4.6.17

I was with this man on the 4th June in a raid and saw him fall struck by a bullet. I could not say whether he was killed or not and could not go to his assistance as I was in charge of a German prisoner. A raiding party went out that evening to look for Palmer but could not find any trace of him. I therefore conclude he is either a prisoner or killed.

Dated at Dublin this 6th day of September 1917.

(Sgd) L. O'Donnell.

Statement made and signed before me

(Sgd) W. Wehote-Smith

P. Ed-  
Pres of alive

ORIGINAL STATEMENT ECHOLON.

2480/3/3

(COPY)

Statement made by No.210 Pte Swainston T.C. 44th Btn

re No 1937 Cpl Palmer C.R. 44th Btn  
Missing 4.6.17

I knew the Cpl Palmer in question, but I was in England on June 4th last and in hospital at Hardecott where I met a Sergeant of C.Coy 44th Btn. In conversation with this Sgt I mentioned Cpl Palmer's name, and was told that he had been killed in a raid in which this Sgt took part and that they were forced to leave Cpl Palmer's body behind when coming back. I don't know the Sgts name who gave me this information, but he was wounded in the upper arm (Left I think)

Dated at Durrington this 20th day of September 1917.

(Sgd) F.C. Swainston

Statement made and signed before me

P. Gd (Sgd). M. McIlroy.  
Pres if alive Capt.

ORIGINAL STATEMENT ECHOLON.

2480/3/3

(COPY)

Statement made by No.2069 Pte Crocker J.H. 44th Btn

re No.1937 Cpl Palmer R.C. 44th Btn  
Missing 4.6.17

I believe that 1937 Cpl Palmer C.R. 44th Btn was wounded on 4.6.17. Some friends have informed me that they saw him lying in a shell hole but he refused to be carried back to our lines stating that he was too heavy and that he would crawl back when it became dark. I can give no information as to what happened to him eventually.

Dated at Perham Downs this 5th day of September 1917.

(Sgd) J.H. Crocker

Statement made and signed before me

(Sgd) R. Dooley.

P. Gd.  
Pres if alive

ORIGINAL STATEMENT ECHELON

2480/3/3

(COPY)

Statement made by No. 617 Pte Treby W.S. 44th Btn

RE No. 1937 Cpl Palmer <sup>C R</sup> 44th Btn  
Missing 4.6.17

On the 4th June 1917 when raiding the enemy trenches by Messines No. 1937 Cpl Palmer C R. was to the best of my knowledge blown up by a shell in the enemy trenches. The ground was searched but no trace of him could be found.

Dated at Taplow, Bucks this 4th day of September 1917.

(Sgd) W.S. Treby

Statement made and signed before me

(Sg d) H.W. Lewis.

(cd)

P  
H

Statement made by No. 740 Sgt Panton P.S. 44th Btn

re No. 1937 Cpl Palmer C.R. 44th Btn  
Reported Missing 4.6.17

I was on June 4th 1917 under 2/Lieut F.O. Gaze. Cpl Palmer was under 2/Lieut Lintott about 100 yards to our left. Just before the raid, I was ordered to stay behind with six men as a support party. When the soldiers came back, several men were missing. When darkness came on, I took four men to try and find the missing men. We brought in two wounded men, and searched as far as possible the ground covered by the raiders, but saw nothing and heard nothing of Cpl Palmer.

Dated at Oxford this 3rd day of August 1917.

(Sgd) P.S. Panton.

Statement made and signed before me

(Sgd) J. Freeborn.

P. 8d P y a  
2

10/2/21  
Bilborne

A.I.F. 44

PALMER Cpl. C.R. 1937

M. June 4th 1917.

Cpl. Palmer took part in a raid on the German line near Messines at mid-day on the 4th June. I was not in the raid myself, but Pte R.W. Henretty, A. Coy. was in the raid & told me he saw Palmer hit while on his way back from the German trenches, & that he fell close to the German wire. I do not know Henretty's number, but he is still with No. 4 Pltn. A. Coy.

Palmer came from South West Australia, where he had a large farm. He was a married man with 5 or 6 children, & was very well off.

Informant; Pte L McGornish 5758. A. Coy. 44 A.I.F.  
2nd Army Rest Camp.  
BOULOGNE. 8-7-1917.

HMH.

P. Written R. Henretty 20.7.17

44th A.I.F.,

PALMER. Corpl. C.R. 1937,

M. 4 June /17.

"I knew "Charlie" Palmer of my "A" Coy No 3 Plt (I belonged to No. 1) He was left in a shell hole, in no man's land severely wounded in a raid at Ploegsteet, on the 4 June/17. He belonged to the reinforcements. We went out from catacombs, (our dug outs) at Ploegsteet about 1/2 past two in the afternoon. Corpl. Palmer was in charge of a section on a raid, I did not see him wounded but I heard one of the officers, do not remember who, (H.Q.) say, when he came in, that "Palmer" had been hit by a shell, and had to be left out in a shell hole. Patrols and search parties went out but they could not find the body. It was concluded that in the meantime a shell had "buried him up". I was wounded at Messines later 27 June 17."

Eye Witness:--

Description:--

Informant:-- Corpl. Hy. Augustus Johnson, 138,  
44th A.I.F. A. Co. 1 Pltn.  
Harborne Hall V.A.D Hosp.,  
Birmingham.

3 Aug. 1917.  
Geo. Bullock.

Home address:- None.

P. G. d.  
P. G. d.  
100m

44th Battn.  
A. Coy.  
A. I. F.

Palmer. 7  
Cpl. C. R. 1037

"Missing 4.6.17"

I saw him killed at Ploegsteert Wood. He was in a raiding party, and were returning when a bullet got him in the head killing him instantly. It happened about 100 yards behind the German front line and the we had to leave him in a shell hole. We retook the ground two days later, but I could not say if he was ever buried. I knew him well, there being no other of that name in the Company.

Witness:-

Pte. G. S. Patterson 2617  
44th Battn. A.Coy.1st Pl.  
3rd Aust.Aux.Hospital.  
Dartford.

W.Oman.

London.  
13.8.17.

P. Boyle

1037



('COPY)

Statement made by Sig. Thompson J. 44th Btn No.1914re No.1937 Cpl Palmer C.R. 44th Btn  
Missing 4.6.17

I last saw Cpl Palmer on the 4th June 1917 about 3 p.m. and was then on his way to take up position prior to going over in a raid. I shook hands with him and wished him luck and up to the time of the Messines push as far as I could gather had not returned, and to my knowledge has not returned at any subsequent date.

Dated at Hurcott this 6th day of September 1917.

(Sgd) J. Thomson.

Statement made and signed before me

(Sgd) B. Bradford,

P. B.  
Pres. of alive

44th Battn.  
A.Coy.  
A. I. F.

Palmer.  
Cpl. C.R. 1937.

"Missing 4.6.17"

Refer to Pte. Jobling, 44th Battn. C.Coy. now in England Weymouth, who  
saw him killed in a raid on the 4th June 1917.

Witness:-

Pte. J.F.Saunders 2154.

44th Battn. A.Coy. 1st Pl.

3rd Asst.Aux.Hospital.

Dartford.

W.Oman.

Note Asking Mr. Eutton to interview Pte. Jobling.

London.  
24.7.17.

P.

44th A. I. F.,

Palmer, Cpl. C.R., 1937,

M. June 4th 1917.

"I knew Cpl. Palmer who was in A.Coy., I Pltn. He took part in a daylight raid on June 4th at St. Yves near Messines, and was wounded. He crawled into a shell hole in No Mans Land, and said he would get back when it was dark, he would not be carried in. We did not hear any more about him. He was not likely to be taken prisoner, unless he lost his way in crawling back and went in the wrong direction. This information is based on general report at the time."

Eye Witness: No, general report.

Description: A very heavy, stout man, came from W. Australia.

Informant:-- Pte. James Henry Crocker, 2069,  
44th A.I.F., A.Coy. II Pl:  
Horton, County of London Hosp:  
Epsom.

Home address:-- 60, Suffolk Street,  
19.7.17. Freemantle, W. Australia.  
P.L.Waterhouse.

44th A.I.F.

Palmer Cpl. C.R. 1937,

(M. June 4/17)

"It was generally believed that Cpl. Palmer was killed during our advance at Messines on June 4th 1917".

Eye-witness: No, general report.

Description: A big, tall, strongly built fellow.

Informant: G.W. Lawrence 1859,  
44th A.I.F., B. Coy.,  
Royal Victoria Hospt.,  
Netley.

July 17/17,  
H.W. Hick.

44th A. I. F.

Palmer, Cpl C.R. 1937, A. Coy.

3 R P1 - Clifford, D.M. 523, Q. Coy

- Graham, M.R. 419, B. Coy

P  
H

(M. June 4th)

"I am Sgt of 1 Platoon, A. Coy, 44th A. I. F. On June 5th near Messines, Cpl Palmer (of the Willows, Harvey, W. Australia) whom I knew well) who was my Cpl, went over with me in a daylight raid, about 2.30 p.m., about 30 of us went and about half were lost, the raid was successful and Palmer was seen returning with a prisoner when a shell lobbed just in front of him. Search party failed to find any trace of him, and concluded he was blown to bits."

D.M. Clifford, a big Irishman, was in the same raid; was shot down outside of a German dug out and not seen again.

M.R. Graham was in my brother's coy in the same raid, and did not return. He was reported killed.

Eye-witness: Yes

Description:

Informant: Sgt Yule, 15, 44th A. I. F. A. 1,

Home address: Military Hospital, Lewisham.

12th July 1917. Perth, W. Australia.

A.M. Henderson.

1000  
P

A.I.F. 44.

PALMER, Cpl. C.R. 1937.

M. June 4th 1917.

I knew him well. He came over from Australia with me. I saw him hit by M.G. bullet as we were clearing out of the German front line after a raid. He was not quite clear of the German barbed wire and he fell into a shell hole face downwards. A patrol went out that evening but could not find him.

Inf: L. O'Donnell. 1879. 44.A.

~~1st) 2nd) 3rd) 4th) 5th)~~ No. 2 Aust Gen  
BOULOGNE. 7.7.17.

FD

P.

Ret R.W. HENRETTY 19.7.17  
A Co  
44 Bala IF  
B E F

for

1937 Cpl C.R. PALMER  
44 Bala IF

M. 4. 6. 17

F.M.  
20.7.17

(3.8.17)

Lt Col O'CONNOR

44 Batt AIR

BEF

for

1937

C. P. PALMER

44 Batt AIR

M. 4. 6. 17

6. H.  
3/8/17