

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

**3514 Private
Leslie Alfred Bruce**

31st Battalion



0591103J

31st A.I.F.

L. A. BRUCE. 3514.

Killed 14.3.17. Det. D & B

On the right of Iagnicourt he was badly wounded by a shell and died whilst they were carrying him out. He was buried by the side of Sunken Road, and a cross was erected over his grave, which I have seen.

Reference: Pte. C. V. Larsen, 5844.

No. 11 Gen. Camp Buchy Nr. Rouen. 29.6.17.

ES

S.

Havre

27th June 1917

31st AUSTRALIANS

BRUCE, L. A. 3514

K. 14th March 1917 Det D/B

Bruce was in A. Co., 4th Platoon. I think he came from Sydney. He was about 5'4" in height, slim, dark, clean-shaven and about 22 years of age. I know him well having been in the same Platoon and was in the same dug-out with him the night before he was killed. I did not see his grave but Pte. W. Harvey B.Co. stretcher-bearer, told me he had seen it near to Ligny-Thillois on the left of the road going from Ligny Thillois to Bapaume, about 200 yards from Ligny Thillois, when he was taking a cross to put on his brother's grave which is next to Bruce's. Harvey was with the Battalion a fortnight ago. There is a cross on Bruce's grave with his name, number and Battalion on it.

Informant: Pte. T. G. Crook 3536
31st Australians A. Co. H.Q.
Australian Camp, Rouelles

CHB
Written by Harvey 17.7.17

Havre

9th July, 1917.

31st AUSTRALIANS

BRUCE, L.A. 3514
6000.

K. 14.3.17. Det. D/B.

He was in A Co., 3rd Pltn. At Ligny Thillois on the night of the 16th March we were holding our line: it was a very dark night - The Germans were bombarding us. Bruce was about 35 yards behind our line and coming up to another post. He was killed by shell fire: he was knocked about a good deal but recognizable. I saw him after he was killed. I was at his burial: he was buried the next night in front of our line in a shell hole. I saw the grave marked, and a cross was put up later on. I saw the cross being made.

Informant: Pte. A. H. Ayre, 802
31st Australians, Headquarters,
Havre Hospital.

HFG

S.

Havre

9th July 1917

31st AUSTRALIANS
A. Co. 2nd Fltn.

BRUCE, L.A. 3514

Killed March 14th 1917. Det. D/B.

I had known him about nine months in the Company. He was very young and rather dark, and was the only man of this name in the Platoon. I was told by Cte. J. Handley, A. Co. 2nd Fltn. that he had been on his burial party and that there was a cross with his name, number and battalion on the grave. Handley was with the Battalion about two months ago when I left

Informant: Cte. H.V. Bartlett. 3208.
31st Australians, A. Co. 2nd Fltn.
Australian Camp, Roncelles.

GER

Written by Handley 20.7.17 S.

Havre

11th July, 1917.

31st AUSTRALIANS

BRUCE, L.A. 3514

K. 14.3.17. Det. D/B.

He was killed by a shell at night while carrying ammunition in our trenches at Bapaume. He was badly disfigured and he was buried next morning at 5 a.m. at the place where he was killed out in the open. His grave is marked.

Informant: L/Cpl. A. Butt, 3302
31st Australians, A Co.,
H. S. Warilla.

REB

S.

Havre

12th July, 1917.

31st AUSTRALIANS

BRUCE, L.A. 3514

K. 14.3.17. Det. D/B.

He was in A Co., 4th platoon. I think he came from Queensland. I hardly knew this man, but I know he was the only man of this name killed on that date. He was bringing up rations at the time near Magny Tilloy. He was about 19 years of age, small and dark. I saw his grave which is about 200 or 300 yards along the road from Magny Tilloy to Bapaume, on the right hand side. There was no cross put up at the time, but as I heard one was going to be put up later on, I could point out the place.

Informant: Pte. A. Lewis, 1721
31st Australians, 1 Co., 4th Pltn.,
Havre Hospital.

CMR

S.

Havre

14th July, 1917.

31st AUSTRALIANS

BRUCE, L.A. 3514.

K. 14.3.17. Det. D/B.

He was in A Co., 4th Platoon. He came from Brisbane, Queensland. I had known him for about 7 or 8 months. He came over with the 7th Reinforcements to the 31st battalion. L.A. were his initials. 3514 is about his number. I knew him well. He was in my section. I saw his grave about 500 yards east of Thilley village on the right of the road going towards Bapaume. There is a cross with his name, number, and battalion on it. I could point out the place.

Informant: Cpl. D. Campbell, 3663
31st Australians, A Co., 4th Pltn.,
Australian Camp, Ronelles.

CMR

S.

31st A.I.F.

L. A. BRUCE, 3514.

E. 14.3.17. Det. D & B.

At Ligny Thillois near La Barque he was killed by a shell during the attack. He was killed outright and I witnessed the casualty. He was buried the next day by the Pioneers about 100 yards to the back of the line. A cross was erected.

Reference: Pte. H. Maloney, 3012.

No.1 Australian, Rouen. 17.7.17.

FS.

S.

Havre

24th July, 1917

31st AUSTRALIANS BRUC3, L.A. 3514

R. 14.5.17. Det. D/E.

I did not know this man but I think he was in A Co.
I saw his grave close in front of the small wood in front
of Le Tholey close to Bapaume. The grave is in a field
by itself and there is a large white cross on it with his
name, battalion, and number on it. I could point out the
spot, and I am satisfied that the name on it is L.A. Bruce,
No. 3514, 31st Australians.

Informant: Pte. A. Sullivan, 58
31st Australians, H.Q. Sig.,
No. 1 Gen., Stretet.

B- S
Suff

CHR

Bayre

28th July, 1917.

31st AUSTRALIANS

BRUCE, L.A. 3514

R. 14.3.17. Det. D/B.

I was in his company, but did not know him at all. I know his initials are as stated because I carried his cross to his grave which was under a kilometre from Reimsourt, and about midway between Le Transloy and Bapaume. It was about 150 yards from the road leading to Bapaume from Le Transloy, on the left hand side going towards Bapaume, and out in the open field. I do not know where or how he was killed.

Informant: Pte. F. Egan, 5548
31st Australian, A Co., 4th Bn.,
Australian Camp, Boullies.

S. Luff
Ed. J. de B.

31st Battn.
A. I. F.

Bruce.
L. A. 3514.

"Killed in Action 20.11.16"

re 3514 L. A. Bruce killed in action. All that I can say is that I and two more men buried him a few hours after he was killed and the grave was marked. The battalion has since erected a proper cross over the grave. He was buried on the field just outside a small village and is out of range of the enemy guns. I can't give much of a description of him except that he was a reinforcement and a fairly small made man, in fact he was only a boy, but a very cheerful one.

Letter from:-

Pte. J. Handley
31st Battn.

London.
9.8.17.

France. 26.7.17.

B.

19.7.17
Rt J. HANDLEY 2nd Plat.
A Co

31 Ball AIF
BER

for

3514 L. A. BRUCE 2nd Plat.
A Co

31 Ball AIF

K. 14. 3. 17

21.7.17
F.M.

14.7.17

Plt W. HARVEY

S. Bearer B. Co

31 Batt AIF

BEF

for

3514

L. A. BRUCE

31 Batt AIF

K. 14. 11. 17

21. 7. 17

F. M.

HOSPITAL *Graylingwell*

Ch

INFORMATION	
Fill in exactly as List. SURNAME. <i>Reece</i>	Christian Name. Regtl. No. <i>2504</i>
SURNAME <i>Nicholson</i>	Christian Name. <i>H</i> Regtl. No. <i>2452</i>

STATEMENT

NOTE.	(to be taken)
Call state fully what informant says he saw or heard and give DATE AND PLACE of occurrence.	I knew a man of this by a skull, which also known as capture of Lawrence valley a counter-attack near where he died

PLEASE ALSO ANSWER

1. Was Informant Eye-Witness? <i>No</i>	2. If not of
3. Was the ground held or lost? <i>held</i>	4. If lost was the
5. Did Informant know Christian Name, Initials or No. of man enquired about? <i>No.</i>	6. Was name
7. Give Informant's description of man enquired about—any nickname, marks, scars, etc. <i>Tall thin clean-shaven. medium color</i>	
8. Searcher's opinion of Informant's accuracy and intelligence <i>average intelligence</i>	

August 1st. 1917.

Pte. J. Handley,
31st. Battalion, A.I.F.
B. E. F.

Dear Pte. Handley,

Very many thanks for your letter in answer to
our enquiry concerning :-

3514 L. A. Bruce, 31st. Battn. A.I.F.

The information you have sent will be of much assistance to us
and of value to our enquirers.

With best wishes,

Yours faithfully,

Secretary.

V.D

Shu.

3514

L.A. BRUCE

26/7/17

31 Batt A.I.F.

RA 21116

Finance

B₃

7.5.

The Australian Red Cross Society
Inquiry Bureau,

54. Victoria Street.

London S.W. 9.

Dear Secretary,

In reply to your

enquiry about 3514. L.A. Bruce
31st Batt, A.I.F. Killed In Action.
All that I can say is that I
and two more men buried him a
few hours after he was killed and
the grave was marked. The Battalion
as since, erected a proper cross over
the grave. He was buried on the hill
just outside a small village and is
out of range of the Enemy guns.
I can't give much of a description of
him except that he was a Reinforcement
and a fairly small made man in fact
he was only a boy but a very cheerful one.
This is all I have to say and hoping it
will be of some use to you, I remain
Yours faithfully J. Handley
31st Batt A.I.F.