

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

4754 Private
William Henry Pearce

20th Battalion



2120308G

Havre

20th A.I.F.

9th April 1918.

Pearce F.H. No. 4754.
Hardman Sergt. J.P. 384.

K. 1st January 1918. Det D/B.

Hardman was in A.Coy, an Englishman by birth, single. He was killed in his dugout by a shell at a place near Houplines. His body was brought out and buried in Ploegsteert Cemetery and his grave is marked. Pearce was a young lad, came from Sydney, and was killed with Hardman. He was buried at the same time. They were killed about 8 a.m. and buried the next day. Pearce was killed in his sleep.

Inf:- Pte R.J. Crane No. 2136.
20th A.I.F. A.Coy.
H.S. 'St. Patrick'.

RSS.

S

Havre

20th A.I.F.

10th April 1918.

✓ Pearce F.H. No. 4754.
✓ Hardman Sergt. J.P. No. 384.

K. 1st January 1918. Det D/B.

Hardman was S/H of B.Coy, came from England, but joined up in Australia. He was killed by a shell at La Touquet ~~3222~~ in one of the pill boxes and buried at Constantieres Farm, in the military cemetery on the left of Armentieres. Pearce was killed at the same time, and buried in the same place.

Inf:- Pte R.S. Harris No. 5592.
20th A.I.F. C.Coy.
No. 34 Amb. Train.

RSS

S
Ed
K

Havre.

12th. April. 1918.

20th. Australians.

Pearce, W. H. No. 4754.

A. 1st. January. 1918. Detn. D/B.

He was in A. Company. I did not see him killed, but he was killed by a shell at Le Toquet on January 1st, and I have seen his Grave at the little British Cemetery at Tanqueray Farm Cemetery. It had a Cross on it and was tended. There were some coloured tiles on it. I cannot give a description of him.

Inf:- L/Corporal, King. No. 908.
20th. Australian S.
C. Coy. 12th. Pltn.
H. S. "Panama".

Sed
Ed
Luff

CWB.

Havre

12th April 1918.

20th A.I.F.

Pearce W.H. No. 4754.

K. 1st January 1918. Det D/B.

I knew Pte Pearce of A.Co. I was told that he was buried in Le Touquet Military Cemetery.

Inf:- Signaller A.R. Simpson No. 6183.
20th A.I.F. B.Co. VIII Pltn.
(Formerly Signal Sect).
Australian Corp.
Rouelles.

RDM

S. A. 1004

A. I. F. 20th Bn.

PEARCE, W. H. 4754.

HARDMAN, Sgt. J. P. 384.

K. Jan. 1/18. Det. D/B.

I was within 100 yards of them on Jan. 1st when they were killed; though I did not see it. I got details the same night from men who were with them in the same post. I was in the next post; they were outposts before the front line at Le Toquet Sector on the Lys River. Pte. J. McEnroe of 20.A. (still there) & Pte. J. Allen of 20.A. (also still there) No. 3754, were with Hardman and Pearce and gave me these details. After the night watch in the post, they had all come further back nearer to our line, to dug outs where they spent the day, and they had just got in and gone to sleep when a whizz bang came right into the dug out killing Sergt. Hardman and wounding Pearce. Pearce said "Look after Jack" (Sgt. Hardman) and expired in about half a minute. I have seen their graves in the subsidiary lines, about a quarter of a mile N. of Lebizet; it is a Military Cemetery; there are crosses up with their names on. Pearce came from Blue's Point, Sydney, his father worked at the Fresh Food and Ice Factory.

Reference: V. Dugan, 3813,

No. 11 Con. Camp, Buchy nr. Rouen, 16.4.18.

FEP.

S. C. A.
Luff

A.I.F. 20.

PEARCE, W.H. 4754.
Hardman, Sgt. J.P. 384.

K. 1.1 .18. Det. D & B.

I saw them both buried in a small cemetery (about 100 graves) in the subsidiary lines at Itequet on January 2nd. They were both members of a party occupying our advanced post before the front line and about 7 a.m. had come into the basement of an old building nearer our line to sleep for the day. I was in the next post and saw them go in about 7 a.m. I afterwards heard through the ration party who got it from Lt. Cheshire of 20.A. (wounded in England) that they were both killed while asleep by a shell, which landed right into their dug out. Hardman was an Englishman. Pearce comes from Rushcutters Bay - his uncle keeps a boat shed.

Reference: C. Fisher, 1925.
No. 11 Con. Camp Buchy Near Rouen. 18.4.18.

FEP.

9.00
and

20th Battn.
A.I.F.

Pearce. W.H. 4754
Hardman. Sgt. J.P. 384

"Killed 1.1.18"

Was in A.Coy. 3rd Pltn. He was killed instantly by shell while in a dug-out at Le Tocque on a Post (384 Hardman Sgt. J.P. who was in charge of Post was also Killed by same shell). I was on the next Post, and quite close at the time. He was buried with Hardman at Tacrez Farm I helped to do up his grave. A cross was erected over his grave, with his name, No. etc. Pearce & Hardman were buried side by side Lieut. Chesher A.Coy. 20th Battn. was with them at the time and was wounded by the same shell.

Informant:- Sgt. R.C. Prow 249
20th Battn.
Harefield;

W.G.J.

London.
18.4.18.

Note Written Lieut. Chesher

S.

20th Battn.
A.I.F.

Pearce.
W.H. 4754

"Killed in Action 1.1.18"

He was killed in a dug-out by the same shell that wounded me. He was leaning on a table at the time and was hit in the head and killed instantly. I sent up S.B. ferom Battn.H.Q. to bring him and Hardman back to be buried in the cemetery near Factory Corner. But as I was wounded and was being sent away I cannot say for certain that they were buried. It happened at 8.15.a.m. on 1.1.18 in the Le Tœuquet sector N. of Armentieres.

Information given by:- Lieut.B.Chesher
20th Battn.
Cobham Hall Hospital
Kent.

London.
19.4.18.

S.

20th Battn.
A.I.F.

PEARCE.W.H.4754.
HARDMAN.Sgt.J.P.384.

"Killed in Action 1-1-18"

Re 384.Sgt Hardman.J.P. and Mc 4754.Pte Pearce.W.H. were killed between Armentiers and Ploegstreet., in December but I cannot think of the exact date. Both men were very popular and were always there when duty called. The writer is O.K. and only too pleased to help you in this matter. Both men were buried in a Cometary north of Le Hœst, West of Armentiers.

Letter from:- Pte Power.D.C.
20th Battn.A.I.F.
FRANCE. 28-8-18.

London .
6-9-18.
N.T.

S.



Letter to

10/1/16

Lieut W B Chester

A Coy 20th Battalion

Cobham Hall

Cobham Kent

about

4754 W H Pearce

20th Battalion

A I F

1847
DB

6.9.18

4754

W. H. Pearce

20 Bth

See under

384

Sgt

J. P. Hardman

20 Bth

27-11-17

CHAW LEIGH,
BIDEFORD,

NORTH DEVON.

Flou Lee

Australian Red Cross

London

Dear Madam

Replying to yours of
22nd inst, I am glad you feel
so sure that W. H. Pearce is
alive. I hope your true specimen
of his writing which you were
compare with the original one
& also recent ones you were
sent to his mother. I doubt
if anything else will satisfy
her.

Yours very truly
Vincent Fleckmeyer