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

2825 Corporal
John Alfred Osbourne

58th Battalion



2060902J

M. 9.1.15

2525 Cpl J. A. OSBOURNE 9-12-14
58 Bn A.I.F

The Secretary
A.R.C.S.

KA. 9.3.17

M
3

Dear Sir

The letter enclosed herewith was handed to me by Pte Gilbert of this Bn (60th)

I wish to inform you that the Gilbert referred to in your letter from Melbourne is evidently Corporal Osbourne 58th Bn, A.I.F. in the locality as stated, about Feb or March of this year.

The Cemetery was known to us as the Bull Ribon Cemetery. It is situated about 400 Yards W to S, or S.W. to S of Hebuterne. A Cross was erected over the grave by the Bn Pioneers, but just before the advance this Cemetery was already shelled, & most of the

groups unfurnished & drawn
Cheshire, but I cannot even
say whether the Cross and
Red Crescent groups were out
of stock. I trust it will
work & that Your Photographer
will find the apparatus
sufficient.

Yours sincerely
F. P. Gilbert
Chaplain (RC)
15th Brigade
4th 60th Bn
A.I.F

Note The letter referred to was
our enquiry letter.

Havre 6th. December.1917.

58th AUSTRALIANS OSBORNE, Cpl. J.A. 2825

K. Mar. 9th.1917. Det. D/B.

I know Osborne for about 8 months. He ~~as~~ was an original 58th Battalion man. I was drafted with him to the Battalion when it was formed. He was of medium height, well built, fair, single, and about 24 years of age. He came from Victoria. He was known as "Ossy". On March 9th, on the Somme front, Gueudecourt Sector, we were in reserve. He went to a Dugout to see some friends, when a shell hit the Dugout, and killed four men, Osborne being one of the four. The other three were of different Battalion. Osborne was buried at Flers. I saw his grave with a Battalion cross on it.

Informant: Cpl. Cook, H.G. 3057
58th Australians, A.Co., 2nd.Bln.
Australian Camp, Rouelles.

PM.

58th Bn.
A.I.F..

OSBOURNE
J.A.Cpl. 2825

Killed in Action 9.3.17.

The letter enclosed herewith was handed to me by Pte. Gilbert of this Bn. (60th)..
I wish to inform you that the Gilbert referred to in your letter from Melbourne is evidently myself.
I buried a Cpl. Osbourne, 58th Bn. A.I.F., in this locality as stated, about February or March of this year.
The Cemetery was known to us as the Bull Road Cemetery. It is situated about 400 yards N.E. or E.N.E. of Fleurs. A cross was erected over the grave by the Bn. Pioneers, but just before the advance the cemetery was heavily shelled and some of the graves upturned and crosses broken, but I cannot now say whether the cross over Cpl. Osbourne's grave was one of them. I trust it was not and that your photographer will find the spot without difficulty.

Informant:- J.P.Gilbert,
Chaplain (R.C.) 15th Bgde.

Note:- The letter referred to was our enquiry letter to Pte. Gilbert.

London,
24.1.18

OSBOURNE

A. I. F. 58. OSBORNE, Cpl. J.A.2825.

K. March 9th, 1917.

He was killed outright by a shell at Bull's Road near Flers on March 9th. I was close to him at the time and saw him blown up. The body was buried in a little cemetery on the edge of Flers. The brother, RSM. Osborne, is in the Battn and knows all details. I have spoken to him about it.

Reference:- Sgt/Maj. A.C.Stubbs. 3254. HQ. Courset.

N.B. I did not question the brother as he feels his brother's death so badly. It is certain however that he knows all details. SA.

Identity cert. from Battn records. Etaples 28.1.18.

A.I.F. 58. OSBORNE, Cpl.J.A. 2825.

K. March 9th 1917. Dets.

Cpl.J.S. Osborne was attached to the QM's stores. I don't remember his number. He was a tall, clean shaven man, between 25 and 30. I don't know if he was married. I was told by his brother RQMS Osborne, that he had been killed about the 9th March just before the German retirement at Bapaume. I have seen Osborne's grave which is in a small cemetery near Flers. It has a cross over it.

Inf: Pte T.J.A. Maroney. 2404. D.S/B. att XIII
No. 3 Can Gen Hosp.
BOULOGNE. 29.1.18.

AGL

10th January 1916.

Captain J.P.Gilbert, C.F.
att: 60th Batn,
Aust: Imp: Forces,
B.E.F.

Dear Sir,

We have to thank you very much for your letter in answer to our enquiry made to Pte Gilbert 60th Btn, concerning 2825 Cpl J.A.Osbourne, 58th Btn, A.I.F. We shall now be able to apply to the Director of Graves Registrations & Enquiries and trust with you, that the spot will be traced without difficulty.

We regret that our Melbourne office was so vague as regards your rank, and feel sure that the relatives will be doubly comforted on receiving the information that Cpl.Osbourne was buried by his Chaplain.

With repeated thanks,

Yours faithfully,

Secretary

G-C

Pte. Gilbert,
60th Infantry Bttn,
Australian Imperial Forces,
Abroad.

December 22nd, 1917.

Dear Pte. Gilbert,

We have been requested by our Melbourne Bureau to make enquiries concerning

No 2625 Cpl.J.A. OSBOURNE, 60th Battalion, A.I.F.

and our Melbourne letter states as follows:- "Gilbert, 60th Bttn, states Osbourne was buried about 200 yards from ruined town of Flers in a Military Cemetery to the North East". We have been asked to obtain a photograph of the grave for the next of kin, and would be very glad if you would write and tell us if No 2625 Cpl.J.A.Osbourne was the man you mentioned as being buried near Flers, and if this location is correct.

If you are not the "Pte.Gilbert" mentioned in our Melbourne letter, (they gave us no further particulars,) - perhaps you could pass this letter on to the other Pte.Gilbert.

With all good wishes for as cheery a time as possible at Christmas and the best of luck in 1918.

Yours faithfully,

V.D.

SECRETARY,

Telephones:
~~Tel:~~ VICTORIA ~~6650.~~ 8576
8577
8578

ALL COMMUNICATIONS
TO BE ADDRESSED TO
"THE SECRETARY."
WOUNDED AND MISSING
— ENQUIRY BUREAU —

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY.

TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS:
"QUESTMAN, LONDON."

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY.

36, GROSVENOR PLACE,
~~54, VICTORIA STREET,~~
LONDON, S.W. 1.

December 22nd, 1917.

Pte. Gilbert,
60th Infantry Bttn,
Australian Imperial Forces,
Abroad.

Dear Pte. Gilbert,

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No 2825 Cpl.J.A. OSBOURNE, 58th Battalion, A.I.F.

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If you are not the "Pte.Gilbert" mentioned in our Melbourne letter, they gave us no further particulars,) - perhaps you could pass this letter on to the right Pte.Gilbert.

With all good wishes for as cheery a time as possible at Christmas and the best of luck in 1918.

Yours faithfully,

Vera Deakin

SECRETARY,

per Hu.