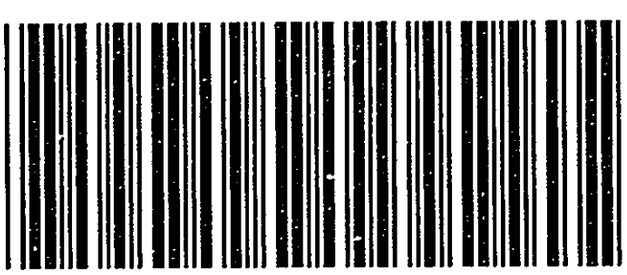
Australian Red Cross Society Wounded and Missing
Enquiry Bureau files, 1914-18 War
1DRL/0428

3589 Private
Bertie Drury
Parsonage

2nd Battalion



2090910L

2nd Battn.
A.I.F.

PARSONAGE
B.D. 3889

"Killed 1-11-17"

I saw him and Ritchie dead. Killed by a shell which fell on the Belgian Barracks, Ypres, dying instantly. Military funeral, prayers and Cross. Think he came from N.S.W., and was a Bugler. Fine young fellow.

Informant. Fogarty W. 6255
2nd Battn.
ALDWYCH.

W.Alison
London
2-3-18

S.

Havre 23rd January 1918

2nd A.I.F. Parsonage P.P. No. 3589.
Ritchie F. No.6333.

K. 1st November 1917. Det D/B.

Parsonage was a bugler. He was aged about 19 or so, fair, very young looking.

Ritchie was young looking, and short.

These two were killed inthe Belgian Barracks at Ypres by a shell which came through the wall and killed them and Private Ahern I saw them just after they were killed. They were killed ~~xxxxx~~ right out in their sleep.

They were buried in Ypres. Any of the Pioneers in the Battn would know which cemetery.

Inf:- Pte T.C.Marsh No.423.
2nd A.I.F. attd to the Canteen.
Australian Camp.
Rouelles.

C.M.

2, Battn.D. Coy,,
A.I.F.

PARSONAGE.
B.D. 3589.

KILLED.1.11.17.

I did not see the actual casualty, but I saw him immediately after it happened, He was asleep in his billet, when he was caught by pieces of shell, which hit him about the head, and chest, death being instantaneous. Casualty was at Ypres I knew him very well, he was related to my Wife, and came from Lakemba, Sydney, He was buried at Cafe Bells, At Ypres, I saw His grave which was marked with a cross bearing his number name and unit.,

Informant;- Smith,Pte.H.H. 7320.
2Battn.B.Coy,7Ptn.
3.A.A.H
Dartford.,

W.Oman.

London.
1812.18.

8,

A.I.F. 2. PARSONAGE, B.D. 35989

K. Nov 1st 1917. Dets D/B.

We were sleeping in the Belgian barracks at Ypres a day or two before our attack on Oct 4th. A dud shell came right through the wall and killed Parsonage outright. He was hit in the head. I was sleeping in the same room when this happened. The body was buried in a Mil.Cem. just near the Lille Gate, Ypres, where I think the 3rd Fld.Amb had a D/S. The date of Nov 1st in the book should be I think Oct 1st. Parsonage was a bugler and was with us in Egypt, joining us at Tel-el-Kebir.

Inf; Pte S.A.Walker. 4323. B.VIII.
No. 53 Gen Hosp.
BOULOGNE. 18.2.18.

WO

St. Leonards - on - Sea.

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

9/2/18
E.A.Riley.

2 Battn
Hd Qtrs.
A.I.F.

PARSONAGE
B.D. 3589

"Killed 1/11/17"

I saw him killed in the Belgium Barracks, at Ypres. He was caught by shrapnel pellets which hit him about the head and stomach, death instantaneous. Casualty was in our reserve lines. I knew him very well, hecam from N.S.W. and was the only man in the company of this name. He was a very young chap, and left Australia, as a bugler, and was in the band at time of casualty I did not see the grave, but I believe he was buried in the cemetery at Ypres. Refer to L/Cpl F. White, 2 Btn. Hd Qtrs Pioneers, who is in France, and can give full details of burial.

Witness:- Bray, Pte F.H. 3780,
2. Battn, Hd Qtrs,
3 A.H.H.
Dartford.

London.
W. Oman.
29/1/18

Note:- Written L/Cpl Hite. 28/1/18 S.

Letter returned to 2nd Battn. Note should have been White not Hite as already stated.

2nd. A.I.F. Parsonage. Bugler B.D. 3589.
Bugler H.Q.

K. Nov. 1/17.
Dets. D/B.

"I knew Bugler B.D.Parsonage since he joined the battn.H.Qrs. on Nov. 1/17. Bugler Parsonage was killed at the Barracks in Ypres in bed by a high explosive shell burst & a chance hit by the enemy. I buried him the next day at the Military Cemetery called Ypres Cemetery, and his name and the number of the grave were duly registered. His name, number, and Battn. are marked on a wooden cross above his grave. He had been batman to the Regimental Sgt. Major for some time - which fact, I believe, was known to his people. I gave his disc, paybook and all his belongings into the orderly Room."

Eyewitness: Yes.

Description: Age abt. 18, height abt. 5'3" medium, youthful build, fair hair and eyes, very fresh complexion. No distinctive marks remembered.

Informant: Pte. F. White. 117.
2nd. battn. A.[1].F. H.Qrs. from
D Coy. XV Pltn.
Bannow Red X Hospital, P.T.O.

O.C.
Sch C.C.S.
B.E.F

30.12.18

Re 5134 Pte A. Parsons 56th Bat.

D/Wds. 4.9.18

O.C. H/C

A.I.F. 41st Battn.

HARRODS
D.H.G. 678A

"KILLED ABOUT SEPT DET DATE

Killed 29/9/18 details not stated
Cert. by A.I.F.Hqrs List 27/12/18,

London
30/12/18.

1-2-18.

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY

(WOUNDED AND MISSING INQUIRY BUREAU),

~~64, VICTORIA STREET,~~

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

Telephones:
VICTORIA 8576, 8577, 8578

Telegraphic Address:
"QUESTMAN, LONDON."

L/Cpl. F.W. Hile
2nd Balln. C.T.T.
B.T.T.

Dear Sir,

We are making enquiries for a man of your unit

35-89 Pte. B.D. Parsonage 2nd Balln. HQRs. C.T.T.
K. 1-11-17.

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 Pte. B.D. Parsonage but our enquirers wish especially to know whether he was buried, if so, whether it was on the field or in a soldier's 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.

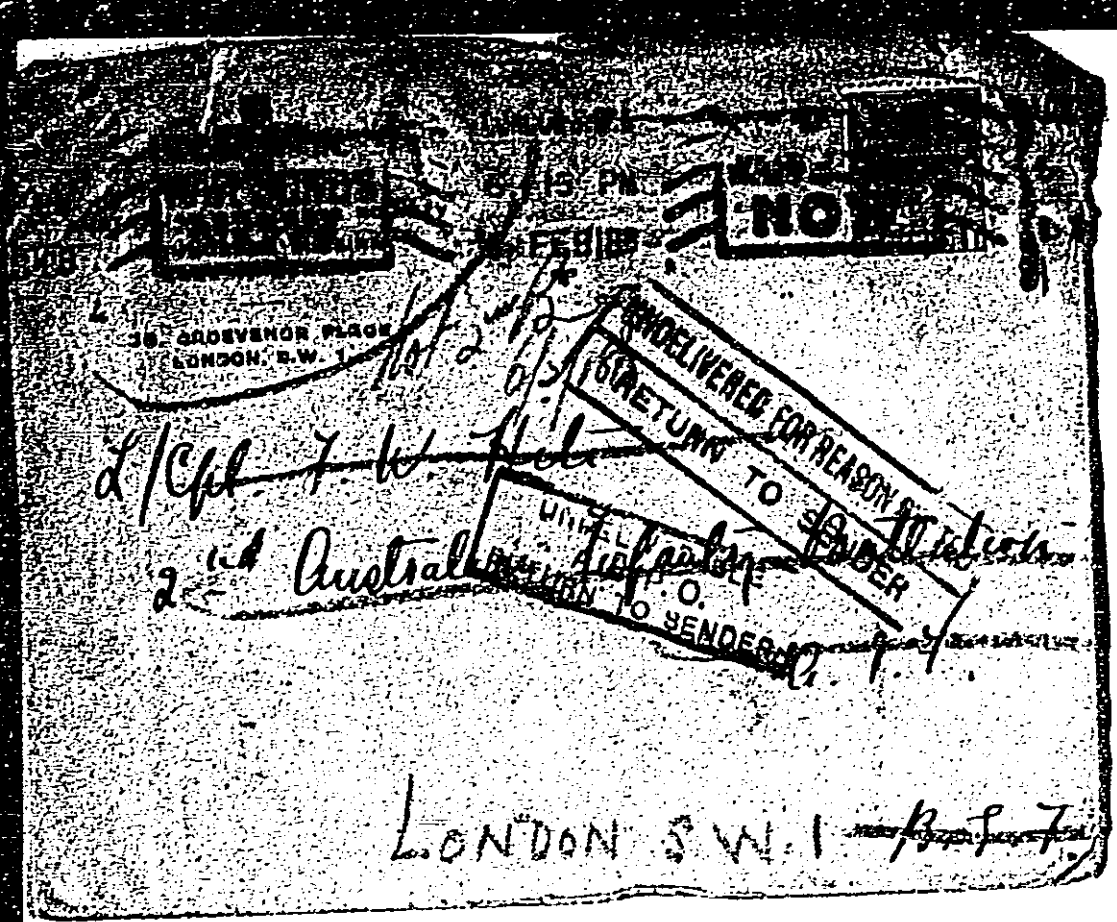
Yours faithfully,

(Miss) Vera Deakin.

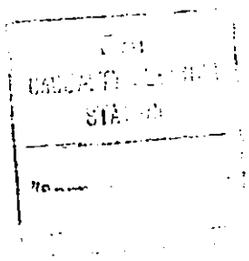
SECRETARY.

Will 2nd Balln. Pte. Thomas can give him a character WHITE

NOTE In your reply kindly quote name, initials and number of casualty enquired for, as without these particulars delay and confusion is caused in identificationof the soldier about whom you are writing.


38 GROSVENOR PLACE
LONDON, S.W. 1
NOT DELIVERED FOR REASON S
RETURN TO SENDER
UNCLAIMED
RETURN TO SENDER
LONDON S.W.1

5134
A. Parsons.
56 Bn
D of W. 4.9.18



No 5, Casualty Clearing Station,

British Expeditionary Force.

9th January 1919.

Madam,

In reply to your letter of the 30th ultimo, I have to inform you that No.5134 PTE A.PARSONS 56/ A.I.F. was admitted this C.C.S. on 2-9-18 from No 5, Aust: Field Ambulance, with a severe Gunshot Wound of the Chest.

He received every attention from skilled Medical Officers and Nursing Sisters, but passed peacefully away on the 4-9-18.

He was buried in the British Military Cemetery, Proyart sur Somme, on the 4-9-18, the Rev'd J.C.Byrne, Chaplain to the Forces officiating.

The position of his grave is as follows :-

Plot 1, Row A, Grave 18.

Yours faithfully,

Lt Colonel R.A.M.C.

Commanding No 5, Cas: Clear: Station.

Miss Vera Deakin,
Aust: Red Cross Society,
36 Grosvenor Place,
London, S.W.1.