

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

**4263 Sergeant
Frank Herbert Pellas**

46th Battalion



2130207F

A.I.F. 46th Battn.

PELLAS
Sgt Frank
Herbert 4263

"Killed in action"

Killed in action 1.10.17

Buried sh.28.N.E.D.28.C.4.6.
Lt Speddings List

London
28.4.18

M.S.O.

46th Battn.
A.I.F.

Pelliss.
Sgt. F.H. 4263

"Killed 1.10.17"

He was Sgt. of my Pltn. 16.D.Coy. I was quite near when, was he was killed and I saw his body afterwards with a bad shell wound in the neck. I helped to bury him but there was no chance of a cross at the time. It was in a sap leading to the front trench at Ypres towards Zonnebeke. Lieut. Causton (?) our Pltn. Officer was there and can confirm also Pte.A.Lydiat 3171 of same Pltn.

L.P.J.

Informant:- W.Hards 3161
46th Battn.

London.
26.3.18.

Note Written Lieut.Coulson & Pte
Lydiat 26.3.18.

M.
P.I.

A I P. 46

D Co

Pellas, F H. 4263.

K Oct. 1/17. Det. D/B.

McDonald, E J. 2961

K Sept 30/17.

The morning we took Zonnebeke Ridge he was killed beside me on the Ridge by a whizz-bang. We were being relieved and had just left the trench, and I was standing talking to him. It took half his head off. The 23rd Batt, who relieved us, buried him (the Serg. Maj. buried him; H B. the S M of the 23rd) so it would be on the Ridge. There was a double barrage on but we arranged that they should take off his belongings and I heard that these all came through to the Batt.

A McDonald was hit by the same shell; that would be about his number but I do not know his initials. I knew two McDonalds in XVI (the other was killed 6 or 7 days later at Westhoek); this was a fairly old chap, a customs officer in civil life. He was badly hit and was carried away and they said that he died in Hosp.

Inf:- Leisk, L/C. 2933. D XVI.

A T 'Stad Antwerpen'

Calais. 8 4 18

CR

46th Battn.
A.I.F.

Pellas.
Sgt.F.H. 4263

"Killed 1.10.17"

Was in D.Coy. 16th Pltn. called Frank. I saw him killed by Whizz bang on Oct.1st. We were being relieved at the time by the 23rd Battn. It happened to the R. of Zonnebeke. He was killed instantly, there were about 6 others wounded by the same shell. We left the line immediately, but arrangements were made to bury him before we left. I did not see his grave.

Informant:- A.Anderson 2613
46th Battn.
Harefield.

W.G.J.

London.
13.3.18.

M.
P.I.

4th Batt. A.I.F.

Pallas, F.H. Sgt. NO. 4243.

D.Coy.

Killed Oct 1st 1917. Det. D.B.

He was killed by a shell whilst in the support lines at West Hoek Ridge. He was buried close to where he fell by a party from the coy, there was no mark placed over his grave at the time, I could not say what was done after as we were being relieved at the time. I knew him in the coy. He came from Victoria.

Description. Age. 23. Height. 5-7. Complexion. Fair. Well Built.

Witness. Sgt. Williams. A.C. NO. 147. D.Coy. 4th Batt.

Taken at
NO. 4. C.D. Hurdcott.
15-4-18.
F.G.H.

S. Whitmee.
NO. 4. Command Depot
Hurdcott.

M Co. 4th

46th Battn.

D.Coy.

A.I.F.

Pellas.

Sgt. Frank Herbert 4263

"Killed in Action 1.10.17"

re 4263 Sgt. F.H. Pellas. He was my Platoon Sgt. at Zonnebeke during the fighting there and was killed by a shell about half an hour before we were relieved on the night of 1.10.17. As the relief was arriving at the time we were unable to bury him, but the regiment that relieved us buried him with men of their own unit that were killed by the same shell, on the spot where they fell, as it was difficult even to get the wounded away. In appearance he was tall and fair with a slight stoop owing to round shoulders. I wrote to his mother just after I came out of the line telling her how he died.

Letter from:- Lieut. B.L. Coulson M.M.
46th Battn.

8.4.18.

London

13.4.18.

M.
P.I.

46th A.I.F.

Pellars. Sgt. F.H. 4263.
D Coy.

(K. Oct. 1/17)

"I saw him killed by a shell at Polygon Wood while being relieved. He was in the act of coming away from the Wood when he was caught by a shell and killed."

Eyewitness: Yes.

Description: Tall, dark, good looking, cleanshaved."

Informant: Cpl. Wm. Dolan. 4789
46th A.I.F. D Coy.
No. 5 Hospital, (Katesgrove)
Reading.

Home address:
Warrnambool.
Victoria,
Australia.

14/4/18.
A.L. Valsey.

M
P1 ca 500

Havre

16th April 1918.

46th A.I.F. D.Coy.

Pellars Sergt. F.H. 4263.

K. 1st Octr 1917. Det D/B.

I knew Sergt. Frank H. Pellars, he had been in XIII Pltn, but was transferred to XVI Pltn. Cpl W. Dolan of 46th Battn D.Co. XIII Pltn. and Pte W. Carter S/B (attached to C.Co. at the time) were with Pellars when he was killed and will be able to give all details.

Inf:- Sergt. A.A. Rhook No. 3884,
46th A.I.F. A.Co. II Pltn.
(Formerly D.Co. XIII Pltn).
Australian Camp.
Rouelles.

RDM.

M
P.1
Ed
2nd

46th Battn. D.Coy.
late 5th Battn.
A.I.F.

PELLAS
Sgt. Frank Herbert 4263

"Killed in Action 1-10-17"

Re 4263 Sgt. F.H. Pellas, 16th Pltn. D.Coy. 46th Battn.
I have been in the same Pltn. as him for the last 12 mths., and
was with him when he got killed. We were just being relieved by
another Battn. and was on our way from the trench when a shell
exploded, and a piece hit him in the back of the head, causing
instantaneous death. The relieving Battn. was asked to bury him,
but whether they did so or not I don't know. If he was buried
it would just be on the battlefield, and not in a soldiers' Cemetery.
It happened on the 1st Oct. 1917 at Zonnebeke. He was about 5'10"
age about 28, fair hair, medium build, about 12 stone. His home
was at Harcourt, Victoria, Australia. He had an orchard or
something to do with fruit.

Letter from: - Driscoll L/Cpl. C.P. 1903
D.Coy. 46th Battn.,
FRANCE.

Note:

Written on behalf of: - Pte. Lydiak^{α?}

London
15-5-18

P.I.
M.

46th Btn.

PELLAS, P. H.
Sgt. 4263.

X. in act. 1/10/17.

"I knew Casualty. He was a man of medium build, about 5 ft. 9 ins. medium complexion, about 24 years of age, known as "Frank" Casualty was in front line at Zonneboke Ridge. We were waiting in a sap to be relieved when a whizz bang exploded alongside killing him instantly, a piece entering his head. I was 10 yds. away at the time and saw his body. I last saw his body on the parapet as we moved up. I do not know where he was buried. He was Sgt. of my platoon."

Informant:- L/Cpl. R. A. Scott,
No. 2126, 46th Btn.

Private address:-
43 King Street,
West Geelong.

H.A.T.
28/3/19.

M. Cosmiff

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS INFORMATION BUREAU-MELBOURNE.

(26.3.18)

Lt. L. L. Poulson M.M.

12th Training Batta.
a.i.f.
Codford

AM-

4263 Sgt. F. H. Pellas
XVI Plla. 10 Coy.
46th Batta. C.I.F.

R. 1.10.17.

27.3.18.
a.i.f.

(26.3.18)

D

3171 Pte. A. Lydiate

XVI Pltn. 10 Coy.

H. 6th Battn. A. 1.7.

abroad

abt.

4263 Sgt. F. H. Pellas

XVI Pltn. 10 Coy.

H. 6th Battn. A. 1.7.

K. 1.10.17.

27.3.18
2.1.18.

Pellao.

Carded.

46 Bk

Sgt Frank

D. Coy

K.A. Sept-Oct

M/K parents - fruitgrowers

Harcourt Vic.

Informed of death about

Oct 25, 1917

They don't know name
of Chaplain or O.C. or
I'd write.

Details O/B -

Sister, Miss Pellao: (letter 31.10,
c/o Mrs Cameron

Canterbury
Vic

Per

Miss Britherton

24vra

39th Nov. 1917.

56th AUSTRALIANS

THOMPSON, Capt. H.C.

R. 26.11.17. Det. D/H.

I knew him since the battalion was formed. He was medium height and build, fair, about 35. At Polygon Wood in the Ypres Sector, on the 26th Sept. we were in the front line. One of our own shells made a direct hit, and Capt. Thompson was blown to pieces. I saw this happen: I was 20 yards off.

Informant: Pto. J. Whitehead, 4926
56th Australians, D Co., 15th Bn.,
Australian Camp, Rocelles.

PM

acked by PC
12-4-19
92

Lieut L L Goulson M M.

4263 46th Bn. 12th Bds. A & F.

Sgt. Frank Herbert Pellas

Plou. 46th Battalion 8-4-16
M & P. 1

Dear Miss Leach: Kri A-1-10-17.

4

I received your letter to day enquiring about 4263 Sgt F H Pellas of D Coy.

He was my Platoon Sgt at ZONNEBEKE during the fighting there, & was killed by a shell about half an hour before we were relieved on the night of 1-10-17.

As the Relief was arriving at the time we were unable to bury him, but the Regiment that relieved us buried him with men of their own that were killed by the same shell on the spot where they fell, as it was impossible to get them back, it was difficult even to get the Wounded away.

In appearance he was tall & fair with a slight stoop owing to round shoulders.

I wrote to his Mother just after I came out of the line telling her how he died. I think this is all I can tell you, but if there is anything write & ask me.

Yours sincerely
L L Goulson

Albany, N.Y.
14 Jan. 1918
9.9

4263
Sgt. Frank Herbert Pallas (ed)
Don Coy 46 Batts
16 Platoon
H. A. 1-10-17
A. J. France.

To Secretary of Enquiry Bureau.

Re your enquiries
about 4263 Sgt F. H. Pallas
16 Platoon Don Coy 46 Batts

I have been in the same platoon
as him for the last 12 months
and was with him when he
got killed. We were just being
relieved by another Platoon and
was on our way from the trench
when a shell exploded and a
piece hit him in the back
of the head causing instantaneous
death. The relieving Platoon
was asked to bury him
but whether they did so or no
I don't know. If he was
buried it would just be
on the battle field and not
in a soldier's grave in cemetery.

It happened on the 1st of October
1917 at Jonnebreke

She was about 5 ft 10 in

age about 28. Fair hair

Medium build about 12 stone

His home was at Harcourt

Victoria Australia

She had an orchard or something
to do with fruit

I remain

yours faithfully

Leht. C. P. Driscoll

P. J. Pte Lydiak on account
of not being able to write
asked me to do so on his
behalf. C. P. Driscoll.

C