

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

3664 Private
John Alexander
Littlewood

45th Battalion



1610806M

45th Battn. B.Coy. 8th Pltn.
A.I.F.

J.A.

LITTLEWOOD Pte. 3664
Garner Pte.A. 2165

"Killed 28-3-18"

As we jumped off for the railway embankment at Bernacourt, 1000 yds. off on March 27th, 2 p.m. Killed by H.E. shell, was within 10 yds. of Garner on his left. Near support line on first ridge after leaving Albert and Amiens Road. Buried on Easter Monday, 3 days after death, alongside the Sunk Road, with Pte. D.H. Quinlan, 5440 Cpl. C.E. King 2664, both of B.Coy. 8th Pltn., and Pte. E. Sargent Coy. Hqs. All in separate graves, also other members of Battn. were buried here, names placed in helmets, tied to rifles and placed on graves. Out of 125 in attacking party, 77 reached embankment and held it. Estimate by those who ought to know that 2000 shells fell on the area in 15 minutes.

Informant. Sawden F.C. 3921
45th Battn. B.Coy. 8th Pltn.,
BRETHERFIELD.

A.D.C.
London
4-6-18

S.

NOTE TO BOULOGNE.

45th Battn.
A.I.F.

LITTLEWOOD.
J.A. 3664.

"Killed in Action" 28-3-18.

We have already received a direct enquiry from Miss M. Baird-Hammond.

2nd A.G.F.
B.E.F.

as you may be enquiring on her behalf we are passing her enquiry on to you and advising her to that effect.

London.
10-6-18

Boul

45th Batta.
A.I.F.

LITTLEWOOD.
J.A. 5664.

"Killed in Action" 28-3-18.

He was in B. Company and I saw him killed whilst going into Dernancourt, and death was instantaneous. There was a very heavy barrage on at the time and he was hit by pieces from shell and was badly knocked about. He was a young, tall thin lad, but I did not know him very well. He came from New South Wales. I did not see his grave, but he was buried near place of casualty in the field and I think burials were carried out by another company. I cannot refer to anyone for further details.

Informant:- ³ Ste Weirick G. 5218.
B. Coy. 45th Batta.
No 3 A.A.H. DARTFORD.

W. Ogan.
London.
19-5-18.

S.
Ecul

A.I.F. 45.

LITTLEWOOD, J.A. 3564.

2. March 28/13. Det. D/B.

Littlewood was in B Co. 6 Pl. and it was his first time in the line, he being only a young lad about 19. He was killed near Dernancourt on the other side of Albert while we were going up to the Wood in the daytime. He was caught by a shell, which I saw burst in his section, being not more than 20 yards to the right. I saw him fall and I saw the S/Bs go to him. Later, one of them told me that Littlewood had been killed. One S/B whose name I remember was Pte. De Bellin, IM, B Co., who I think is still with the Unit.

Reference: I/Cpl. Burrow, 4739. B Co.
No. 9 General, Rouen. 24.7.13.

DIF.

45th Battn.
A.I.F.

J.A. LITTLEWOOD.
3664.Pte.

"Killed 23-3-18"

I saw Littlewood killed by shell at Dernancourt about 2 o'clock in the day on March 28th. We were going to reinforce the front lines. He is buried at Dernancourt behind our lines. The ground was held.

Eye-Witness:- Yes.

Description:- N.S.Welshman.

Home address:-

Carrington Street. Informant:- May.Samuel.3411.Pte.

Hombash.

Sydney.

(quite accurate & intelligent)

45th Battn.A.I.F.

Bredbury Hospital.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS.

N.T.Peglar.

London.

23-9-18.

H.G.

S.

45th BATTALION, A.I.F.

LITTLEWOOD J.A. P'te.
No. 3664.

"Killed in Action" 28.3.18.

Informant described Littlewood as about 5 ft 9 inches high, slim build, dark complexion, aged about 22.

Informant states that they both belonged to "B" Company. On 28.3.18 the Battalion was advancing from a ridge on the east side of the main Albert-Axiens Road towards the main railway line at Dernancourt in order to attack that village. At about 2-15 p.m. as the Company was passing along a sunken road during heavy shelling by the Germans, Littlewood was instantly killed by a shell. Informant was only a few yards away and saw him killed. Five or six others were killed in the same sunken road. Informant helped to bury Littlewood and the others who were killed just alongside the sunken road about 20 yards from where they fell. Each had a grave to himself and each grave was marked by a rifle stuck in the ground with a tin helmet placed thereon.

According to Informant Littlewood was well liked by his mates.

Informant: Sergeant H.C. Sawden, No. 3921.
"B" Company, 45th Battalion.

Present address: No. 4 Hut, Randwick Military Hospital
Home address: 109 Hargrave Street, Paddington.

E.G.
25.9.18.

No. 4 Australian General Hospital, RANDWICK.

SYDNEY BUREAU.

ans
6.6.18 AUSTRALIAN
June 3rd 1918
RED CROSS.

Mrs. G. H.
France

My dear Miss Hartie

Could you give me
any information con-
cerning Pte. J. A. Littlewood
No. 3664. 45th Battr.

4th Div. A. I. F.

His father is on our Staff
here and has seen in
the paper - List 248
dated 24th April 1918 - that
his son has been killed

in action. As you can
imagine he is very
anxious to get every
detail that he can.

I promised to write
to you assuring him
that you would obtain
all the information possible.

Trusting you are well.

Accept my kindest
regards and believe me to be

Yours very sincerely,

Harjivardtammobit

Miss M. Baird. Hammond
2nd Aust. Gen. Hosp.
B.E.F.

6.6.18

Dear Madam, With reference to your inquiry of
3rd inst. for 3664 Pte J. G. Littlewood 45th Batt
A.I.F. we much regret to inform you that he is
officially reported to have been killed in action on
38.3.18. We are doing our utmost to obtain
particulars of his death & burial & will
advise you as soon as we succeed.
May we ^{assure} ~~assure~~ you of our sincere
sympathy in his loss.

J