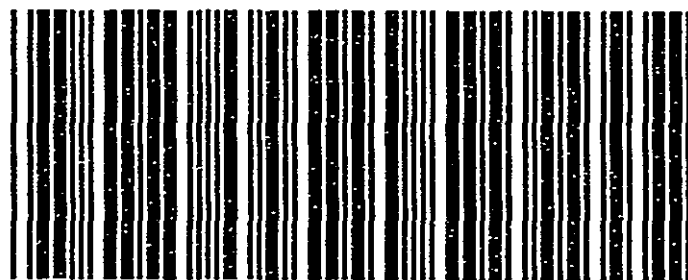


Australian Red Cross Society Wounded and Missing
Enquiry Bureau files, 1914-18 War
1DRL/0428

**3255 Lance Corporal
Eldred James
Stanhope Belford**

1st Battalion



0320501B

1st Battn.
A.I.F.

Belford,
I/C Eldred James
No. 3255

"Regarding L/Cpl. J.R. Belford, 3255, 1st Battalion, A.I.F., who died in the 1st Aust. C.C.S. on 19th June at 10.45 p.m. I wrote a brief note to next-of-kin, James Belford, Lorne, via Toronto, N.S.W., but it may have gone astray.

Belford, who was severely wounded died the same day that he was admitted here. I saw him before he died, but he was unable to speak.

On the following day he was buried in the cemetery here, a quiet, peaceful place, far from the line. His grave has had a special cross erected over it, I understand, by his comrades of the Battalion. A photograph could be had on application to the Graves Registration Commission through me or any Australian Chaplain. I regret that I cannot furnish further details for I saw so little of Corporal Belford before he died.

Arch. Alexander, C.F. (Presbyterian)

Note from Chaplain Arch. Alexander from 1st Australian Casualty Clearing Station.

London,
1/8/16.

S.

1st Battn.
A.I.F.

Belford,
I/C Eldred James
No. 3255

W. June, 1916:

"Re your enquiry, dated 6th inst., which reached me yesterday concerning death of L/Cpl. E.J. Belford of 1st Battalion, he was admitted to this station from the 2nd Aust. Field Ambulance at 6 a.m. on 19th June, suffering with severe bomb wounds abdomen. He was operated on immediately after admission, but very little hope of recovery was given and he died at 10/45 p.m. the same day.

I enclose a note from Chaplain Alexander, who saw him during the day and who conducted the funeral service.

(Sgd.) R.D. Campbell, Major, Adj. 1st A.C.C.S.

Letter received from Major R.D. Campbell, from 1st Aust. Casualty Clearing Station, dated 25/7/16

London,
1/8/16.

S.

French Casualty

1st Australian Imperial Forces

Belford, I/Cpl R.J. 3255,
D. Company

(D. of W. June 19th 1916, France.
Details Death and Burial)

Informant states that "On 18th June 1916 I saw above-named struck with a rifle grenade at Fleurbaix in the daytime. I know he died afterwards as the result of his being so struck." Informant describes Belford as about 21, short, dark, clean-shaven from N.S.W.

Reference: Pte Thos. Cadett, 3261,
1st Southern General Hospital, Ward B. & L.,
Edgbaston,

Home address: Birmingham.
Sutherland,
N.S.W.

12th August, 1916.
W.E. Crook.

1st Battn.
A.I.F.

France.

Belford,
R. Jack, I/Cpl. 3255

D/W. June. 17/16:

Informant states that - On June 19/16 at Fleurbaix in the morning Belford was killed by a trench mortar bomb, which hit him in the back and passed through the intestines. Belford had just turned and was giving the order for his men to keep close to the parapet. Informant states that Belford lived a while after being wounded, but did not speak again. Informant could not say whether Belford was conscious or not. Informant was a great friend of Belford, and close to him on this occasion, but could not say the exact spot of burial - "behind the trenches with others", he thinks.

Description of Belford - Inclined to be thin, about 5 ft. 4 in height - called "Jack".

Ref.:- Ledsam, Pte. M. No. 3377, 1st Battn. D Coy. A.I.F.
Graylingwell Hospital (Chichester).

Home address - 61 Boulevard, Dulwich Hill, Sydney.

Note -

K.E. Jones Informant intelligent, educated and reliable.
14/8/16.
London,
22/8/16.

K.E. Jones

S.

1st. A. I. F.

Belford, L/Cpl. E. J. 3255.
C Coy.
(D/W. June 19/16. Details D and B.)

Informant states that on June 19/16 at Fleurbaix
L/Cpl Belford was severely wounded. Informant was about
100 yards away and heard the call for stretcher bearers, the
next day he heard that Belford had died, presumably he
was buried near Fleurbaix.

Reference:-- V. T. Stirling, 2664,
1. A. I. F. M.C.S.
Graylingwell Hospital,
Chichester.

Home address:-- Eormanhurst,
Sandon St,
Hamilton, Newcastle,
E. S. Wales.

August 28th
V. Beaumont.

Sgt

1st A.I.F.

No. 3255
Belford, L/c Edward James

W. June, 1916.

Died of wounds 19/6/16, 1st Australian Casualty Clearing Station,
France.

Cert. by - Headquarters, A.I.F.
130 Horseferry Road, 5/7/16.

London,
6/7/16.

S.

cable

A.I.F. 1st Batta.

FFAHCOR.

WALFORD L/CPL. ELDRE JAS. 3255.

D/W 19.6.16. Det. D & J

He was my Section Commander and he left us to consult Lt. Graham as to whether we should stand down as so much shelling was going on when he was killed by a trench mortar. He died of wounds at the Clearing Station at Brozelles.

Reference: Pte. C. Jennings, 1373,
23 Gen.
Etaples. 21.7.16.

J.F.C.

AUSTRALIAN I.F. 1st. Batt.

France.

BELFORD. L/Cpl. Eldred James, 3255. D/W.19.June 1916.

He came from Newcastle, N.S.W., he slept by me in the dug-out and he was in my platoon, XI.

A month ago, at Fleurbaix, to the right of Armentieres, in the afternoon, he was with me in the firing line half a minute before his death. The trench mortars had stopped and he said "I will go and see if we can stand down". He went to the corner and along the passage at the back of the parapet and was directly behind me when a mortar came which I ducked and dodged and which went over my head and exploded close to him. He was badly wounded and carried to Estaires. I made up his pack and sent it along with him. Next day I heard of his death through septic poisoning. He was buried, and the officers, at our request, got a cross for him.

J.F.C.

Reference: Pte C.R.Crane, 4434.
Liverpool Hosp.
Etaples 24th. July 1916.

C.

A.I.F. 1 Batt.

FRANCE.

BELFORD L/O. E.J. 3255

D/W 19.6.16. Details.

7.
Belford was badly wounded by a trench mortar bomb while in the trenches at Neubeix about the middle of June and died soon afterwards. Cpl. J.E. Hunt, C Coy 1st Batt., was with him when he was wounded. Hunt and Belford were in XI platoon 4 section. Hunt is now in hospital in Scotland I believe. He is a chum of mine. Belford was about 19 or 20 years of age, a thin young fellow. I think he came from Sydney.

Reference: Pte. O.H. Wells, 2682, M.C.S. 1st Batta.
26 Con.

Staples. 24.7.16.

SA.

A.I.F. 1st Batt.

FRANCE.

BELFORD L/CPL. E.J. 3255.

D/W 19.6.15. France. Details

He was very badly wounded by a T.M. bomb in the trenches near Sully (Flewbags)?

Information as to his death came to us four or five days later. Corporal Bradshaw, C Coy X, now wounded, would be likely to be able to give the revised information as to burial. Also Sgt. Gelling. Platoon Sgt No XI platoon, C Coy.

Reference: Pte. W.H. Hale, 3948,
21 Con. Staples. 26.7.16.

GSP.

A.I.F. 1. C.

FRANCE

BELFORD L/C E.J. 3255.

D/W 19.6.16. Det.

Belford was wounded at Fleurbaix on 19th June while lying in his dug-out. A trench mortar bomb burst just in front of his dug-out and a piece of the bomb passed through the lower part of his body. I saw him two hours after he was wounded. He had little pain. He was sent away and died two days later.

Our platoon officer, Lt. Graham, XI platoon, arranged on our behalf to have a cross put on his grave at Estaires, as a token of our regard. He was a very good chap.

Reference: Sgt. R.O. Gelding, 252, C,
26 Gen. Etaples. 27.7.16. SA.

A.I.F. 1.

FRANCE

BELFORD L/CPL. E.J. 3255

D/W 19.6.16.

At Fleurbaix, in the afternoon, he was coming out to get some of the men to 'stand to' and he was hit in the back by pieces of a trench mortar. He had eight wounds and went to hospital, where he died. I was 20 or 30 yards away when he was hit.

I have seen his grave at Esterres. The officers were getting a wreath for it.

Reference: Pte. Baker, 2557, C XI,
Reinf.Camp. Etaples. 28.7.16.

JJF.

1st AUSTRALIANS.

29th July, 1916.

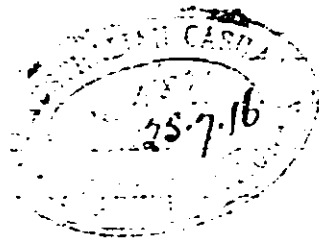
L/Cpl. E. J. BELFORD. 3255. Died of wounds 19.6.16.

Belford had passed along Convent Avenue at Fleurbaix to get to the trench in which we were, when he was hit by a bomb and died two days afterwards. He was buried at Wye Farm, Fleurbaix.

Reference: Pte. G. W. Blevins, 3009, 5th Batt. C Co.
9 Plat.

No. 1 Australian, Loquen.

PBCM.



Assistant Secretary
 Australian Branch
 British Red Cross Society,
 Enquiry Bureau

Re your inquiry dated 10/11/16
 which reached me yesterday
 concerning death of Lee C. E. G.
Beiford of 1st Battalion

He was admitted to this Station
 from the 2 Aust Field Ambulance at
 Cam on 19th June suffering with
 severe bomb wounds, abdomen
 He was operated on immediately
 after admission but very little
 hope of recovery was given & he
 died 10/11/16 the same day.

Enclosure note from
 Chaplain Alexander who was in
 hospital the day & who conducted the
 funeral service

Respectfully,
 Major
Edy A. C. G.

54 Victoria Street,
London,
6th July, 1916.

Victoria 8578.

The Adjutant,
No. 1 Casualty Clearing Station,
A.A.M.C.,
A.I.F.

Dear Sir,

Will you be good enough to send us details of the death of Lance-Corporal R.J. Belford, No. 3295, 1st Battalion, who died of wounds in your hospital. His people in Australia have written asking for them and also for the place he was buried in. We know you can have but little spare time, but, perhaps, you can hand our request on to someone who will do it.

With apologies for troubling you,

Yours faithfully,

W F J

25.7.16. ✓

Regarding L/Cpl J E Belford 3255
1st Bn. A.I.F.

who died in the 1st Amd. C.C.S. on 19th June
at 10.45 pm.

I wrote a brief note to next of kin
James Belford, Dorne, via Toronto. N.S.W.
but it may have gone astray.

Belford who was severely wounded
died the same day that he was
admitted here. I saw him before he
died, but he was unable to speak.

On the following day he was buried
in the cemetery here - a quiet
peaceful place, far from the line.

His grave has had a Special Cross
erected over it I understand by
his comrades of the Battalion. A
photograph could be had on
application to the Graves Registration
Commission through me or any
Australian chaplain. I regret that
I cannot furnish further details, for
I saw so little of Corp Belford
before he died.

Arch Alexander, C.F.
1st Australian C.C.S. (Presbyterian)



AUSTRALIAN BRANCH
BRITISH RED CROSS SOCIETY

ENQUIRY BUREAU

GREENHALL BUILDINGS
SHAW & SHAW BUILDERS
CHINA

Telephone No. 8858 Victoria 8858.

54 Victoria Street,
London, S.W.
1st August, 1916.

Filing Copy

Major Campbell,

Adjutant,

1st ^{Australian} Casualty Clearing Station,

B.E.F., FRANCE.

Dear Sir,

We are much obliged for your prompt answer to our enquiry for details concerning the death of No. 3255, L/Cpl. R. J. Belford, 1st Battalion, also ^{of} the trouble you took in obtaining further particulars from the Chaplain. We have sent copies of both letters to L/Cpl. Belford's people, for which we are sure they will be most grateful.

With sincere thanks,

I remain,

Yours faithfully,

H. Beaman

Secretary.

*This was wrongly addressed & sent to British Casualty Station.
Letter was sent on on Sept 15th to Major Campbell
1st Aust. Casualty Clearing Station -*