

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

2001 Private  
Norman Currie Tyrer

46th Battalion



2800908R

A.I.F. 46.

TYRER. N.C. 2001.

K. June 8th 1917.

He was blown to pieces by a shell during the attack at Messines and died instantly at 3 or 4 o'clock in the afternoon. He was acting as S/c. and I was his Cpl. and was quite close to him when it happened being in fact wounded by the same shell. I do not think his remains were ever buried. He was in my section and had been with us about 5 months. Age about 27, 5ft 6, dark, clean shaven and very quiet disposition.

Inf: L/C. G.Elliott. 2317. C.  
2nd Aust Gen.Hosp.  
BOULOGNE. 27.10.17.

FD

M

46th Bn  
A.I.F.

TYRER  
R. N.C. 2001

"Killed 8.6.17."

I saw him killed at Messines. He was caught by a shell and badly knocked about death being instantaneous. I do not know place of burial and I cannot refer to anyone for particulars.

I knew him very well and am certain of his number and am sure this is the man referred to.

Witness:- Cpl. A.C. Greenham 1920  
46th Bn. D. Coy. 14th Pltn.  
3rd A.A. Hospital,  
Dartford.

W. Oman  
London  
30.10.17.

M

46th Battalion A.I.F.

Tyrer, N.C. No. 2001.

"A" Coy.

K. June 8/17. Det. D./B.

I saw him killed instantly by a shell on the right of Messines. The company at the time were coming out of the trenches. We buried him in the cemetery at Gooseberry Farm. No padre officiated. I came away before a cross was erected. I knew him at Footscray Victoria, and his people live in Williamstown Road.

Description. Height. 5-5. Comp. fair. Well built.

Witness. McHenry. D.C. No. 1747. Pte. 46<sup>th</sup> Battalion.

Taken at  
No. 4. C.D.  
Hurdcott  
25-1-18.  
S.W.

S. Whitmee,  
No. 4. C.D.  
Hurdcott.

*M  
d  
B  
L  
H*

46th Btn.

TYHER, N. C.  
Pte. 2001

Killed in action 8/6/17.

"Iknew Casualty. He was a short man, fair, wore glasses about 22 years of age. I was told by P. Brook late of the 46th Battalion, that Casualty was killed alongside of him."

Informant:- E. G. Clark,  
46th Btn.

Private address:-  
7 Admiral Street,  
Footscray.

T.C.F.  
8/2/18.

M  
Ed  
Suff

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS INFORMATION BUREAU-MELBOURNE.

46 A.I.F.

Tyrer, N.C. 2001,  
A Coy.

K. June 8/17. Det. D/B.

" On date mentioned Pte. N.C. Tyrer was killed at Messines about 2 hours before the Battn was relieved. The trench was being heavily shelled at the time & a shell blew five to pieces scattering the remains over the parapet so that they could not be recovered. No one could show his head over the parapet. They were relieved by an English regiment about 7 P.M."

Eyewitness:- Yes.

Description:- Came from Footscrag, Victoria.

Informant:- S/Bearer T.E. Tylor, 5769.  
46 A.I.F. 6 A. M  
2nd. Birmingham War Hosp, Hollymoor.

8/12/17.  
S.T.H. Parkes.

46th Batt.  
A. I. F.

TYRER  
H. C. 2001  
2001

Kil led June 8th. 1917.

Messines: Killed by shell coming up with rations. Killed at once: I saw it happen. He was in the same Platoon as I was. Small, fair, wore specs. I did not see his grave.

Inf : Barclay 1911.

W. 32 Harefield.

M.

D. P. Dickson

London  
27/12/17.

M

46th Btn.

TYRER, H. C.  
Pte. 2001.

Killed in action 8/6/17.

"I knew Casualty. He was a short man, fair complexion, wore glasses, about 20 years of age, known as "Fritz" comes from Footscray. Casualty was in the front line trench, Green Trench, Messines. An H.F. shell exploded in the trench near Casualty burying him with three other men. I was 20 yds. away at the time of the explosion, but I went up immediately afterwards and I helped to dig Casualty out but he was quite dead on recovery. The chief cause of his death was concussion. He was buried just near where he fell and I helped to bury him. I was an eye-witness."

Informant:- Pte. G. Heobarn,  
No. 3759, 46th Btn.

Private address:-

"Navyse"

Rathmines Grove,

Auburn.

T.C.F.

26/7/18.

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS INFORMATION BUREAU-MELBOURNE.

*C. Sullivan*  
*17*

In the Field.

.....5/1/1919.....

France

Australian Red Cross Society  
Wounded & Missing  
Enquiry Bureau  
36 Grosvenor Place  
To London

Sir or Madam

Is it possible for you  
to obtain for me full  
particulars of No 2004  
Pte N.C. TYRER 46<sup>th</sup> BATT. A.I.F.  
Last reported buried in  
Gossebery Farm Cemetery  
& last report states  
killed, Green Trench

In the Field,

.....191.....



2

Messines. Could you let  
me know as soon as  
possible full information  
& also if his grave is  
registered & could I  
obtain a photograph  
of same. Please let me  
know through whom  
I can get a photo taken  
by of his grave His mother  
has often written about  
it but can get no reply &  
she has asked me to do  
my best & get it photographed  
at some printed matter

In the Field.

.....191.....



3

regarding same etc I  
am referring to  
Australia in Feb  
I'd like to know if its  
possible for the  
information asked for  
can be obtain also a  
photo of which I can  
take home to the deceased  
soldier's parents. Thanking  
you for past favors etc  
Cremation

Yours truly  
1674 Pte H. Hunter  
B Coy 60<sup>th</sup> Bde

1677.Pte.M.Hunter;  
B.Coy. 60th Batta.  
Aust: Imp: Force.  
B.E.F.

January 14th 1918.

Dear Sir,

In reply to your enquiry of 5th inst for 2001.Pte. N.C. Tyrer. 46th Battalion. A.I.F. who was killed in action on 8-6-17. We beg to inform you of several unofficial reports we have received about him from men in his Unit. 1747.Pte. D.C. Mc Henry stated that he saw him killed instantly by a shell on the right of Messines as they were coming out of the trenches. Our informant, who knew him in Australia, added that they buried him in the Cemetery at Gooseberry Farm, but no Padre officiated and he came away before a cross was erected.

3759.Pte.C.Hepburn. interviewed in Australia stated that he knew Pte Tyrer who was killed by concussion from a high explosive shell which exploded near by when in the front line trench at Messines. Pte Hepburn helped to bury him near the place of casualty. Several other men confirmed these reports of his instantaneous death but can give no information of his burial.

We will apply to the Graves Department. A.I.F. Headquarters. for a photograph of his grave and if this is registered, a copy will be sent direct to his Father as soon as it is available.

Trusting the above may be of some value to you, and with good wishes,

Yours faithfully,

(Miss)

  
Secretary.