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

3999 Private
Bertie Alwyn Osborn

2nd Battalion



2060712I

2nd A. I. F. Osborne, Pte B.A. 3999,

(K. Cot 2/17. Dot D & B)

dead. mal-treated "Osborne was killed by a bomb thrown from an aeroplane at Chateau Segard near Ypres. I was wounded by the same bomb. 15 of us were killed. We were going just going up into the line. I do not know where Osborne was buried but It would be somewhere handy. I am sure Mr. Thom was killed at the same time but I did not see him."

Eye-witness: Yes

Description: We were in the same company

Informant: Pte Alfred Turner, 717aa,
2nd A. I. F., C. 10,
Bevan Military Hospital,
Sandgate.

Home address:
246, Western Rd,
Rozella, Sydney.

19th January 1918.
Frances I. Muir.

2nd. A.I.F.

Osborne. Pte. B.A. 3999
C Coy.

K. Oct. 27/17.
Det. D/B.

"I did not know Pte. B.A. Osborne personally, but his name and number and very slightly by sight. I saw him killed at "Belgian" Chateau, 2 miles west of Ypres, and I buried him at "Belgian" Battery Cemetery near the Belgian Chateau on the Menin Road 2 miles out of Ypres. Igave his disc, paybook and belongings into the orderly room. There is a wooden cross above his grave with his name, number and Battn. marked on it."

Eyewitness: Yes.

Description: I did not know him well enough by sight to give a description of him.

Informant: Pte. F. White. 117.
2nd. A.I.F. D Coy. XV Pltn.
Bannow Red X Hospital,
St.Leonards - on - Sea.

Home address:
67 Pearscroft Rd.,
Fulham.
London. S.W.6

9/2/18
E.A.Riley.

2nd Battn., C.Coy.
A.I.F.

OSBORNE
B.A. 3999

"Killed 27-10-17"

I saw him killed near Ypres. He was caught by an aerial bomb, which landed near his tent, death being instantaneous. He was very badly knocked about. I did not know him very well. He was buried in the Cemetery at Dickebusch, I saw his grave, which was marked with a Cross, bearing his No., name and unit.

Informant. Osborne Pte. P.5166
2nd Battn., D.Coy., 16th Pltn.,
3rd A.A.H.,
DARTFORD.

W.Oman
London
15-3-18

M.

2nd Bátn.
A.I.F.

OSBORNE
B.A. 3999

"Killed 27-10-17"

I saw Osborne killed by a bomb from an aeroplane at Belgian Chateau in tents, and is buried there, and a Cross put up.

Informant. Erickson A.C. 4021
2nd Battn., A.Coy.,
WESTHAM.

W.A.Rand
London
22-3-18

M.

Note:-
We regret the delay in typing the above report, but we have been obliged to hold it up on account of pressure of work and shortage of machines.

2nd BATTALION. A.I.F.

OSBORNE. B.A. Pte.
No. 3999

"Killed 27/10/17"

Informatn described Osborne as about 5' 6" high, fair complexion, aged about 28.

Informant states that on 27/10/17 the Battalion was just behind Belgian Barracks, Ypres, camping in tents. About 6 p.m. several German Aeroplanes came over and dropped bombs. Osborne with several others was in one of the tents on which a bomb dropped killing seven of the occupants including Osborne, who was instantly killed. Informant was in the next tent and saw Osborne's body after the explosion. He also helped to bur y him and 21 others who were killed in the raid. They were all buried in one grave on the spot and a big cross made by the Battalion boys, and bearing the names of all the killed, was put on the grave. Informant saw the cross before its erection.

Informant added that Osborne was very popular amongst the Boys.

Informant;- Private W. T. Merchant, No. 3362.
"B" Company - 2nd Battalion.

Home address;- Kangaroo Valley, N.S.Wales.

W.E.G.
21/6/18
21st Australian Auxiliary Hospital,
George's Heights, MOSMAN.

SYDNEY BUREAU.

2nd Btn.

OSBORN, B. A.
Pte. 3999.

K. in act. 27/10/17.

"I knew Casualty. He was a short man, about 5 ft. 5 in. fair complexion, about 21 years of age. He embarked from Australia on the troopship "Medic" on the 17/1/16. He was a 12th Rifts. man of the 2nd Btn. Casualty was billetted at Belgium Battery Corner, Ciokiebusch. I was in a tent alongside when a bomb from hostile aeroplane exploded on the tent killing him instantly a piece entering his head. I helped to bury him at Belgium Battery Corner. There was no cross erected at the time of my departure."

Informant:- Pte. S.J.G. Belcher,
No. 3977, 2nd Btn.

Private address:-
130 Melville Road,
West Brunswick.

N.A.T.
7/3/19.

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS INFORMATION BUREAU-MELBOURNE.