

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

Lieutenant
Henry Maxwell Colyer

36th Battalion



0780305N

... of shell, dy-
... finished, he then
... of the ...

Storretts, J.G. Pts. 5474.
35rd Batt, ex-56

... 1/5/46

...

M

...

John Barrin.
A.I.A.

COLYER
Lieut. H.M.

"Killed in Action 12-4-18"

At Hangar. Killed by shell. Killed at once. While
in trenches. I saw him killed - he was badly hit. I did
not see him buried, but body was taken out. He was not a
bad little fellow.

Informant: - Fearer. 1821.

W. 12. HARRFIELD.

D.P. Dickson.
London.
12-10-18.
J.E.A.

M.

36th BATTN.

GOLYER
Lieut. R.M.

"KILLED 12-4-18"

Lieut. Golyer was killed on this date whilst leading an attack in conjunction with the French in the village of Hangard (by a shell). He was buried where he fell. We supported the French. I saw him just after he was killed. Death was instantaneous. The ground was gained, and we had success.

Informant - Newell, Lieut.

Home Address:-
Wellington.
N.S.W.

33rd. BATTN.

3rd London Gen. Hosp.
WANDSWORTH.

A.A. Needham
14-10-18
London
1-11-18

P.I.
M.

36th BATTN.
A.I.F.

COOPER
Lieut. R.H.

KILLED 12-1-18

He was in G. Coy. but I did not see the Casualty. I saw him immediately afterwards, then dead, at Haggard Wood. Casualty took place in the morning and he was hit by shrapnel in the head, death being instantaneous. He was in the Trench lines at the time as an interpreter.

I was his batman and knew him well, but cannot say from which State he came. I cannot give any details of Burial, nor can I refer to anyone.

Informant - Geddes. Pte. F.G. 3050
36th Battn. B. Coy.
Srd A.A.H.
DAREFORD.

W. Oman
21-11-18
London
27-11-18
J.E.A.

P.I.
M.

A.I.F. 35th Batta.

COLYER
Henry Maxwell
Lieut.

"KILLED IN ACTION 13.4.18"

Killed in Action 12.4.18
Cert. by A.I.F. HQs 6.12.18

London
6.12.18

P.I.

36th Bn.,
A.I.F.

COLYER,
H.M. Lt.

"Killed 12-4-18."

"I was in 36th Bn., A.I.F. until on its being broken up I was transferred to the 33rd. I heard he was killed at Hanguard Wood near Viller s Bretonneux on 12-4-18, and was buried where hit. I was in the engagement but not near Lt. Colyer. The battalion was broken up at the end of April 1918. The ground was held.

Home address:-
Royal Hotel,
Aberdeen.

Informant:- McGovern, J.S., 2839, Cpl.
33rd Bn., A.I.F.
Forbay, Torquay.
(Very good).

S. Len Gretton, Lt. Cpl.,
London,
19-12-18.

M. & P.I.

36th Battn.
A.I.F.

COOPER,
Lieut. H.K.

"Killed in Action 12-4-18"

Engard, Wood Killed by shell.-at once. I saw
him killed and saw his grave. The location sheet is 62 D
of V.21. 5. 40-30.

Copied from his book.

Informant:- Cpl White. 735A.

D.P. Dickson.
London.
24-12-18.
J.R.A.

M & P I.

36th Battn.
A.I.F.

COLYER
Lieut. R.H.

KILLED 12-4-18

I knew the Lieut. well. He was my Coy. Commander (A) and 3 days prior to his death he had temporarily attached to "B". Half the Battalion including "D" were in close support to the left of Hangard Wood. Fritz attacked in the afternoon between "B" and trench on our right. He was shelling heavily and one caught the Lieut. and killed him instantly. Men who buried him (cannot remember their names) told me they buried him in the rear of the position. His wife wrote me re this casualty and I replied from Reading Hospital about middle of August. He was a schoolmaster in civil life - about 28 - rather short about 5ft 8 or 9.

Informant - Kingsbury.Sgt.
36th Battn.

G.W.
London
20-12-18
H.G.

H.
P.I.

2528 Bttn
A.I.F.

COLYER,
Lieut. H.M.

KILLED 12-4-18.

I was in Birmingham on 14th October and met a man named Geddes (don't know initials) a B.Coy runner who was batman to Lt. Colyer. He told me he had seen Lt. Colyer hit by a shell and killed whilst he was in an adjoining French trench. Geddes was in 1st Southern General Hpl at Birmingham, and could give full particulars.

Informant:- 3697 Pte. H.R.S. Morris.
C.Coy. 35th Bttn.
Dartford.

H.S. Cowan.
London.
14-11-18.
M.I.S.

P.I.
M.

NOTE:- Written Pte. Geddes 6-11-18.

October 11th, 1918.

4996 Pte. H. Johnson.
9th Aust. Fld Amb.
Ward A 10.
3rd Australian Auxiliary Hospital.
DARTFORD.

Dear Sir.

With reference to your enquiry of 9th inst., (through Mr. Kennedy) for Lieut. H.M. COLYER, 36th Battalion, A.I.F. - who is officially reported "Killed in Action" on 12-4-18, we beg to forward the following unofficial report given by 3474 Pte. J.C. Storratt of the same Battalion. He states:- "Mr. Colyer was attached to D. Coy, when he was hit by a piece of shell, dying almost at once. I heard him say; "Go on, I'm finished" he then expired. I know nothing of his burial."

We are doing our utmost to obtain further information concerning him and will advise you as soon as we succeed.

Assuring you of our sympathy and with good wishes for your recovery.

Yours faithfully,

(Miss)

Secretary.

Miss Ryan.

Inquiry

Private N. Johnson 4996
9th Field Ambulance
Ward A.10. Dartford.

Asks.

What information already
gathered concerning

Lieut. J.M. Colyer.
36th Batin. A.I.F. Kapur 12/18

J. M. Kennedy.

an
10.10.18

9 10 18

No. 3 company,
Littlesmoor Camp,
Weymouth.

3-12-18

The Secretary,
Australian Red Cross Socy,
London.

Sir,

Would you please give me
full particulars of the death of
Lieut. H. Bohyer of 36th Battn.,
A.I.F. killed on April 13th last,
and any other information you
may have?

Thanking you in anticipation
Yours etc.

(Pvt) Heddylough 15799
late 10 Aust. Fld Amb.

December 9th, 1918.

15799 Pte. H. L. Clough,
late 10th Field Ambulance,
No 3 Coy. Littlemoor Camp
Weymouth.

Dear Sir,

We regret to inform you that the death in action of
Lieut. H. M. COLYER, 36th Battalion. A.I.F. on 13.4.18. has
been officially confirmed.

We are continuing our enquiries for details of his death
and burial and hope soon to be able to forward you the particulars.

With sincere sympathy in the loss of your friend.

Yours faithfully,

(Miss)

Secretary.

4996 Pte. N. Johnson.
9th Aust. Fld. Amb.
No. 4 Command Depot
Hurdcott.

15799 Pte. H.L. Clough,
late 10th Aust. Fld. Amb.
No 3 Coy. Littlemoor Camp.
No 2 Command Depot.
Weymouth.

December 10th, 1918.

Dear Sir,

With reference to your enquiry for Lieut. H. COLYER, 36th Battalion, A.I.F. who was killed in action on 12/4/18. We beg to inform you of the following unofficial reports we have received about him.

Lt. Newell, 36th Bn, A.I.F. interviewed at the 3rd London General Hospital, Wandsworth stated that Lt. Colyer was killed instantly by a shell on April 4th whilst leading an attack, in conjunction with the French, in the village of Hangard. He was buried at the place of the casualty.

5050 Pte. F.G. Cadden, 36th Battalion, A.I.F. interviewed at the 3rd Australian Auxiliary Hospital, Dartford, stated that he was Lieut. Colyer's batman, but did not witness the casualty. He saw his body immediately after he had been killed instantaneously by a shrapnel wound in the head when in the French lines at Hangard Wood where he was acting as inter-preter.

We are continuing our enquiries and will advise you as soon as any further particulars reach us. With sincere sympathy in the loss of your friend.

Yours faithfully,

(Miss)

Secretary.



No. 3 Company,
Littleport Camp,
Weymouth

10.12.18

Secretary,
Australian Red Cross Socy,
London.

Dear Madam,

I have to acknowledge the receipt
of your letter of 9th. inst. with reference
to the death of Lieut. Harry Colyer late
of 36th Battalion, and to thank you
for all the trouble you have taken and
are still taking.

yours faithfully

Steady Blough

late of 10th Fld. Amb.

4996 Pte. N. Johnson.

9th Fld. Amb. No 4 Command Depot. Hurdcott.

15799 Pte. H.L. Clough,
late 10th Aust. Fld. Amb.
No 3 Coy. Littlemoor Camp.
WEYMOUTH.

January 3rd, 1919.

Dear Sir,

In reference to your enquiry for Lt. H.L. COLYER, 36th Battalion, A.I.F. We beg to inform you that we received an unofficial report from Sgt. Kingsbury - of the same Unit, who states:- "I knew the Lt. well. He was my Coy. Commander (A) and 3 days prior to his death he had temporarily attached to (D) Half the Battalion including (been) D were in close supports to the left of Hangard Wood. Fritz attacked in the afternoon between B and French on our right. He was shelling heavily and one caught the Lt. and killed him instantly. Men who buried him told me they did so in the rear of the position. He was a school master in civil life and about 28 years of age. 5'8 or 9 in height, rather short."

735A Cpl. White stated that he saw Lt. Colyer killed and that he has since seen his grave, the identification of which is Sheet 62.D.V.21.B.40.80.

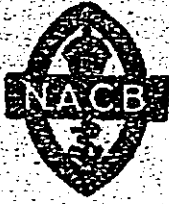
We are now closing our enquiries as we feel we are unlikely to obtain any further particulars should we do so we will advise you.

With sincere sympathy in the loss of your friend.

Yours faithfully,

(Miss)

Secretary.



Name of Unit _____
Camp A. A. M. C. Depot
Address Louvain Salisbury
Date Jan 3rd 1919

Dear Miss Deakin

Many thanks for
your trouble in enquiring as to how my
friend Lieut. ^{W.} Colyer met his death.
I am leaving for my home in dear old England
next week so will be able to let his
people know. They could not seem to get
any news concerning him.
With every good wish for the New Year.

I remain
yrs faithfully.

W. C. Johnson
9th Field Ambulance