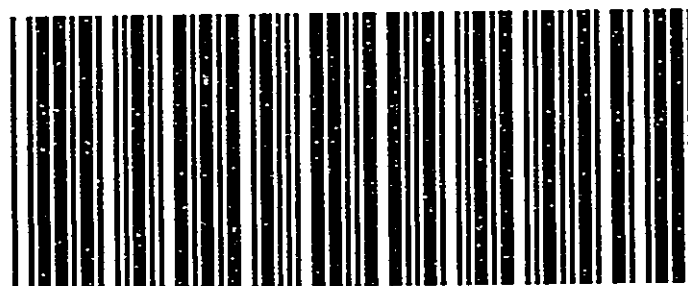


Australian Red Cross Society Wounded and Missing  
Enquiry Bureau files, 1914-18 War  
1DRL/0428

**5589 Private  
John Henry Kelsey**

**19th Battalion**



1490612N

19th AUSTRALIANS.

KELSEY J.M. No. 5589.

M. 3rd May 1917.

I saw him killed on the Somme just as we were going over.  
I saw him fall and I know the S/BS went to him.

Inf:- Pto Miller No. 5599.

Amb. T. 'Princesse Elisabeth'.

Calais. 11.XI.17. CR.

S  
Boul

A.I.F. 15<sup>th</sup> Btn

KELSEY  
J.H. 5589

"M. 3-5-17"

Killed in action 3-5-17 - previously reported Missing  
Cert. by A.I.F. Hqs 8-1-18.

London  
17-1-18

Boul: S &

19th Battn.  
A.I.F. Coy.

KELSEY  
J.H. 5589

"Killed in Action 3-5-17"

Re 5589 J.H.Kelsey, A Coy. 19th Battn. Missing at Bullecourt France, 3-5-17. Pte. Miller, 5599 19th Battn. states:-  
"I saw Kelsey killed on the Somme just as we were going over. I saw him fall, and I know the S/Bs. went to him." I wrote Pte. Miller but my letter and Kelsey's photo were returned to me with no reply to same. Mr. Kelsey Hogarah, Sydney, raises the point that Bullecourt is not on the Somme. About July 1917 a Pte. Voller or Vollner A. Coy. 19th Battn. wrote and said:- "He and Jack (Kelsey) advanced some distance and came to the German barbed wire unbroken, and he (Voller) turned to the left and Jack (Kelsey) to the right. That is the last I saw of Jack." There were a couple of Kelseys and Kelly's in the 19th Battn., and perhaps Pte. Miller is mistaken. Enclosed is Kelsey's photo which might help Pte. Miller in his decision re Kelsey's fate. Might I ask please that one of your representatives interview Pte. Miller when visiting Southall Hpl.

Letter from:- W. Tite, brother-in-law to Kelsey.  
685

London  
17-5-18

late 19th Battn.,  
Non Effective Section,  
Finance Branch,  
130, Horseferry Road.

Bcal. & S.

A.I.F. 15/19th Btn

KELSEY  
John Henry 5589

"K/A. 3-5-17"

No trace in Germany  
Cert. by Capt. Hills 10-10-19.

3.

London  
15-10-19

19th Battn.  
A.I.F.

KELSEY  
J.H. 5599

"Killed 3-5-17"

Re enquiry made by W.Tite, London 17-5-18.  
I have seen Pte. Miller 5599 19th Battn. He says about 3 months ago coming over in the boat from France, he gave information re Kelly, whom he saw go into action. The Searcher made the mistake of calling the man Kelsey. Before enquiring I showed him the photo of Kelsey. He said he did not know who it was. He had been asked before and had sent the photo back to W.Tite.

Information sent by:- T.St.J.P. Pugh, *Searcher*  
SOUTHALL.

London  
29-5-18

Boul.  
S.

Killed 3/5/17.

Kelsey went away with me in the s/s "Euripides" #14 on 6th September 1915. He came from somewhere in the South of N.S. Wales. He was a Shearer and originally came from England. I knew him fairly well. He was 5ft. 8" in height, very fair, clean shaven. He was young, about 22 years of age. He was killed at Hartenpuich on 3rd May 1917. A shell struck him and killed him instantaneously. Kelsey was a decent sort of chap.

Informant:- No. 5688, Private J. O'Byrne,  
19th Battalion.

(Transferred 1st Tunnelling Company)

Private address:- Post Office, Neath, N.S.W.

F.B.W.  
No. 4 Australian General Hospital,

HANDWICK.

30/12/18.

SYDNEY BUREAU.

*S. B. Byrne  
Army Council*

*J. O'Byrne  
Felix Casey 1/4 B'logne*

685 Pte. W. Tite, May 31st, 1918.  
 Non Effective Section,  
 Finance Branch,  
 A.I.F. Headquarters,  
 130, Horseferry Road,  
 WESTMINSTER, S.W.

Dear Sir.

We regret the delay in replying to your letter of 17th inst., about -

5589 J. H. KELSEY, 19th Battalion, A.I.F.

now reported killed in Action 3-5-17. We have just received a report from our Searcher who has interviewed Pte. Miller at 2nd Australian Auxiliary Hospital, Southall, which reads as follows:-

"I have seen Pte. Miller 5599, 19th Bttn. He says about 8 months ago coming over in the boat from France, he gave information re Kelly, whom he saw go into action. The Searcher made the mistake of calling the man Kelsey. Before enquiring I showed him the photo of Kelsey. He said he did not know who it was. He had been asked before and had sent the photo back to Pte. W. Tite."

Pte. Miller's first report comes from our Calais Bureau and was taken on the Ambulance train on 11-12-17. Evidently owing to lack of time the Searcher did not ask Pte. Miller for a description that would have established clearly the identity of the soldier about whom he was speaking. We enclose the photograph you kindly lent.

As you are of course aware, the 19th Battalion was in action near Bullecourt on 3-5-17. This town is not actually "on the Somme" but that point in itself hardly affects the report, which Pte.



Miller now states refers to another man.

We much regret that we have been able to obtain for Mr. Kelsey no information about his son. As you yourself were a number of the same Battalion you will be able to tell him about that particular action better than we can.

Please assure him of our sympathy.

Yours faithfully,

(Miss)

SECRETARY.

[The following text is extremely faint and largely illegible, appearing to be a continuation of the letter or a separate document.]

3589  
J. H. Kelsey  
19<sup>th</sup> Battal  
Rm A 3-5-17  
17/5/18  
The Anzac Club Cross



The missing soldier No 5589 J. H. Kelsey A. Coy 19<sup>th</sup> Bn  
missing at Gallencourt (France) 3<sup>rd</sup> May 1917

Pte Miller (No 5599, 19<sup>th</sup> Bn) reports to you states "I saw Kelsey killed  
at the Somme just as we were going over. I saw him fall & I know  
the stretcher bearers went to him. I wrote Pte Miller but my letter  
& Kelsey's photo were returned to me with no reply to same. Mr Kelsey  
(Hogarth, Sydney) raises the point that Gallencourt is not on the Somme.  
About July 1917 a Pte Toller or Tollner (A Coy 19<sup>th</sup> Bn) wrote said "he & Jack  
(Kelsey) advanced some distance & came to the Germans who were unbroken  
"he (Toller) turned to the left & Jack (Kelsey) to the right, - that is the last I saw  
of Jack". There were a couple of KELSEYS Kellys in the 19<sup>th</sup> Bn & Pte  
Miller is mistaken. Enclosed is Kelsey's photo which might help  
Pte Miller in his decision re Kelsey's fate.

Might Jack please that one of your representatives interview  
Pte Miller when visiting Southall Hospital.

Thanking you in anticipation for your part to take.

Yrs Affly (brother-in-law to Kelsey)  
Pte N. L. Lite  
No. 685. 19<sup>th</sup> Bn

Pte Miller address - No 5599 Pte N. Miller  
No. 2. Aux. Hospital  
Southall

P.A. please return enclosed photo

From Pte No 685 - Pte N. Lite  
Non Effort Section  
Finance Branch  
130 Horseferry St. W. 1