

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

2149 Private  
Hugh Alexander  
Conley

47th Battalion



0780706S

Wm. H. H. H.  
A. I. E.

Wm. H. H. H.  
A. I. E.

2149.

Whereabouts

Killed in Action 27-3-18. Previously reported Wounded.  
Cert. by A.I.E. Hqs 18-6-18.

London.  
18-6-18.

P. I.

A. I. F. 47th Bn.

CONLEY, E. A. 2149.

K. March 27/18. Det. D/B.

He was killed instantly by the same shell which also wounded me at Morlanecourt, between Laverville and Albert. We had been marching for 4 days from another front and were at once sent into the line and had to stand several counter-attacks. It was at this place that we stopped the German push. I knew him well and was in the same Plat. He was a Rugby footballer, strong, about 5'8", dark and came from Queensland in 1916.

Reference: Pte. L. G. Fisher, 4039, D. XV,

No. 11 Stationary, Rouen, 19.8.18.

ABHH.

J. A.

P. 1

47th Batta.  
A.M.R.

CONLEY.  
H.A. 2149.

"Killed 21-3-18"

Conley was killed at the other side of Albert. Amiens Road between Albert and Dernancourt by a shell. I saw his body probably 20/30 minutes afterwards covered up then, and evidently had been killed outright. Did not look for his wounds. We were going up to the railway line to relieve Seaforth Highlanders. I think he would be buried as he was well behind the line. He was an old cobbler and used to play football with me in battalion. He came from N. Queensland.

Informant:- Hayes.A.F4520.

47th Batta.C.Co.

Hut 10.WESTHAM.

W.A.Rand.  
London.  
5-9-18.  
S.A.

P I.

A.I.W. 47th Battn.

CONLEY  
H.A. 2149

"KILLED 27/3/18"

I was right alongside of him when he was killed instantly at Dernancourt on March 28th. We were being hurried up to stop the German advance and had been marching all night. After half an hours rest we went on again and were heavily shelled. We were halted for shelter in a gully about 3 p.m. when a shell fell near killing Pte Conley and wounding Pte Finsel (who died after). I got a splinter from the same shell through my haversack. Pte. Conley was badly knocked about. His name was Hughie Conley. That would be about his number 2149. He came from Queensland. His age about 25. He was in D Coy. XV. He was a well built man and smart looking and he played football with the Battalion

Informant:- Pte. J.H. Gilham 7275,

I have read above, I was 50 yards away at the time. I went over when the shell landed and saw the body. It was quite recognisable and the above account is correct. He worked on a farm - I think it was his parent's

Informant:- Pte W.H. Pomeroy 2482,

P.S. At the time he was hit he was helping to bind up another man and

A.I.P. 47th Batten.

CONLEY  
E.A. 3149

#27

Sgt. Warfield and Pte Pines were helping. Pte Warfield was killed outright  
by the same shell.

Pte O.R. Gilham.

PER

London  
17/9/18.

SR

P.I.

47th Batten  
A.I.F.

CONLEY.  
Hughie.A. 2149.

"Killed in Action 27-3-18"

I saw Conley buried on the night of the 27th at 11.p.m.  
about 10 yards from where he was killed within a mile of Albert.  
I had a good look at him before he was buried because I knew  
him well.

Informant:- Harris.William, 2290.Pte.  
47th Battalion. A.I.F.  
Ampton Hospital.  
SUFFOLK.

O.H.Hawkins  
London.  
9-11-18.  
H.G.

Home Address  
Euri Creek Hotel,  
Via Bowen  
N. Queensland.

P I.

Dear Madam,

June 13<sup>th</sup> 18

Dear Madam,

I would be very much obliged if you could let me know at earliest whether my Cousin 2149 Pte. Hugh Conley has been killed. He "belonged" to D Coy 44<sup>th</sup> Battalion but for some time I have heard nothing of him. Please address reply to A. I. F. War Chess Club, St. Sepulchre Rd. London.

Thanking you in anticipation  
Yours Truly  
6301 Sig. L. Dilcher



PORTSMOUTH

LETTER CARD

9.15 AM

15 JUN 1915



Secretary Red Cross Society

Australian Branch

Headquarters

86 Grosvenor Pl

S.W. 1

London

HIGH COMMISSIONER  
FOR AUSTRALIA  
15 JUN 1918  
AUSTRALIA HOUSE,  
LONDON, W.C. 2.

1918

K/118

14TH 1920

James

6301 L. Pitcher

NEW 11-2 Warrent Club

Horseferry Road

S421

19.6.18

STATEMENT OF

in relation to

Dear Sir

We regret to inform you  
that 2149. P<sup>th</sup> Hugh Abernethy  
47<sup>th</sup> Bn. A.S.F. was killed in  
action on 27.3.18. I am sure

as you so well know  
we will make further enquiries  
for details of his death burial -

With sincere sympathy in the loss of  
your friend  
Yours faithfully  
J. H. H.

Report should always be written in ink on separate paper.

HOSPITAL 3 = Southern General, New College Garden

Oxford

Full in exactly as List.	SURNAME.	Christian Name.	Regtl.No.	Rank
	Guthrie	G.A.A.	4503	
	SURNAME	Christian Name.	Regtl.No.	Rank
	Christian	Steven	2125	Ox

STATEMENT OF

(to be taken in

NOTE.

In all cases state fully what informant says he saw or heard and give DATE AND PLACE of occurrence.

43

saw a man called Guthrie (54.C) been killed, about April 9, near in reserves. He was hit by a bullet. He was buried I believe at grave."

PLEASE ALSO ANSWER

1. Was Informant Eye-Witness? ☒
2. If ☒
3. Was the ground held or lost? ☒ held
4. If ☒ (a) ☒ (b)
5. Did Informant know Christian Name, Initials or No. of man enquired about? ☒ only surname
6. Was the name ☒
7. Give Informant's description of man enquired about—any nickname, marks, scars, etc. ☒ one once January 14. 5 13 PM.
8. Searcher's opinion of Informant's accuracy and intelligence ☒ quite intelligent

Reports should always be written very clearly in ink, or typewritten.

July 3rd 18.



6301 Sig. Co. her  
9th Bn.

409 Camp

201 Command Depo

Sutton, Tenn.

To The Secretary,

Dear Madam,

Thanks

very much for your communication of June 19<sup>th</sup>  
concerning my Cousin <sup>2149 Pte</sup> Hugh Alex

Conley <sup>4th</sup> Bn. R.I.F. who was killed

on 24-3-18. I would be very grateful to  
you if you could make further enquiries  
as to his death and burial as I should  
like to know where he was buried etc.

He was a jolly fine chap, a man in  
the true sense of the word and I am  
rather knocked by the loss.

Thanking you for your sympathy  
and for the trouble you are taking in  
enquiries.

Yours Sincerely

L. Pilcher

September 5th, 1918.

6301 Sign. L. Pilcher  
9th Bttn. A.I.F.  
No 9 Camp.  
No 1 Command Depot.  
Sutton Verry.

Dear Sir.

In further answer to your enquiry for -

2149 Pte. H.A. CONLEY. 47th Battalion. A.I.F.

We beg to inform you of unofficial evidence given by 4039 Pte. L. G. Fisher of the same unit when we interviewed in No 11 Stationary Hospital, B.E.F. He stated "Pte. Conley was killed instantly by the same shell which also wounded me at Morlancourt, between Lavieville and Albert. We had been marching for 4 days from another front and were at once sent into the line and had to stand several counter attacks. It was at this place that we stopped the German push. I knew him well and was in the same Platoon. He was a Rugby footballer, strong, about 5'8", dark and came from Queensland in 1916."

We are continuing our enquiries and as soon as we receive further information we shall let you know as we realise how anxious you must be.

With our sincere sympathy in your loss.

Yours faithfully,

(Miss) *Lpw*  
Secretary.

2149  
H A Conley  
47 Balm  
Grateful  
C. W.



Signal School  
1st L. B.

Sutton Deny  
1st W. L.

Dear Miss Deakin,

Sept 16, 18.

Thanks very much for  
your communication of 5th in reply to my  
enquiry concerning the death of Ste. H. A.  
Conley 47 Bm.

2149

It is very good of you to go to so much  
trouble in a case like this and I am  
extremely grateful to you for the information  
I have already received which will enable  
me to find his grave and also communi-  
cate with his parents, who no doubt will  
be somewhat consoled to hear some little  
news of his last resting place.

Once again thanking you very  
sincerely.

I am

Yours Respectfully

6301 Sig. L. Diller

9th Bm. A. I. H.

September 17th, 1918.

6301 Sign. L. Pilcher.  
9th Bn. A.I.F.  
No 9 Camp.  
No 1 Command Depot.  
Sutton Verry.

Dear Sir.

In further answer to your enquiry for - 21 42 Pte.  
H.A. CONLEY, 47th Battalion, A.I.F. We beg to inform you of  
an unofficial report given by - 4520 Pte. A.F. Hayes, of the  
same unit when interviewed in Westham Camp, Weymouth.

He stated :- "Conley was killed on the other side of  
Albert - Amiens Road between Albert and Dernancourt by a shell.  
I saw his body - probably 20/30 mins afterwards. He was covered  
up then and evidently had been killed outright. We were going up  
to the Railway Line to relieve Seaforth Highlanders.

I think he would be buried as he was well behind the line.  
He was an old cobbler and used to play football with me in the  
Battalion. He came from N. Queensland.

Should we receive further information of Pte. Conley's  
death we shall let you know and trust that it will be some  
consolation to have this further assurance of his instantaneous  
death.

Assuring you of our sincere sympathy.

Yours faithfully,

(Miss)

Secretary.

P.A.W -



6301, Sign. L. Pilcher,  
9th Battn., A.I.F.,  
B.E.F. France.

6th November 1918.

Dear Sir,

In further answer to your enquiry for ~~2149 Pte. H.A. Conley, 47th Battn., A.I.F.~~ we beg to inform you of an unofficial report given by 4520 Pte. A.P. Hayes of the same Unit when interviewed in Westham Camp, Weymouth.

He stated:- "Conley was killed on the other side of Albert - Amiens Road between Albert and Dernancourt by a shell. I saw his body - probable 20/30 minutes afterwards. He was covered up then and evidently had been killed outright. We were going up to the Railway line to relieve Seaforth Highlanders.

I think he would be buried as he was well behind the line. He was an old bopper and used to play football with me in the Battalion. He came from N. Queensland.

Should we receive further information of Pte. Conley's death, we shall let you know and trust that it will be some consolation to have this further assurance of his instantaneous death.

Assuring you of our sincere sympathy.

Yours faithfully,

(Miss)

Secretary. *Law*



I am so glad to hear  
 from you and hope you  
 are all well. I am  
 well and hope you  
 are all the same. I  
 am so glad to hear  
 from you and hope  
 you are all well. I  
 am well and hope  
 you are all the same.

Yours Respectfully  
Wm L. Gendall