

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

**2886 Private  
Alexander Connelly**

**55th Battalion**



0780908W

A.I.F. 39.

COMBAT AREA: 2200.  
PARASOLS: A. 3423.

21. Oct. 23rd. 1918.

---

These two men and one other - Pat. Herry - were buried together by a shell in cesses Alley in our trenches near Fiers. They were buried for 48 hours and were then dug out dead and were buried in a shell hole close at hand. All this happened close to where I was standing.

RCP.

Reference: Pte. F. J. Hicks 2420.  
No. 6. A.D.C.D.  
Staples. Jan. 15th. 1917.

S

A.I.P. 55.D.

CONNELLY, A. 2625.

M. Oct. 23. 1916.

---

7 He was killed by my side by a shell at Fiers, while we were in support trenches late in November. I think it was Nov. 23rd. The date given is wrong. He was blown absolutely to pieces. He belonged to III Pl. D.Co. I feel sure he is the man enquired for. He was tall and thin, and of darkish complexion.

Reference: Pte. F.D. Manswaring, A 1172, D.Co.  
No 5 A.D.B.D.  
Staples. 22.1.17.

SA. S

55 Australian I.F.

Connelly, A. 2886

M. Oct. 23rd 1916.

Informant states "I was quite near Alec Connelly (55.D. XIII?) when he was killed on Oct. 23rd at Fiers. We were waiting in the support line to be relieved. He was sitting in a little dugout, when we saw a shell burst right beside him, and he disappeared. He was never really found, as he was blown to pieces. We put a cross up in No Man's Land with his name on, in memory of him."

Eye Witness: Inf. saw the shell burst.

Description: Small chap about 20. Nickname "Alec"

Informant: Pte. Frank Schwind, 1739,  
55 A.I.F. D. XIV.,  
3rd Southern General Hos: Town Hill, Oxford.

Home address: Wagga Wagga, N.S.W. 9

2.2.17.  
H.M. Pickard-Cambridge

56th batt.  
D. Co.,  
A. I. F.,

CONNELLY  
Pte A 2886

"Missiz Oct. 23/16"

Also Connelly had been left sick at Moasco, Egypt when the battalion sailed for France. He rejoined in France about middle of Oct. 16th. The Batt. were in the trenches in front of Bapaume, near Fler's village. Connelly, Steve Donovan and two others named Passmore and Barry were together in the trench about 30 yards from informant and shell burst on this party, and no trace of any of them could be found. Several men went at once to the spot, and informant who was on post duty at the time, went a little later and examined the ground. Informant did not actually see the men blown up, but there can be no doubt of it. Connelly had a brother Pat Connelly who went back to Australia from Egypt.

Reference:- 4443 Pte E. Smithson,  
D. Co., 56th Batt. A. I. F.,  
Southall Hospital,  
7.2.17

London  
10.2.17  
P. C.

S.

55th Batta  
A.I.F.

CONNELLY,  
Alex. 2886

"Missing. 23.10.16."

Killed in Action 23.10.16. previously reported  
Missing.  
Cert. by. A.I.F. HdQrs. 18.8.17.

London.  
22.8.17.

~~OFF. H.~~

3