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

156 Private
Alfred Ernest Ramsey

36th Battalion



2230912J

A.I.F.
36th Btn.

RAMSEY
Alfred Ernest 156

Killed in Action 26.12.17

Buried in the Hanour Cemetery, Armentieres in Grave 136
Section IV. Row C or D. German List of graves in cemetery
Cert. by letter from Capt.Mills 28.7.19.

London.
7.10.19.

S & P.I.

A.I.F. 36th Btn

RAMSEY
Alfred Ernest 156

"Bel: Killed Dec/17"

Killed in action 26-12-17 No further report
Cert. by A.I.F. Hqrs 11-2-18.

E.I

London
11-2-18

Havre. 11th. March. 1918.

36th. Australians. Ramsey, A. E. No. 156.
A. Company.

K. 26th. December 1917. Dets. D/B.

He was a S/Bearer. We were in the Hoop Lines(left of Armentieres) on Boxing Day. Ramsey was in a Dug-out when a shell burst in the dug-out killing him outright, and another one came afterwards causing further injuries. He was brought to the Morgue. I saw him prepared for Burial. He was Buried by a Padre in Armentieres, Cemetery. I knew Ramsey, he was a small chap, very thick-set, fair. We used to call him "Rams" He came from N.S.W. Boxing Day was Ramsey's Birthday.

Private. L. J. Gehrig. No. 956.
36th. Australians. H.Q.
Australian Camp.
Rouelles.

P. I.
S/N

CWS.

36 Havre 9th April 1918.

36th A.I.F. Ramsay A.E. No.156.

K. 26th December 1917. Det D/B.

Ramsay was a great pal of mine and he and I were in a trench together on the Armentieres front on the 26th December. We had a fire going, and I think the smoke caught the Germans attention for they lobbed a whizz bang right in killing Ramsay out right. I have seen his effects since and have sent word to his Mother. Ramsay was medium height, fair, had been a bank clerk in Armandale. He was a H/Q S/B.

Inf:- Pte E. Smethurst No.173.
36th A.I.F. A.Co. II Pltn.
H.S. 'St. David'.

CWS.

36th A. I. F. A. E. RAMSEY. 156.

Killed 26.12.17. Det.D/B.

I saw him a few minutes after he was killed at Hooplines, Armentieres, on Dec.26th. We were in supports holding the line under shell fire. Ramsey was one of the S/Bs of whom I was in charge. He had been hit about the head and killed instantaneously. I took him to the subsidiary lines and the Pioneers took him from there. I think he would be buried in a big Cemetery at Armentieres. Ramsey's name was Alf and No. 156. I had known him 12 months and am quite sure of him. He was an original. He worked in some wholesale warehouse.

Reference: L/Cpl. Hookey, 2081.

No.11 Con.Camp, Buchy nr. Rouen, 9.4.18. CS

P.1

Havre. 15th. April. 1918.

36th. Australians. Ramsey. A. E. 156.

L. December. 26/1917. Date. D/B.

He was in A. Company, and was a S/Sector. We were in the trenches near Armentieres. He was in a dug-out, when I saw a trench mortar fall right in the dug-out an blew one of his legs off. He was taken out and buried at Armentieres. I knew Ramsey, he was medium build, dark, clean-shaven very quiet. We called him "Alf".

Inf:- L Signaller. T. H. Pholts. 150.
36th. Australians. A. Coy. H.Q.
Canada.

CWS.

A.I.F.

RAMSEY, Private
A.E. No. 156

36th BATTALION. "Killed 26/12/1917"

Ramsey was in "A" Company and I was in "B". At the end of December we were at Hooplines, Armentieres. Ramsey was killed outright on the afternoon of the 26th December, I heard, by shell burst. I saw his body at the 36th Battalion Regimental Aid Post on the afternoon of the 26th December. He is sure to have been buried but I do know exactly where.

Informant;- No. 2288, J.H. CHASE,
36th Battalion.
Private address;- 108 Wyndham Street,
B.M. ALEXANDRIA.
No.4 Australian General Hospital,
RANDWICK.

14/3/19.

SYDNEY BUREAU.

36th A.I.F.

Ramsey Pte. A.E. 156,
A. Company.
26-12-17
(K. 26/17 Dets. D/B)

"At Houplins on Dec. 26th 1917 Ramsey was sitting in a dug-out in the afternoon in the support line when a light trench mortar shell fell on top of the dug-out and killed him together with 2 others (one being Cpl. C.J. Smith) A second shell fell and smashed his 2 legs. His body was taken out and buried in Armentieres Cemetery".

Eye-witness: No, but when dead.

Description: Very quiet, medium colouring, round features, acting at the time as stretcher bearer.

Informant: Sgt. J. Clatworthy 5,
36th A.I.F., A. Coy.,
Kitchener's Hospt.,
Brighton.

Home address:
Tamer St.,
Marrickville, N.S. Wales.

Apl. 15/18,
Apl. 15/18,
Westby.

S.
P1 Ca Coy

RAMSEY, A. E. 156.
SMITH, C. J. 186.

A. I. F. 36th Bn.

Killed Dec.26/17. Det.D/B.

Ramsey was a S/B in A.Coy. together with Smith who also was a S/B. On Boxing Day, they were together in a dug out in our old front line, the Hooplines Sector at Armentieres. They were killed by a shell from a Trench Howitzer. I saw them both carried away for burial about 11.0 a.m. The bodies would probably be buried in the Mine Cemetery at Armentieres. Sgt.Major Glass, A.Coy. could give more information; he was there also at the time.

Reference: A.J.Comer, 61, 36th A.I.F.

No.6 General, Rouen, 23.4.18.

RSH.

Pl 5 cards

Rec'd 2-1-18.

Heytesbury
14 Jany 1918.

To
The Manager
Australian Red Cross Society
London.

Dear Sir,

Would you be so good as to enquire (with reference to my brother No 156 Pte A. E. Ramsey A. Company, 36th Battalion, A.I.F. France) I heard he was killed sometime in December.

Could I do anything in the matter?

Thanking you.

I am

Yours faithfully

No 3656 (Gnr) W. J. Ramsey
No 2 Battery
R. F. A. A.
Heytesbury, Wilts.

36656 Gnr. V.J.Ramsey,
2nd Battery, R.F.A.
Heytesbury, Wilts.

February 12th, 1918.

Dear Gnr. Ramsey,

With reference to your enquiry concerning your brother.

No 156 Pte. ALFRED ERNEST RAMSEY, 36th Bttn, A.I.F.

We regret to inform you that he is officially reported Killed in Action on 26-12-17.

We have no further information at present, but we are making enquiries, and hope to forward you details of his death and burial at a later date.

With sincerest sympathy,

Yours faithfully,

Mrs Craven

SECRETARY.

2nd April 1918.

36656 Gnr. W.J. Ramsey,
2nd Battery, R.B.A.A.
Heytesbury.

Dear Sir,

We beg to inform you that we have received an unofficial report respecting your brother - 156 Pte. A.E. RAMSEY, 36th Battalion, A.I.F. - which we deeply regret to say confirms the official report that he was killed in action.

956 Pte.L.J.Gehrig of the same Battalion states that your brother who was a stretcher bearer was killed instantly by a shell which burst in a dugout in the Hoop'lines left of Armentieres on Boxing day, which happened to be his birthday. He was buried by a Padre in Armentieres Cemetery.

We are continuing our enquiry and will at once advise you of any information we may obtain and are only sorry that it must be of such sad nature.

With sincere sympathy.

Yours faithfully,

F. St. Geoye

SECRETARY.

For God, For King & For Country

Y·M·C·A

H.M. FORCES ON ACTIVE SERVICE

PATRON
Y.M.C.A. NATIONAL COUNCIL
H.M. THE KING.

PATRON
MILITARY CAMP DEPT
H.R.H. DUKE OF CONNAUGHT.

Reply to _____ Company _____ Bat. _____ Regt. No 7 Gen Hospital

Stationed at _____

Alexandria 3/11/191 S

The Secretary
Australian Y.M.C.A. Service
London.

Dear Madam

I have to thank you very sincere thanks for your letter received today & for the information you have given me. I am deeply grateful for the trouble you have taken in enquiring so fully & for your kind sympathy.

Again thanking you very much.

Believe me
Yours faithfully

36656 Pte J. Dray 2 Bty

156 Pte A. E. Ramsay
36 Bty

22nd April,1918.

36656 Gnr.W.J.Ramsey,
2nd Battery,
R.H.A.,
Heytesbury,
Wilts.

Dear Gnr.Ramsey,

With further reference to your enquiry concerning:

156 Pte.Alfred E.Ramsey, 36th Battn. A.I.F.

We regret to inform you of the following unofficial reports received from three of his comrades.

173 Pte.E.Smatharst, of the same unit, stated that:-

"Pte.Ramsey was a great friend of his, and they were in a trench together on the Armentieres front, on 26-12-17. They had a fire and informant thinks that the smoke must have caught the attention of the Germans, for they sent over a "whizz bang", which killed Pte.Ramsey instantaneously. His effects were collected, and word was sent to his Mother".

2081 L/Cpl.Hookey, of the same Battn. when interviewed in a Convalescent Camp in France, recently, stated that:-

"He saw Pte.Ramsey's body, a few minutes after he had been killed at Hooplines, Armentieres on Dec.26th. The Company was in supports, holding the lines under shellfire, and Pte.Ramsey was one of the stretcher bearers, of whom L/Cpl.Hookey was in charge. Informant took the body to the subsidiary lines, where it was taken charge of by the Pioneers, and probably buried in a large Cemetery at Armentieres. Informant adds that he had known Pte.Ramsey for twelve months, and is quite sure of his identity".

The above report is confirmed by 150 Sig.T.H.Pheits, of the same Battn., who describes Pte.Ramsey as of medium build, dark, and clean shaven.

We have now concluded our enquiries, and hope that these details may have been of some comfort to you.

With best wishes.

Yours faithfully,

(Miss) McCrow

SECRETARY.

23rd April, 1918.

36656 Gnr. V.J.Ramsey,
2nd Battery, R.B.A.A.
Heytesbury, Wilts.

Dear Sir,

In further answer to your enquiry about your brother :-

156 Pte. A.E. RAMSEY, 36th Battalion, A.I.F.

We beg to inform you we have received the following unofficial information from Sgt. J. Clatworthy, of the same unit who was interviewed in Kitchener's Hospital, Brighton recently.

He stated :- "At Houplines on 26-12-17. Pte. Ramsey was sitting in a dugout in the support line when a light trench mortar shell fell on top of the dugout and killed him together with 2 others. A second shell fell which further wounded him in the legs and his body was removed for burial in Armentieres Cemetery."

He describes your brother as very quiet, with medium colouring and with round features and adds that at the time of his death he was acting as Stretcher-bearer. This information confirms what we have already sent you and we trust that it will be some consolation to know that his death was instantaneous.

Again assuring you of our deepest sympathy.

Yours faithfully,

(Miss)

SECRETARY.

L.B.