

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

**Captain
Francis John Piggott**

36th Battalion



2160112D

36th A. I. F.

Piggott, Capt. F. J

(K. June 16/17. Det: D & B)

"Capt. Piggott was buried on the Battlefield nr. Messines."

Eye-witness:

Description:

Informant: Pte Reginald F. Hulbert, 774,
36th A. I. F., C. Coy,
Hospital V,
Exeter.

Home address:
13, Pelham Rd,
Knowle Park Estate,
Wood Green, N.

5th Aug. 1917.
J.H. Fraser.

36th A.I.F.,

Piggott, Capt. F., J

K. June 10/17.

"Capt. Piggott was killed on the 10th June, just as we were standing in the front line before we hopped over to take the front line over. This was at Messines Ridge. A shell hit him and killed three or four others at the same time. He was a great favourite and all the boys liked him. Our present Captain (Capt. Julius) buried him behind our lines. This was at 3 o'clock in the afternoon. A Sgt. now in E.3. Coy. at this Hospital can give more information."

Eye Witness: Yes.

Description: Medium height, dark, black moustache.

Informant:-- L/Cpl. Hayes, 787,
36th A. I. F., C. Coy. 10 Pltn.,
3rd London General Hosp:
Wandsworth, S.W. Ward 8,

S.8.17. Home address:-- Maitland Road,
A.A.Needham. Islington, Newcastle, Australia.

Navre

14th Aug. 1917.

36th AUSTRALIANS

PIGGOTT, Capt. F.

X. 10.6.17. Det. D/B.

He was in C Co. He was the Officer Commanding the Company. I had known him for about 18 months. He was the only Officer of this name in the Battalion. I buried him in Piggs Street Wood at the corner of the "strands" and about 100 yards in rear of Charing Cross Dressing Station. There was no cross put up at the time but I heard it stated that one was to be put up later. I could point out the place.

Informant: Pte. R.I.L. Coulter; 1397
H.Q. Staff, Pioneers, A.I.F.;
Australian Camp, Reucelles.

OMR

56th Battn,
A. Coy.
A.I.F.

PIGGOT,
F. J.
Cpt.

"Killed 10.6.17".

I was told that he was badly wounded through the lung at Messines and died at the dressing station at Charing Cross and would most likely be buried there.

Refer to Major McPherson who is still in France and who can give particulars.

Witness, Pte. H.W. Shackway, 12106
56th Battn. A.I.F.
3rd A.A. Hospital,
Dartford.

W. Oman,
London,
18.8.17.

Note Written Major McPherson,
18.8.17.

S.

Hayre

22nd Aug. 1917.

36th AUSTRALIANS

PIGGOTT, Capt. F. *y*
Sieman, P.H.

3230

X. 10.6.17. Det. D/B.

I saw them both killed by a 5.9 at Messines Ridge on June 10th, 1917. Capt. then Lieut. Julleff of the 36th battalion, C Co., buried them both in the Plugstreet Military Cemetery. I did not see the graves.

Informant: Pte. S.S. Kellett, 925
36th Australians, C Co., 9th Pltn.,
Australian Camp, Ronelles.

in the list
RDM

Written Capt Julleff 31.8.17

S

Havre

27th August 1917

36th AUSTRALIANS

ZIGGOTT, Capt. R.

R. 16th June 1917 Det D/B

I know him well before he left Australia; he was in my Company (C.Co.) and his initial is as stated. We were attacking at Hooze Street, on the right of Messines, about 16th June, 1917, and just before we started the attack, a shell dropped in the trench and killed Captain Ziggott outright. He was buried next day when we returned from the attack. I was not at the burial but was told by my brother, Pte. R. Wallbank, D.Co. 16th Pltn, that the Captain was buried at the back of the trench, which was on the right of Messines Ridge, and about half a mile to the right of the village. There were many others buried there. I know nothing further.

Informant: Cpl R. H. Wallbank 1280
36th Australians D.Co. 16th Pltn
Havre Hospital

LdoD

56th Batta
A.I.F.

Piggott.
Cptn. F.J

"Killed in Action 10.6.17."

It is with sincere regret that I have to inform you that Captain F.J. Piggott of C. Coy. of the 56th Batta was killed on the night of the 10th June just prior to the attack at La Potteril Farm. He and four others were killed instantly by a large shell which fell into the trench. His body was brought back to the Casualty Clearing station and handed over to me for burial. I personally attended the funeral ceremony which was conducted by a Church of England minister. The actual name of the cemetery I do not know but it is concentrated ground situated in Ploegstreet Wood (PlugStreet) His grave is No 52 B. B1 Block. The whole of his personal effects were handed over to his brother Cpl. Piggott of the 56th Batta. If an
Letter from: C.C. Coy.

56th Batta
A.I.F. 31.8.17.

London.
13.9.17.

S

Job
19.17
Cpl. F. J. Pickett
KA. 10.6.17
36 BATTAL RPS
31.8.17

The Secretary
Wounded & Missing Enquiry Bureau
Australian Branch R.R.S.
21, Victoria St
London

I am with sincere
regret that I have to inform you that
Captain Pickett of the 36th Battalion of
the 6th Division was killed on the
night of the 10th of June, just prior
to the capture of the following position.
He and your other were killed instant
ly by a large shell which fell into
the trench.

His body was brought back to the
General Hospital, London and handed
over to me for burial. Personally
attended the funeral ceremony which
was conducted by a Church of
England minister.

The actual name of the
cemetery I do not know but
it is a consecrated ground, situated
in a pleasant Woodland setting.
This grave is at 32 G Street.

The subject of his personal effects
were handed over to his brother
Comptroler General of the 5th Battalion
of the 1st Division, particulars of
requirements to the name of his
brother and may be had on
application to

2nd Army Stores Depot, High Street,
Birmingham

J. J. [unclear]
J. J. [unclear] Esq
E. C. [unclear]

12

36th Battn
A.I.F.

Piggott
Capt. F.J.

"Killed in Action 10.6.17."

Re Capt F.J. Piggott as I need not mention his Battn I am able to give you a few facts. He was killed in action at the Battle of Messines. The Battn was in the sector in front of Ploegstreet Wood. His body was uncovered and he is buried in the vicinity. Particulars as to the exact spot are usually given by the "Registration of Graves" Dept. He was killed by a shell instantaneously so was not called on to suffer. He was a friend of mine and is sadly missed in the Battn. He was a splendid officer and had done great work since we came to France. He was a great favourite with his men always shared their hardships and dangers and guarded their interest. Poor old Piggott we often talk about his we could ill afford to lose a man of his character,

Letter from:-

F. McPherson Major,
France.
21.8.17.

London.
21.9.17.

3

July
EM 10 907

Capt. F. J. PIGGOTT

In the Field.

KA 10.6.17

36 BATT RIF

31/8/17.

S. 3

Dear Madam

In reply to your letter re Capt

F. J. Piggott, as I need not mention his

Rank, I am able to give you a few facts.

He was killed in action at the Battle of Messines. The Battalion was in the sector in front of Ploeghtwart Wood

His body was recovered & he is buried in the cemetery. Particulars as to the exact spot are usually found by the "Registration of Graves" Dept.

He was killed by a shell instantaneously so was not called on to suffer.

He was a friend of mine, and is sadly missed in the Battalion. He was a splendid officer, & had done great work since we came to France.

He was a great favourite with his men, always shared their hardships & dangers, and guarded their interests.

Poor old Piggott, we often talk about him. We could all afford to lose a man of his character.

Yours faithfully

J. D. Gibson Major

late RMO - BATT.

56th Battn
C. Coy.
A.I.F.

Piggott.
F. Cptn.

"Killed 10.6.17."

Refer to Cpl. W.H.E. Laman 805 C. Coy. 56th Battn who is still in France and who saw him killed, and can give details of death and burial. The place of casualty was at Mesines.

Witness:-

Pte. J. Davies. 756
56th Battn C. Coy. 11th Ptn.
3rd A.A. Hospital,
Dartford.

W Oman,
London.
3.9.17.

Notewritten Cpl. Laman
1.9.17.

3

36th A.I.F.

Capt. F. PIGGOTT.

K. 10.6.17. Det. D & B. ^A

I had the following from Sgt. Cook of C Co. 11 Pl. (still there). He said he was with Capt. Piggott in the front trench at Messines on June 10th when a shell landed among those he was with killing Pte. McThemarn and two others besides Capt. Piggott. One was wounded and Sgt. Cook was the only one not injured.

Reference: W. L. Liversage, 958. C Co. 12 Pl.

No. 11 Con. Camp Buchy Nr. Rouen. 3.9.17.

FEP.

S.

Lid.
Dec.

11.9.17

Major J. McPHERSON
R.M.O. 36 Battn. A.I.F. B.R.F.

Dear Sir,

We have to thank you very much for your letter in answer to our enquiry, concerning: Capt. F.J. PIGGOTT. 36 Battn. A.I.F.

The information you have sent will be of great value to our enquirers who will be comforted in their loss to learn from you that death was instantaneous.

We know they will also greatly prize what you have said in appreciation of Captain Piggott's qualities.

Please accept our sincere sympathy in the loss of your friend.

Yours faithfully,

V. D
Secretary
Jlw

829t17

Capt. J.M. Juleff,
O.C. C.Co. 36 Battn. A.I.F. B.E.F.

Dear Sir,

We have to thank you very much for your letter in answer to our enquiry, concerning: Capt. F.J. Piggott 36 Battn. A.I.F.

The clear and detailed information you have sent will be of assistance to us and of great value to our enquirers, who will be comforted to learn through you that death was instantaneous: and that Capt. Piggott was buried by his comrades.

With the directions you give we shall be able to apply to the Director of Graves Registration and Enquiries for a photograph of the grave to be sent by them to the next of kin.

With repeated thanks,

Yours faithfully,

V.D.
Secretary

35th A.I.F.
Bata 66

"Killed 18. 6. 17.

PIGOTT
F. Captn.
SCOTT

"Died of Wounds 8. 6. 17.

J. L. Pte. 274

Capt. Juliff, V.C. Coy., 36th Bata A.I.F. could give information as to burial of Captain Piggott E. and Pte. J. L. Scott. He is now O.C. of the Coy., to which those two belonged. He might also give information about Lieut. V. A. Burns. Capt. Piggott was killed at the taking of the Poterie Farm in the Messines fighting. Lieut. Burns I think died at the C. C. Station.

The 6th made an advance at Avion on 25th April to support the Canadians. He says it was not intended that they should retain the place, and that when they withdrew it was impossible to bring away with them the severely wounded men they were under heavy fire. He recognized the following as men in his Company whom he knew where wounded and left.

Sgt. Armp, L/Sgt. Burgess, Pte. Carter, Sgt. Olby.
Informant:- 8198 Pte Bowerman. D. Coy., 1st Dorsetts.
Description:- John Balfour, No. 865. 36th Bata. C. Coy. XII A.I.F.

London. 9. 10. 17.

GC 17.8.17
Major McPherson
36 Batt AIF
BEF

for
Capt F. J. PIGGOT
36 Batt AIF

K. 10. 6. 17

25.8.17
F.M.
21.8.17
K.H.M.

(17.8.17)
Capt FULEFF
C.B.
36 Baltr AIF
BEF

for
Capt F. PIGOTT
36 Baltr AIF

K. 10. 6. 17

PQ

25.8.17
24.8.17 FM.
K.H.L.

805

30.8.17

Cpl W. H. E. LAMAN

C Co

36 Batt AIF

BEE

[Handwritten scribbles]

for Capt. F. PIGGOTT

C. Co

36 Batt AIF

C K. 10. 6. 17

R

L. B. H.

6.9.17