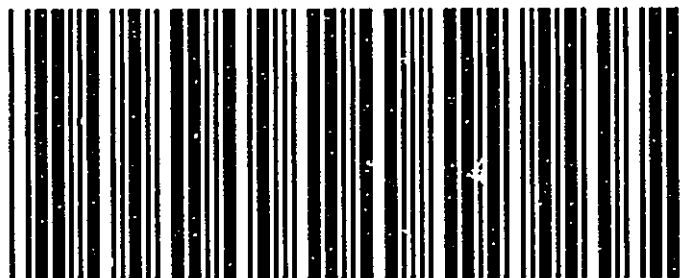


Australian Red Cross Society Wounded and Missing
Enquiry Bureau files, 1914-18 War
1DRL/0428

2nd Lieutenant
Reuben Parkes

34th Battalion



20906011

A.I.F. 34th Battn.

PARKES
Reuben 2/Lieut.

E/A 50/3/18

No trace in Germany
Cert. by Capt. Mills 10/10/19

London
24/10/19

S

A. I. F. 34th Bn.

PARKES, 2/Lieut. R.

Killed March 30/18. Det.D/B.

I did not see him actually killed, but I saw him lying dead in front of Villers-Bretteux on date mentioned. On that night we made a big raid against the Germans. The 32nd Battn. went over first and got badly cut up; we followed with the whole of A.Coy. in which Mr.Parkes was C.O. of IV Pl. We were coming back an hour later and I was carrying a wounded Sergt. in a tarpaulin, 3 men helping me, when we passed Mr.Parkes on the ground. We all went over to see him but as he was dead we thought it more important to carry our wounded man back. Mr.Parkes was never buried as Fritz took that ground soon afterwards and advanced a mile beyond it. Mr.Parkes, who was a fine Officer, cool, brave and a good leader, came over to France as a Pvte. He was in Gallipoli and transferred to us from the 53rd. He was a N.S.W. man.

Reference: J.Davies, 2777, A.Coy. 2 Pl.
No.12 General, Rouen, 21.5.18.

AB.

Havre

23rd May 1918.

A.I.F. 34.

Parke 2nd Lieut. R.

K. 30th March 1918. Det D/B.

On the 30th March 1918 we were at Hangard Wood. We attacked at 7 p.m. We got about 1000 yards and dug in. Before we had got so far the Lieut was hit by M.G. and killed right out. We held the ground and the body was taken for burial but I do not know where.

Inf:- Pte S. Plummer No. 7518.

A.I.F. 34.

Australian Camp.

Rouelles.

OWSG.

S.M.
end

34th Battn.
A.I.F.

PARKES
2/Lt. R.

"Killed 30-3-18"

I saw him buried on the left of the wood in front of the Village of Cachy. Lt. Pockley and 4 other Officers of the 33rd Battn., were also buried there, at the same time. Col. Martin told us that night "Poor old Parkes has gone - good old A. Coy. you have done well". Lt. Parkes was well liked, came from N.S.W.

Informant. Regan Sgt. J. (boarded for Aust.)
34th Battn.
HAREFIELD.

W. Alison
London
24-5-18

S.

34th Battn.
A.I.F.

PARKES
2/Lt. R.

"Killed 30-3-18"

He was shot through the head 2 or 3 yds. behind me in a charge.

Informant. Hatch Sgt. B.C.K.
34th Battn.,
HAREFIELD.

W. Alison
London
24-5-18

S.

34th Battn.
A.I.F.

PARKES
2/Lt. R.

"Killed 30-3-18"

Was in A.Coy. 4th Pltn., called "Ben". I saw him killed instantly by M.G.bullet. He was hit by one bullet, and was turning around to come back when he was hit by two more and was killed instantly. It happened to the right of Villers-Brettonneaux on March 30th. He was trying to take a strong post at the time. It was on a Saturday night, just after dark. I was hit later, and was carried out, so don't know if he was buried.

Informant. Hamilton W.H. 7488
34th Battn.,
HAREFIELD.

W.G.J.
London
24-5-18

S.

34th Battn.
A.I.F.

PARKES
2/Lt. R.

"Killed 30-3-18"

Was in A.Coy. 4th Pltn., called "Ben". I saw him killed instantly, by M.G.bullet at Villers-Brettonneaux on March 30th. He was wounded first, and I was taking his equipment off, when he was hit again, and killed instantly. We went out to take a strong post at Villers-Brettonneaux. I was hit immediately after, so don't know where he was buried. I was talking to him at the time he was hit.

Informant. Flowers W.H. 7475
34th Battn.,
HAREFIELD.

W.G.J.
London
24-5-18

S.

34th Battn.
A.I.F.

PARKES
2/Lt. R.

"Killed 30-3-18"

Matthews of A.Coy. 3rd Pltn., in No.3 Wilson War Hpl. Reading, told me that Lt.Parkes was killed while his batman was removing his equipment after being wounded.

Informant. Joy J. 3327
34th Battn. A.Coy. 1st Pltn.,
Hut 9,
WESTHAM.

Note:-
See Pte.Flowers report.

W.A.Rand
London
24-5-18

S.

34th Battn.
A.I.F.

PARKES.
R. Sub-Lieut.

"Killed in Action" 30-3-18.

During our first attack at Villiers Bretonneux in March when we had come back and dug in at about 7.p.m. he was alongside me and was shot through the stomach (and spine?) and killed outright. He never moved. The body was taken back two days after by the A.Sc S/B's Etes Irwin, and Frank Cummins.

He belonged to A.Sc. 4th - 11th and was the only officer of the name. He was known as "Benny".

Informant:- Pte.H.Hinton, 3061.
34th Battn.A.I.F.
HAREFIELD.

A.G.Campbell.
24-5-18.
London.
28-5-18.

S.

34th Batt:

Parkes, 2nd Lt. R.

K. 30/3/18.

I saw him killed instantaneously by a bullet at Villers Brettonneux.

We buried him next morning at a small village at the right of Brettonneux.

34th Batt:

Webster, H.C.Pte.212.

28 B. Bartford. 28/5/18.

R.D.B.

R.D.B.

S. C.

A. J.

34th Battn. A.Coy. 6th Pltn.
A.I.F.

PARKES
2/Lt. R.

"Killed 30-3-18"

I was within 5 yds. of him when he was killed. We were attempting to rush a M.G. post on night of March 30th, 1 mile E. of Villers-Brettonneux. We were within 15 yds. of the M.G. post at the time. Heard him say "I'm hit". The whole attacking party, 8, were killed or wounded. His body was afterwards brought back, 200 yds. and buried under a big bank. I did not help to bury him, having been wounded, but I knew some of the men who buried him. Ground would now be held by the Germans.

Informant. Hatch Sgt.
34th Battn. A.Coy. 4th Pltn.,

A.D.G.
London
28-5-18

S.

34th Battn.
A.I.F. 44

PARKES.
R. 2nd Lieut.

"Killed in Action" 30-3-18.

I saw him wounded at Villers-Brettonneux. He was hit by a machine gun bullet in the stomach, and he begged of us not to let him be taken prisoner. Immediately after he was shot through the heart, and died instantly. We were in action at the time. I knew him well and he was a very popular officer. We all liked him very much indeed. He came from Sydney N.S.W. We had to retire and leave him with other killed. The Casualty happened about midnight on Easter Saturday. I cannot give any further details.

Informant: 9 Masters. Lieut. S. 7507.
34th Battn. A. Coy.
3rd A.I.F. BARRICK.

W. Oman.
London.
29-5-18.

S.

34th Battn.
A.I.F.

PARKES
2/Lt. R.

"Killed 30-3-18"

Was in A.Coy. Called Ben. He was killed instantly by
M.G. bullet. He went over with 3 men to take a Fritz strong
post on the right of Villers-Brettonneux, and they were all killed.
I did not see it happen, but was told by, Pte.S.Smillie, A.Coy.
34th Battn., who states that he saw Parkes killed, and can
give full details of his death and burial.

Informant. Guilty D.P. 3415
34th Battn.
HAREFIELD.

Note:-

Written Pte.Smillie 28-5-18

W.G.J.
London
30-5-18

S.

34 A.I.F.

Parkes, 2nd Lt. R.

K. March 30/18 Det D/B

"I understand that Parkes was killed in a counter attack 34th Batt. in conjunction with the 33rd Batt. on the afternoon of March 30th 1918. He was buried by our own Padre Captain J. Calder, who could give all particulars."

Eye-witness:- - The padre Capt. J. Calder.

Description:-

Informant:- Lt. Colonel W. Leroy Fry,
34 A.I.F.
3rd London Gen.Hos.
Wandsworth.

Home address:- H.Q., A.I.F.

26.5.18
A.A. Needham.

A.I.F. 34th Battn.

PARKES
2/Lt. R.

Killed in Action 30/3/18

Re 2nd Lieut. R. Parkes A Company 34th Battalion, A.I.F., Killed in Action 30/3/18, He was my officer (a very brave man) commanding No. 4 Platoon A Company 34th Battalion. On Easter Sat. night, March 30th. we set out to locate the Germans, whom we came across, entrenched some three miles from the Village of Villers Bretonneux. Before we knew where we were, we came in touch with them entrenched in a ploughed field. We charged, Lt. Parkes leading us, cleared them out of their first line of trench. Then Lt. Parkes discovered a German Strong Point that was making it rather hot for us. He picked out ten men, and proceeded to take this point, when he received a bullet through the abdomen. He died as one of the boys was taking off his equipment. We held this line of trenches for about three hours, when we received the order to retire, some 500 yards, where we had to dig in before daylight. Owing to the rain and mud, we managed to get all our wounded back, but had to leave our dead behind - my platoon suffered severely. As the Germans advanced some miles within the next few days I daresay they came across our dead and buried them.

Letter from:- 3384 Pte. Sydney Smillie,
34th Battn., A.I.F., No. 12 Genl.Hosp.,
No. 7 Hut, Rouen, France. 12/6/18.

London
18/6/18.

S

34th BATTALION, A. Company.
(Late 54th Battalion.)

PARKES, E. 2nd Lieutenant

KILLED, 30.3.18.

I knew Mr. Parkes. He came from the 5th Division as a Private, and then was promoted Lance-Corporal, and then went to the Officers' Training Corps in England. They used to call him "Ben". He was over me in A. Company, and was the only Officer of that name in A. Company. He was killed outright by machine gun fire at Cechy Wood on the night of Villers Brettoneun on the night of 30th March-1st April last. I was there at the time, and was within 100 yards of him: he and some others charged an enemy machine gun pit. It was well known that night that he had been killed. I knew of it.; Within 5 minutes he was hit and killed outright. I do not know where he was buried, we were driven back from this front line where Mr. Parkes was killed.

Informant:- Sergeant E. A. Phillips. 7586.
34th Battalion. A. Company. 1st Platoon.

H.S.O.
12.7.18.

No. 4 General Hospital,
RANDWICK.

Home address:- "Illawa,"

Duke Street, CAMPSIE.

SYDNEY BUREAU.

c. sub.
S.

J. 11-

34th Battalion, A.I.F.
"A" Company (late 54 Bn.)

PARKES, R. 2/Lieut.

"Killed 30/3/18."

Informant described the Lieutenant as about 5'6" high, slight build, dark complexion, aged about 30.

Informant states that they both belonged to "A" Co. On 30/3/18 the Battalion was in action at a place on the River Seine, the name of which he could not call to mind. They hopped over at 7.30 p.m., shortly after the advance commenced the Lieutenant was hit by a bullet. Informant was within 3 or 4 feet of him, and saw him hit. He was killed outright. The body was left there for the night, but was brought in next morning, and buried, but Informant did not know the place of burial. Informant added that the Lieutenant was a most popular Officer.

Informant - Private H. Hinton, No. 3061,
34th Battalion, "A" Company.
Home Address - Singleton, N.S.W.

W.E.G.
Rose Hall,
Darlinghurst.
16/8/18.

C. J. Sullivan
SYDNEY BUREAU.

(28 5 18)

Pvt. S. Smellie

A. Coy.
34th Batta. A.I.F.
abroad

alt. officer

2/Lt. R. Parkes

A. Coy.
34th Batta. A.I.F.

R. 30 3 18

28 5 18
A.I.F.

Rebels PC
11-6-18
92/

2nd Lieut R. Parkes
34th Batt
KIA 30.3.18
S₃ (ca)

No 12 General Hospital
No 7 Flut
Rouen - France
12/6/18

Dear Miss Beal

Your letter dated 29/5/18, to hand today, owing to my
being wounded it has been delayed in delivery

Yes I am very thankful to say that I can give you
some information concerning 2nd Lt. R. Parkes, A Company
34th Batt A.S.F. Killed in Action 30.3.18

He was my officer (a very brave man) commanding No 4
Platoon, A Company 34th Batt

On Easter Sat night, Mar 30th we set out to locate the
Germans, whom we came across, entrenched some three
yards from the bulge of the village - Eastonnewre
(1)

Before we tried even we where, we came in touch
with them entrenched in a ploughed field. We
charged, Lt Parkes leading us, cleared them out of
their first line of trench. Then Lt Parkes discovered
a German Strong Point that was making it rather hot
for us. He pushed out ten or so, and proceeded to take
this point, when he received a bullet through the
abdomen. He died as one of the boys was taking

off his equipment we held this line of trenches
for about three hours, when we received the order
to retire, some 500 yards, where we had to dig in
before daylight. Owing to the rain and mud, we
managed to get all our wounded back, but had
to leave our dead behind, - my platoon suffered
severely - As the Germans advanced some time
within the next few days I dare say they came
across our dead and buried them. Am awfully
sorry this is all the news I can give you

Yours Sincerely

(3384) Pte Sydney Bonilla

3rd Battalion

A 57