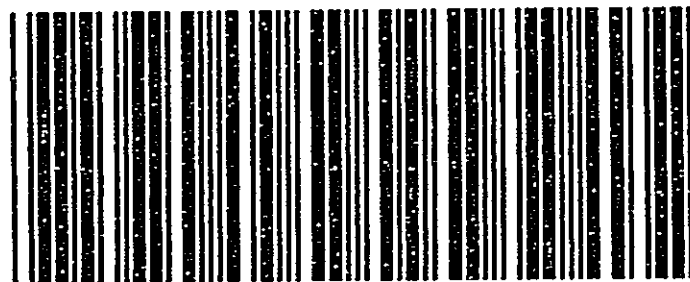


Australian Red Cross Society Wounded and Missing  
Enquiry Bureau files, 1914-18 War  
1DRL/0428

**4509 Private  
Robert John Leslie**

**54th Battalion**



1590407Q

A.I.F. 54th Bn. -  
late 3rd Bn.

LESLIE -  
Robert John 4509

Killed in action 27.10.16

Buried 570.H.S.A.5.5.  
Lt Speddings List.

London  
30.6.19

8

54th Battn.  
A. I. F.

Leslie.  
R. J. 4509

"Killed in Action 27.10.16"

Re the above. The body of this soldier was buried on the field and his grave has been registered and since had a cross erected to it.

Letter from:-  
The Burial Officer,  
5th Aust. Division,  
4.10.17.

London.  
9.10.17.

S.

54th Batt. A.I.F.

LESLIE R.J. 4509.

"B" Coy.,  
No 5 Platoon.

" K. Oct. 27th., '16. Det D & B "

" On Oct. 27th., '16, we were holding the front line at Fleurs, and during the afternoon, Leslie was killed by a "Whizz-bang". He was taken back at once, but died an hour after he had been hit, and was unconscious all the time. He was buried just over the parapet of Cobden Trench, by the Divisional burial party. No service was held, but a cross was erected over the grave, bearing his name, number, and battalion. It should be easily traceable ". If you write to Lt Seymour, 5th Div. Burial Party, he will be able to give you full details of a number of burials from our battalion, as he was in charge of the party".

Description. Hgt 5ft6. Fair complexion. Slight build.

Witness. Leach Sgt. J.H. 938.  
54th Batt. "B" Coy.

Taken at the 14th Training Battalion.  
Hurdcott.

September 3rd., '17. J.G.W.

S. Whitmee.  
No 4 Command Depot.  
Codford.

*Written Lt Seymour 22.9.17*

Havre

5th Sept. 1917.

54th AUSTRALIANS

IESMR, R.J. 4509

L. 27.10.16. Det. D/5.

He was in B Co. He came from Newcastle, N.S.W. I had known him about a month. The number given is about his. He came over in the 3rd 69 Reinforcements to the 54th battalion. I got his disc and paybook off his body and handed it to 2nd Lt. Smith of B Co., 54th battalion. I assisted to bury him in Flers Trench about  $\frac{1}{2}$  a mile in rear of Bapaume. You leave High Wood and go along the duckboards into Turk Lane which leads into Flers Trench. The grave is about 50 yards on the right. I could point out the spot.

Informant: Corpl. J. Black, 4235  
54th Australians, B Co.; S/B.  
Australian Camp, Rouelles.

CSR

54th Battalion.  
late 3rd Battn.

LESLIE, R.J.  
4509 Pte

Killed in Action 27/10/16.

Leslie came to us from the 3rd Battn. a few weeks before he was killed. His name was Roy and he was in B.Co. V Platoon with me. He was tall dark slight build. He and I were in a trench together near Fiers at the end of October 1916 before the big ~~next~~ attack the first time the 54th went into the Somme. I relieved him from his place on the fire step and he was asleep at the bottom of the trench a few yards away from me when a whizz bang shell came over. Whilst we were dressing his wounds he died. He was unconscious all the time and did not suffer. I think it was more the shock than the injuries that caused his death. I helped to bury him the same night after the Doctor had seen his body. We took his disc and papers and handed them in to the officer in charge Lt. Smith. He was buried a few yards away from where he was killed. The saps leading to this trench was known as Turk Lane and Goose Alley. Sgt. Kelly erected a cross on his grave with Leslie's name on.

Informant: De Dulin, C. Pte 5305

54th Battn. E.Co.

No.4 Australian General Hospital,  
RANDWICK.

H.S.O.  
7/12/17.

A reliable witness.

SIDNEY BUREAU.

(13.9.17)  
Leut SEYMOUR (54 BATTAIN)  
5 Divisional Burial  
Party

AIF  
BEF

abt

4509

R. J. / LESLIE

54 BATTAIN

K 27.10.16.

A.P.  
20.9.17

Call 88.  
Letter 10-17

4509 R. J. LESLIE

3-44 Sale - 4/16/17

1/A 27-10-16

The Secretary

5

3

Tcd  
Aug 1917

Wounded & Missing Enquiry

Bureau

Re the attached Enquiry

The body of this soldier  
was buried on the field &  
his grave has been registered &  
there has a cross erected to it

Thymer

Bureau

5<sup>th</sup> West Division



Rev. 8.10.17

G. C.



AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY

(WOUNDED AND MISSING INQUIRY BUREAU).

54, VICTORIA STREET,

LONDON, S.W. 1.

Lieut-Seymour  
54 BATT<sup>y</sup> A.I.F.  
5<sup>th</sup> Divisional Burial Party

Dear Sir,

~~We are making enquiries for a man of your Unit~~

4509 R. J. Leslie - 54 BATT<sup>y</sup> - R. 27.10.16

and have been told that you may be able to help us by

~~supplying some information.~~

We should be most grateful for any details you can send us concerning R. J. Leslie but our enquirers wish especially to know whether he was buried, if so, whether it was on the Field or in a Soldier's Cemetery, where the grave would be registered. We should also be glad if you could add a short description of his personal appearance ~~or any points that might help to prove his~~ identity.

Yours faithfully,

(Miss)

Vera Deakin.

SECRETARY.

October 9th, 1917.

Lieut. Seymour,  
Burial Officer,  
5th Aust. Division,  
A.I.F.,  
B.E.F.

Dear Sir,

We wish to thank you for your reply in answer to our enquiry concerning -

4509 R. J. LESLIE - 54th Battalion. A.I.F.

The information you have sent will be of much assistance to us and of value to our enquirers.

We shall now apply to the Graves Registration and Enquiries asking them to forward a photograph of the late soldier's grave to his next of kin.

Yours faithfully,

Secretary.