

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

**Major  
Leslie Jack Coulter**

**3rd Tunnelling Company**



0810913M

A.I.F. 3rd Tunnelling Co.

COULTER  
Major L.J.

"Ill - Oct - France"

Admitted 3rd London Gen. Hosp 23-7-16 - gun shot wound right  
arm and back

Cert. by Hospital Index

Rejoined unit from Wounded 13-9-16

Cert. by letter from 3rd Echelon 20-11-16.

London  
21-11-16

P.I.

3rd Tunn.Coy.  
A. I. F.

Coulter.  
Major L.J.

"Killed 26.6.17"

Refer to Pte. Angel 3rd Tunnelling Company Headquarters who can  
give particulars of his death.

Witness:-

Cpl. A.E.Brew 1218 3rd Tunn.Coy.  
3rd Aust.Aux.Hospital.  
Dartford.

W.Oman.

London.  
4.8.17.

P.I.

A.I.F. Tunnelling 3

COULTER, Major L.J.

K. June 26/17 Det D & B

I knew him well. We had done our work and then he said to us "Well boys, lets have a shot at Fritz, Just after he had said this, he got shot in the mouth and killed. He is buried at Hersin. We all went to his funeral.

Informant: Sapper F. Quintrell. 5813  
No. 7 C.C.

BOULOGNE. 10.8.17.

RAOI

P. 11

Havre

10th August. 1917.

AUSTRALIAN TUNNELLING Co.  
3rd. Co.

COULTER, Major L.J.

<sup>29</sup>  
K. June 29th. 1917. Det. D/S.

I knew him well; he was our O.C. for the past 17 months and was loved and revered by all who knew him. I was not present when he was killed, but I heard all the particulars from Sapper Wilson, G. of D. Co., who I saw at the 11 Convalescent Camp in Busby. He told me that while we were mining, the Infantry attacked and Major Coulter with one or two others followed them looking for shirts and was shot through the forehead. His body was recovered the next day and buried at ~~Herrin~~ about three miles from Hocux les Mines. There are about 50 others buried there.

Informant: Corpl. Atterton, F.B. 4225  
No. 3 Mining Co.  
Australian Tunnelling Co.  
Australian Camp, Ronelles.

Written by Spr Wilson L. de D.  
20.8.17.

P.1.

3rd Tunn. Coy.  
A. I. F.

Coulter.  
Major L. J.

"Killed in Action 29.6.17"

I happened to be present with Major Coulter when he got killed and me and some of the squad carried him back to our own lines from the German lines. This happened on the 28th of June and on the 29th he was brought to his own Headquarters and he was buried in the Soldiers Cemetery at a place called Neaux Le Mines that is about 4 miles from Bethune Railway Station. Major Coulter was a fine built man about 5'10" in height inclined to be fair.

Letter from:-

Cpl. E. E. Jackson 1051.  
3rd Tunn. Coy. R. & C. H.  
Winchester Hospital.  
4.7.17.

London,  
11.8.17.

P.I.

3rd Tunn. Coy.  
A. I. F.

Coulter.  
Major L. J.

"Killed 26.6.17"

I saw him killed at Loos just after returning from a successful raid on the German trenches. He asked one of his officers to take the raiding party back as he was tired, but anxious to have another shot at the Boche. He put his head above the parapet to have a shot and a piece of shell hit him killing him instantly. He was buried at Leau Le Miers. I was at his burial, saw his grave and it was marked with a cross, bearing his rank, name and unit.

Witness:-

Pte. H.L. McAlinden 6827  
3rd Tunn. Coy.  
3rd Aust. Aux. Hospital.  
Dartford.

W. Oman.

London.  
13.8.17.

P.I.

3rd Coy. Tunn. Corps.  
A. I. F.

Coulter.  
Major

"Killed 26.6.17"

Major Coulter was buried at Hersin Cemetery after being killed in a raid at Loos and a photograph of the grave will eventually be sent to his next of kin. His death was instantaneous, bullet in the mouth, died at once. Ground was held.

Eye-witness: No.

Description:- 5'10", fair, brown eyes.

Informant:- Lieut. Trebilcock,  
Tunn. Corps, A.I.F.

W. Arnold Davis.

No. 3 London General Hospital.  
A. INWARD Wandsworth.

London.  
20.8.17.

P.I.

3rd Tunnelling Coy.  
A.I.F.

<sup>T</sup>  
COULSER,  
L.J. Major.

"Killed 26.6.17."

He was killed during a raid on the German trenches. He was hit in the mouth and died instantly. Refer to Cpl. Bockside, 3rd Tunnelling Coy who is still in France, and who was with him when he was killed. I went to his funeral at ~~Villeneuve~~ <sup>Uxelles</sup> near Bethune, but I could not say if his grave was marked. He was very popular among his men.

Witness. Sppr. A. Tucker. 4497

3rd Tunnelling Coy,  
3rd A.A. Hospital,  
Dartford.

W. Omer.  
London.  
20.8.17.

Note written Epl. Bockside,  
20.8.17.

P.I.

3rd AUB. FUHN. CO.

COULTER Maj. L.S.J.  
K. 25th June 1917. Det. D/B.

ditto.

Griffin F. No. 1283.  
M. 28th June 1917.

I saw them both killed at Loos. We were on a raiding party to blow up his saps. After we came back they began bombing and the Major and Griffin were both sniped when they got up too high to take shots. I saw them fall and I was at the funeral. They were buried in a cemetery at Harsin just outside Rosuz les Mines, between it and Berlin. Major Coulter was a very good officer. I did not know Griffin except by name.

Inf:- Sapper Quacker No. 1136.  
Amb. F. 'Stad Antwerpen'.  
Calais. 17.8.17. - OR.

Note:- This was confirmed by two or three others in the Company but who however did not see the occurrence.  
OR.



Aust. Engrs. Tunnelling Co.

Coulter. Major L.J.  
3 Coy.

K June 26/17 Det D/B

"Major Coulter was shot through the forehead by a sniper while in a raiding party in the German lines near Loos in June. I was in billets at the time but was told the details by my mates. He was carried out by Sapper Burns (whose nickname was "Poet Burns") and I was present at his funeral. He was buried in the Hersin(?spelling) cemetery near New Amiens. I knew him well. Capt. Langdon of 3 Tunnelling Co. A.I.F. as well as Burns (of the same Co.) mentioned above, could give all particulars."

Eye Witness:-- No. Sapper Burns (known as "Poet Burns") 3 Tunnelling Co. Aust. Engrs.

Description:--

Informant:-- Sapper H. Laidlaw. 5844.  
Aus. Engrs. Tunnelling Co. 3 Coy  
Richmond Mil. Hos.,  
Grove Road.

AUG 18/17.  
A.L. Campbell.

Ed. P. 1-

Havre

30th Aug. 1917.

TUNNELLING COMPANIES, A.I.F. COULTER, Major L.J.  
3rd Co.

R. 26.6.17. Det. D/B.

I knew him well. He was our Major, and his initials are as stated. He was killed at Hill 70 at Leos while he was out on a raid. I was at his funeral. He was buried near Herain in the French Cemetery by a Military Chaplain the day after he was killed. I saw the cross being made.

Informant: Sergt. R.J. Murphy, 4214  
3rd Tunnelling Co., Australians,  
Havre Hospital.

L ds D.

ca.

P.1.

Australian Engineers. Tunnelling Co.

Coulter Major L.J.  
3rd Coy.

K. June 26th 1917. Det: D. & B.

"I confirm Cpl. ~~Robertson~~ Robertson's report about Major Coulter's death and burial in every detail, and I was present at his funeral."

Eye Witness: Yes.

Description:

Informant:-- Sapper T.G. Jones, 5027,  
Australian Engl Tunnelling Coy. 3rd Coy.  
5th Southern General Hosp:  
Milton, Southsea.

Home address:-- William Strat,  
Perth, W.Australia.

25.8.17.  
E.C.Hughes.

col -  
Suff P.1

Australian Engineers.  
No. 3 Tunnelling Coy.

Coulter, Major L.J.

K. June 26th 1917. Det: D. & B.

"On the Loos Front, in June we were out in a raid, and got to the German lines when Major Coulter was shot through the head by a sniper's bullet. We buried him on the following day at Hersin, about 4 miles from Loos. It is a nice cemetery and a lot of our men are buried there. A cross was put up on the Major's grave. He was a good officer and very popular."

Eye Witness: Yes.

Description: About 5ft.10, lins, medium build, very fair, medium build, clean shaved, athletic.

Informant:-- Cpl. T. Robertson, 4245,  
Australian Engineers, No. 3 Tunnelling Co.,  
5th Southern General Hosp:  
Milton, Southsea.

Home address:-- 9, Soroya Street,  
Boulder, W.Australia.

25.8.17.  
E.S.Hughes.

col -  
Suff P.1

1st AUST. TUNN. Co.

COULTER Maj. L.J.

K. 26th June 1917 Det D/B.

I did not see him killed; he was sniped in the trench. It was the night after he came back from Elighty. About 40 went over on a raid and it was just as they were getting back into our trench that he was hit.

I was at his funeral at Hersin where we were billeting.

Inf:- Pte waterhouse No. 5019.

Amb. P. 'Brighton'.

Calais. 27.8.17. GR.

P.1  
Ed. Suff

A.I.F. No. 3 Tunn. Co.

<sup>29.</sup>  
K. 26.6.17.

COULTER Major L.J.

We were making a little stunt to blow up some enemy saps on Hill 70, near Loos, when the Major was shot in the mouth. I did not see him killed but saw his body next day. He was buried at Hersin? where all the Tunneling Co. are buried. It is an old French Cemetery, about 1 1/2 miles from Noeux-les-Mines.

BH.

Reference: Pte. E. J. Mitchell. 5375.  
St. John's Hpl.

Staples.  
27.8.17.

P.1.

Ed. Suff

3rd AUST. TUN. CO.

Major L. J. COULTER.

<sup>29.</sup>  
K. 26.6.17. Det. D & B.

Informant said Major Coulter was killed in a raid in front of Loos. He did not see the casualty but says details could be given by Cpl. Robertson of the same Coy., who is now in England wounded, ex No.18 General Hospital. Major Coulter was buried in a cemetery near Noeux le s Mines with the tunnellers and next to the grave of Wentworth of 3 Coy. Informant himself saw the cross at H.Q. ready to go up to the grave. He described Major Coulter as a most daring man.

Reference: Sapper J. A. Couldrey, 5771.  
No.9 General, Rouen. 28.8.17.

DLE.

P.1.

led. suff. ✓

AUSTRALIAN 3rd Tunnelling Coy.

COULTER, Major L.J.

<sup>29.</sup>  
K. June 26th 1917. Det D & B.

I was present at this officer's funeral, and in fact all the company was there. He was buried at Hersin Cemetery, where all our fellows are buried. I did not see him killed, but he was shot in the face by a sniper. Some of our fellows were down laying a mine and he was there with a rifle sniping, and he put up his head to shot but got the bullet first. He was a very good officer and much liked.

Informant: Sapper Ridgewell. 4460.

On leave,

BOULOGNE. 29.8.17.

EFH

P.1.

led. suff.

AUST. ENGINEERS. 8 Tunn. Coy.

COULTER, M. J. L. J.

E. 28 June, 1917.

One of my mates, Cpl. Boxetti, told me that he helped to carry Major Coulter down. There was a big funeral but I did not go to it and don't quite know where he was buried but Boxetti would know. He was there. Just at the moment he is on leave in England.

RBA.

References:- Reed. #4785.  
No. 53 Gen. Hosp.

P. I.

Staples  
20.8.17.

*led. suff.*

3rd Tunn. Coy.  
A. I. F.

Coulter.  
Major L. J.

"Killed 26.6.17"

Refer to Cpl. Jackson 1056 3rd Tunn. Coy. c/o County Hospital Winchester who carried him to our lines. He was shot through the mouth, death instantaneous. Do not know place of burial. Casualty at Loos.

Witness:-

Cpl. W. Wray 1206  
3rd Tunn. Coy.  
3rd Aust. Aux. Hospital.  
Dartford.

W. Oman.

London.

4.8.17.

Note Written Cpl. Jackson 2.8.17.

P.I.

3rd Tunnelling Coy  
A.I.F.

COULTER  
Major L.J. D.S.O.

"Killed in Action 29.6.17"

A letter which you wrote on 28.8.17 and addressed to Cpl "Rockside" has been handed to me for reply. The Cpl's name is "Brocksette and not" as given.

The death of Major L. J. Coulter D.S.O. was a great blow to us all and to myself particularly. The poor fellow was shot by a sniper and fell dead without uttering a word. He was buried with the fullest Military honours which we could give him. The whole Company turned out, as all were so fond of him. He was buried in a Soldier's Cemetery and a cross is erected over his grave.

It is somewhat difficult to give you an accurate description of Major Coulter's personal appearance. He was a rather tall slight man about 5ft 9" high, clean shaven, small and rather round features, and fair complexion. A lovable nature and a pleasant conversationalist.

Yours sincerely,

Victor West, Capt.  
3rd Sept. 1917.

PJ

Ack F.M. 13.9.17

London  
20/9/17

3rd Tunnelling Coy  
A.I.F.

COULTER  
L.J. Major

"Killed 9/6/17"

Major Coulter had been on leave. The night he came back he went over with some men in the third wave. Coming back over the parapet he was sniped through the mouth with an explosive bullet. He was killed instantly. Sapper Burns in the same Company carried him out with the help of some of the others. He was buried in a Cemetery at near on the day after he was killed. I attended the funeral with the other sappers in the Company. Nearly all the Company went. A wooden cross with his name and rank stands on his grave. The Sappers are buried in a line near him. A man named Griffen was killed the same night, and I believe he is the Griffen 1283, whose name is in the book as M. June 28th 1917. Informant was eye witness of Funeral.

Description - Tall, Slight build. Great athlete. Leader in everything.

Informant:- Robert George Waterhouse, Sapper 5019,  
3rd Tunnelling Coy, A.I.F.

Home address:-

14th Howard Street,  
South Fremantle  
West Australia

Sydney Vernon:  
20/9/17

P1



Major L. J. Culter. U.S.O.

3<sup>rd</sup> Tunnelling Coy.

A. I. F.

see under :

Dickson. Capt. R. J. A. I. F.

66<sup>th</sup> BATT.

ackd  
9.5.17  
E.L.

Major COULTER

3rd Tunnelling Co A.S.

K.A. 29.6.17

Winchester

To the Secretary of  
Wounded Missing

P.O. R.H.C.H. Hospital

3

4-7-17

Inquiry Branch Aust Branch B.R.C.S

54 Victoria St London S.W.

Dear Lady

yours to hand of the 2<sup>nd</sup> instant  
and only to pleased to give you all the information  
that I possible can for I happened to be present  
with Major Coulter when he got killed & me &  
some of the squad carried him back to our own  
lines from the german lines this happened on the  
28 of June & on the 29 he was brought to his own  
headquarters & he was buried in the soldiers  
Cemetery at a place called Cheaux-De-Mines that is  
about four miles from Bethune Railway Station  
Major Coulter was a fine built man about 5-foot 10  
inches in height in line to be <sup>fair</sup> fear this is all  
the information that I can give trusting.

It will be satisfactory yours sincerely

1051 Lt J.S. Jackson

3rd Tunnelling Coy

please excuse bad  
writing as I could on  
head

ack  
F.M. 13.9.17

Somewhere in France  
3<sup>rd</sup> Sept 1917.

Miss Vera Heathin  
Secretary  
Australian Red Cross Society  
54 Victoria St  
London S.W.1.

Major L. J. COULTER  
3 Tunnell C

Dear Miss Heathin

A letter which you wrote on 28.8.17 + addressed to Capt "Bocheide" has been handed to me for reply. The Corporal's name is Bocheide and not as given, I would rather that their enquiry had been addressed direct to the company as you would then have had a more speedy reply possibly. Anyhow we will let that pass.

The death of Major L. J. Coulter, D.S.O. was a great blow to us all, & to myself particularly. The poor fellow was shot by a sniper and fell dead without uttering a word. He was buried with the fullest military honours which we could give him. The whole company turned out as all were so fond of him. He was buried in a Soldier's Cemetery & a cross is erected

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over his grave.

It is somewhat difficult to give you an accurate description of Major Coullie's personal appearance. He was a rather tall slight man about 5' 9" high clean shaven small and rather <sup>round</sup> features, and fair complexion. A lovable nature and a pleasant conversationalist.

Yours sincerely,

W. Fortescue

14.9.17

Capt. Victor WRST  
3 Tunnell. Co. A.I.F. B.R.F.

Dear Sir,

We have to thank you for your letter in answer to our enquiry, concerning: Major L.J. COULTER D.S.O. A.I.F.

3 Tunnell: Co.  
made to Cpl. Bocksette (We regret that the B.R.C.S. searchers rendered this name in another form - as frequently happens- but as we have no means of checking the soldiers' names we are obliged to copy from reports sent us)

Our reason for addressing our enquiry to the Corporal was that a man of the 3rd. Tunnell: Co. now in Hospital in England informed one of the Red Cross searchers that Corporal "Bockside" was with Major Coulter when he was killed and could give us definite details: and we are always anxious to obtain the eye-witness details that mean so much to our enquirers.

The information you have sent will be of much assistance to us and of great value to our enquirers, who will be comforted in their loss to learn how much he was esteemed by all.

Please accept our sincere sympathy in the loss of your friend.

Yours faithfully,

Secretary

V. D  
L.S.