

28th March 1917.

The Commandant,  
A.I.F. Headquarters,  
130 Horseferry Road,  
Westminster,  
LONDON, S.W.

Next-of-kin of the late No.6079 Sergeant P.B. Osborne, 8th Battalion, complain that they were not advised that this soldier had been in hospital for some 10 weeks before he died. The first report received here was contained in your cable No. WEML.379 dated London 2/2/17, which showed that he had been admitted to the Tidsworth Hospital on 31/1/17, suffering from suspect cerebro-spinal Meningitis, severe. WEML.cable No.384 dated London 9/2/17, which was received after the death of this soldier, stated that he had been admitted on 1/2/17 to the above hospital, suffering from pneumonia, condition not stated. In respect to the complaint, the following certified extract from a letter from this soldier, dated 10/1/17, is forwarded:-

"I have received your letters dated Sept. 24th, Oct 10th, 15th, 27th, 29th, and was glad to get them. I suppose you will wonder why I am in Hospital here, and not in France, as my last letter to you told you that I was leaving that week. Well, to cut a long story short, the day before we left for France, we were all medically examined, and the Dr. told me that my face looked sore, of course I knew what it was; the old trouble "Erythemia" in the face. I also had a touch in the head, due, I think to the cold winds of Salisbury Plain, and there is no doubt they are piercing. Pneumonia is rife among our fellows here, and deaths occur every day. Well, I was sent here at the end of Oct. and am still in Hospital, but just about right now, and hope to be discharged in a few days time. I have had a bad time with the "Erythemia"; my face and head was just one mass of discharge, and it went to the eyes. I could not use them for about a week as I was swathed in bandages, it has left them a little sore, but still I am much better now."

Acting Secretary.