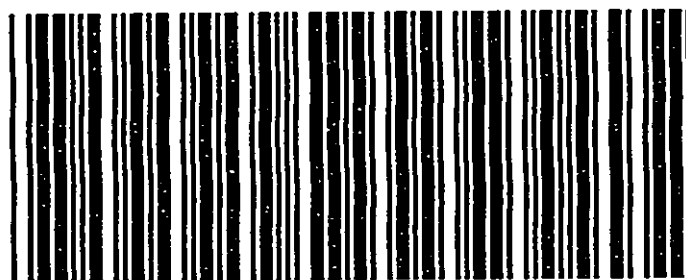


Australian Red Cross Society Wounded and Missing
Enquiry Bureau files, 1914-18 War
1DRL/0428

**165 Sergeant
William James
Richmond**

34th Battalion



2290811N

A.I.F. 34th Bttn.

ALMOND

RICHMOND.

Sgt. Wm. James. 165.

TALL Killed in Action. 29.1.17. S U A

Buried in the Honour Cemetery Armentieres in Grave 189.

Section 3, Block 3, Row E.

ALMOND to SANSO

Cart by German List of graves in Cemetery.

SANSO

See letter Capt. Mills. 28.7.19.

Londen.
7.10.19.

S.

A. I. F. 34.

RYCIMOND, Sgt. W. J. 165.

K. January 29th, 1917.

He was a Sgt. in A. Coy. His brother in D. Coy. came over with me. His brother's name is Joseph. They came from Gunnedah, N.S.W. but were born in England. Sgt. Dwyer of No. 11, A. Coy. told me that the Sgt. walked out of a dugout without a helmet and a piece of shrapnel hit him on the head and killed him on the spot. This was last January. I was talking to his brother about it a little time ago. We were at Pontenipe(?) at the time.

Reference:- Hughes, A. 2534.
A.I.F. 34.

No. 28 Gen. Hosp.

Etaples
13.6.17.

NC.

S

34th A.I.F.

Richmond Serjt. W. J. No. 165.

K. 29th January 1917. Det D/B.

It was during a night raid made by the Germans. I did not see him killed but heard the next day that shrapnel killed him. He is buried and a cross put up in the 3rd Divisional Cemetery at Armentieres. He was one of the original 34th Ballabys, Medium height. He came from Gunnedah, N.S.W. A.I.F.

Inf:- Pte J. Perks No. 153.

Amb. T. "Brighton".

Calais. 28.6.17. ASD.

S.
Suff.
Cd.

A.I.F. 34th Bn

RICHMOND
Sgt Wm. James 165

"K. in A. 29-1-17"

Buried Cite Bonjean M. Cemetery Armentieres by Rev. O.S. McCook
Cert. by Hpl-Index A.I.F. Hqrs 24-7-17.

London
26-7-17

S

34th Battn. A. Coy.
A. I. F.

Richmond.
Sgt. W. J. 165.

"Killed 29.1.17."

Killed by shrapnel at Armentieres and buried in cemetery at same place. I did not see him killed or buried, but saw his grave with cross and circle, and name and number and date of death. He was a pal of mine and we trained together on Salisbury Plain.

Witness:-

Sgt. R. T. Gardener. 434.

34th Battn. B Coy.

Dartford.

P.C.

London.

4.6.17.

S.

A.I.F. richmond 34

RICHMOND, Sgt. W.J. 165

K. Jan 29th 1917. Dets

I knew Joe Richmond a brother of Sgt Richmond and I was told by him that he had seen the grave of the Sgt. in Armentieres. We were billeted there at the time.

Inf: Pte J. H. Shaul. 2650. D.XIV
No. 3 Can Gen
BOULOGNE. 6.6.17.

RHL

S

A.I.F. 34.

RICHMOND, Sgt. W.J. 165

K. Jan 29th 1917. Dets D/B.

Sgt. Richmond was killed in the Houplines sector one night in Jan when Fritz' was strafing us pretty heavily. I saw him being carried along the trench dead. He would be buried in the Armentieres cemetery for the 3rd Division.

Inf: Pte L. Hill. 1153. D.
No. 14 General
BOULOGNE. 8.6.17.

JT

S

A. I. F. 34.

RICHMOND, Sgt. W. J. 165.

K. January 29th, 1917.

We were holding the line at Houplines and as he came out of a dugout to see if his platoon were all right I saw shell break over him and kill him instantly. He was buried in local cemetery with cross and details on his grave.

Reference:- Strong, A. USM. 197.1.
St. Johns Hosp.

We were holding the line at Houplines when a shell came over and killed him almost instantly. He was buried in local cemetery at Barbed Wire Square.

Reference:- Mills, J. 1860. D.XIV.
St. Johns Hosp.

FJE.

Etaples
9.6.17.

S

Havre

10th June, 1917.

34th AUSTRALIANS

RICHMOND, Sgt. W. J. 165

K. 29.1.17. Det. D/B.

He was in A Co., and was killed in our own front line at Armentieres. I saw his body being brought back and it was probably buried in the cemetery there.

Informant: Pto S.E. Taylor, 563
34th Australians, B Co.,
H.O. Grantully Castle.

RBS

S

Hayre

11th June. 1917.

34th AUSTRALIANS

RICHMOND, Sergt. W.J. 165

Z. Jan. 29th. 1917. Det. D/B.

He was in A. Co., I believe III Pltn. I had known Sergt. Richmond for 9 or 10 months, and was in the habit of seeing him every day. He was about 5ft. 7" in height, well built, ~~had~~ brown hair and had freckled face. He had relations in Ireland. He was killed in Hoop lines sector, about half an hours walk from Armentieres about the 29th January, 1917. I ~~did~~ did not see him killed or buried, but I was told by Pt. F Abrams of A. Co., 3rd. Pltn., 34th A.I.F. (2nd reinforcement) that he had seen Richmond's grave in the Military Cemetery at Armentieres. Abrams did not say if there was a cross and name on it. Abrams is employed in the Battalion Q.M. Stores at the present time attending to the graves.

Informant: Pt. E. Griffin 1529
34th Batt., A.Co., III. Pltn.
Australians.
~~Australian-Camp-Headquarters.~~
H.S. "Essequibo" Hayre.

CMR.

34th A.I.F.

Richmond, Sgt W.J. 165,
? Company

(K. Jan 29/17. Det D & B)

Informant states that on Jan 29th at the Houplines trench Sgt Richmond was shot through the heart. I was about 50 yards from him at the time. I believe it was shrapnel. He was buried in the principal cemetery in Armentieres. I have seen his grave. The cemetery is on the left side of the road from Bellouix to Armentieres, on the Armentieres side of the Canal. Our Divl. Headquarters were quite near it."

Eye-witness: See above

Description:

Informant: A. Scarle, 560,
34th A.I.F.,
Cornelia Hospital,
Poole. S

13th June 1917.
Hubert Ridley.

34th A.I.F.

Richmond Sgt. W.J. 165,
B. Company.

(K. Jan. 29/17)

Informant states that at Armentieres Cemetery Sgt. Richmond was buried. Informant visited the grave of a chum and saw the grave of Sgt. Richmond.

Eye-witness: Only of grave.

Description:

Informant: Pte. S.W. Banfield 361,
A.I.F.,
1st London General Hcpt.,
Camberwell.

Home address:
Dudley,
via Newcastle,
N.S. Wales. S.

June 13/17,
A.F. Grainger.

FRANCE

34th BATT. A.I.F.

RICHMOND. Sgt W.J. 165

K. Jan 25th. 1917. Det D/B.

He was in A. Coy and was an Englishman who had emigrated to Australia. He was a friend of mine. I know he was killed although I cannot tell you how. But he is buried in the Military Cemetery by L'Ecole Professional at Armentieres for I went up and saw his grave. It is marked with a headstone.

WSI

Ref ---Pte H. Bennett. 367.
No 2 Can. Gen. Hospital.

*Col
Suff
S*

Le Treport. June 13th. 1917

Havre

14th June 1917

34th AUSTRALIANS

RICHMOND, Sgt. W.J 165

K. 29th Jan. 1917 Det. D/B

Richmond was in A. Company, No. 2 Platoon. He was a chum of mine and came from Gunnedah, N.S.W. He was killed at Armentieres on January 29th, 1917 and buried in the 3rd Div. Cemetery, Armentieres. I saw the grave; it has a cross on it.

Informant: Sgt. R. T. Kerslake 108
34th Australians A.Co. 4th Pltn
Australian Camp, Rouelles

RDM

S

Havre

15th June, 1917.

34th AUSTRALIANS

RICHMOND, Sergt. W.J. 165

K. Jan. 29th. 1917. Det. D/B.

He was in A. Co. I know him; he came from H.S.W. He was killed at Armentieres in February, 1917. I saw the cross that was to be placed on his grave in the Armentieres Cemetery.

Informant: Corp. A.A. Hardy 1151
34th Batt., D. Co., IV. Pltn.
Australians.
Australians Camp, Bouelles.

RDM.

S.

FRANCE

24th BATT. A.I.F.

RICHMOND. Sgt W.J. 165.

K.Ja 29th.1917. Det D/B.

He was shot in the mouth and the bullet came out low down his neck. It happened in the 1st line trenches and I carried him down to Dr Clarke at the dressing-station, but he died. WBI

Ref ---S-B. H.J. Adshhead. 3. A.Coy.
No 47 Gen. Hospital

NOTE. For place of burial see our report of June 13th
ref --H.Bennett.

Le Treport. June 13th.1917

Col - Staff
S

34th A.I.F.

Richmond Sgt. W.J. 165,

(K. 29.1.17) Det. D/B

"At Armentieres we were in Hoop Line Trenches on Sunday night Jan. 28th and were shelled for two and a half hours. Cpl. Dwyer who was with the Sgt. told me that Richmond had been struck in the chest by a shell and died immediately saying "I am hit, Billy". I saw his grave in Armentieres Cemetery".

Eye-witness: No

Description:

Informant: Levi Easil Hall, 82,
34th A.I.F.,
2nd Southern General Hospt.,
Home address: Bristol.
Harcns Creek P.O.,
via Wauchope,
N.S.W.

Staff
Col - S

June 15/17,
E.W. Ward.

A.I.F. 34.

W.J.
RICHMOND, Sergt.W.C. 165

X.Jan.29th.1917. Det:

I knew him. We were just holding the line at the time at Houplines when a shell came over and killed him. He is buried in Armentieres in the Military Cemetery - there is a cross with his name on.

Informant: Pte A.H.Sandy. 1984.

No.1 C.C.

BOULOGNE. 15.6.17.

Ed
Suff *S*

RAOI

A. I. F. 34.

RICHMOND, Sgt. W.J. 165.

K. January 29th, 1917.

One night about end of January we were putting a barrage over to our right to prepare a raid by another battn. and Fritz was replying heavily on us. Richmond was in the communication trench between the front line and supports. He was hit in the neck and said 'Oh! I'm hit' and died instantly. I saw his body within an hour of his death and looked at the wound. The other details I had at the time from a Sgt. who was present when he was hit but I forget his name. I have seen his grave in Armentieres military cemetery. It has a cross over it with his name on. I wore his steel helmet for months after. He was an all round sport and was always there when anything was doing. He was extremely popular with the men. (Informant knew his exact number.)

Reference:- H.J. Grey. 1925. A.I.F. A.
No. 7 Can. Gen. Hosp.

Cd Suff S

I can confirm Grey's account re W.J. Richmond. I heard the same account from the men who were there at the time but I cannot remember their names. I was in the second supports at the time.

Reference:- A. Brown. 19. A.Coy. No. 7 Can. Gen. Hosp. FIF.

P.S. This man had given me the same account in his own words before I read his Grey's account. FIF.

Etaples. 16.6.17.

A. I. F. 34.

RICHMOND, Sgt. W.J. 165.

K. January 29th, 1917.

He belonged to A.Coy. and I saw him just after he had been killed about January 20th in Houpline sector Armentieres. He was killed by a shell which cut his wind pipe and I saw S/Ds. bandaging him up but it was no good. He is buried at the military cemetery Armentieres where I have seen his grave with a cross with his name and rank on. I know him well. We joined at same time, October 1915. He died within a few minutes of being wounded.

Reference:- Pte. W.G. Henning. 89.A.III.
No. 1 Can. Gen. Hosp.

FIF.

Cd Suff S

Etaples
16.6.17.

34th A.I.F.

Richmond Sgt. W.J. 165,

(K. Jan. 29/17 Det. D/B)

"Sgt Richmond was killed in the trenches by shell fire at Armentieres and is buried in the Cite Bon Jean Cemetery. A cross marks the grave there is a good headstone easily recognisable and the grave is well cared for. I enlisted him myself at Gunadah in New South Wales and I was Officer of the watch at the time he was killed".

Eye-witness:

Description: Fair, medium height, Irish, very popular.

Informant: Capt. Matthews,
34th A.I.F.,
3rd London General Hospt.,
Wandsworth.
Home address: Australian Headquarters,
Horseferry Rd.

June 17/17,
E. Devenat.

S.

34th A. I. F.

Richmond, Sgt W.J. 165,

(K. Jan 29/17. Det D & B)

"I did not actually see Sgt Richmond killed, but I saw his body after his death. He was killed instantaneously by a shrapnel bullet through the head. I am sure he is the same man you are enquiring about. We called him "Bully" Richmond (Bully was short for William). He was buried in a cemetery near Armentieres called Cite bon Jean. I think that J.P. Grant, 1828 of our Battn (34 A.I.F.) whom they are also enquiring about was buried at the same place."

Eye-witness: Of dead body but not of death

Description: See above

Informant: Sgt Gallighan, 432,
34th A. I. F.
1st Eastern General Hospital,
Cambridge.

18th June 1917.
Edward G. Browne.

E. G. Browne

34th A.I.F.

Sgt. W. J. Richmond, 165.

Killed 29.1.17.

He was killed during the bombardment at Armentieres and was buried in the Military Cemetery at Armentieres, where I have seen his grave with a cross erected.

Reference: Pte. M. Rahard, 1970.

No.1 Australian, Rouen. 18.6.17.

ES.

60!

8

Suff

Havre

18th June. 1917.

34th AUSTRALIANS

RICHMOND, Sergt. W.J. 165
Slater, O.R. 1993

K. Jan 29th. 1917. Det. D/B.

I saw the graves of both these men in the Military Cemetery at Armentieres in April 1917. There are wooden crosses on both graves.

Informant: Pte. J.L. Allanson 2028
34th Australians, B.Co., VIII. Pltn.
Australian Camp, Rouelle s.

RIM.

Ed - Suff

S

A. I. F. 34.

RICHMOND, Sgt. W.J. 165.

K. January 29th, 1917.

He was in A.II. I have seen his grave at Armentieres in a military cemetery with a cross on with his name and number. He was killed by a splinter of shell in the Houpline sector. I did not see it happen but knew the facts from Cpl. Dwyer of A.II. now up line, in whose arms he fell. Richmond's brother is in A.Coy. up line, and has received his effects. Dwyer also saw him and told him all about the casualty.

References:- Pte. R.C.Henney. 1837. A.II.

Pte. H.T.Goldsmith. 236. A.II.
No. 1 Can. Gen. Hosp.

Etaples
20.6.17.

PHF.
Ed - Suff
S

Havre

21st June. 1917.

34th AUSTRALIANS

RICHMOND Sergt. W.J. 165
Slater, C.R. 1993 - A.Co.

K. January 29th. 1917. Det. D/B.

Richmond was in A. Company, Slater in C. Company. I
saw the graves of both men in the Military Cemetery
at Armentieres. There is a cross on each grave.

Informant: Pt. H.E. Jones 808
34th Batt., C.Co., XI. Pltn.
Australians.
Australian Camp, Boucllos.

RDM

Sniff
S Gd.

A.I.F. 34.

RICHMOND, Sgt W.J. 165

K. Jan 29th 1917 Dets D/B.

He was killed by shrapnel at Armentieres in the afternoon during a barrage by the Germans. He was buried in the Militar cemetery there. He was of my company and I knew him well.

Inf: F.N. Arweiler. 1401. A.
No.3 Can Gen Hosp.
VEUOLOGNE. 21st June 1917.

FD

S. Staff
for

34th A.I.F.

Richmond Sgt. W.J. 165,

(K. Jan. 29/17)

Informant states that on Jan. 29th at Armentieres, Richmond was killed by shrapnel instantaneously. Informant has seen his grave at 2nd General Cemetery, Armentieres".

Eye-witness:

Description:

Informant: E. Greenwell 78,
34th A.I.F.,
3rd London General Hospt.,
Wandsworth.
Home address:
Pearl St.,
West Wallsend,
via Newcastle,
N.S.W.

Ed. Suff
S

June 22/17,
Ivy. Gerrard.

Evre

23rd June 1917

34th AUSTRALIANS

RICHMOND, Sgt. W.J. 165

K. 29th Jan. 1917 Det. D/B

Richmond was in A. Co., and I think in the 2nd Platoon.
He was killed at Houplines in January 1917 and buried
in the Military Cemetery at Armentieres; there is a cross
on his grave.

Informant: Sgt. C. J. Sandry 1983
34th Australians A.Co. 4th Pltn
Australian Camp, Rouelles

RDM

Suff
per

34th A.I.F.

Richmond, Sgt. W.J. 155
A. Co.

(K. Jan. 29/17)

"Sgt. Richmond was wounded by a shrapnel bullet in the trenches at Armentieres. The bullet hit him in the chest near the right shoulder and went down into the lungs. He lived only 15 minutes after he was hit. I was with him. He was buried in the Armentieres Military Cemetery. He belonged to No. 11. Platoon."

Eye-witness: Yes.

Description: Medium size, clean shaven, fairish, brown hair, Scotchman.

Informant:- Sgt. W. Dwyer, 60.
34th A.I.F. A. Co. 11. Pl.
Horton County of London War Hospital, Epsom.

Home address: Melville. Mullaley. N.S.W.

June 26
D.P. Barton

S. *at. Supt*

34th Battn.
A. I. F.

Richmond.
Sgt. W.J. 165.

"Killed 29.1.17."

He was my Pl.Sgt. No.2 A.Coy. I was quite near him in Houplines trench at Armentieres when he was killed by a piece of shrapnel in his chest (outright) Saw his body afterwards and his grave several times in the big cemetery at Armentieres. We had been close friends. Sgt. W.M. Dwyer No.60.A.Coy. was alongside him when killed and will confirm the above.

Witness:-

W.P. McGuire.138.

34th Battn.

Dartford.

L. P. J.

London.
27.6.17.

S.

34th Battn.
A. I. F.

Richmond.
Sgt. W.J. 165.

"Killed 29.1.17"

Refer to Sgt. W.Dwyer A.Coy.4th Platoon, this man can give full particulars. His last words to him were "Oh Billy, I'm hit", death almost at once. Casualty at Armentieres ~~Houplines~~. *Houplines.*

Witness:-

J. Watson, 242.

34th Battn. A.Coy.

3rd A.A.Hospital.

Dartford.

W,Oman.

London.
28.7.17.

Written
Note *Written* Sgt. Dwyer 20.7.17.

S.

34th Battn
A.I.F.

Richmond 105
Sgt. 125

"Killed in Action 28.2.17."

Re Sgt. Richmond No 125 to hand. I knew Sgt Richmond well and can say he was liked by all men of the Coy., he was in. I was standing by his side when he was killed by a shrapnel bullet from enemy shell bullet entered near the throat and passed down through his lungs. He only lived ten minutes after being hit and never spoke. He was buried in Military cemetery at Armentieres and headstone erected by Battn. He was a man of about 26 or 27 years of age, brown hair, greyish eyes, face slightly freckled was about 5'8 or 9" in height, and I think was of Scotch birth, and had a younger brother who came to our Battn in reinforcements, in May last. Sgt. Richmond before enlistment I think was share farming near Gunnedah N.S.W. and I think had an elder brother there married.

Letter from:-

W.M. Durger Sgt.
A. Coy. 34th Battn
A.I.F.

London.
12.9.17.

S

29.7.17

Sgt W. DWYER

A B

34 Batt AIF

B E F

fos

165 Sgt W. J. RICHMOND

34 Batt AIF

K. 29.1.17

Ans
25.7.17.

SEP 5 1917
24 5 11
P.V.

165th SGT RICHMOND 3rd BATT RIF

KA. 28.1.17

Aug. 23rd 1917

S. (C) 3

A. A. Hoop
Dartford
Kent

To
Secretary
Enquiry Bureau.
London

Your letter of enquiry Re Sqt Richmond No 125
to hand - I knew Sqt Richmond very
well and can say he was liked by
all men of the Coy he was in - I was
standing by his side when he was
killed by a shrapnel bullet from
enemy shell. bullet entered near the
throat and passed ~~down~~ through
his lungs. He only lived ten minutes
after being hit and never spoke
he was buried in Military Cemetery
at Arrmentieres and headstone erected
by Bn. He was a man of about
26 or 27 years of age, brown hair
greenish eyes, face slightly bearded
was about 5 ft 8 or 9 inches in height
and I think was of Scotch birth
and had a younger brother who
came to our Bn in reinforcements
Over

in May last - Sgt Richmond
before enlistment I think was
share farming near Summedah
N. S. W. and I think had an
elder brother there married.

Hoping this will help to Sgt Richmond's
Identity

Yours

faithfully Yours

Winkler Sq.

Aloy 34th Regt

A. I. I.

Sgt W. Dwyer
A. Coy 34th