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

2117 Private
Reuben Harold Abbot
Osborne

35th Battalion



2060809P

A.I.F. 35th Btn 3rd Rfts

OSBORNE
R.H.A. 2117

"WOUNDED"

Killed in action 7-6-17 - previously reported Wded & Missing
Cert. by A.I.F.Hqrs 14-12-17

S

London
19-12-17

35th Battn
A.I.F.

OSBORNE.
R.H.A. 2317

"Wounded"and Missing"

Wounded 8.6.17. No Adm. to Hospital.
Cert. A.I.F. HdQrts. 17.8.17.

Wounded and Missing 8.6.17. previously reported Wounded.
Cert. by A.I.F. HfQrts. 22.8.17.

S.

London.
24.8.17.

35th Batt. A.I.F.

OSBORNE R.H.A. 2II7.
"C" Coy., No 9 Platoon.

"W. & M June 8th., 'I7."

" On June 8th., 'I7 we had attacked in front of Messines, and about 9 p.m. Osborne and I were sitting together beyond the German third line of trenches, when a shell exploded, wounding us both. Osborne was very badly hit in the face and side. He was unconscious for awhile and when he "came to", seemed to know he was dying, for he asked me to write home to his sister. I have done this. He died shortly afterwards, and at I0.30 p.m. I was taken back to be attended to myself. I cannot say if he was buried, and did not touch his pay-book or papers. We enlisted together, and left in the 3rd reinf. of the 35th Batt. Came over from Sydney on the "Anchises", leaving on 24th August I9I6. His sister's address is Mrs T. Hennesy, Port Kembla, Wollongong, N.S.W."

Description. Hgt 5ft8. Fair complexion. Well built.

Witness Ravaillon W.C. 2I28.
"C" Coy., 35th Batt. No 9 Platoon.

Taken at No 4 Command Depot, Codford. J.G.W.

S. Whitmee.
September 5th., 'I7.

Note. This statement was exceptionally well given.

ORIGINAL STATEMENT ROSELOM. 2472/7/9

(COPY)

Statement made by No.2128 Pte Ravaillon W.O. 35th Btn

re No.2117 Pte Osborne R.H.A.35th Btn
Missing & Wd.8.6.17

On the 8th June between 8 and 9 p.m. I was with Pte Osborne when he was very severely wounded by a shell and died shortly after while I was with him. This happened in the German third line on the right of Messines, and in front of St Ives.

Dated at Perham Downs this 18th day of September 1917.

(Sgd) W. Ravaillon.

Statement made and signed before me (Sgd) H.R. McLeod.

35th Battalion. A.I.F. OSBORNE. R.H.A.
Private No.2117.

"Killed in Action, 7.6.17".

Informant described Osborne as about 5'7" or 8" high, weighing about 10 to 11 stone, fair complexion aged about 25. Came from the country.

Informant states that they both belonged to "C" Company. On or about 1.6.17 (which date is not the same as that officially reported and which Informant was quite sure was incorrect) the Battalion was at Ploeugstert holding the line a few days before the Messines stunt began. Osborne was a member of a working party that went out at night time going up to the line to lay cables and while so doing he was killed by a machine gun bullet. Death was instantaneous. Informant did not see him hit but saw his body and took his personal belongings from him. These he packed up and sent them to the Railhead to be sent to Osborne's people. He was buried in Armentieres Cemetery and Informant saw his grave there. A Cross had been placed on it with the inscription "In loving memory of Private R.H.A. Osborne, No.2117, Died in Action, France, 7.6.17. The regimental colors were also painted on the cross.

According to Informant Osborne was well thought of by his mates.

Informant:- Q/M/Sergeant W.J.Armour, No.703,
"C" Company, 35th Battalion.

Present Address;- No.1, Ward Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, Sydney.

W.E.G. Home Address:- Meadowbank Avenue, Ryde.
29.8.18.
Royal Prince Alfred Hospital,
SYDNEY.

SYDNEY BUREAU.

35th BATTALION. A.I.F. OSBORNE. R.H.A. Private
No. 2117

"KILLED 7-6-17"

Informant desceibed Osborne as about 5 ft 6 inches high, weighing about 10½ stone, fair, complexion, aged about 22. Came from Fort Kembla

Informant states that they both belonged to "C" Company No. 9 Plateon. On 7-6-17 the Battalion was in action at Messines. About dusk "C" Company went to reinforce "D" Company and while doing so Osborne was badly hit by a shell. He spoke after being hit to S.A.W.Montgomery who was killed in the following October. Osborne lived for about two hours after being hit. Informant did not see him hit but saw him afterwards near the Dressing Station at Ploeugstert. The last time he saw Osborne alive was about an hour before they went down to reinforce "D" Company or about two hours before he was hit. Osborne was posted as Missing for some time.

According to Informant Osborne was well liked by his mates.

INFORMANT:- Pte. J. T. Dryden No. 2065
C. Company 35th Battalion.
Home address:- Thirroul NEW SOUTH WALES.

W.E.G.
No. 21 Australian Auxiliary Hospital
Sydney 5-11-18.

SYDNEY BUREAU.

35th Battn.
A.I.F.

OSBORNE,
R.H.A. 2117

"Wounded and Missing 8.6.17."

Re No. 2117, Pte R.H.A. Osborne, (Late 35th Battn). The above man was killed instantaneously by shell fire on the night of 8.6.17. He was only about 5 yards from me, when he was killed, he was well known to me as I brought him away from Australia with the 3rd Reinfs of 35th Battn, he was attached to C.Coy, of the Battalion when he was killed and came up to our coy from D, to reinforce, when we were being counter attacked. He was buried next day, quite near where he fell (at Grey Farm) near Messines.

Letter from Pte.W.W.Warden,
35th Battn A.I.F.
c/o Kom. Bkg, Coy of Sydney,
18 Birchin Lane, E C.
London.
18.2.18

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.

S.

A.I.F. 35. OSBORNE R.H.A. 2117.

W.& M. 8.6.17.

I last saw him on 8th.June about 2 p.m. at Ploegstreet, in our new line, lying in a shell hole, wounded by a splinter from a shell, in the shoulder. He did not seem badly wounded. There was very heavy H.E. on. A German bombardment was taking place. I saw no more of him. S/B's. were going to and fro all the time. I am sure Dick was not left there. I thought he got out all right.

PHS.

Reference: Cpl.R. Oliver. 868. C.Co.
L.C. School.

Staples.
12.9.17.

Havre 8th October.1917.

35th AUSTRALIANS OSBORNE, R.H.A. 2117

W. & M. June 8th.1917.

I knew Pt. Dick Osborne of D.Co.; he came across with me from Sydney in the 3rd to 35th reinforcement in the Transport A.67. He was a labourer, and came from Port Kimber, N.S.W. Pt. C.J. Warrington of A.Co., II.Pltn., will I think be able to give definite information as to Osborne being killed at Ploegstreet Wood in June.

Informant: Pt. H. Wood, 2165
35th Australians, A.Co., II.Pltn.
Australian Camp, Rouelles.

RDM.

Written by Warrington

A.I.F. 35. OSBORNE. R.H.A. 2117.

W/M June 8th 1917.

I knew him quite well, his No.is about that, we called him "ick he was of medium height rather fair about 23 and came from the S.Coast N.S.W. He went over the top together at Messines. He was in my Pltn. and I saw him seriously wounded by a shell in the body and thigh in the German front line. We took the 2nd and 3rd lines so/ that the place where he was hit was in our ground at the end of the action. He was hit between 5.30 and 6 a.m. I do not think he could possibly have lived because apart from his wounds the e was a lot of gas about. He was a fine lad one of the gamest in the Battn.

Inf:. Sergt.T.F. Hardle. 982 35.C.IX.
3, Can.Gen.Hosp.
BOULOGNE. 15.10.17.

SGC

Havre 15th October.1917.

35th AUSTRALIANS OSBORNE, R.H.A. 2117

W. & M. June 8th.1917.

I know Pt. (Dick) R.H.A. Osborne of C.Co., IX.Pltn. He came from Port Kembla, N.S.W., where he worked in the electrical works. His sister's address is Mrs. T. Hennessy,
Port Kembla,
South Coast, N.S.W.
I was alongside of him to the right of Messines, over the ridge in the German 3rd line on the evening of June 8th, 1917, daylight, when he was hit in the eye and side by a piece of high explosive shell. He lived about 20 minutes. I was with him till he died, and left his body lying in the trench. We held the ground. I got wounded, and left the trench half an hour after he died. I wrote to his sister, and gave her this information.

Informant: Pt. W. Revaillion, 2128
35th Australians, C.Co., IX.Pltn.
Australian Camp, Rouelles.

Previously by Chandler

RDM.

35th A.I.F. Osborne R.H.A. 2117.

(W. & M. 8.6.17)

"At Messines the day after we went over on June 8th in a counter attack, Orborne was wounded. He was carried out a and Lt. W.W. Warden of D. Coy. now in 3rd General Hospt., London who was with him, tolu me that he coulc stake his life that Osborne was dead. He took Osborne notice of him and saw his disc. Osborne came from somewhere on S. Coast of Australia".

Eye-witness:

Description: Dick.

Informant: Cpl. Henry Randall 2133,
35th A.I.F., C. Coy.,
2nd Southern General Hospt.,
Bristol.

Home address:
4 Street Weston,
via Maitland, N.S.W.

27.10.17,
H.W. Ward.

Written Lt. Warden 29.11.17.

COPY.

Statement made by No.2167 Pte Warrington C.J. 30th Bth

re No.2117 Pte Osborne R.H.A. 30th Bth
Ne and Missing 8.6.17

I knew Pte Osborne No.2117 and he was reported to have been killed and buried at Messines but I do not know anything about it myself.

Dated at Bath War Hospital this 30th day of October 1917.

(Sgd) C.J. Warrington

Statement made and signed before me

(Sgd) H. Tyler.
Registrar Bath War Hosp.

35th A.I.F.

Osborne Pte. R.H.A. 2117,

(W. & M. June 8/17)

"I was told by Lt. Warden in D. Coy. that he saw Osborne lying dead on the field".

Eye-witness: No, see above.

Description: Abt. 5ft 6ins, fair complexion, clean shaven.

Informant: Pte. C. Lewes 2180,
35th A.I.F., D. Coy.,
1st London General Hospt.,
Camberwell.

Home address:
c/o 35 Batt., A.I.F.

S

Nov. 12/17,
A. Baldwin.

29.10.17

Pte C. J. WARRINGTON
2 Pat.
A Co
35 Batt^n A.I.F
B.E.F

about
2117
R. H. A. OSBORNE
35 Batt^n A.I.F

W. & M. 8. 6. 17

24.10.17.
A.J.B.

20.11.17

Lt. W. W. Warden
10 Coy.
3s-4u Balla. a.1.7.
B.8.7.

abt.
2 11.7 Plt. R. H. A. Osborne
3s-4u Balla. a.1.7.

W/M. 8-6-17

20.11.17.
a.1.B.

O.S.R.
F.M. 10.12.17

From

Lt W. W. Warden
35th Battalion A.I.F.
c/o Comt Bkg Coy of Sydney
18 Birchin Lane
E.C.

The Secretary
Australian Branch
R.P.C.S.
of Victoria St.
London S.W.

2117 R.H.A. OSBORNE
35 Btn
W.M. 8.6.17 S H (d)

Re No 2117 Pte R H A Osborne late 35th Batt.

I regret to say he was killed instantaneously by shell fire on the night of 8/6/1917, he was only 1 about 8 yards from me when he was killed, he was well known to me as I brought him away from Australia with the 3rd Reinforcements of 35th Battalion, he was attached to "C" Coy of the Battalion when he was killed, and came up to our Coy front (D) to run forces when we were being counter attacked.

He was buried next day, quite near where he fell (at Grey Farm) near Messines.

Yours truly W.W. Warden Lt

GC

December 12th, 1917.

Lieut.W.W.Warden,
35th Batt'n A.I.F.,
C/o Comm.Banking Co of Sydney,
12, Birchin Lane, E.C.

Dear Sir,

We have to thank you very much for your letter in answer to our enquiry concerning

2117 R.H.A.OSBORN,
35th Battalion,
A.I.F.

The information your have sent will be of great value to the enquirers, as they will learn through you an eyewitness that death was instantaneous which is always a comfort to the relatives.

With repeated thanks.

Yours faithfully,

SECRETARY.