

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

1867 Private  
John Allan Leseberg

37th Battalion



1590307P

37th Battn. B. Coy.  
A.I.F.

J.I. LESEBERG.  
1867.

"Killed in Action" 28-3-18.

I did not see the casualty but, he was killed by a shell (at) near Ribemont between Amiens and Albert when three others were killed with him and a number of others wounded. He was badly knocked on body. We were holding the line at the time. I did not know him very well. We buried him at Heilly near the Somme in a very nice cemetery which is well kept. Grave was marked by a cross and full details marked thereon.

Informant:- Pte. Barber. R.A. 7092.  
A. Coy. 37th Battn.  
No 3 A.A.H. DARTFORD.

W. Oman.  
London.  
12-6-18.

M.

37th A.I.F.

Leseberg. Pte. J.A. 1867.

(K. March 28/18.)

"Leseberg was killed instantly by a shell at Mericourt and he is buried there. The same shell killed 5 men. I did not see it actually happen but I saw his body directly afterwards."

Eyewitness: No, but saw his body.

Description:

Informant: Sgt. R. Stockdale. 682.  
37th A.I.F.

Duston War Hospital,  
Northampton.

Home address:  
None in England.

17.6.18.

G. MacKinnell. N.W.

M

FRANCE.

37th BATT. A.I.F.

LESEBERG. J.A. 1867.

K. March 26th. 1918. Det.

He was in B. Coy and came from Rutherglen. He was wounded in the chest by shrapnel, in the reserve line near Heilly and died as he was being carried down on a stretcher; he was buried near Heilly station. His mate, C. McCrohan, B. Coy, with the Battalion recently, was with him when he was wounded and helped to get him down.

WSI.

Ref ---Pte A. Jones. 2932.  
No 3 Gen. Hospital.

N.W.

Le Treport. June 20th. 1918.

*written C. McCrohan 24/6/18. Inst.*

Havre

21st June 1918.

A.I.F. 37.

Lasseberg J.A. No. 1867.

K. 28th March 1918. Det D/B.

I know Pte Jack Lasseberg of B.Co. V or VI Pltn, about 26, medium height, slim, dark, clean shaven, was a good footballer. I saw him being carried out at Moricourt on the 28th March 1918, about 3 p.m. He had been hit by shell splinter in the breast. He died the same day and I after saw his grave in the Military Cemetery about 50 yards behind the trenches at Moricourt. There is a cross on it.

Inf:- Pte H.B. Cathcart No. 641.

A.I.F. 37. B. VIII.

Australian Camp

Houelles.

J.A.  
RDM.

A.I.F. 37th Battn.

LESEBERG  
J.A. 1967

"Killed 28/3/18"

Leseberg was killed instantly down on the Somme near Villers Brotonneux by a shell about 11 a.m. We were standing to at the time. Some others were killed by the same shell. I did not see him fall, but I saw the Stretcher Bearers (I don't know their names) carry him away. I don't know anything about the burial. He was about medium height, nuggety and I think the only man of the name in the battalion.

Informant:- 5061 Pte. J. Calvin,  
37th Battn., B Coy.,  
Sutton Veny.

H.E.H.

London  
28/6/18  
J.E.A.

M

Mavre

27th June 1918.

A.I.F. 37.

Leseberg J.A. No. 1867.

K. 28th March 1918. Det D/B.

This man was in A.Coy. and was with us when we were at Heilly, and was killed in the attack. He was buried at the cemetery at Heilly 333. One of the burying party told me.

Inf:- Pte A.A. Bell No. 1115.  
No. 1. Gen. Ass. (Etretat).

WAB.

Mavre

28th June 1918.

A.I.F. 37.

Leseberg J.A. No. 1867.

K. 28th March 1918. Det D/B.

This man was in supports at Heilly in front of Morlancourt when a shell hit him and badly wounded him. He was carried to the D/Station but died on the way. He was buried near the Heilly Civil Cemetery - I have not seen the grave. He came from Brown's Plain near Chiltern, Victoria. He was a great footballer.

Inf:- Pte E.L. Gason No. 2323.  
No. 1. Gen. Ass. (Etretat).

WAB.

A.I.F. 37th Battn.

LESEBERG  
J.A. 1867

"Killed 28/3/18"

B Company VI platoon - about this date outside Hailay and Mericourt at the 7 trees - killed by shell: hit in head - died instantly. I was about 100 yards off at time. We were holding outposts in line when this happened. Know nothing of burial: Opl.C. Taylor (Charlie) 2404 B Company was wounded by same shell, he was taken to Dressing Station, where he died.

Informant:- 2792 Pte. R. J. Clarke,  
37th Battn., B Coy., V pltn.,

London  
28/6/18  
J.E.A.

M



37th A.I.F.

Leseberg Pte. J.A. 1867.

B. VI.

(K. Mar.28/18.)

Dets. D/B.

"I saw J.A.Leseberg killed at Heilly I was about 150 yards away from him. Death was instantaneous. He was personally known to me for about 12 months. He is believed to be buried at Heilly but I did not see his grave. Leseberg was killed by a shell. There were about 4 or 5 others killed at the same time. They were just getting their funk hole dry. It was about 3' deep at the time. Garahay and Esmond were among the killed by the same shell and Cpl. C Taylor died of wounds the next morning."

Eyewitness: Yes.

Description: Sharp featured and dark.

Informant: Pte. H. Harrison. 3074.  
37th A.I.F. B Coy.  
Napsbury Hospital,  
St. Albans.

Home address:  
Tarrav,  
Victoria, Australia.

2.7.18.

C.Coleman.

37th Battn. A.I.F.

LESEBERG. J. A1867 1867

"Killed in Action 28.3.18."

Re Pte. J.A. Leseberg. Well Jack and I were great pals, we were instructing together in Bayonet fighting and Physical training while we were in England. We both left and proceeded overseas together. I may state that while he was in England, he was or rather held the rank of Acting Cpl. up till the time he left to proceed overseas. Well Jack and I were never apart I was alongside of him and speaking to him, when a shell came and landed about three yds. away and a small piece about the size of a pea struck Jack in the chest, of course it gave us no warning whatever, after the explosion Jack jumped into a trench that was there and of course I followed him. I asked Jack if anybody was hit and noticed that he had been hit I asked him where it caught him he told me in the chest and opened his tunic for me to see then I undid his shirt and flannel and had a look, and thought it was only slight, and said to him you are lucky aren't you. He said he didn't know so much about it and seemed to be all right at the time. A few minutes after he took bad and died almost immediately, so he was not in much agony. I helped to carry him out and collected all his belongings such as pay book, pocket wallet etc, tied them into a parcel and gave them to the Padre to send home to his Mother. He was taken and buried in a Soldiers cemetery and had a proper burial which was conducted by a C of E. Padre. He was not knocked about the slightest bit and looked really well. In fact I lost one of the best pals, I have ever had we were more like brothers than pals and I can tell you I miss him very much indeed. I have lots of friends here but no one that can ever fill or take Jack's place.

306 W.C. McCrohan. 2/30

London,  
16.7.18

M

37th Btn.

LESZBERG, J.A.  
Pto. No. 1867

KR. in act. 28.3.18.

"I knew Casualty. He was a man about 5' 7", well built, medium complexion about 25 years of age, known as "Jack". Casualty was in the front line trench near Monincourt. An H.E. shell exploded near Casualty mortally wounding him. I carried him to the Advanced D.S. but he died on the way. He was most severely wounded about the body, legs and head, but I do not know where he was buried."

Informant:- Cpl. C.W. Moore  
No. 635

Private address  
165 Wellington Pde.  
Jolimont.

M. C. 2/1/19

T.O.F.  
4.4.19.

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS INFORMATION BUREAU-MELBOURNE.

37th Btn.

LESZBERG, J.A.  
Pto. No. 1867

Kld. in act. 28.3.18.

"I knew Casualty. He was a short man, medium built, dark complexion about 20 years of age. Casualty was in the front line trench in front of Heilly. An H.E. shell exploded in the trench killing Casualty instantly and Sgt. Frew. I helped to carry Casualty out and he was buried near Heilly Railway Station."

Informant:- W.O. Mitchell  
No. 1880

Private address  
Tallangatta,  
Victoria.

M.  
C. 2/1/19

T.O.F.  
4.4.19.

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS INFORMATION BUREAU-MELBOURNE.

Pte C McGrohan

B. Coy.

37<sup>th</sup> Inf Bttn

A. I. F.

about

1867 J. A. LESEBERG

37<sup>th</sup> Inf. Bttn

K/A. 28. 3. 18

PQ

written 29/6/18 AmH

Act. P.C. 1871/16  
Amst.

1867 J.A. Lesberg

37<sup>th</sup> Battn

R/A 28.3.18

M

3 (ca)

5/7/18

My Dear Mr. Seaton

In answer to your letter inquiring into the death  
of Pte J. A. Lesberg 1867 of B Coy 37<sup>th</sup> Batt  
Well fact and I were great pals we were instructing to gether  
in Bayonet fighting and Physical training while we were in  
England. We both left and proceeded overseas to gether. I may  
state that while he was in England he was of rather high rank  
of Acting Corporal up till the time he left to proceed overseas  
Well fact and I were never apart I was alongside of him and  
speaking to him, when a shell came and landed about 100 yds  
away. A small piece about the size of a pea struck fact  
in the chest. Of course it gave up no warning whatever. After the  
explosion fact jumped into a trench that was there and of course  
I followed him. I asked fact if anybody was hit and noticed  
that he had been hit I asked him where it caught him he told  
me in the chest and opened his tunic for me to see then I  
undid his shirt and flannel and had a look and thought it  
was only slight and said to him you are lucky are n't you he  
said he did n't know so much about it and seemed to be  
all right at the time. A few minutes after he took bad and  
died almost immediately so he was not in much agony.  
I helped to carry him out and collected all his belongings such as  
poy book pocket wallet etc tied them into a parcel and gave them  
to the Padre to send home to his Mother. He was taken and  
buried in a soldier's cemetery and had a proper burial which was  
conducted by a Rev E. Padre. He was not distressed about the

2/11/41  
slightest bit and loaded really well. In fact I lost one of the  
the best pals I have ever had we were more like brothers than  
pals and I can tell you I miss him very much indeed. I have  
lots of friends here but not one that can ever fill or take his  
place. Well, my dear I hope I have added sufficient  
information and particulars for to enable you to identify  
the soldier. I would be very glad to know whether you  
received this. Trusting you will let me know.  
I am yours respectfully

2730  
W.C. M. Wilson

J. Clack

Amitt