

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

1717 Private
Leslie Charles Edwin
Beard

8th Battalion



03001048

A.I.F. 8.

BEARD, L.C.E. 1717.
SMITH, C.B. 6347.

K. Sept 20th 1917.

Both these men were buried in shell holes at Passchendaele. I conducted the burial myself. There were seven others buried at the same time. We were under shell fire so there was no ceremony and no crosses were put up.

Inf: Sgt F.P. Masters, 1580.
No. 7 Stat

BOULOGNE. 28.6.1918. SAA

M

8th Battn:

Beard, L.C.E. 1717.

K. 20/9/17.

We were in front of Polygon Wood at our final objective. "Snowy" Beard and 6 others were sitting in a shell hole when a shell landed directly on the hole. I was only three yards away and went straight over immediately afterwards and looked in. With the exception of 2 men all had been blown to pieces and were quite unrecognisable.

8th Battn:

Glough, J.S. Pte. 5671.

A 11. Dartford. 25/8/18.

R.D.B.

M

Post.



8th Battn.
A.I.F.

BEARD.
L.C.E. 1717.

"Killed 20-9-17"

He was of C. Company. XII Platoon. Just behind Polygon Wood on 20th Sept about 2 o'clock in afternoon, was hit by shell in thigh and groin. We were advancing at the time and were close to our objective. I saw him after he was hit, was unconscious and only lived 5 or 10 minutes - died where he fell. That night a party went back from our outpost 20/30 yards away and buried him on the spot in shell hole. The party returned to outpost and told me they had buried him. Lt Larkin ~~MARK~~ of 8th Battn., then L/Cpl, was in burial party. Don't think any mark erected. Knew him as Snowie, came from Melbourne.

Informant: - L/Cpl. H.S. Boliko. 290.
8th Battn. C. Coy. XII Pl.
HARFIELD.

A.D.C.
London.
5-9-18.
S.A.

K.

8th Btn.

BEARD L. C. E.
BAIRD, R.

L.Cpl. 1717
1602

K-A 20-9-17

"I knew Casualty. He was a tall man, about 5'9", well built, fair complexion, about 22 years of age. Known as "Les". Casualty was in the front line at Ypres in a Shell Hole. One of our own shells fell short exploding in the Shell hole killing casualty instantly with 5 other men. I was 10 yds. away at the time and I saw his body immediately afterwards. He was most severely wounded about the head and chest and he was buried in front of the line just near where he fell. I helped to bury him."

Informant:- Pte. W.G. Francis,
No. 6507, 8th Btn.

Private address:- Belmont,
T.C.F. 6/3/19 Coleraine.

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS INFORMATION BUREAU-MELBOURNE.

M
20
17

8th Btn.

BEARD, L. C. E.
Pte. 1717/1602

Killed in action 20/9/17.

"I knew Casualty. He was a man about 5 ft. 7 ins. slightly built, fair complexion, about 27 years of age, known as "Snowy". Casualty had advanced in the front of Zillebeke Farm and was sitting in a shell hole with six or seven other men. I was in the rear of Casualty in another shell hole about 4 yds. away. One of our own shells a 9.2 fell and exploded in the centre of the party mortally wounding Casualty and killing L/Cpl. Cooper and L/Cpl. Williams, Pte. J. Hansen and Y.C. Williams. The stretcher bearers came up and could only take one man and it fell to Pte. Martin's lot to go. They came back later for Casualty but he was dead when they got there. His chief wounds were in the right arm and right leg. He was buried with the other men that were killed in the same shell hole where he fell and I helped to bury him. A cross was erected with his name and number on it. I was an eye-witness."

Private address:- Informant:- L/Cpl. J. H. Ryan,
367 Cardigan St. Carlton. No. 1047, 8th Btn.

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS INFORMATION BUREAU-MELBOURNE.

The Council
of the
A.R.C.

8th Btn.

BEARD.
Pte.

L. C. F.
1717/1602.

Kld. in action 20/9/17.

"I knew Casualty. He was a man of medium build, about 5 ft. 10 ins. fair complexion, about 25 years of age, known as "Snowie". Casualty was in advance at Polygon Wood. He left us at the 8nd objective to go to a pal who was hit. Later as we were returning over the same ground, I saw his body. He was quite dead. I attended to him for a while and then carried on. I do not know where he was buried."

Informant:- Pte. T. L. Tourrier,
No. 7119, 8th Btn.

Private address:-
240 Barker Street,
Hawthorn.

H.A.F.
15/3/19.

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS INFORMATION BUREAU-MELBOURNE.