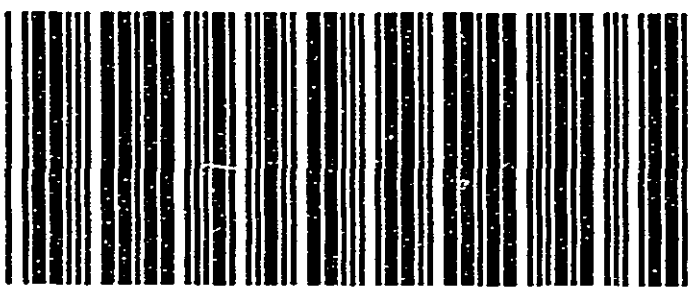
Australian Red Cross Society Wounded and Missing
Enquiry Bureau files, 1914-18 War
1DRL/0428

2038 Private Frederick Henry Beckwith

35th Battalion



0310703E

3.9.18

2038

Pte E.H. Beckwith

Le Rueier

7038

Pte L. Kressen

5 Bltn

35th Battn.
A.I.F.

Beckwith.
F.H. 2038

Hughes.
J.R. 2334

"Missing 12.10.17"

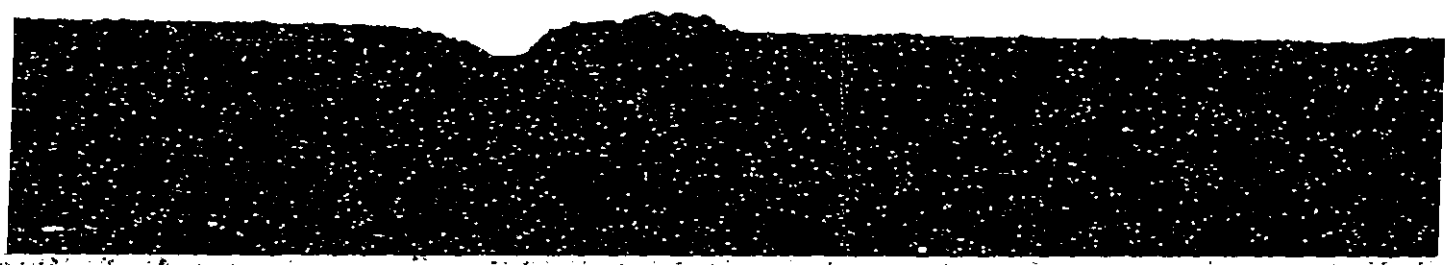
A shell lobbed in a shell hole where Battn.H.Qrs. were and the three in it were killed. These two and Bill Foxford. I saw this it was just at the rear of our objective which we took and then retired as not enough of us left to hold it,- only about a dozen It was just on our side of Passchendaele Village. There was practically no chance of his being buried by our men. The Canadians retook the ground some days later.

H.A.Freeman 1718
35th Battn.A.Coy.
17 Hut Westham.

W.A.Rand

London.
3.1.18.

Off.M.



35th Battn.
A.Coy,
A.I.F.

BECKWITH,
F.H. 2038

"Killed in Action 12.10.17"

Refer to Lt. Hoarne, A.Coy, 35th Battn, who is now in France, he saw him wounded at Passcherdaele, and can give full details.

Informant:- L/Cpl. S.D. Sullivan, 2152,
35th Battn.A.Coy, 2 Pltn,
3.A.A.H.Dartford,

W.Cman.

London.
4.4.18.

NOTE Written to Lt. Hoarne 4.4.18.

P.I.
Off.M.

letter returned "wounded"

35th Battn.
A.I.F.

Beckwith. F.H. 2038
Hughes. J.R. 2334.
Foxford. W. 78.

"Missing 12.10.17"

A shell lobbed in a shell hole where Battn. H.Qrs. were and the three in it were killed. These two and Bill Foxford. I saw this it was just at the rear of our objective which we took and then retired as not enough of us left to hold it, - only about a dozen. It was just on our side of Passchendaele village. There was practically no chance of his being buried by our men. The Canadians retook the ground some days later.

Witness:- H.A.Freeman 1718
35th Battn. A.Coy.
Hut 17. Westham.

W.A.Rand

London.
22.1.18.

Off.M.

[redacted]

A.I.F. 35th Btn

BECKWITH
F.H. 2038

"M. 12-10-17"

Killed in action 12-10-17 - previously reported Missing
Cert. by A.I.F.Hqrs 25-2-18.

London
27-2-18

OFF.M. &
P.I.

35th A.I.F. Beckwith. F.H. 2038.

(K. Oct. 12/17.)
Dets. D/B.

"I knew Beckwith well he was my runner, we made an attack at Passchendaele on Oct. 12th about 7 to 7.30 a.m. it was daylight Beckwith was at my elbow, and was hit in the stomach by a piece of shell. I pulled him into a shell hole about 5 yards away, got his equipment off, he said " I'm going". I asked him if there was any message I could have, he had lost consciousness and died about 3 minutes after. As we were advancing I had to leave his body and apparently it has not been discovered. I was wounded myself four hours after, and so lost touch."

Eyewitness: Yes.

Description:

Informant: Lt. F. Horne.
35th A.I.F.
3rd London General Hospital,
Wandsworth.

Home address:
3, Nicklethwaite Rd,
Earls Court Road.

30/4/18.
A.E.Longs

4/4/16

To
Lt Hoarne
A. Coy.
35th. Inf. Batn
A.I.F. B.E.F.

About. Pte F. H. Beckwith
2038.
A. Coy.
35th. Inf. Batn.
Aus. Imp. Force

Kpin/A. 12/10/14.

Wounded 4/4/16

Ack. 21 Dec/17
Bordeaux

Answered 31-12-17

Police Station
Upper Parkstone
Dorset.
Dec 16th – 1917.

Dear Madam

I have been advised to write to you respecting my Son Pte F. Beckwith No 2038 of the H Coy 35th Battalion of the Australian Forces. He has been missing since the 12th of Oct. He was wounded, & then bandaged by a passing Officer on the

field, but none of his Mates ever saw him afterwards.

Ivondered if by chance you could give me any information He has not been officially reported "Wounded" but 2 of his Mates wrote one saw him hit in the Arm, Another saw him being bandaged but they were both wounded shortly after so they could not tell me any more.

I should feel very grateful to you if you should happen to know anything of him. I know you have not much time, but I feel so anxious as the time is going on poor Lad.

Thanking you in anticipation

I am Madam
Yours Respectfully
Maggie M. Squires

Victoria Road.
Hardings Lane.
Gillingham Dorset.
January 17th 1918.

Sir,

I have just been given your address so I am writing you about my Brother who is reported wounded & missing. His name is Frederick Henry Beckwith (Private) No 2038. 35th Battalion. 3rd Division. 9th Infantry Brigade. Last seen or heard of 1st October 13th 1917. In France. Reported officially ~~wounded~~ missing, but seen by some of the boys being dressed. no urther news received of him.

Should be pleased if you could find out anything of me as he is my only Brother

I am, Sir.

Yours truly

Ellie Riggs

Mrs. Squires,
Police Station,
Upper Parkston, Dorset.

January 2nd, 1918.

Deer Madam,

In reply to your enquiry for your son

2038 Pte. F. BECKWITH, 55th Battalion, A.I.F.

We very much regret to state that he is officially reported "Missing" as from 12.10.17. Up to the present we have not been able to obtain any news concerning him, but we are continuing our enquiries and shall at once advise you as soon as any information comes to hand.

May we express our sincere sympathy with you in your anxiety.

Yours faithfully,

Miss Cree

SECRETARY.

22nd January 1918.

Mrs. Robert Biggs,
Victoria Street,
Harding's Lane,
Gillingham, Dorset.

Dear Madam,

In answer to your enquiry about your brother - 2038 Pte F.H.Beckwith, 35th Btn, A.I.F., who is officially reported Missing since 12-10-17. We have received the following unofficial account given by - 1718 Pte H.A.Freeman, 35th Btn, A shell lobbed in a shell hole where Battalion Headquarters were and three men in it namely - Beckwith, Hughes & Foxford, were killed. He saw this, it was just at the rear of our objective, which we took and then retired, as not enough of us were left to hold and only about a dozen. It was just on our side of Passchendale Village. There was practically no chance of his being buried by our men. The Canadians retook the ground some days later.

This is the only information we have received up to date, but we shall continue our enquiries. Regretting that it is such sad news and assuring you of our deepest sympathy,

Yours faithfully,

Secretary

L'B.

Police Station
Upper Parkstone
Dorset
Jan 23rd 1918.

Dear Madam

Thank you for your letter of the 2nd respecting my Son 2638 Pte J H. McRuitt of the A Coy. 35th Batt. A. I. Forces who has been missing since the 12th of October.

Not having heard anything further concerning him. I am writing to know if you have heard any further tidings. If you could I should feel very Grateful

I am Madam
Yours Faithfully
W M. Squires

Mrs. Robert Riggs,
Victoria Rd, Hardings Lane,
Gillingham, Dorset.

8th March, 1918.

Mrs. M.M.Squires,
Police Station,
Upper Parkstone,
DORSET.

Re 2038 F.H.BECKWITH, 35th Battalion, A.I.F.

Dear Madam,

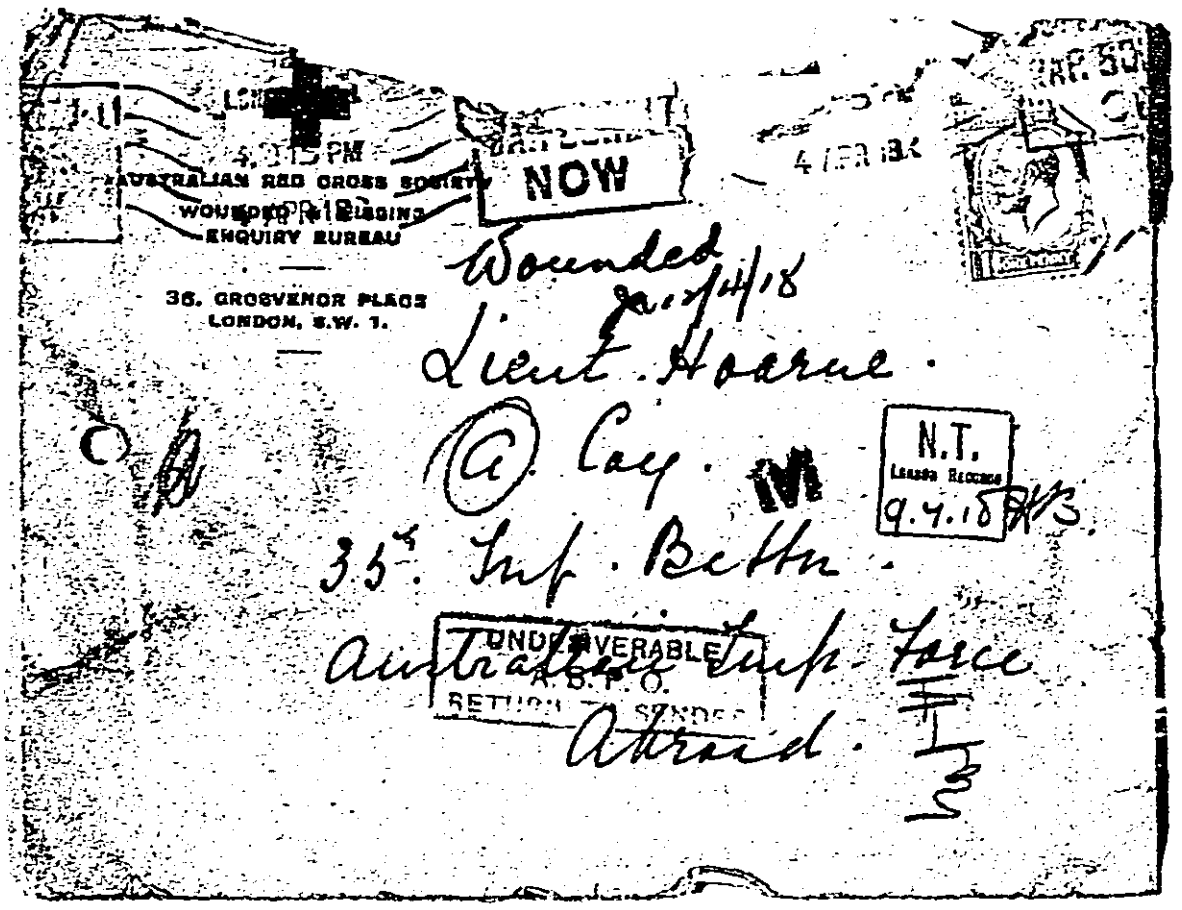
We deeply regret to inform you that the above soldier who was previously reported Missing is now reported "Killed in Action on 12-10-17."

We are making further enquiries in the hope of learning full details of his death and will immediately forward to you any information that we receive.

Assuring you of our sincere sympathy in your loss.

Yours faithfully,

SECRETARY.


AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY
WOUNDED & MISSING
ENQUIRY BUREAU
36, GROSVENOR PLACE
LONDON, S.W. 1.
NOW
Wounded
a/7/4/18
Lieut. Hoare.
@ Cay.
35th Inf. Bttn.
Australian Inf. Force
Admitted.
N.T.
9.4.18
UNDELIVERABLE
A.B.F.O.

Tel.: VICTORIA {8576 8577 8578

ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO BE ADDRESSED TO "THE SECRETARY," WOUNDED AND MISSING — ENQUIRY BUREAU — AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY.

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY.

36, GROSVENOR PLACE,
LONDON, S.W. 1.

4/4/18.

St Nazaire.
A. Coy.
35. Inf. Bdes.
A.I.F. B.E.F.

Dear Sir,

We are making enquiries about a man of your unit,

2038. Pte F. H. Beckwith. A. Coy.
35. Inf. Bdes. A.I.F. Killed 12/10/14.

and have been told that you may be able to help us by supplying some information.

We should be most grateful for any details you can send us concerning him, but our enquirers wish especially to know whether he was buried, if so, whether it was on the field, or in a soldiers' cemetery where the grave would be registered. We would also be glad if you could add a short description of his personal appearance or any points that might help to prove his identity.

In your reply kindly quote name, initials and number, as without these particulars delay and confusion might be caused in identifying the soldier about whom you have written.

Yours faithfully,

(Miss) Vera Deakin

Secretary.

Mind.

Mrs. Robert Riggs,
Victoria Road, (Sister.
Hardings Lane,
Gillingham, Dorset.

14th May, 1918.

Mrs. M.M. Squires,
Police Station,
Upper Parkstone,
Dorset.

Dear Madam,

With further reference to your enquiry for -

2038 Pte. F.H. BECKWITH, 55th Battalion, A.I.F.

We regret to inform you of an unofficial report concerning him which we have no received from Lt. Horne of the same Battalion, who wrote from the 3rd London General Hospital, and stated that he knew Pte. Beckwith well, as he was his runner. An attack was made at Passchendaele on Oct 12th at about 7 a.m. and Pte. Beckwith was wounded in the stomach by a piece of shell. Lt. Horne who was next to him, attended to him but he lost consciousness immediately and died within a few minutes.

Unfortunately Lt. Horne could not give us any further details as the Battalion was advancing at the time and he himself was wounded 4 hours later.

Trusting that it may be of some comfort to you to know that your son did not suffer.

Yours faithfully