

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

**5963 Sergeant
William Dalton**

22nd Battalion



0870604P

22nd. A.I.F.

Written, Capt. Bunning 7. 2. 18.
Dalton. Cpl. W. 5963.

K. Oct. 3rd.
Det. D/B.

"I knew Dalton well. He was in the same Coy. A. and in Pltn. 11 with me. He was acting Sgt. Major at the time. He was out all night burying our dead. I was in the burying party, and when we had done our work we each went to our part of the trench. Just afterwards a shell came over and he was blown to pieces. He had all the papers of the men we had been burying and they were all lost. Capt. Bunning was close to him and saw it happen. He gave word as to how Dalton was killed. It was on Oct. 3/17 in front of Brudiein, Ypres, we were in support. He was well liked though he was strict."

Eyewitness: No. it was at night. Told by: Capt. Bunning,
of A Coy. 22/A.I.F. now
in England.

Description: He was called "Dolly" He came from near Melbourne but was born in England, and was an old soldier about 5'8" a well built man.

Informant: Sgt. S.T. Anderson. 106.

Home address:

22 A.I.F. A Coy. 11 Pltn.

11/1/18 Lancaster P.O.

1 Western General Hospital,

A.M. Johnston via Kvabram, Victoria.

Fazakerly, Liverpool.

22nd Battn.
A.I.F.

Dalton.
Cpl.W. 5963

"Killed 3.10.17"

"At the time of his death Dalton was a Sgt. and had been Acting Sgt. Major. He was an Englishman I believe and came from Victoria as a Reinforcement to the Battalion. I was an eye-witness of his death for we were all sitting in Muhle Trench when a shell burst killing Sgt. Dalton and several others. Death was instantaneous in his case. and in that of Lieut. Moore of 23rd Battn. - and we buried Dalton in a rough grave outside the trench and sent the location to the Graves Unit for registration."

Informant:- Capt. W.H. Bunning
22nd Battn.

On leave from France

London.
22.1.18.

M.

Havre

22nd January 1918.

22nd A.I.F.

Dalton Cpl W. No. 5963.

K. 3rd October 1917. Det D/B.

Dalton was an old soldier. He was about 40, about 5 ft 9, fair, light moustache, bright blue eyes.

I was a pal of his. We were holding a support trench on the Ridge in front of Zonnebeke. He was in the trench near me when a high explosive shell dropped in the trench and killed him instantaneously, in front of my eyes. I was present at his burial. We put a cross on his grave. The Captain (W.H. Burning of A.Co.) conducted the funeral at dark.

Inf:- Pte McDonald No. 6130.
22nd A.I.F. A.Co.
Australian Camp.
Rouelles.

CWS.

Copy to ...

M.

22nd Bn.

DALTON, W.
Sgt. 5963

Killed in action 3/10/17.

"I knew Casualty. He was a man about 5 ft. 8 ins. well built, fair complexion, fair moustache about 40 years of age, known as "Bill". He was attached to the 16th Reinforcements of the 22nd Bn. Casualty was in support lines at Ypres. He was sitting down smoking when an H.E. shell exploded in the trench killing Casualty instantly. I was 7 yds. from at the time of his death but went over directly after the shell exploded but he was quite dead when I arrived there. His chief wounds were about the head. He was buried on the top of the support line trench just near where he fell. A cross was erected with his name and number on it. I was an eye-witness."

Private address:-
Shepperton.

Informant:- S. H. Castle.
No. 2129.

T.C.F.
10/5/18.

M.H.

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS INFORMATION BUREAU-MELBOURNE.

22nd Btn.

DALTON, W.

Sgt. 5963

Killed in action 3/10/17.

"I knew Casualty. He was a tall man, well built, fair complexion, fair moustache, about 38 years of age, and had a South African King & Queen's Medal. Casualty was sitting in the front line trench at Ypres near Zonnebeke Lake. I was a stretcher bearer and was called up to take Casualty out. By the time I got to him he was dead. He was lying on the ground half buried in earth with a severe wound in the head but, was quite dead. The same shell killed eight other men. He was buried with the other men just behind the line and I helped to bury him. A rifle was placed over the grave to indicate the spot."

Informant:- Pte. H. Musgrove,
No. 217, 22nd Btn.

Private address:-
417 Station Street,
Carlton.

T.C.F.
25/10/18.

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS INFORMATION BUREAU-MELBOURNE.

22nd Btn.

DALTON, F.
Sgt. No. 5963

Killed in act. 3.10.17.

"I knew Casualty. He was a tall man, well built, fair complexion about 30 years of age. Casualty was standing in reserve lines at Zonnebeke. An I.S. shell exploded near Casualty killing him instantly. I was a stretcher bearer and found Casualty's body laying in a trench and carried him into a shell hole near by. He was most severely wounded all over, and he was buried near where he fell by his own mates."

Informant:- R. Price
No. 1208.

Private address
55 Grifford Street,
Williamstown.

T.C.F.
17.4.19.

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS INFORMATION BUREAU-MELBOURNE.

A.I.F.
22nd. Battn.

DALTON,
Cpl. W. 5963

" Wounded March, April ".

Admitted Norfolk War Hospital 20.4.17. Gun-shot wounds face
right arm.

Cert. by Hospital Index.

No trace Norfolk and Norwich Hospital, Norwich.

Cert. by letter from O.C. 18.5.17.

Admitted Norfolk War Hospital Gun-shot wound right arm. He has
now recovered and will be discharged Hospital to-morrow.

Cert. by letter from O.C. 22.5.17.

London.
24.5.17.

M

0

Cpl. Dalton 22
5963.
22 B.M.

See under

0 Pte. Kelly. 2960.
56 B.M.

21-5-17.

TELEPHONE VICTORIA 3838

Wounded and Missing Enquiry Bureau

AUSTRALIAN BRANCH

British Red Cross Society and Order of St. John

54, VICTORIA STREET, S.W.

To The Officer Commanding

hospital war hospital
Thorp Norwich

Dear Sir, *19th August, 1917*

We have been requested by our Australian Bureau to obtain a bulletin and ascertain the nature of the sickness or

wounds of *5963 cpl W. Dalton 22 Bn* A.I.F.,

who was admitted to your hospital *20.4.17*

We should be most grateful for any particulars you can supply.

We regret having to trouble you in the matter, but are desirous of allaying the anxiety of the relatives so far distant in Australia.

Yours faithfully,

Heakin
Secretary.

The Secretary.
Australian Branch,
British Red Cross Society & Order of St. John,
54, Victoria Street. E.C.



The N.C.O. named on reverse was admitted with G.S.W.
Right Arm. He has now recovered and will be discharged Hospital
to-morrow.

Thoms. NORWICH.

22-5-17.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, likely belonging to the Major mentioned in the text below.

Major. R.A.M.C.

for Lieut-Col. R.A.M.C.
O.1/c Norfolk War Hospital.