

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

4209 Private
William Joseph
Prendergast

19th Battalion



2200105A

19th Battn.
A.I.F.

PRENDERGAST
W.J. 4269

"Missing 14-3-18"

I saw them carrying him down to bury him in Ploegsteert Cemetery.

Informant. Shankland L/Cpl. F.H. 673
B.Coy. 19th Battn.,
HAREFIELD.

W.Alison
London
21-5-18

S.

19th A. I. F.

Prendergast, W.J. 4209.

(K. March 14/18. Det D & B)

"I know that Pte Prendergast (19. D. XIII) went out on patrol one night about March 14-15 at Floegsteert. A River ran between our lines and those of the enemy, and our men expected that the Germans were a long way off. Our party had only gone out 15 or 20 yards when they came upon a German secret post (on our side of the River). The enemy opened ~~fire~~ machine gun fire and also bombs. Pte Prendergast was wounded in the stomach by a bomb, and was carried to our post, where he died, as soon as he was brought in. He was buried probably at Floegsteert, but I have not seen his grave. He was brought in from Lo Men's Land by Alec Murray (19. D. XIV) No. 1240, also by Tom Madderman (19. D.)".

Eye-witness: One Informant saw him being carried in, told by the two men who brought him in

Description: Sharp features, clean-shaven, 23 about, 19
... .. think.

(No. 1) Informant: Pte James Bennett 3789, 19th A.I.F., D. XIV,
3rd Southern General Hospital,

Home address: New College Gardens, Oxford.

Written Murray & Madderman
1 Albert Rd,
St. Mary's Gray, Kent.

23.5.18 Madderman, letter returned cannot be traced 1/7/18

F. T. O. S

(No. 2) Informant:

Pte Ernest Bradley, 1884,
19th A. I. F., D. Coy, XIV Pltn,
3rd Southern General Hospital,
New College Gardens,
Oxford.

Home address:

76, Terrace Rd,
Dulwich Hill,
Sydney.

3rd May 1918.

Hilda M. Pickard-Cambridge,

19th A.I.F.

Prendergast, W.J. 4209

K. March 14/18. Dets D/B.

"I saw Pte; Prendergast (19. D.) after he had been killed, in March, at Ploegsteert. He was wounded while out on patrol... and died at Catharine Post, after he was brought back. The Post was only manned at night, so he was left out there all day he died, and brought back the next night. While I was on my way up, I passed him in the sap being brought away. I think one of the stretcher bearers who carried him back after he died was Pte. Oates, (19. B. VI.) There is a cemetery at the back of Ploegsteert. He was probably buried there."

Eyewitness. Yes.

Description. Dark. 10 reinforcements. I can give no particulars.

Informant. Pte. Edward J. Corbett, 5121
Home address. 19 A.I.F. B. Coy. V. Pltn.
Railway Hotel, 3rd Southern General Hospital,
Temora, N. S. W. The Base, OXFORD.

3rd May 1918.
H.M. Pickard, Cambridge.

*Written note, letter returned marked
23.5.18 "Unknown 1918 note"*

Havre

14th. May. 1918.

19th. Australians.

Prendergast, W. J. 4209.

X. March. 14/1918. Deta. D/B.

He was in D. Coy, 13th. Pltn. I saw him killed by a bomb at Ploegsteert on March 14th. We were out on Patrol at night. He was short and dark.

Inf:- Private. J. Dargaville. 3786.
19th. Australians. D. 13.
Australian Camp.
Roubaix.

HJG.

S

A. I. F. 19th Bn.

PRENDERGAST, W. J. 4209.

Killed March 14/18. Det.D/B.

We were out with a patrol at Ploegsteert and "bumped into" a German patrol. About 6 bombs were thrown by them at us. I heard someone call out that he was hit and I said "Who are you?" and he replied "Prendergast". I knew him by name, by hearing it at Roll Call, but did not know him personally as he was a different Plat to me. I helped him along about 200 yards and then his legs gave way - he was hit in the stomach - and I had to carry him till I got help; then we got him to the Aid Post, but he died before we got him to our front line. His body was afterwards taken on a stretcher and buried. I did not see him buried nor do I know where his grave was. I cannot give a description of him.

Reference: Pte.T.Meddemman, 6573, D.Coy. XV Pl.

No.1 Aust.General, Rouen, 14.5.18.

ABHH.

S

19th A.I.F.

Prendergast. Pte. W.G. 4209.

(K. March 14/18.)

Det. D/B.

"I know Prendergast was killed outright whilst on patrol with Lt. Mainstone on the night of March 14th. They were all out with a Lewis Gun with 20 other ranks in Ploeg St. Sector - they had a "rush" with the Huns and then went out again and ran into a German patrol. The whole lot were badly knocked about and Prendergast was killed. I was in sector at the time, Sgt. Marshall who was with them, told me. He was an eye-witness. I think Prendergast was buried in Ploeg St. Cemetery."

Eyewitness: No. Told by: Sgt. Marshall.

Description:

Informant: Lt. H.L. Paryman.
19th A.I.F. A Coy. 11 Pl.
Hamilton Hospital,
75 Harrington Gdns.

Home address:
Upper Spit Rd,
Mosman, N.S.W.

18/5/18.
H.B. Hancock.

19th A.I.F.

Prendergast Pte. W.J. 4209.

(K. March 14/18.)

Dets. D/B.

"I last saw Pte. Prendergast on the 14th March 1918 at Ploegsteerte. We were in the trenches at the time and there was a fair amount of shell fire. Pte. Prendergast was in the trench when he was hit by a minnenwerfer, he was very badly hit in several parts of the body. Death was instantaneous."

Eyewitness: Informant was eye-witness.

Description: 5'8" dark, no scars, called "Pandy" age abt. 22.

Informant: Pte. L. Mook. 281.
19th Australian Infantry. A Coy. 11
Military Hospital,
Herne-Bay, Kent.

Home address:
194 New South Head Rd,
Double Bay, Sydney.
N.S.W. Australia.

15/5/18.
H. Sexton.

A.I.F. 19th Battn.

PRENDERGAST
W.J. 4209.

KILLED 14/3/18.

I remember Prendergast. He went out on a patrol with Lieut. Mainstone at Ploegsteert on the 14th-15th of March. Our patrol was ambushed by a German patrol and Prendergast was killed. His body was found and buried near Ploegsteert. Ground was neither held or lost.

Eye-witness:- No.
Description:-

Informant:- 4195 Henderson Jas. Pte., (Intelligent)
19th Battn., A.I.F.,
Cometia Hospital,
Poole.

H.P.
9/5/18
London
16/5/18.

S

19th Battn.
A.I.F.

PRENDERGAST
W.J. 4209.

Killed in Action. 14-3-18.

At Armentieres he was hit by a shell and taken to D/S. I helped to bury him in Cemetery off Ploeg Steert consecrated by the M. Bishop of Pretoria. Cross, a very nice one. Padre present. Near him about six others of same battn are buried.

Informant. Slack. 2300.
W.28. HARGFIELD.

D.P. Dickson.
London.
17-5-18.

S.

19th Batt. A.I.F.

Peandergast.W.J. Pte. NO.4209.

D.Coy.

Killed March 14th 1918. Det. D.B.

We were out on patrol when he was wounded by a bomb, we carried him back to Catherine Post Sap, Ploeg steert, He died whilst we were bringing him back, I could not say if he was buried, but think it is almost certain as things were very quiet at the time. I knew very little of him.

Witness. Sgt, Marshall. NO.51/I. 19th Batt.

Taken at
NO.4.C.D.Hurdcott.
18-5-18.
S.W.

S.Whitmee.
NO.4.Command Depot.
Hurdcott.

A. I. F. 19.

PRENDERGAST, W.J. 4209.

K. March 14th, 1918.

At Ploegsteert in March Prendergast was out on patrol one night and got wounded in the stomach by a bomb on meeting a German patrol. He was carried back to the trench by a man named Meddman but as soon as he got in he died and I saw his body in the trench. S/Bs of B.Coy took him away for burial, Pte. Bevan was one of them. Prendergast had been in the Bn. since September 9th, 1916. He looked anything between 30 and 40, about 5 ft 9, well-built, had a scar on the right side of his face, and his nose was a little on one side.

EMR.

Reference:- A.F.Guinness. 4746. D.
22 Gen. Hosp.

Staples S. C. L.
24.3.18. Swill

Havre

23th May 1918.

A.I.F. 19.

Prendergast W.J. o. 4209.

K. 14th March 1918. Dot D/B.

He was in D.Co. XIII Pltn. I knew him well, he lived in Sydney. On the 14th March we were holding the line in front of Ploegsteert Pte R.B. South of the 19th Batta D.Co. XIII Pltn. (who was with the Batta on the 23rd March - I have since heard that he was wounded about a month ago, and went to Blighty) told me that he saw Prendergast's grave in the Military Cemetery at Ploegsteert.

Inf:- Pte O.S. Hibbard No. 4433.
A.I.F. 19, D. XIII.
Australian Camp.
Rouelles.

REG.

Havre

25th May 1918.

A.I.P. 19

Prendergast, W.J. 4209.

K. 14th March 1918. Det D/B. *Will. Joseph.*

Pte Prendergast No. 4209 was in No. 2. Aust. Gen. Hos. Boulogne, about the 21st March. I know the man and his number as he was in my platoon. He was sick, not wounded.

Inf:- Pte P.A. Burgess No. 748.

A.I.P. 19.

Hospital Ship.

Not sent on

CWSS.

later report in H.I.

track to report 5.3.17.

*K in A. 14.3.18. W/K. Mother. Mr. E. Prendergast
61 Hereford St. Forest Lodge N.S.W.
H.A. at H.Q. 30.5.18.*

A.I.F. 19th Battn.

PRENDERGAST
W. J. 4209.

"KILLED 14/3/18."

On the morning of the 16th March 1918 at Ploegsteert sector while on patrol duty with Prendergast we came across the German Patrol and they opened fire on us. There were about 25 of our patrol. Prendergast was the only death of our patrol - about 6 or 7 others were wounded. I saw his body after it was brought into our trench and I believe he was buried at Ploegsteert Wood Cemetery. The report in book is wrong and the man was killed on the morning of the 16th March. Ground is now in German hands.

Eye-witness:- No.

Description:- Medium height, clean shaven, distinct features
Nickname "Pank's", well known in his battalion.

Informant:- 6282 Thomas R. Bird,
A.I.F.,
Dudley Road Hospital,
Birmingham.

Home address:- Park Street, Camperdown,
Sydney, N.S.W.
Oliver Bird
13/5/18.
London
27/5/18.

S

FRANCE.

19th BATT. A.I.F.

PRENDERGAST. W.J. 4209.

K. March 14th. 1918. Det.

He belonged to D. Coy, 13 Platoon. He was killed on the same Patrol as Lt Mainstone at Plugstreet. He was hit by a bomb and was brought into the next post to mine and died at once. I was not out with them. But Pte Cleary ~~Mainstone~~ of D. Coy, now at the Base, was with him at the time.

JNA.

Ref ---Pte D. Jones. 8425.
No 47 Gen. Hospital.

Le Treport. May 27th. 1918

S-4

19th. A.I.F.

Prendergast, Pte. W.J. 4809.

(K. March 14/18 D. D & B)

" Sometime during the early part of March 1918, at Ploegsteert front, Prendergast was on patrol and I heard that he got killed by a bomb exploding. He was buried in the Ploegsteert Cemetery.

Eye-Witness:-

No.

Description:-

About 5ft 6.ins dark complexion, a sharp nose.came from Belmanne.Sydney

Informant:-

Pte. J. Casey. 4802.

19, A.I.F. C. Coy. 11. Pltn.

Tooting Grove Hospital.

Home Address:-

May 29/18.
Perren.

Tooting Grove Military Hospital.

S. ed 24/11

19th Battn.
A.I.F.

PREN ST.
Wm J. 4. J9.

"Killed in Action" 14-3-18.

Re No 4309 W.T. Prendergast of my unit 19th Battn. I can tell you all about him which is correct. We went out this night as a fighting patrol between our own lines (front) and the German's when we came across a German out post. They fired a few bombs on us and I was next to Prendergast at the same time as he got hit. He was wounded in the stomach and I carried him in to our own trenches. He died on the way so he was buried in the Military Cemetery at Ploegsteert Sector. His personal appearance was sickly, thin faced, also a bit dark haired. Height about 5 ft 8 ins or so. Date when killed was about the 14-3-18. My own address No 1240. Cpl. Alex Murray 19th Battn. D. Coy. A.I.F. Anything else I can't tell about him. I hope this will do as I knew him pretty well while in the unit as a quiet going sort of a chap and we were all sorry for what happened and his parents have all our sympathy but as regards proving his identity, I swear it was him I carried, because I was next to him all the time.

Letter from:- Cpl. Alex Murray.
19th Battn. A.I.F.
B.E.F.

London. 5-6-18.

S.

19th. Battn. A.I.F.

PRENDERGAST.
W.J. 4209.

"Ill Portsmouth 14.12.16."

Adm; to Southern General Hospital 3.12.16. with Dysentery.

Transferred to Manor Hospital 22.1.17.

Cert: by Hospital Index.

Is convalescent from Dysentery, otherwise he is in fair health.

Cert: by Letter from O/C.28.2.17.

London
1.3.17.

S

Gen. Corrier. 4209.
Prendergast

Will Joseph 19 Bln.

#9 30.5.18.
K. 14. 3. 18. Verify car -
Bel. in. 2 A. G. H. 21. 3. 18

Mother Mrs. T. Prendergast
61 Hereford St.
Forest Lodge N.S.W.

W.D.S. 29.5.18

28.5.18

Re Tom Maddamian

8.1.19

19.1.19

Chout

4209 W. J. Brendargast

19.1.19

19.1.19

R

14.1.19

23.3.18

To \$ 23.5.18

pte Oates

vi. plm

B. Coy

19. A. F. F.

About

4209. Pa. W. J. Prondergast

19. A. F. F.

Milled 14/3/18

T

mml
23.5.18

23.5.18

plu Alec Murray

xiv plu

J. Lay

19. A. 1. 7

Admit

4209 W. T. Prendergast

19. A. 1. 7

14. 14/3/18

PQ

W. H. C.
23.5.18

Actual pe
4.6.18
7/



AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

29/5/18
4209 (ca)
Wm J Prendergast
19th Battr
K u A 14.3.18
5
3

Well as you enquire
my information regards No 4209 W. J.
Prendergast of my unit 19th Battr I can tell
you all about ^{him} which is correct. we went
out this night as a fighting patrol between
our own front line & the germans which
we came across a german out post which
they fired few bombs on us & I was
next to Prendergast at the same time
as he got hit he was wounded in the
stomach & I carried him in to our
own trenches which he died on the
way so he was buried in the Military
Cemetery at Pluck Street Sector.
His personal appearance was sickly
thin faced, also a bit dark haired
height about 5 ft. 8 inches or so

P.T.O.

date when killed was about the 14/3/18
my own Address No 12410 b/d Allec. ellurroy
19th Batten & Co. St. J. To anything
else I can't tell about him I hope
this will do as I knew him pretty well
while in the unit as a quiet going sort
of a chap & we were all sorry for what
happen & his parents has all our sympathy
but a regards proving his identity I
swear it was him, I carried because
I was next to him all the time so
that's all.

Yours Faithfully

Allec ellurroy

TELEPHONE: VICTORIA 8838.

Wounded and Missing Enquiry Bureau

AUSTRALIAN BRANCH

British Red Cross Society and Order of St. John,

54, VICTORIA STREET, S.W.

To The Officer Commanding

5th S. Gen. Hosp

Please forward to Major Hosp

Dear Sir,

We have been requested by our Australian Bureau to obtain a bulletin and ascertain the nature of the sickness or

wounds of 4209 P^{te} Prendergast (W.I.) 19th Batt A.I.F.,

who was admitted to your hospital 22-1-14

We should be most grateful for any particulars you can supply.

We regret having to trouble you in the matter, but are desirous of allaying the anxiety of the relatives so far distant in Australia.

Yours faithfully,

LWA
For The Secretary.

To The Officer Commanding

New County of London War Hospital

Epsom

AUSTRALIAN BRANCH

Wounded and Missing Enquiry Branch

102 VICTORIA STREET, S.W.

For necessary action, please

We have been requested by our Australian Branch to

to be in touch with the Australian Branch

Portsmouth

27/2/07

OFFICER IN CHARGE SOUTHERN GENERAL HOSPITAL

Yours faithfully,

W. J. ...

County of London.

RAILWAY STATIONS
EPSOM TOWN.
L. & S. C. RLY. AND
L. & S. W. RLY.
—
TELEGRAMS:
MANWARSPITAL, EPSOM.
—
TELEPHONE: 514 EPSOM.

THE MANOR (County of London) WAR HOSPITAL,

EPSOM, SURREY.

28th February 1917

The Secretary,
Australian Branch
BRITISH RED CROSS SOCIETY
54 Victoria Street. S.W.

4209, Pte Prendergast,

With reference to the attached
enquiry, this man is a convalescent
Dysentery case, otherwise he is
in fair health.

Saml. C. C. C.

Major, R.A.M.C.

for o/c. The Manor, (County of London)
War Hospital, Epsom.

Tel.: VICTORIA { 8576
8577
8578

ALL COMMUNICATIONS
TO BE ADDRESSED TO

"THE SECRETARY,"

WOUNDED AND MISSING

— ENQUIRY BUREAU —

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY.



AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY.

36. GROSVENOR PLACE,

LONDON. S.W. 1.

Pt. Tom. Madderman

23.5.18.

D. Coy.

19. A. I. F.

Dear Sir,

We are making enquiries about a man of your unit,

4209. W. J. Prendergast. 19. A. I. F.

Rept. killed 14.3.18.

and have been told that you may be able to help us by
supplying some information.

We should be most grateful for any details you can
send us concerning him, but our enquirers wish especially
to know whether he was buried, if so, whether it was on the
field, or in a soldiers' cemetery where the grave would be
registered. We would also be glad if you could add a short
description of his personal appearance or any points that
might help to prove his identity.

In your reply kindly quote name, initials and number,
as without these particulars delay and confusion might be
caused in identifying the soldier about whom you have
written.

Yours faithfully,

(Miss) *Mrs. Dickin*

Secretary.

W. H. L.

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY
WOUNDED & MISSING
ENGLAND MAY 1918

38, GROSVENOR PLACE
LONDON, S.W. 1.



MAY 18

RETURN TO SENDER
UNDELIVERABLE
A.B.P.O.
RETURN TO SENDER

Ca sup

pte Tom

*19. Sub. Netter
Australian Corp. Force
M.G.F.*

4209

W. J. Prendergast