

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

Lieutenant
Charles Proctor Kelsall

17th Battalion



1490608S

Havre.

11th. July. 1918.

17th. Australians.

Kelsall, Lieut. C. P.

K. May. 14/1918. Dets. D/B.

He was in B, Company, 7th. Platoon. On May 14th. we were holding the front line at Villiers Brettonaux. During the night, just as dawn was breaking, we found ourselves surrounded by Germans. Mr. Kelsall & two or three others went out of the line to reconnoitre. I saw Mr. Kelsall shot through the head by a bullet. I was about 100 yards from him. About three weeks after I saw Mr. Kelsall's Grave in a Military Cemetery at Franvilliers Vilingo. A Cross was up to him. His grave would easily be found.

Inf:- Private. E. A. Mountford. 630.
17th. Australians. B. 8.
Havre Hospital.

HFG.

OP.

Havre

12th July 1918.

A.I.F. 17.

Kelsall Lt. C.P.

K. 14th May 1918. Det D/B.

This officer was killed at Moulincourt. Fritz had attacked in the early morning and Mr. Kelsall was out with a party to try and prevent them from crossing the road leading from Corbie to Braye. He was hit by a R.G. Bullet in the neck while he was bandaging up one of his men, and killed at once. His body was buried in the cemetery at La Renchie (behind Helly) There was a Military Funeral at which the Padre officiated and a good many men and the grave was marked with a cross. I did not see him hit but saw the S/Bs bringing the body back.

Inf:- Cpl W. Daisley No. 4400.
A.I.F. 17. B. V.
Austra. Conv. Depot.
Rouelles.

CHSG.

PP.

17th Battn.
A.I.F.

BRUSALL.
Lieut. C.P.

"Killed in Action 14-5-18"

It is very much regretted that there is no record whatever in this Office of the cable in question, such records nor having been kept by the Postal Clerks.

Letter from:- O.C.
17th Battn.A.I.F.

London.
15-7-18

S.

17th A.I.F.

Kelsall.Lt.C.P.

(K. May 14.18.)
Dets. D/B.

"I believe that Lt. C.P. Kelsall (17.B.) was killed instantaneously during a counter attack in the front of Morlan-court, while the Germans were being driven back. He was buried on 14th May 1918 in the cemetery at Tranvillers (Sailly le Sec) I attended his funeral. A chaplain read the service (I have forgotten his name). I put the cross up myself 3 days later. It was a plain oak cross, with full particulars."

Eyewitness: He attended the funeral.

Description: But a good time, nuggety, I can give no particulars.

Informant: Pte. C. Phillips. 2192.
17th A.I.F. H.Q. Coy.
3rd Southern General Hospital;
The Base, Oxford.

Home address:
C/o Mrs. Isabella Hoey,
Spring Crack Rd. Clifton, Queensland.

15.7.18.
H.M.P.-Cambridge.

S
Ed
will

85

17th Battn. A. I. F.

KELSALL C. P. Lt.

"Killed 14.5.18."

Hewas of B. Coy. on left on Villers-Brettonbus in front of Heilly, during our counter attack to drive enemy out of a position of trench they had got into. He was leading his Coy. I heard him say "Come on Boys" this was shortly after 10 o'clock in morning. I was 15 yds. away from him when he was hit in chest by bullet, killed outright. Body recovered next morning about 5 a.m. Buried in Military Cemetery near Heilly, cross erected. I was not at burial, but have seen grave. D. Coy. were right alongside B. Coy. in attack.

Germans broke in at A. the three Coy's counter attacked simultaneously to drive him out.

A. D. G.
London.
17.7.18.
N. W.

German
B Coy. → A Coy.

Inf. Pte. E. S. Drake, 7621 a.
17th Battn. D. Coy.
HAREFIELD.

↑
C Coy.

S.

Havre

18th July 1918.

A.I.F. 17.

Kelsall Lieut C.P.

K. 14th May 1918. Det D/B.

He was in B.Co. VII Pltn in command. I saw his grave in the Military Cemetery at Fouquevillers about 9 kilometres from Albert. There is a cross on it.

Inf:- Pte / A.I.F. Thompson No. 594.
A.I.F. 17. B. VI.
Australian Camp.
Rouelles.

RDM.

M.S.

S

PP.

Havre.

18th. July. 1918.

17th. Australians.

Kelsall, Lieut. C. P.

K. May. 14/1918. Dets. D/B.

buried
I was present when Lieut. Kelsall was ~~present~~ in the open in a gully in the Sailli le Soc Sector on May 15th. 1918. I was told that he was killed by a shell in our lines. I saw the body ~~was~~ lying on a Stretcher. There was a barrage on while he was being buried. Lieut. Small, in command of C. Company, was present & the Grave was in front of Mr. Smalls dug out. There are several other Graves in the same place. I could point out the spot.

Inf:- Private. G. E. A. James. 7144.
17th. Australians. C. 9.
Australian Conv. Camp.
Rouelles.

RDM.

S
to
inf

OF.

A.I.F. 17.

KELSALL, Lt. C.P.

K. May 14/18. Det. D/B.

Lt. Kelsall was in B Co. and was killed on May 14 in the Heilly sector while we were holding the line. Between 2.30 and 3 a.m. Jerry came over after a short bombardment, and his main attack was on B Co. I did not see Mr. Kelsall killed, but I heard he was killed either by a rifle or H.G. Bullet. We held our line and took a number of German prisoners. We buried all our dead on a ridge just behind the Support line, where we made a little cemetery, burying them the next day. I passed this cemetery but did not actually see his grave, but I think all details could be given by Capt. Ronald who was C.O. B Co.

Reference: Pte. McFalls, 6927. C Co.
No. 9 General, Rouen. 18.7.18.

DLE.

*Sd
Suff*

A.I.F. 17.

KELSALL, Lt. C.P.

K. May 14/18. Det. D/B.

I know him and was in the same Co., B. We were at Horlancourt on the 14th May in trenches and the Germans attacked between 6.30 and 7.0 a.m. They got pretty close up to us, but our fire was keeping them down nicely. Suddenly Lt. Kelsall and 3 or 4 men went over the top, close to me, in a counter attack and he had time to fire 6 rounds from his revolver and pick up a rifle before he was shot dead. The Germans - what was left of them, and that was not many - cleared off. Lt. Kelsall was buried at a little cemetery on the outskirts of Franvillers about 6 miles from where he was killed. There is a cross over his grave with which had flowers on it when I saw it. He came from N.S. Wales but that's all I know of him before joining up. He was a fine big chap, well built and had a wife and two children.

Reference: Pte. A.M. Gardiner, 5840. B Co.
No. 6 General, Rouen. 22.7.18.

HBT.

*Sd
Suff*

Havre

25th July 1918.

A.I.F. 17.

Kelsall Lieut C.P.

K. 14th May 1918. Det D/B.

I knew him, and he was 5 feet 9. I was left out on a guard at Labusserie, on the Somme, to get his body. At 1 a.m. I succeeded in finding his body, he had been killed by a bullet through the head. I brought his body to the Fouquevillers Cemetery, and I left it for the 2nd Divisional Burying party to bury the body.

Inf:- Cpl F.L. Johnson No. 1707.
A.I.F. 17. D. XIII.
H.S. 'Carrisbrook Castle'.

HEY.

*S
L
J*

PP.

Havre.

25th. July. 1918.

17th. Australians.

Kelsall, Lieut. C. P.

K. May. 14/1918. Dets. D/B.

He was in B. Company, 7th. Platoon in Command. I saw his body lying in our own lines at Morlincourt on May 16th. 1918, he had been killed a couple of days before & his body brought in by C. Company, S/Bearers. I saw his Grave. He is buried near a Hedge about two hundred yards behind our front line. There is a Cross on the Grave. I could point out the spot.

Inf:- Private. H. L. Parkes. 5706.
17th. Australians. B. 7.
Australian Conv. Camp.
Ronelles.

*S
L
J*

HDL.

CP.

17th Battn. A.I.F.

KELSALL.
Lt. C.P.

"Killed 14.5.18."

At Morlancourt, going over on a raid he was killed by machine Gun Fire about 50 yds. off. German post killed at once. I was close to him at the time they brought his body back, but I did not see his grave. I was his batman. He was one of the best, we were all very sorry to lose him, a brave man.

D.P. Dickson,
London,
26.7.18.
H.G.

Inf. Lee 6088.
W. 40.
HAREFIELD.

S.

17th Battn. A.I.F.

KELSALL.
Lt. C.P.

"Killed 14.5.18."

At Morlancourt, he went out to try and stop a raid, killed by bullet, killed at once. I saw him killed. Stretcher Bearers told me he was taken back and buried in 3rd Div. Cemetery behind the line. He was a real good sert, any amount of pluck, too much pluck in fact.

Inf. Sgt. Richardson, 2198.
W. 36.
HAREFIELD.

D.P. Dickson,
London,
26.7.18.
H.G.

S.

17th Battn.
A.I.F.

KELSALL
Lt. C.P.

"Killed 14-5-18"

I saw Lt. Kelsall's body on the night of the 15th May, just behind Malencourt. I helped to bury him next day, we put an oak Cross with full details over him. He was buried in the British Cemetery at Franc - Villers.

Informant. Phillips. Etc.C. 2192
17th Battn. Hqts.,
3rd A.A.H.,
DARTFORD.

C.H.B.
London
29-7-18
A.G.

S.

No. 0.1.

June 19

17th Bk

A.7

P.E.7

Filing

Dear Sir

We have recently received

through our Sydney Bureau a request
to ~~be~~ ^{investigate} a cable
which is reported to have been sent to

~~Mr C.P. Kelsall of Bk. A.7~~

~~on 14.5.18. This officer is officially~~

~~reported to have been killed in action~~

~~on 14.5.18. There is~~

no record of any cable having

been sent from London to Australia on 14.5.18

This officer is officially reported

to have been killed on 14.5.18 and
there is no record of any cable having

RECEIVED
17 JUNE 1918

RECORDED
INDEXED

17 JUNE 1918

Journal

1.0.21

15.1.21

F.M.

F. 2. 29

H. H.

all work

LYDIATE.
te Albert. 171.

quilt

received 10/10/21

received 10/10/21

received 10/10/21

received 10/10/21

received 10/10/21

"Whereabouts"

received 10/10/21

with visit 21-4-17.

no casualty reported

Cert. by Return Letter 18

is with

London

6-11

received 10/10/21

received 10/10/21

been sent through there. It is possible
that Lt Kelcey sent a cable
through the Battalion on some date
before 24-5-18 & that this date has
been ~~mis~~ recorded in
transmission, and we should be
very grateful if you would let us know
if you have any record of such a cable
being sent through the Battalion.

With many apologies for
troubling you.

17-8-18
LONDON

COL: P. J. H. ...
THE ...
17-8-18

17-8-18
LONDON

17-8-18
LONDON

7th L.H. Rgt.
A.I.F.
M 6 Squad

ABBERTON.

Leslie John. 8337.

"Died of Wounds".

Died of Wounds 30-11-17. received in Egypt.

Buried Cairo British Cemetery Cairo.

Cert: by M. F. Hoob 17-6-18.

Handwritten notes:
observed ill. well appeared but
was a few days ill. He
was in hospital at hospital
and died with illness in 1918
in hospital. ~~He~~ died
of influenza. He was
in hospital for a few days
before he died. He was
buried in the British
Cemetery, Cairo.
Cert: by M. F. Hoob 17-6-18.

London.
17-6-18.

Headquarters 17th. Battalion, A.I.F.
France.

2/7/18.

The Secretary,
Wounded & Missing Enquiry Bureau,
36 Grosvenor Place,
S.W.1

Lieut. C. P. Kelsall
17 Bde AIF
Rm 14.5.18.

In reply to the attached memo ~~it~~ it is very much regretted that there is no record whatever in this Office of the cable in question, such records not having been kept by the Postal Clerks.

J. R. Rawden *53'*
Lieut-Colonel.
Commanding 17th. Battalion, A.I.F.

17th Battn. A. I. F.

K. 14.5.18

KELSALL, C. P. Lt.

He was of B. Co. on 14th May at Sailly-le-Sec. enemy attacked at 5 a.m. Lt. Kelsall got out of lines with only a few men to try and cut the Germans off. Was shot in neck outside our own wire. His body was recovered during following night. I saw his body on stretcher outside Battn. H.Q. Was taken down on Ration limber to transport that would take him to Cemetery. Was buried by padre F. W. Tugwell of 17th Battn. I think in cemetery in vicinity of La Hussoye. But I was not at burial.

Inf. Pte. T. F. Raine, 3162.
17th Battn. runner.
AMZAC BUFFET.

A. D. G.
London.
17. 7. 18.
N. W.

S.

A. I. F. 17th Battn

KELSALL
KERSALL
Lieut G. P.

"K/A. 14-5-18"

No trace of cable at Hqrs, Officers rarely cable through HQRS.
Cert. by A. I. F. Hqrs 17-6-18.

S
(L. C. O)

London
18-6-18

Mayre.

8th. July. 1918.

17th. Australians.

Kelsall, Lieut. C. P.

K. May. 14/1918. Dets. D/B.

He was in B. Coy; 7th. Platoon in command. I saw his body brought down at La Heussaye. He is buried in the Military Cemetery there & there is a Cross on his grave. The C. of B. Padre to the 17th. Battalion officiated at the Grave.

Inf:- L/Corporal. J. V. Jacka. 4460.
17th. Australians. B. 8.
N.W- Australian Camp.
Rouelles. S

RDM.

Mayre.

10th. July. 1918.

17th. Australians.

Kelsall, Lieut. C. P.

K. May. 14/1918. Dets. D/B.

He was in B. Coy. 7th. Pltn. In June I saw Mr. Kelsall's Grave in the Military Cemetery of Franvilliers. The Cemetery is alongside an old French Cemetery. There was a Battalion Cross up to him.

Inf:- Private. E. P. Fitzgerald. 3829.
17th. Australians. B. 7. S/Bearers.
N.W- Australian Camp.
Rouelles. S

HFG.

CP.