

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

5124A Sergeant
William David
Littlewood

47th Battalion



16108080

A.I.F. 47th Batta

L/Cpl. Wm. David 5124

LITTLEWOOD

"REPATRIATED PRISONER OF WAR"

Arrived Dover 22.12.18

Cert. by List from A.I.F. Hqs 23.12.18

London
26.12.18

OFF. H.
P.I.

47th Battn.
A. I. M.

Littlewood. L.Col. W.D.	5124A.
Cullen. A.S.	2405A.
Brampton. L.Cpl. C.E.	3246A.
Leahy. B.	111A.
McLeod. Cpl. W.H.	2777A.

"Missing. 11..4.17."

I was with all these men in dug-outs opposite Bullecourt and saw them all wounded by shell or bullet where they had to be left on our retirement. They will either be Prisoner of War or killed by enemy. I got away, but was wounded in our own line later in the day. They were all A Coy and Cullen and Leahy were in my Pl.No 2.

Witness:-

J.H.H.Owens. 1714.
47th Battn.

L.P.S.

Dartford.

London.
25.5.17.

(This witness is quite sure of his facts.)

Off.H.
P.I.
~~SPYER~~
Off.H.
Off.H.
Off.H.

47th Battn.
A Coy.
A. I. F.

Littlewood.
L/Cpl. W. D. 5124.

"Missing 2.5.17."

Littlewood was hit in the back of the neck by a sniper at Bullecourt, he was trying to rescue a wounded man at the time. He seemed to be bleeding pretty freely but could walk. He was put in a dugout and I saw him there later on. The Germans retook this ground so he may be Prisoner of War.

Witness:-

Pte. C. W. Simpson. 5245.
47th Battn. A Coy.
Dartford.

P.C.

London.
31.5.17.

F.I.
Off.M.

47th Battn.
A. I. F.

Littlewood.
L/Cpl. W.D. 5124.

"Missing 11.4.17."

Was in A Coy. He went out of the trench at Bullecourt to bring in some wounded, and was sniped through the head, and died in about 20 minutes. I saw him after he was hit. I don't know whether he was buried. He was tall, and dark. 29-30 years old.

Witness:-

R. Bock. 2963.
47th Battn.
Dartford.

W.G.J.

London.
1.6.17.

F.I.
Off.M.

47th A. I. F.
No. 1 Lewis Gun Section.

Littlewood, L/Cpl. W.D., 5124,
A. Company,

M. April 11th 1917.

"I came over from Australia with L/Cpl. Littlewood. His Company and mine were in an attack together at Bullecourt. A. Coy., had to retire, my Company being sent over to support the 14th Battalion during a German counter attack. Knowing him well, I made all enquiries, and learnt he was left on the field. He was shot in the neck whilst carrying a wounded Sergeant, and he was mentioned by his officer. It was not known whether he died or not. Enquiries were also made at the dressing station."

Eye Witness: As above.

Description:

Informant:-- L/Cpl. G.H. Dry, 5079,
47th A.I.F., No. 1 L.G.S., D.Co., 16 Pln.
Queen's Hospital,
Birmingham.

Home address:-- 185, Albion Street, Surrey Hill,
Sydney.

9.6.17.
J.Jervis.

P.H.
Ed.

P.W.
Ed.

47th Batt, *A Coy*
A.I.F.

Littlewood,
L/Cpl Wm. David 5124

"Missing & Wounded 2.5.17"

Prisoner of War - Interned at Lazarett, Zerpst, Anhalt,
Cert, by information from letter, received by Mr C. A Seeger,
28, Bankfield Drive, Nab Wood, Shipley, Nr Bradford Yorks
Who had received a Post-Card from Man - saying "He is wounded in the
head, not serious"

London
11.6.17.

Off M & P.I.

47th A. I. F.

L/Cpl. W. D. LITTLEWOOD. 524.

Missing 11.4.17.

At Lagnicourt during the attack he was hit by H.C. Fire in the neck. He was put into one of the dug outs. Afterwards there were constant attacks and counter attacks and I never heard any more of what happened to him.

Reference: Pte. W. J. Lyon, 2125.

No.12 General, Rouen. 11.6.17.

RS.

W.D.
R.L.
R.W.
L.D.

47th A.I.F.

Littlewood L/Cpl. W.D. 5124,

(M. Apl. 11th 1917)

"Littlewood's brother who is in the same Batt. told me that his brother was taken prisoner at Bullycourt on April 11th".

Eye-witness:

Description:

Informant: Pte. L. Vogler 5206,
47th A.I.F.,
War Hospt.,
Duston,
Northampton.

*W.H. McCall
R.I.
R.W.
Bd*

June 13th 1917,
G. McKinnell.

47th A.I.F.

Littlewood W.D. 5124

(M. Apl. 11/17)

"Littlewood was shot through the neck but not badly hurt he could walk a bit but he was put in a dug out in the 1st German line at Bullycourt together with McLeod. The Germans surrounded us and we had to retire. He might be taken prisoner.

Eye-witness: Yes of his wound.

Description:

Informant: Pte. W.H. Kieve 3347,
47th A.I.F.,
War Hospt.,
Duston, Northampton.

*W.H. McCall
R.I.
R.W.
Bd*

June 13/17,
G. McKinnell.

47th A.I.F.

Littlewood L/Cpl. W.D. 5124
A. Coy.

(M. Apl. 11/17)

"I was in the fight at Bullecourt April 11/17 when most of A. Coy. were captured owing to the Bombs running short, and I could not at the distance distinguish individuals but I heard from his brother that W.D. Littlewood was among the captured".

Eye-witness: Yes, told by Jack Littlewood, brother was at Messines when I left.

Description: About 5 ft 8, 34 or 35 years of age, dark wiry man, comes from Gondwindi, Queensland.

Informant: Pte. J. Turke 5041,
47th A.I.F., C. Coy.,
Graylingwell Hospt.,
Chichester.

Home address: Lower Burdekin,
Ayr,
Queensland.

June 16/17,
v. Beaumont.

01/01/17
11/17
P.W.
2/17

47th Batt,
A.I.F.

Littlewood,
L/Cpl. Wm, David 5124.

"Prisoner of War"

Captured Bapaume, 11.4.17 - Reported Limburg

Cert, by information from German List dated 16.6.17

Transferred Zerbst,

Cert by information from German List dated 20.6.17

London
17.7.17

Off M. & P.I.

47th Batt,
A. I. F.

Littlewood,
L/Cpl. Wm. David, 5124

"Prisoner of War "

Reported German List dated 8.11.17 - Transferred Gardelegen
from Zerbst

London 3.12.17

Off M & P.I.

Extract from Statement made by -

No. 5124. Lance Corporal. LITTLEWOOD. W.D. No. 1. Platoon.
"A" Coy. 47th. Battalion. A.I.F.

Captured 11.4.17. Place BULLECOURT.

" No. 2777. Corporal. W.H. McLEOD. 47th. Battalion.
This man died of wounds on the Red Cross Train and was
buried in VALENCIENNES. He was one of the bravest men I ever
knew. "

not sent on

J.S.H.

M.

Answered
15-5-17

28 Bankfield Drive

Nah wood

Slipley

nr Bradford

14/5/17

Sir

I am very anxious to get further particulars about a connection of mine

Private W. D. Littlewood 5124

47th Battalion

A Coy.

A. I. V. Home

who according to information here up to the present, has been seriously wounded & was taken charge of by the British Red Cross stretcher party but unfortunately none of them have been heard of.

The Littlewoods parents in Australia have cabled me for all particulars & I have cabled them back all I know, only it would be a great relief if I could get more definite

information for their sake -

My Son Sergeant Seeger now
at Codford with the Australian
forces is Brother in Law to
Pte. Littlewood & naturally
am doing all I can for
the boys -

Thanking you in anticipation
I am

Yours Sincerely

C.A. Seeger

Australian Branch
British Red Cross Society
London

16.5.17

Mr C. J. Seeger
28. Bankfield Drive
Shipley
Mr. Bradford.

Dear Sir,

We are in receipt of your enquiry for 5124 L.Cpl. W.D. Littlewood,
47th Battn. A.I.F. , and regret to state that this man is now officially
reported "missing" as from 2.5.17.

We shall make every effort to obtain particulars concerning his
fate, but as you will readily understand news of missing men is
necessarily slow in coming through especially if he is a prisoner of
war. Six weeks is the least time that elapses as a rule between the
date when a man is posted missing or when his name appears on the
German lists.

We should be glad if you would advise us if you should hear from
him in Germany as we undertake to supply Australian prisoners with
regular parcels of food. As soon as we obtain news, we shall
communicate with you.

Yours faithfully

Secretary.

June 9th, 1917.

C. A. Seeger, Esq.,
28, Bankfield Drive,
Esh Wood,
Shipley,
West Bradford, Yorks

Dear Sir,

We have received unofficial information about:-

No. 5124 L/Cpl. W. D. Littlewood, 47th Battn:

A. I. F. our evidence being conflicting in nature.

No 5245 Pte. C. W. Simpson who on May 31st. was in the 3rd Australian Auxiliary Hospital, Dartford reported that L/Cpl. Littlewood was wounded in the neck by a sniper while trying to rescue a wounded man at Bullecourt. He was then out in a dug-out where informant saw him, and as the Germans afterwards retook the ground he suggests the possibility of his being taken a Prisoner.

No 2963 Pte. R. Bock who was also at Dartford gives a somewhat different account. He says that the L/Cpl. went out to the trench at Bullecourt to bring in wounded and while so doing was wounded in the head by a sniper's bullet, his death taking place about 20 minutes afterwards. Pte. Bock saw him after he was wounded, but does not know where he was buried. He described him as tall and dark

and 29-30 years of age. We have not heard of his being a prisoner but there is still a possibility of that such is the case, as it takes some time for the official news to come from Germany.

We are pursuing the inquiry and will advise you immediately on receipt of further information about him.

Yours faithfully,

V D

Secretary.

L. R. V.