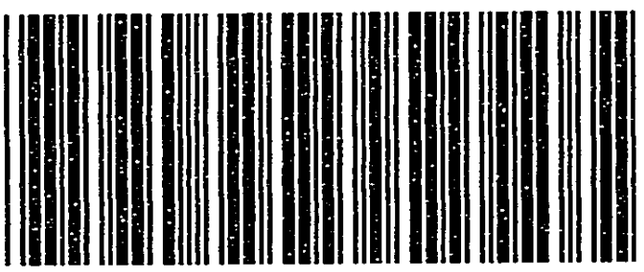
Australian Red Cross Society Wounded and Missing
Enquiry Bureau files, 1914-18 War
1DRL/0428

4469 Private
Allen Edward Lawton

20th Battalion



1570101F

A.I.F.
[illegible]
11th Hefts.

written [illegible] 1.1.19

[illegible] A.M. [illegible]

"Killed in Action"

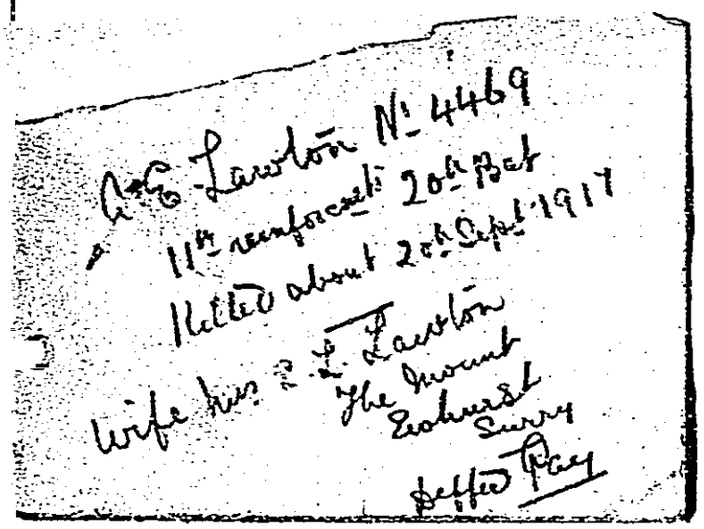
With reference to your cable of the 21st October. We have made inquiries from the Military Authorities, and been informed that the Public Trustee is now administering his Estate. We interviewed Mr Addison, a clerk in the office of the Public Trustee who is in charge of this matter, and he informs us that on the 26th September, 1918, the Public Trustee received from the Defence Department the above soldier's deferred pay, and they also have been informed that his pay book is now in the hands of the Pay Officer in Sydney, but that the page in it provided for a will had been torn out with a note to the following effect. -

"Attached to G.P.B. No. 26285, A.I.F./A.M.C."

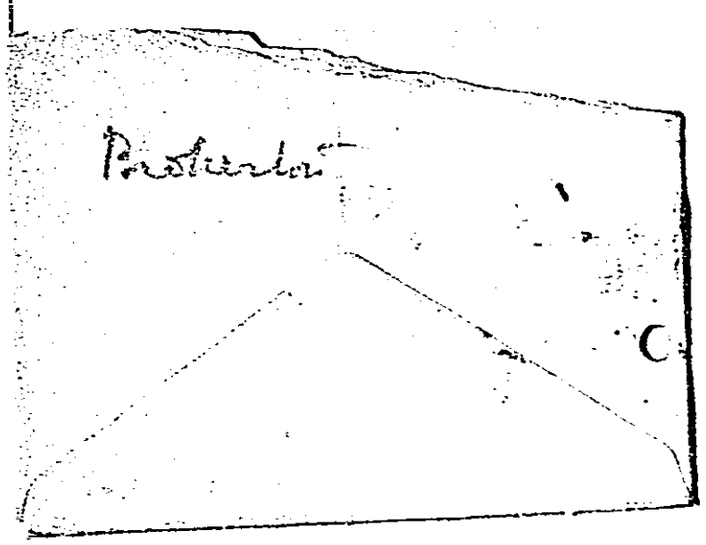
G.P.B. means "Continuation Pay Book", and we are informed that this continuation pay book has not been received by the Defence Department in Sydney.

As these facts suggest that there is a will in existence, the Public Trustee has been waiting for the will before winding up the estate. The above soldier's widow should communicate with the Public Trustee, whose address is [illegible] Chambers, Castlereagh Street, Sydney. Our cable of the [illegible] November, 1918.

[illegible] copy sent [illegible] 10.1.19. STEVENS BUSEAU.



A. E. Lawton No. 4469
11th reinforcement 20th Bat
Killed about 20th Sept 1917
Wife Mrs. E. L. Lawton
The Mount
Eckhurst
Surry
Deffed Pay


Posterior
C

4469 Pte
A. E. Lawton
11/20 Bn

69. Prospect St
Eskmeville
Sydney
N. S. Wales
14/4/18.

Mrs. W. E. Sargood
c/o Red Cross Society
London

Madame

Noticing in the Evening News Sydney your name in connection with the above Society. - I have taken the liberty of addressing you for which I trust you will pardon me = but if it is within

Join sphere to render any advice or assist the young lady who is anxious to reache Australia I shall fell thankful I will mention the facts. My son A. E. Lawton enlisted in the A. I. F at Sydney No 4469 - 11 reinforcements. 20th battalion on 5th April 1916 - I was informed by the Military authorities he was killed in France about the 20th Sept 1917. He married in England - at the Mount Cranleigh near Guildford - Miss Lilian Lawton —

who now resides there —

I have written to the A. I. F. and The High Commissioner — My daughter in-law I hear from her is anxious to come to Australia (He was the only son) and the mother is very anxious to see her daughter-in-law —

I have not heard any news — for some considerable time and as I have no friends in England being an Australian of Bacchus Marsh Victoria.

This was one of the reasons I have taken

the liberty as I was closely associated with Geelong in my younger days.

If it lies in your power to assist in this matter and to advise this young lady - you would confer a favor upon and give pleasure to an old couple who are very loyal - to the King - I trust you will forgive me for addressing this letter to you - I am Madame

Yours respectfully

V E Lawton

A.I.F.
20th. Battalion.

LAWTON. 4469.
Allen Edward.

"Killed in Action 20.9.17".

No trace Germany.

Cert.by Capt. Mills. 16.10.19.

London.
17.10.19.

S.P.I.

Lawton
A. E.

4469
11/20 Bl[illegible]

Interview with widow
17-10-18.
HQ wrote Public Trustee
requesting him to expedite
settlement on 21.10-18
Answer should be here
end Jan or beginning Feb

HQ 9-1-19

Full file - see first.
Also probably copies of our
cables to & from Sydney on
Subject
Also Sydney's last slip for
H Hudson

77

Havre

A.I.F. 24.

21st May 1918.

Telfer J.R.F. 6399.

D/W 11th June 1917. Det D/E.

I did not know his well but I remember his initials. He was killed in a practice bombing stunt at Neveley on the Somme, and was buried in the Cemetery at Warveley, by the Padre, and had a Military Funeral. A cross was put up and marked.

Inf:- Pte T. Ryan No. 4192.
A.I.F. 2. D. 4111.
Australian Camp.
Rouelles.

CSEG.

Lawton set them back.
A.E.

4469
20th Btn
11 rfts -

CK 20.9.17.
Our proofs to Aust. 11.12.17 - no will which delays
Ack. 25.4.18. Settlement of estate should
be within 2 months
but prob. not
for 3. see notes.

Lieut Hudson
Estates branch
HQ 28.6.18

Cox Staples 27.10.17

Bignell
Capt. F. L. A. M. C.
"W. 20" Gen. Hpl. att. 26 Bar.
Sept. Oct. Still there: admitted
3.10.17 Ruptured ear drum - Phone Cox 26.10.17
Adm. No. 20 Gen. H. 27.9.17. Disch. to duty
30.9.17. Staples 1.11.17.

Melle: Cable 16.10.17

Final Draft
8.10.19.

To
Mrs E. L. Lawton
The Mount
Ewhurst
Wr Guilford Surrey

re 4469. A. E. Lawton
20th Bttn.

locally (if any) or from letters.

Enquiry included in W.S.M. Cable — No. 119 of May 18-1918

Enquiry included in Deferred Cable — No. of

Name and Address of Enquirer — Mr J Wooding, 79 Monmouth St N. Perth

Relation of Enquirer to Enquiree. — Father

State if Next-of-Kin. — Yes

In card Mc. Henry Greig Secretary.

Re Mrs Lawton

Lawton A E / prob. fully operated on in 3 months time

under new act, H.Qrs can dispense with "the proof" which the trustee prev: required

New act re Deceased Soldiers Estates Act 1918

Amendment ~~Part~~ to Defence Act 1903-18

Passed 3 months ago

H.Qrs in England given power to dispose of regimental estate in accordance with Regimental Debt Act

Imperial Act

Re Mrs Archer A) Personal representative of soldier

x may be paid to B) any person who in the opinion of the prescribed authorities is beneficially entitled thereto.

Letter to Trustee 8-7-18 - receipt unacknowledged

The Australian Red Cross Society
(B.R.C.S.)
WESTERN AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

WOUNDED AND MISSING ENQUIRY BUREAU.

Enquiry No. 8151

Date Oct 11. 1918.

Regimental Details of Soldier enquired about. No 2013. Pte D. Thomson. 51st. Battalion.

Details of Casualty. Severely ill.

Information wanted. Location & Condition.

Information obtained locally (if any) or from letters.

Enquiry included in W.S.M. Cable No. 244 of Oct 11. 1918.

Enquiry included in Deferred Cable No. of

Name and Address of Enquirer Mrs Thomson 18 Ray St. N. Leederville.

Relation of Enquirer to Enquiree. Mother.

State if Next-of-Kin. Yes. Mc

Henry Greig. *Secretary.*
J.P.N.

Before Marriage made will to Mrs Mabel Brown in Australia (name & address on allotment paper) which was altered on marriage.

Will made between 22.6.17 & return to duty 10 days afterwards - Mrs Lawton saw the will in her favor & it was in her pay book.

Statement made to Miss Deakin 7.1.19. by Mrs Lawton.

HQ investigating matter as to Will in Continuation pay-book. Has written to Chief Paymaster.
Lt Hudson HQ 11.1.19.

COPIES OF CABLES FROM LONDON TO SYDNEY.

A.I.F. 20th Btn.

LAWTON
A.E. 4469

"Widow not in receipt of deferred pay expedite dispatch. HQ. in communication with Public Trustees."

October 21st 1918.

"Expedite dispatch necessary papers to H.Q. widow desires go Australia."

November 22nd 1918.

Copy of message from Sydney to London dated 9th November, mutilated.

London
10-1-19

4469 A.Q. Lawton 20 Bn

Mrs.F.Lawton.
The Mount.
Ewhurst. Surrey.

March 25th, 1919.

Dear Madam.

As our representative has recently ascertained from A.I.F. Headquarters that a new act was passed about three months ago relating to Deceased soldiers' Estates we should be glad to hear if the Public Trustees have arranged matters satisfactorily for you or if you desire us to act further in the matter. We understand the new act gives the Paymaster, A.I.F. Headquarters, power to dispose of a soldier's regimental estate if he is satisfied as to the legality of the claimant's demands.

Yours faithfully,

(Miss) Vera Deakin

SECRETARY.

January 2nd, 1919.

Mrs.R.L.Lawton,
The Mount,
Ewhurst,
Nr Guildford.
Surrey.

Dear Madam.

We beg to inform you that we have received a letter from Sydneyregarding the Public Trustees and the will of you late husband- 4469 Pte. A.E. Lawton, 20th Battalion, A.I.F. which seems to be Missing. Will you kindly call into this office to see Miss Deakin as soon as possible, and bring with you any correspondence from your late husband that has the least resemblance to a will, - however small - with any expression of his wishes regarding your future or his property and she will advise with you as to the best course to take.

Yours faithfully,

(Miss) E. B. M. C. M.

Secretary.

[illegible] 1[illegible]

[illegible] 2[illegible]

[illegible] 21. [illegible] 48 —

[illegible] [illegible] instructions

Public Trustee. Not to be distributed

Rec'd to? [illegible]

Cable from Sydney,

[illegible]

We cabled to Sydney on 22.[illegible].[illegible]

"Indore [illegible] [illegible] of defence

by [illegible] [illegible] — [illegible] —

in communication with Public

Trustee 12. [illegible]

ADELAIDE ENQUIR

Mrs Edith Lilian Lawton
The Mount
Ewhurst Surrey

4469
a O E. Lawton - 20 Bltn A.I.F.
O
Killed 20th Sept 1917.

No will found.

Not received any differed pay.

Pensions being received.
O
O
Public Trustees - Sydney.

Corres. to Syd. 11.12.17.
Syd. ack. 26-4-18
Writ Pub. Trustee. 21-10-18
asking settlement.

Verbal visited 17-10-18.
H.Q.

HQ 21-10-18

No reply yet from Sydney. HQ 22-11-18 & 9.1.19.
Mrs Lawton has again written HQrs. HQrs not yet replied

INQUIRY BUREAU, 39 BROAD STREET, BRISTOL.

Cross Index No. ~~B 17588.~~

NAME (Surname first) Taylor, J.A. No. 3701. Rank Pte.

Regiment 49. A.I.F. Coy. B Plat. 5

Hospital Beaufort War Hospital. Ward 2

Arrived 16/8/18 At Front from _____ To _____

Home Address ~~Down Street, North Ipswich, Queensland.~~

Depot _____

GIVES INFORMATION REGARDING:—

Missing man Hicks, L.C.E. Casualty? W&M 11/8/18

Regiment ~~A.I.F.~~ Battln. ~~49.~~ Coy. ~~B~~ No. ~~3642.~~

Cross List dated Septe. Supplement. page 10 A.

B.E.F. He was slightly wounded in the leg by the same shell that wounded me, and he went off to find stretcher bearers for me. He afterwards returned to me reporting that he could not find any and said he was going back to our trench. It was reported amongst the Bttn. that he and Lt. Fernside who were together went the wrong way which led to the German line. Hicks was a Lewis Gunner in my Section.

J. F. A. 3 5.

Any Nickname? _____ Christian Name? _____

Any Tattoo Marks? _____ Scars? _____

When last seen, and where? _____ Date _____

Was it light or dark at the time? _____

If killed, was body buried, and where? _____

Engagement or Circumstance? In front of Bray. Place? _____

Was the ground held or not? _____

Were you an eye-witness? _____

If not, who told you, and when? Give man's No. and Rank, if possible _____

Any other man of same name in Battln.? _____

Searcher's opinion of Informant _____

Searcher's Name F. Gardiner. 3/10/18.

Dated _____

RECEIVED 8 OCT 1918 CARLTON HOUSE TERRACE

PB