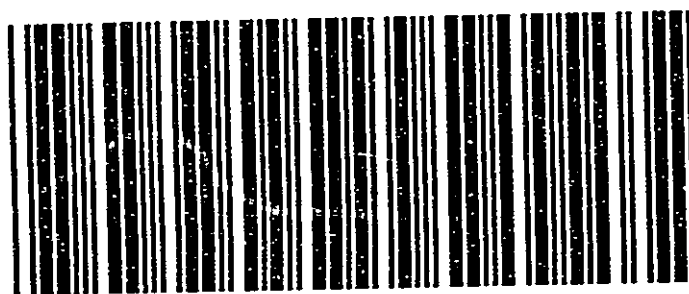


Australian Red Cross Society Wounded and Missing
Enquiry Bureau files, 1914-18 War
1DRL/0428

**Major
Gother Robert Carlisle
Clarke**

34th Battalion



0740809S

A. I. F.
at 8th Bn
A. I. F.

CLARK
Capt. G. R. O. Major Gothie Robert
Carlisle

Resp Killed

Killed in Action 12.10.17.

Cert. by Hdqtrs 9.11.17.

London.
9.11.17.

P. I.

AMQ
AIF

CLARKE
Major G.R.C.
Attd. 34th Battn

"Killed Oct 12th 1917"

Major Clarke was killed just outside a dugout while dressing wounded man at Regt. Aid Post at Berlin Wood on Oct 12th. ^{Battle of}
He was 9th Fld. Amb. attached 34th Battn. He was not buried up to the time we came out we saw him lying between two dugouts we came out then. He probably is buried. Charles Walsh 9th Fld. Amb also attached to 34th Battn was killed at same time. Major Clarke was very well liked and one of the best M.O's. I came over on the boat with him and he gave us a good time.

Witness:-

W.J. Turnbull 12078
9th Fld. Amb
AIF Westham

WA Rand → P.I
London.
31.12.17.

Not sent P.I

Boulogne & P.I

Reg. M.D. to 34th Batta
AIF

CLARKE
Major G.R.O

"Killed Oct 12th 1917"

I saw him dead. He had been killed by a shell I know nothing more.

Informant:- L/Cpl. N.T. Allardice 11897
9th Fld. Amb.
Harefield

M. Alison
London.
10.1.18.

B'logn and P.I.

Havre.

8th January 1918.

A.A.M.C.

Clarke Maj. G.B.C. (attd 34th Batta)

K. 12th October 1917. Det D/S.

Private Jack Beckett of the 9th Field Amb. told me that he was with the Major when he was killed at Ypres. He will be able to give all details. Beckett is still with his Unit.

Inf:- L/Cpl G.B. Jackson No. 11990.
9th A.A.M.C.
Australian Camp.
Rouelles.

RDE.

*Bloque extant P.1
P.1
written Beckett.
R.1.18*

Attached
34th Battn.
A.A.W.C.
A.I.F.

CLARKE
Major. G.R.C.

"Killed 12.10.17."

I saw him killed at a Pill Box just in front of Passchendaele at about 9 p.m. on the 12.10.17. A shell burst outside the pill box where he was working, fragments of which killed him and several others and wounded several others. I was one of the wounded. He was attending to some wounded men at the time of casualty. I was sent away a few days later and he was then lying on the parapet, so I do not know place of burial, but refer to Captain W.H. Collins, R.H.O. 37th Battn, who is now in France, and who was there at the time, and will be able to give full details of casualty.

Informant:- Cpl. V.G. Burston, 11127,
A.A.W.C. 37th Battn.
3.A.A.H.
Dartford.

W. Oman.
London.

NOTE Written Capt. Collins
7.2.18

8.2.18.

P.I.
B'LOGNE

A. F. A. A. O.

Med. Ser.

att: 34.8at

CLARKE

Mjr. G. R. S. C?

"Killed 12-10-17"

I heard that the dug-out Mjr. Clarke was using for dressing was too small for amount of injuries requiring attention and he went outside to attend to them there and immediately a shell burst killing him and some of his staff. I cannot say anything as to his burial, but the Chaplain would be able to give information. He was a new Chaplain and I don't know his name, the 34th are now in , on right of Messines.

Witness: McAlister H. 2123

3rd D. (now Q/M/Stores)

Westham.

Boul:

& P.I.

W. A. Rand

London

28-2-18

Note: Written C. of E. Chaplain 27-2-18.

34th Dtls.
A.H.C.

Clarke.
Major G.R.G.

"Killed 12.10.17"

Major Clarke is buried at Hamburg House on Zonnebeke Ridge just outside the pill box used as R.A.P. no cross was erected up to 6 weeks after his death, too far up in the line and impossible to put a cross there then Captain Stewart A.Coy. buried Major Clarke. He was my M.O. all through, I was in Maitland Camp with him.

Informant: J.J. McCarthy 1452

34th Dtls. A.M.C.

Hut 21 Westham.

W.A.Rand

London.

21.3.18.

P.I.
Boulogne.

A.A.M.C.

CLARKE
Major G.R.C.

"Killed in Action 12-10-17"

I had frequently met Major Clarke in the ordinary work of the Div. We relieved each other in advanced posts several times, and he was always the best of men to work with. I never really worked with him in front line until the day of our attack at Passchendaele. I met him making his way to the forward area on the night of the 11/12th Oct. We were clearing from adjacent regiments, and, after a discussion of the situation agreed to unite in one Aid Post. This was situated about 100 yds. behind our then front line, on a ridge facing the famous Bellevue Spur. We fixed our positions and awaited the attack. Coincident with our attack, a storm of German shells fell around our Post, which was a concrete "pill-box". Casualties came in rapidly and we divided the work which was necessarily in the open around this concrete point. Major Clarke was on one side in a narrow trench and I was on the other. About 8 a.m. a shell burst very close, about 3-4 yds. from me. I sent around to enquire after Major Clarke's safety, and then went myself. He was lying in the trench instantaneously killed in the act of dressing a wounded man, and still held the dressing in his hand. He was not shattered or disfigured. His body was laid aside and covered, and his regiment immediately notified. His death is greatly mourned by all of us who knew him. The medical service of the Div. feel greatly his loss, but we feel there could not have been a more soldierly end for a brave comrade, one who had always manifested his willingness to lay down his life in helping others.

A.A.H.C.

CLARKE
Major G.R.C.

Letter from:-
W.H.Collins.
FRANCE.
3-4-18.

London
30-8-18

Boul.
P.I.

Note:- Our enquiry to Capt.W.H.Collins was sent on an ordinary enquiry form, but for some unknown reason he addressed his reply to Mrs.Alfred Deakin, in Melbourne. The letter has just been forwarded by her through the Melbourne Bureau.

34th Battn.
A.I.F.

CLARKE.

Major, G. R. C.

"Killed in Action 12.10.17."

So far as I know Major Clarke was killed about 3 o'clock in the afternoon of the 12th October, 1917 by a shell. Whilst dressing wounds of a soldier outside a concrete pill-box, where he had established his R.A.F., a shell fell and burst quite close to him. A fragment of the shell fell on his head, killing him instantaneously, as well as two members of his staff, in addition to other casualties. Next evening he was reverently buried quite near to the spot where he fell, and a wooden cross was erected over his grave. I am unable to give you the map reference of his grave as I have no map of that particular sector with me, but it is situated near the railway that runs to Roulers. His passing out was a great loss to the Battalion and I still mourn the loss of so good and true a friend.

Informant: By letter, J Calder, Chaplain.
34th Battalion A.I.F.
FRANCE.

London.
5.10.18.

B. I.
P. I.

AAMC.
att 34th Btn
A.I.F.

CLARKE
Major. Gothic Robert Carlisle

"Killed in Action 12.10.17"

No trace Germany
Cert. by Capt. Mills. 10.10.19.

London.
24.10.19.

B'logne & P.I.

W.A. Rouse, Esq.,
Australian Red Cross Secretary,
No 2 Command Depot, Weymouth.

November 12th, 1917.

Dear Sir,

We regret to have to confirm the report of the
death in Action on 12.10.17, of Major G.R.^{C.} Clarke,
A.A.M.C.

attached 34th Battalion, A.I.F., and have added his name
to our inquiry lists for details of his death and burial.

As soon as these are received you shall be advised.

Yours faithfully,

LAW
SECRETARY.

A.M.C.
Alt: 341

Westham Camp
Weymouth. 13-11-17

My dear Mrs Deakin,

Many thanks for

your message relating to
A.M.C. 3418th

Major Clarke's death. He was

a very fine young man and

is described by a h^o in his

Battalion now in this Camp

as the most popular man in

the Battalion. I regret exceedingly

his death as he could, indeed,

be spared. By the way

his correct initials are

E. R. C. Clarke

Thanking you also for

inquiring about my trunk

about which I have heard
from Major Lamb announcing
its safety.

With kind regards

Sincerely yours

W. A. Rand

Written by hand.

W. W. A. Rand. A. R. C. S. Searcher

No 2. Comm. Depot. Weymouth.

Dear W. Rand

We have just received the following
unofficial report about Major G. R. C. Clarke

Attached 3rd Batta. A. A. M. C. A. T. F.

11127. Corp! V. G. Burton. A. A. M. C. 3rd Batta.

3rd Batta. A. A. M. C. A. T. F. - reports that he saw Major

Clarke killed at a pill-box in front of Pass-

-chendaale 12.10.17. by the bursting of a shell

which killed several others as well, and wounded

Corp! Burton among others. Major Clarke was

aiding to some wounded when he was killed.

Burton does not know place of burial, but

refers to Capt. W. H. Collins. R. M. D. 3rd Batta,

now in France, as having been present &

able to give full details. We have written

to Capt. Collins. as soon as his reply

is received we shall let you know

J. S. G.

March 22. 18. A. J. J. D. 11. 18

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March 22. 18. A. J. J. D. 11. 18

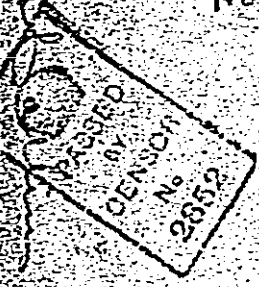
March 22. 18. A. J. J. D. 11. 18

March 22. 18. A. J. J. D. 11. 18

March 22. 18. A. J. J. D. 11. 18



Hon. Mrs Alfred Deakin.
Australia Red Cross Society
Melbourne
Victoria
Australia



Major S. R. C. Clarke

AMMC France,

RM 412-10473. 4. 1918.

Boul
P13 (cd)

Dear Mr. Denkin.

I received your letter referring to the late Major John Clarke just before our last move. That move has been rather a long continued one and my opportunities of writing very slight.

I met frequently met Major Clarke in the ordinary work of the Division.

We relieved each other in advanced posts several times, and he was always the best of men to work with.

I never really worked with him in front line work until the day of our attack at Pincendach.

On the night of the 12-13th of October we were clearing from adjacent regiments, and, after a discussion of the situation agreed to unite in one Det Post. This was attached about 100 yards behind our then front line, on a ridge facing the former Bellevue Spur. We fixed our positions and waited the attack.

Coincided with our attack, a storm
of German shells fell around our Post,
which was a concrete "Pill-box". Casualties
came in rapidly and we divided the
work, which was necessary in the
open around this concrete point. Major
Clarke was on one side in a narrow
trench, and I was on the other, about
8 am. a shell burst very close, about
30 yards from me. I ran forward to
inquire after Major Clarke's safety, and then
went myself. He was lying in the trench,
unharmably killed in the act of
dressing a wounded man, and still
held the dressing in his hand. He was
not shattered or disfigured. His body
was laid aside and covered, and his
regiment immediately notified.

This death is greatly mourned by all of
us who knew him. The medical service
of the Division felt greatly his loss but
the fact there could not be more
soldiers such for as have comrades one
who is always prepared his willingness to
lay down his life in helping others.

Yours James Henry.

W. B. Collins.

INFORMATION BUREAU.

TELEPHONES
8000 } CENTRAL
8001 }

TELEGRAPH AND
CABLE ADDRESS
"RED CROSS, MELBOURNE."

ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO BE ADDRESSED
TO THE "HON. SECRETARY."



VICTORIAN DIVISION.

COLONIAL MUTUAL CHAMBERS,
(2ND FLOOR)
60 MARKET STREET.

Melbourne, 18th June, 1918.

Miss V. Deakin,
Secretary,

Wounded & Missing Enquiry Bureau,
Australian Branch, British Red Cross Society,
36 Grosvenor Place,
London.

Dear Madam,

re Major G. R. C. Clarke, 34th Battalion.

The enclosed letter written by a soldier named M.H. Collins
has been handed to us by the Hon. Mrs. A. Deakin.

Evidently the soldier addressed it to Mrs. Deakin
instead of to you at the Enquiry Bureau.

Major Clarke was killed in action on the 12th October,
1917, and as he enlisted in New South Wales, we think that probably
you were making enquiries on behalf of the Sydney Bureau, and we
have therefore sent them a copy of the enclosed letter in order that
they may send same on to their enquirer if they have one.

Yours faithfully,

Hon. Secretary.

E.S/H.H.

August 29th, 1918.

J.B. Kiddle, Esq.
Hon. Secretary.
Wounded and Missing Enquiry Bureau.
Australian Red Cross Society.
Colonial Mutual Chambers,
60 Market Street
Melbourne, Victoria,
Australia.

Dear Sir,

re Major G.R.C. Clarke. 34th Bn A.I.F.

We have received your letter of 13th June with letter from Capt. W.H. Collins P.O. about above officer enclosed. We cannot understand why Capt Collins should have addressed his reply to Mrs. Deakin in Melbourne, as our enquiry letter was the ordinary printed form which is sent out from this office in hundreds every week.

We have received enquiries about Major Clarke from the Boulogne Office and from one of our Searchers, but not from Sydney. The relatives in New South Wales however will doubtless be glad to have the very exact information contained in Capt. Collins letter.

Yours faithfully,

(Miss-)

W.S.
Reports Section.

August 30th, 1918.

Capt. W.H. Collins D.S.O.
R.M.O. 37th Battn.
Australian Imperial Force.
B. E. F.

Dear Sir.

We thank you very much for your reply to our enquiry
about - Major. G.R.C. CLARKE. A.M.C., A.I.F.

The information you have sent will be of much assistance to
us and of value to our enquirers. We regret there has been
such a delay in acknowledging your kind letter but unfortunately
you addressed the letter to the Hon. Mrs. A. Deakin, Melbourne,
instead of to Miss V. Deakin, the Secretary of this bureau at
this address.

With best wishes.

Yours faithfully,

(Miss)

Secretary.

September 5th, 1918.

W.A. Rand. Esq.
Australian Red Cross.
No 2 Command Depot.
Weymouth.

Dear Sir.

We beg to inform you of unofficial evidence given by
Capt. W.E. Collins about the death of -

Major G.R.C. CLARKE. A.A.M.C. Attached 34th Btn.
A.I.F.

who was killed in action on 12-10-17. By some mistake Capt.
Collins sent his reply to our letter of enquiry to Melbourne and
it has only just been returned to us.

He writes:- "I had frequently met Major Clarke in the
ordinary work of the Div. He relieved each other in advanced
posts several times, and he was always the best of men to work with.
I never really worked with him in the front line until the day of
our attack at Passchendaele. I met him making his way to the forward
area on the night of the 11/12th Oct. We were clearing from adjacent
regiments, and, after a discussion of the situation agreed to unite
in one Aid Post. This was situated about 100 yards behind our then
front line, on a ridge facing the famous Bellevue Spur. We fixed
our positions and awaited the attack. Coincident with our attack,
a storm of German shells fell around our post, which was a concrete
"Pill Box". Casualties came in rapidly and we divided the work
which was necessarily in the open round this concrete point. Major
Clarke was on one side in a narrow trench and I was on the other.
About 8 a.m. a shell burst very close, about 3-4 yards from me.
I went around to enquire after Major Clarke's safety and then went
myself. He was lying in the trench instantaneously killed in the
act of dressing a wounded man, and still held the dressing in his
hand. He was not shattered or disfigured. His body was laid aside
and covered, and his regiment immediately notified. His death is
greatly mourned by all of us who knew him. The medical service
of the Division feel greatly his loss, but we feel there could not
have been a more soldierly end for a brave comrade, one who has
always manifested his willingness to lay down his life in helping
others."

Yours faithfully,

W.A. Rand.
SECRETARY.

34th Battalion

A.I.F. France.

18.9.18.

Officer in Charge

~~Re: Major G.R.C. Clark~~ Aust. Red Cross Society

~~Post No~~

London

A.M.C. 34 Batta. A.I.F.

K. 12-10-17 Boul

P1-3

(2)

Re Major G.R.C. Clark, A.M.C.

K. 12.10.17.

Dear Sir

Your letter re the above Officer came into my hands just as we received orders to go South to stop the German advance on Amiens, and, in consequence, we had to abandon everything - including my box of correspondence, as we had to travel "in battle-order". I only got possession of this box a few days ago, hence the delay in replying to your inquiries.

So far as I know Major Clark was killed about 3 o'clock on the afternoon of the 12th Oct. 1917 by a shell. Whilst dressing the wounds of a Soldier outside a concrete pill-box, where he had established his "R.A.P.," a shell fell and burst quite close to him. A fragment of this shell struck him on the head, killing him instantaneously, as well as two members of his staff, in addition to other casualties. Not wishing he was reverently buried quite near to the spot where he fell, and a wooden cross was erected over his grave. I am unable to give you the map reference of his grave as I have no map of that particular sector with me, but it is situated near the railway that runs to Reallens.

about 1 1/2 miles East of Zennebeka.

I think that is all I know about his death. His "passing out" was a great loss to our Battalion and I still mourn the loss of a good and true friend.

Believe me

Yours very truly,

J. Calder

Chaplain

Dear Miss Leckie

corded.

I heard today that Dr (Capt)
Guthrie R. L. Clarke attached to 34th Batt. has
been killed: he is a great friend of mine
& comes from Wahioona N.S.W. - If you
can verify this without trouble or inconvenience
I shall be obliged.

Yours truly
H. Min. Byrne

With kind regards to self &

Yours sincerely

M. A. Rand 2/11/7