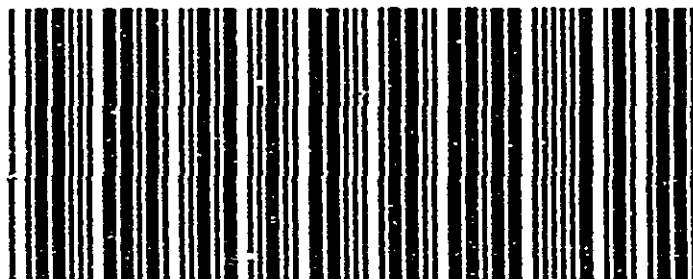


Australian Red Cross Society Wounded and Missing  
Enquiry Bureau files, 1914-18 War  
1DRL/0428

**5292 Private  
Robert Archibald**

**18th Battalion**



0120703D

18th Battn.  
A.I.F.

ARCHIBALD  
R. 5292

"Killed 19-5-18"

He was in C.Coy. and I saw him killed at Morlancourt, when death was instantaneous, he being hit by a shell that landed under him, at which time we were in action, and he was badly knocked. This happened about 2 o'clock in the morning at time of hop-over, and I was just behind him when shell landed. I did not know him very well, but he came from N.S.W. I saw his grave at place of casualty, where he was buried in a shell hole, the grave was not marked at the time.

Informant. Lawson. Pte.G. 1915  
S/B. C.Coy. 18th Battn.,  
3rd A.A.H.,  
DARTFORD.

W.Oman  
London  
10-9-18  
J.E.A.

F.I.  
S.

16th Battn.  
A.I.F.

ARCHIBALD.  
R. 5292.

"Killed 15-5-18."

He was of C.Company, IX Platoon, At Morlancourt on 19th May, about 2 o'clock in morning during our attack, was killed outright by shell, hit in leg and body. I saw him at daylight after the attack had finished. He was buried along with L/Cpl A.B.Clifford, 2280, Pte.W.E.Hompson, 3957, and Pte E.Sheen. of C Company, IX Platoon, in a shell hole, behind supports. Cross erected. I have seen the grave and cross for the four men. They were buried the following night, Sgt.-C.C.Morrison, S.C., IX Platoon had charge of burial party.

Informant:- Pte.B.J.Chearer. 1906.  
16th Battn. C.Coy, HQ.  
HAREFIELD.

A.D.G.  
London.  
11-9-18.  
J.E.A.

S & P I

18th Battalion.  
A.I.F.

ARCHIBALD  
R. 5292.

"Killed 19-5-18"

Brother of B. Scarsay, N.V. latona. On 19th May, 1918 at night at Marstoncourt, during our attack. Killed outright by H/G bullet. I saw him about an hour after, he was buried along with Cpl. A. A. Clifford 2250. and 2 or 3 others in one big shell hole on the ground behind the line we took. The cross erected with names of all on scene. I have seen the grave. Knew him as Archie, a good chap, came from near Girphellion, N.S.W.

Informant:- Ste. P. J. J. Ho Crocker, 2250.  
18th Batta. 3. Coy. X Bn.  
WARRFIELD.

A.D.C.  
London.  
19-1-18.  
J. E. A.

18th. I.I.F.

ARCHIBALD, R. 5292,

E. May 19/18. Det. D/S.

"I saw this man killed by a whiz-bang whilst lying by my side in front of Morlancourt on Sunday 19th May 1918. I also had charge of a burying party who buried him on the spot the same evening. He was in my platoon. The injuries were in his side."

Eye-witness:- Yes.

Description:-

Informant:- Pte. Lawrence O'Connor, 1255,  
18th I.I.F.,  
1 Southern Hospital, (King's Heath)  
Birmingham.

Home address:- Bungie Bohan,  
Collan Post Office,  
via. Wellington. N.Z.

Aug. 20/18.  
Jas. Ore.

S.P.1

18th Battn.  
A.I.F.

ARCHIBALD  
R. 5292

"Killed 19-5-18"

He was in C.Coy., and I saw him killed at Morlancourt. When death was instantaneous, he being hit by a bullet in the head while in action. Casualty happened about 3 a.m. I knew him well, and he came away from Australia on the "Wiltshire" on 22-8-16. He came from N.S.W. I buried him on the field at place of casualty, and grave was marked by a Cross having full details.

Informant. Colls. Pte.R.A. 5309  
Hqts. C.Coy. 18th Battn.,  
3rd A.A.H.,  
DARTFORD.

W.Oman  
London  
20-8-18  
H.G.

S.

18th A.I.F.

Archibald. R. 5292.

(K. May 19/18)  
Dets. D/E.

"I was in the same trench with Pte. Robert Archibald (18.C.I.) on Sunday morning May 19th at Morlancourt. He had taken our objective, when he was shot by a sniper, and killed instantaneously. I saw him being carried away to a shell hole behind our old line, and I think he was buried there beside a man called P/C. A.B. Clifford (18.C.I.) I saw the crosses being taken up."

Eyewitness: He saw him carried away.

Description: 14th reinforcements, Merrylands, single, fine built, clear cut face, good looking.

Informant: Pte. H. Perkins 5384.  
18th A.I.F. C. AI.  
3rd Southern General Hospital,  
The Base, Oxford.

Home address:  
Clarence St,  
Banks Town, N.S.W.

19.6.18.  
H.M.P.C.

del.  
8.9.13

France

30th August 1918

The Actg.

Australian War Loss Enquiry Bureau.

Dear Sir.

I would be much obliged if you could supply me with information concerning No 5242 Lieut Robert Macmillan C. Company, 18th Batta, 5th Brigade, A. I. F.

His last news of him was, he returned to France last December and was training with a raiding patrol, since then I have reason to believe him to have been killed. I would be very grateful

for any information at all as to

facts of his case and oblige

yours truly

No 859 2nd C. Co. Greenfield

2nd Aust. Liegt Bty.

1st Aust. Artillery

A. I. F.

France

August 29th, 1918.

No 77 Gnr. W.T. Acott.  
114th Howitzer Battery,  
Australian Field Artillery.  
B. F. F.

Dear Sir.

In answer to your enquiry through R.C.S. House for  
details of the death of -

5292 Pte. ROBERT ARCHIBALD. 18th Bn. A.I.F.

who was killed in action on 19-5-18 (not 15-5-18). We beg to  
inform you of the following unofficial evidence given by  
5309 Pte. R.A. Collis of the same unit when in the 3rd Australian  
Auxiliary Hospital, Garsford.

He stated that he saw Pte. Archibald killed instantly  
by a bullet which wounded him in the head when he was in action  
at Morlancourt about 3 a.m. on 19-5-18. He buried him on the  
field at the place of casualty and the grave was marked by a  
cross bearing his full regimental details.

They came from Australia together on the "Wiltshire"  
on 22-8-16.

We are continuing our enquiries and as soon as further  
particulars are received we shall advise you.

Trusting that it will be some consolation to know that  
his death was instantaneous.

Yours faithfully,

(Miss) *aw.*

Secretary,

September 5th, 1916.

859 Gnr. C. W. Greenfield.  
2nd Australian Siege Battery.  
Royal Australian Artillery.  
B.M.F.

Dear Sir.

In answer to your enquiry for -

5292 Pte. R. ARCHIBALD. 18th Battalion. A.I.F.

We regret to inform you that he was killed in action on 19-5-16,  
and we have received the following unofficial evidence from men of  
his unit.

5509 Pte. R. A. Colls when in hospital recently stated that  
he saw Pte. Archibald killed instantly by a bullet which wounded him  
in the head while in action at Morlancourt about 3 a.m. on 19-5-16.  
He buried him on the field where he fell marking the grave with a  
cross bearing his full particulars. They had come from Australia  
together on the "Wiltshire" on 22-8-16 and he knew him well.

This report is confirmed by another man of his unit who  
stated that he saw Pte. Archibald about an hour after he had been  
killed instantly by a machine gun bullet during the attack at  
Morlancourt on the night of 19-5-16, and he was buried with  
several others in a big shell hole on the ground behind the line  
which they took and one cross bearing all their names being erected  
on the grave which informant has seen.

We are continuing our enquiries and as soon as we receive  
further information we shall immediately advise you. With sincere  
sympathy in the loss of your friend and trusting that it will be  
some consolation to know that his death was instantaneous.

Yours faithfully,

(Miss) *LAW*

Secretary.



France

20<sup>th</sup> Dec 1915

The Secretary

Wounded & Missing

Enquiry Bureau

Australian Red Cross Society

529<sup>th</sup>

~~Mr~~ Mr. Archibald

18/12/15

Dear Madam

I have to thank you for  
the information which you have  
forwarded to me. Now that I know  
the locality in which the document was  
killed it will make it easier for me  
to find his grave. Again thanking  
you for your trouble on my behalf

I am

Yours faithfully

C. W. Cunningham

77 Mr. ...  
Black ...

302 Mr. ...  
... ..

Sept. 16th, 1918.

Dear Sir.

In further answer to your enquiry for - 5292 Pte. ARCHIBALD, 18th Battalion, A.I.F. We beg to inform you of unofficial evidence which confirms the reports already sent you.

1253 Pte. Lawrence O'Connor who was interviewed in the 1st Southern General Hospital, Birmingham stated that he saw Pte. Archibald killed by a white bang, whilst lying by his side in front of Merlancourt on 19-5-18 - a Sunday - and he had charge of the burial party which buried him the same evening on the spot where he fell.

1955 Pte. C. Lawson, 3rd Australian Auxiliary Hospital, Dartford - gave similar evidence. He stated :- "Pte. Archibald was in C. Coy, and I saw him killed at Merlancourt when death was instantaneous, he being hit by a shell that fell close to him, when we were in action and he was badly wounded. This happened about 2 o/c in the morning at the time of the hop-over and I was just behind him when the shell landed. I did not know him very well, but he came from B.S.W. I saw his grave at place of casualty, where he was buried in a shell hole, the grave was not marked at the time."

Two other men of his unit confirm these reports and we have now closed our enquiry as we feel that we are unlikely to obtain further and more definite information, should we do so however we should immediately advise you.

Trusting that these reports have been of some assistance to you.

Yours faithfully,

(Miss)

Secretary.

J.A.W.