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

2191 Lance Corporal George Henry Priestley

1st Battalion



2200805H

1st Batt.
A.I.F.,

PRIESTLEY
G.H. 2191

"Killed Feb. 11/17"

Was in A.Coy -a coy signaller. I was standing next to him when hit. He was killed by bullet - died in about 2 minutes. It happened at Yarra Bank (Somme) He was buried behind the trench. His grave had a wooden cross with his name,no,etc. I saw him hit and also saw his grave. I think it usual-tmust have been a stray bullet. He was called George.

Reference:- S.R. Hubbard 2966
1st Batt. A.I.F.,
Dartford,
23.4.17.

London
2.5.17.
W.G.J.

S.

1st A.I.F.

PRIESTLEY
G.H. 2191.

(Malta.)

Bomb wound right leg, 12/8/15.
Sappi Camp, Lemnos West, 9:10:15.
Fit.Embarked for Egypt, 13:10:15.

Cert. by:-

Australian Interm. Base,
&
Malta Message.

Cairo,
9:12:15.

(S.)

1st A. I. F. G. H. PRIESTLEY. 2191

Killed 11.2.17. Det.D/B.

I knew him very well. He came over with me in June 1915. He was killed early in February when I was in England on leave. When I rejoined I was told of this and where he had been buried. I went to the place where his grave was, just behind the trench at "Yarrow Bank" on the Somme, and placed a cross on it. The grave was pointed out to me by Pte.Roberts, since dead. The original cross had been knocked down.

Reference: M.Connell, 2123, A.Coy. 3 Plat.

No.11 Stationary, Rouen, 23.4.17

WTMR.

1st A.I.F.

PRIESTLEY
G.H. 2191.

(Malta.)

Bomb wound right leg 13/8/15.
Transferred [redacted] Sarpi Camp, [redacted] Lemnos
West, 9:10:15.

Cert. by:-

Australian Interm. Base.

Cairo,
7:12:15.

(S.)

Cancel.

A. I. F. 1. PRIESTLEY, G.H.2191.

K. February 11th, 1917.

He was killed while in the line near Coy. H.Q. at Yarra Bank near La Bargue on February 11th. I saw his body in the trench. A bullet had pierced his body. Death was instantaneous. I helped to bury the body almost on the spot where he was hit. A cross was sent up from Fricourt to be erected on the grave. He belonged to 2 I pl. A.Coy. He came from N.S.W. in the 8th reinf.

5A.

Reference:- Pte. G.M.Marks. 2304. A.Coy.
No. 26 Gen. Hosp.

Etaples
9.5.17.

A. I. F. 1. PRIESTLY, G.H.2191.
K. February 11th, 1917.

I was told by Sgt-Maj. Fowler that he saw him struck at Yarra Bank in the front line to the right of Hexham Road. He had just come out of his dugout when he was hit through the body. The bullet went in at his neck and came out under the opposite shoulder. He said he died in about a minute. My informant is CSM. Fowler of A.Coy. and is I think at present at No. 2 Convalescent Camp at Rouen. Priestly was a signaller in A.Coy. Medium height, fair, quiet.

Reference:- J. Marr. 535. 1 H.Q. FEP.

I saw him buried by Pte. E. Illingsworth, A.S/B who is still with them. He was buried where he fell and a cross with his name erected. His is one of two graves at this point.

Reference:- R. Harnett. 366. A Coy.
No. 1 A.D.B.D.

Etaples
9.5.17.

Written CSM Fowler 16.5.17

A. I. F. 1. PRIESTLEY, G.H. 2191.

K. February 11th, 1917.

While in Yellow Bank trench near Flers I saw a shell kill him. He was buried in the vicinity. Tall, slight, fair, clean shaven, 23-25. He had recently returned from leave.

FJE.

Reference:- Golder, J.G. 347. A.I.
Liverpool Hosp.

Etaples
9.5.17.

A. I. F. 1. PRIESTLEY, G.H. 2191.

K. February 11th, 1917.

I was there when he was sniped at Aira Bank(?). Our front line was an embankment and he was sniped through the heart as we lay there and died almost immediately. We buried him in a shell hole close by and put up a cross. He was a middle aged man, clean shaven, and not very big.

HBA.

Reference:- Falkenhagen. 1916.
No. 18 Gen. Hosp.

Etaples
9.5.17.

A. I. F. 1. PRIESTLEY,G.H. 2191.

K. February 11th,1917.

At Yarra bank about the date named I saw Priestley hit by a sniper just behind the left shoulder. He was standing by the latrine door at the time and I was not more than a yard away. I could hear the bullet. He was killed instantly - fell and did not move. I helped to bury him. He is in a grave by himself and I saw a small cross put up with his name. I saw a bigger cross made to go up and understand it was erected. It is on the left front of Flers and at the rear of La Barque to the right of Butte de Warlencourt. He was tall, 26 to 27, thick set, very quiet. He was in 6th reinf.

FEP.

Reference:- J. Bourke. 5656. S/B. A.
No. 7 Can. Gen. Hosp.

Etaples
11.5.17.

A. I. F. 1. PRIESTLEY,G.H.2191.

K. February 11th, 1917.

He was an A. Coy. Signaller and was killed in the line in front of Flers. He was sniped I believe and killed outright. Signaller W.C.Fletcher, I pl.A.Coy. was his pal and spoke to me about Priestley's death. He could give further information as to the casualty as could CSM. Fowler, A.Coy. 1st battn. now in the Base.

SA.

Reference:- Pte. W.C.Tickner. 3497. A.Coy.
No. 26 Gen. Hosp.

Etaples
9.5.17.

A. I. F. 1. PRIESTLEY, G.H. 2191.

K. February 11th, 1917.

I knew George Priestley well. We came over together in the 9th reinf. to the 18th battn. He came from N.S.W. He was senior signaller in A. Coy. and a L/Cpl. He was sniped at Yarra Bank to the left of Flers on February 11th and killed outright. His body was buried just behind the old front line at Yarra Bank. I have seen the grave. There is a cross on it with his name.

SA.

Reference:- Pte. O.G.Renner. 2190. A.Coy. 1st. No. 1 A.D.B.D.

Etaples
12.5.17.

A.I.F. 1. PRIESTLEY, G.H. 2191.

K/Feby 11th.1917.

I last saw him about Feby 11th. in a place called Yarrow Bank. I saw him fall in our own line about 9.30 a.m. He was killed instantly by a bullet which got him behind the left shoulder blade. I helped to bury him that night just behind our own line. Flers is about 4 miles away. A cross was erected with his name, number and regiment on. I knew him well. He was the Coy Signaller. I have been with the Battn. since 1914.

Reference: Sgt.C.C.Walters, 1018, A.III, No.1 Can.Gen.Hosp.

Staples.
11.5.17.
PHR.

Havre 18th May.1917.

1st AUSTRALIANS PRIESTLEY, G.H. 2191

K. Feb. 11th. 1917. Det. D/B.

I knew L.Cpl. Priestley in A. Company, and I know he was killed in February. I saw a cross at H.Q. ready to be placed on his grave at Yarra Bank near Flers.

Informant: J.P. Wilkinson 153
1st Batt., A. Co., IV.Pltn.
Ambulance Train.
Havre.

GRB.

1st A. I. F., Priestley, Pte. G.H., 2191,
C. Company,

K. February 11th 1917. Det: D & B.

"I did not see Pte. Priestley killed but he is buried at Redbank, near [illegible]. Pte. V. Grant, 1st A. I. F., C. Coy., can give full information of his death and burial as he knows what happened. Pte. Grant was still with his unit when I left. He helped to get Priestley out of the trench when he was hit. Grant told me Priestley was shot through the shoulder and the bullet glanced down through his heart."

Eye Witness: No, Pte. V. Grant, 1st A. I. F., C. Coy.,

Description: Tall, well proportioned man.

Informant:-- Pte. Francis Edwin Paine, 4006,
1st A. I. F., A. Coy., I Pltn.,
Pinner Hospital.

Home address:-- Cisco, Garrett Street,
Dollich Hill, N. S. W.

12.5.17.

1st Battn.
A. Coy.
A. I. F.

Priestley.
L/Cpl. G. H. 2191.

"Killed in Action 11.2.17."

2191 L/Cpl. Priestley was killed on about 11.2.17 and was buried where he fell. Refer to Graves Registration Union for map reference. Height 5'10 or 11", weight 11 stone, complexion fair, hair fair, eyes blue, build slight, age 23 years.

Letter from:-
C.Sgt.Major Fowler. 827.
A.Coy. 1st Battn.
France.

London.
13.7.17.

S.

Havre

18th May; 1917.

1st AUSTRALIANS

PRIESTLEY, G.H. 2191

K. 11.8.17. Det. D/B.

He was killed by a stray bullet in our trenches at Guedecourt, and his body was buried in the trenches. I have seen his grave. All information has been sent to his people at Paterson, New South Wales.

Informant: Sergt. R.J. Mackenzie, 359
1st Australians, A Co.,
No. 29 Ambulance Train. Havre.

RBS

S 6 d

L/C. G. H. Priestley. 2191.

See under

2nd Lieut. J. H. McIntyre.

10-7-17.

L/Cpl. G. H. Priestley 2191.
1 Batt.

See under

2nd Lieut. J. H. McIntyre
1 Batt.

18-7-17.

C.S. Major FOWLER / A Co.
1 Batt^n A.I.F
No 2 Convalescent Camp
B.E.F

(c/- for)
2191 G. H. PRIESTLY
1 Batt^n A.I.F

K. 11. 2. 17

~~16.6.17~~
6.6.17
P.R.

Charity Ward.

FRONT Western

ON AS TO

nk	Battalion and Regiment.	Co.	Platoon	Casualty.
	23 A I F			M March 20/17.

BY

nk.	Battalion and Regiment.	Co.	Platoon	Home Address.
	23 A I F	D	XV	48 [illegible] St Abbotsford.

INFORMANT

first person). Melbourne.

or XVI

week after the Lagnicourt →

21.

[illegible] close to D R S with Jones

X 5

THE FOLLOWING :—

give name, number, etc., } (
e man who told him. }

nant says a man was killed, } RECEIVED
ath instantaneous, and was } [illegible]
ly buried, and if so where? } EXHIBITION HOUSE

re any other man of same }
in Co. or Battalion? }

- For Collingwood. Melbourne.

Signature of Searcher } Pte J Bathurst }

Date of Report 10/5/17.