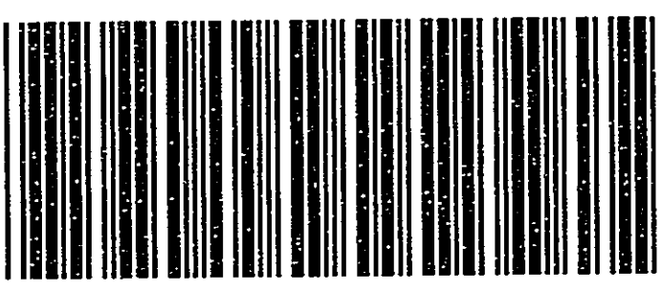
Australian Red Cross Society Wounded and Missing
Enquiry Bureau files, 1914-18 War
1DRL/0428

2nd Lieutenant
Charles Austin Leslie

60th Battalion



1590401K

A.I.F. 60th Btn

LESLIE

2/Lieut C.A.

"K. in A. 11-5-17"

Previously reported Killed in Action 11-5-17 - and unit as 32 Btn. now Killed in Action 12-5-17
Advert. by A.I.F.Hqrs 3-8-17.

M

London
4-8-17

Havre 24th Aug. 1917.

60th AUSTRALIANS LESLIE, 2nd Lt. O.A.

K. 19.5.17.

He was in A Co., 1st Pltn. He came from Bendigo. I had known him for about 8 months. He was the only officer of that name in the company. About ¼ a mile from the village of Fayreuil (which is near Hazebrouck) we were in Camp. I saw the Battalion Pioneers making a cross for 2nd Lt. Leslie's grave.

Informant: Pte. A. McLachlan, 1975
60th Australians, A Co., 3rd Pltn.,
Australian Camp, Rouellet.

CHR M.

60th Battn
A. Coy.
A.I.F.

LESLIE.
2nd Lieut. C.A.

"Killed 11.5.17."

He was my officer and no one could speak too highly of him. He was blown to pieces and nothing whatever could be done with the body afterwards. R.J. Bywater of B. Coy. (Don't know his number) could tell more about him A. Coy was not in Action at the time but B. Coy was so short of officers that Lieut. Leslie volunteered.

~~WITNESS.~~

R.H. Heaton. 2906
A. Coy. 60th Battn
Ward 1.
Herefield.

H. Levey
London.
- 1.9.17.

M

Note written Pte. Bywater. 31.8.17.

60th Battn
A.I.F.

Leslie.
2/Lieut. C.A.

"Killd 11.5.17."

Sergt Pikes who is in No 4 Ward Horton L.C. Hospital Epsom was wounded by the same shell as killed Lieut. Leslie and could give further particulars.

Witness:-
A. J. Fogg. L/C 952
17th Schools.
Southall.

London.
3.9.17.

Note written Sgt. Pikes. 31.8.17. M

Havre 3rd September.1917.

60th AUSTRALIANS LESLIE. 2nd Lt. C.A.

K. ~~11~~ 12. 5. 17. Det. D/B.

He was the only Officer of this name in the Battalion. I had known him about 12 months. I was told by Pt. 2694, G.W. Huggins, Company runner, that he had seen 2nd Lt. Leslie killed, but did not say where. Higgins is with the Battalion now.

Informant: Pt. R.F. Morgan 2722
60th Australians, C.Co., XI.Pltn.
Australian Camp, Rouelles.

CMR. [illegible]

Written Pte Huggins 8.9.17

60th Batt,
B. Coy.
A.I.F.

Leslie,
2/Lt.C.A.

"Killed 11.5.17"

I saw him killed at Bullecourt by a shell fragment, which caught him in the head, killing him instantaneously. I do not know place of burial, as I was wounded a little later, myself and cannot refer to anyone for further particulars. I knew him well, and he was very popular.

Witness:- Waugh,
Pte F. 4614
60th Batt, B. Coy, 5th Pltn,
3rd A.A. Hosp,
Dartford,

W. Oman
4.9.17

M.

London 10.9.17

60th Battn
A.I.F.

Leslie.
2nd Lieut. C.A.

"Killed 2.5.17."

Killed at Bullecourt same time as Corp Powlter. Leslie was wounded so they say, and dug a hole in he bottom of the trench and got into it waiting to be taken out. A shell came over afterwards right in where he was and he was blown to bits. I saw what they said were remains of Leslie we had been relieved but went back to bury some of the officers' bodies, bu there was not enoughtof him left to bring back. He was the most popular officer in the Battn. By Jove he was a game fellow.

Witness:-
Thomas. H.E.L.
1779
Ward 30,
Harefield

D.P. Dickson.
London1
4.9.17.

M

60th Battn
C. C y
A.I.F.

Leslie.
C.A. 2nd Lieut.

"Killed 11.5.17."

Refer to 1226 L/Cpl. R. Loxton D. Coy. 59th Battn, now in France, and also Pte. S. Muldeary, D. Coy. 59th Battn. who saw him killed and can give particulars.

Witness:- Pte. A.T. O'Brien 2706
59th Battn D. Coy., 16th Pltn.
3rd A.A. Hospital,
Dartford.

W. Oman,
London.
5.9.17. Note written L/Cpl. Loxton M
5.9.17.

60th A.I.F.

Leslie. 2nd Lieut. C.A.
B.Co. VIII Plt.

K. May 12/1917. Det D/B.

"I was told that 2nd Lieut. Leslie was killed outright by a shell at Bullecourt on April 11/1917, during the advance on Bullecourt. Do not know if he was buried as the 60th Batt. was withdrawn very shortly afterwards. The 60th Batt. was in billets on May 13th, the date affixed to the casualty."

Eye Witness:-- Mc, told by Capt. Kerr, C.O. 60th Batt.A.I.F

Description:-- Little man, between 25 and 30 years. Most probably a Victorian.

Informant:-- Pte Coombs, 2655,
60th A.I.F. B.Coy.,
Edmonton Hospital.

Home address:-- ~~Cerne St~~,
Gratton and Bouverie,
Carlton,
Victoria, Australia.

Sept 11/1917.
D.W.Brown.

Havre 14th September.1917.

60th AUSTRALIANS LESLIE, 2nd Lt. C.A.

K. May 11th.1917. Det. D/S.

He was in A. Co., II.Pltn. I had known him for about 7 months, and knew him well, and saw him regularly. He was the only Officer of this name in the Company. I was attached to A.Co., and was servant to Lt. Dolphin, L.M.G., A.Co. I saw 2nd Lt. Leslie's grave at Bullecourt about 20 yards from the main Sap, close to the 15th Brigade, A.I.F. H.Q. which are on the railway embankment. The grave is about 20 yards from the Embankment. There is a cross on his grave with his name, number an Battalion on it. I could point out the spot.

Informant: Pt. C.F. Jones 2638
60th Australians, D.Co., XIV. Pltn.
Australian Camp, Rouelles.

CMR. M Soff
Cd

60th Battn
A.I.F. B.C.

Leslie
C.A. 2nd Lieut.

"Killd 12.5.17."

Refer to Sgt. G. Pikes, C Coy., 60th Battn who is now in Horton War Hospital Epsom, and who saw him killed at Bullecourt and can give particulars.

Witness:-

Cpl. E.W. O'Connor. 4979
60th Battn B. Coy.,
3rdA.A. Hospital,
Dartford.

W. Oman,
London.
17.9.17.

Note Sgt. Pikes. already written to.

60th A.I.F.

Leslie, 2/lt. C.A.

(K. May 11/17)

Informant states that on May 11th at Bullecourt, Lt. Leslie(Inf. says he was a full Lt. at the end) was wounded in the attack very badly, he was verygame and did not want to leave, but they took him to a dugout. On the way a German prisoner who was helping to carry handles the stretcher very clumsily and Leslie took out his revolver and killed him, he well deserved it. Directly they had got him to a dugout a shell came and finished him, and blew him to smitherines. He was missed very much by his men for they thought a great deal of him, a very fine fellow too, very jolly with all the boys. Just spoken to lots of eye-witnesses, including Lt. Kelly."

Eye-witness:

Description:

Informant:- Pte. William Hall, 3050.
60th A.I.F.
Fulham Military Hospital.

Sept. 17
A. Urlin

60th Battn
A. Company
A.I.F.

LESLIE.
C. M, 2nd Lieut.

"Killed 12/5/17"

Refer to Pte A. A. Wheatley B. Company 60th Battalion who is now in France and who saw him killed at Bullecourt, and who may be able to give you particulars of burial..

Witness:- Pte W. Miller 2936
60th Battns. Coy 4th Pltn.
3rd A.A. Hosp Dartford.

Note written to Pte Wheatley 20/9/17

W. Oman
19.9.17

M

60th Battn.
B.Coy.
A. I. F.

Leslie.
2/Lt. C. A.

"Killed 12.5.17"

I saw him killed at Bullecourt. He was hit in the stomach by shell fragments, death was instantaneous. I was only a few yards away at time of casualty. I do not know place of burial as we were advancing at the time and I cannot refer to anyone.

Witness:-
Pte.H.C.Shean 1792
60th Battn.C.Coy.
3rd Aust.Aux.Hpl.
Dartford.

W.Oman.

London.
19.9.17.

M.

60th Battn
A.I.F. BC

Leslie
C.A. 2nd Lieut.

"Killed 11.5.17".

Refer to Pte. J. King A. Coy. 60th Battn who is now in France and who saw him killed and can give particulars.

Witness:---
Pte. W.J. Maran 2723
60th Battn B. Coy.,
3rd A.A. Hospitalm
Dartford.

W. Oman,
London.
20.9.17. G646 Note written Pte. King 14.9.17.

M.

Havre 21st September.1917.

60th AUSTRALIANS LESLIE, 2nd Lt. C.A.

A. May 11th.1917. Det. D/B.

He was in A. Co. He lived in Carlton, a suburb of Melbourne, and was a Drapers Salesman with Messrs. Tye & Co. I had known him for about 2 years, and knew his well. He was the only Officer of this name in the Battalion. I was told by Pt. A. Sutherland of D.Co., XIV.Pltn., that he had seen 2nd Lieut. Leslie's grave at Bullecourt. Sutherland is with the Battalion now.

Informant: Pt. A. Simpson, 2552
60th Australians, D.Co., X IV.Pltn.
Australian Camp, Boulles.

CMR.

60th A. I. F., Leslie, 2nd Lieut. C.A.

K. May 11th 1917. Det: D/B.

"I knew Lt. Leslie but am not sure of his Coy. I was 2nd in command. He was killed instantaneously at Lagnicourt on May 11th 1917. He was sitting in a shaft of a dug out and got a direct hit with a 5.9. Three men who were with him were killed at the same time. The Battalion would know where he was buried."

Eye-witness: No, could not remember names of men.

Description:

Informant:-- Major Trickey,
60th A. I. F., 2nd in command.
1, Moreton Gardens Hosp:
S.W.

Home address:-- 12, Lebanon Gardens,
Wandsworth, S.W.

M Bd
Batt

22.9.17.
N.B.Harcock.

60th Batn
A.I.F.

Leslie.
2nd Lieut. ~~2-2~~
C.A.

Killed 12.5.17."

Was Lieut. in B. Coy. He was killed instatnly by the same shell as knocked me. I was next to him, and saw him hit. It happened in the Hindenburg line Bullcourt on May 12th. I was taken away almost immediately afterwards and don't know if his body w was taken away to be buried. I heard that another shell hit him and that he was blown to pieces.

Letter from:- H.G. Sayers. 2242
Inf.
60th Batn
Harefield.

W.G.J.
London.
26.9.17.

M

60th Batn
A.I.F.

C.A. Leslie. 2nd Lieut.
F.E. ~~2673~~

"Missing 12.5.17."

Re your enquiries regarding 2nd Lieut. C.A. Leslie he was killed in action on the 11th 5.17. he was buried I believe in No Man's land. I was in charge of a party of S.Brs. and tried to find his body to give him a Military Burial but owing to the heavy shell fire we could not get out. He was well liked by all the man of this Batn.

Letter from:-
J.R. King
A. Coy., 60th Batn
A.I.F.
France 20.9.17.

London.
28.9.17.

Filing copy

1 more for H.Q.

M

60th A. I. F. 2/Lieut. C. A. LESLIE.

Killed 11.5.17. Det.D/B.

I was told by men who were there at the time that he was in a dug-out that was blown in by a shell. He was quite buried for the time being and when taken out he was dead. The men who told me this certainly knew him and said they saw the incident. I understand Lieut.Gannon of 60.B. was there at the time.

Reference: A.Field, 2674, B.Coy.

No.11 Con.Camp, Buchy nr. Rouen, 25.9.17.

FEP.

G C 1.9.17

1226

Lcpl R. LOXTON

D Co

29 ~~Batt~~ AIF

BEF

for

2Lt C.A. LESLIE

C. Co

60 ~~Batt~~ AIF

K. 11. 5. 17

RC.

6.9.17

G.C. 6.9.17

2694 G.W. HUGGINS
Company Runner
60 Batt AIF
B.E.F

for
2Lt C.A. LESLIE
60 Batt AIF
K. 12. 5. 17

L.B.H.
8. 9. 17

K

24. 8. 17.

Pte R. J. BYWATER
B. Coy
60. Batt^n A.I.F.
B.E.F.

For
2/Lt C. A. LESLIE,
A. Co. 60. Batt^n A.I.F.

N. 11. 8. 17.

MMa
A 6.9.17

SC 29.8.14

Sgt PIKES,
No: 4 Ward,
L.C. Hospital,
Epsom.

For
2/Lt C.A. LESLIE
60. Batt^n A.I.F.

R. 11.5.14.

[illegible]
27.9.17

GC 13.9.17

Pte J. KING. A Co
60 Batt AIF
BEF

2 Lt C.A LESLIE
B. Co
60 Batt AIF

K. 11. 5. 17

W.C.
13.9.17

18-9-17

Pte A. H. WHEATLEY

B. Coy. 60th Batt.

A J F

B. 2 F.

Also

2/Lt C. H. LESLIE.

A. Coy 60th Battalion

A. J. F

K. 12. 5-17

B.H. 19-9-17.

act'd
Dec 25th 17

2/Lt C.A. LESLIE 60th Battn

17/A On Active Service
12-5-17

CA
M
3

Y.M.C.A.

WITH THE BRITISH
EXPEDITIONARY FORCE

France 20-9-17

Dear Madam

Re your Inquiries regarding 2nd Lt C. A. Leslie he was killed in action on the 11th of 5-17 he was buried I believe in no Mans Land I was in charge of a Party of S.B.s and tried to find his Body to give him a Military Burial but owing to the heavy shell fire we could not get out He was well liked by all the men of this Batt

Regarding your Inquiry for 267 3A F.E. Ferguson he was seen standing near the

over

(2)

On Active Service

Y.M.C.A.

WITH THE BRITISH EXPEDITIONARY FORCE

Mouth of a dugout a few minutes after a Shell landed in the Dugout and he was seen no more after
he was believed to have been blown to Pieces and buryed by the Shell

Discription
about 5 ft 11 inches the hight dark complexion rosy cheeks and rather a deep Base Voice

I know this man personally in Australia he is married and his wife lives at Bendigo

[illegible]

My lad has been 2 years over there. he had been in Etaples with French feet. but left there on March 31st Enquiries among D.C.O. 19th Battn men in hospital may find out something of him.

Dutton H. Yass
N.S. Wales
16/7/17

To The Austrn Red Cross Commissioners
Gentlemen

I take the liberty of writing a few lines and also enclosing a letter for a son of mine that may be reported prisoner of war. I had word last month that my son. No 1226 Lt Sergt Charles W. Leslie 19th Battn had been officially reported missing since May 3rd over 10 weeks ago. I have had no further word of his whereabouts since that date: one Yass lad writing home on May 9th from France mentioned talking to my boy on May 2nd but could not think what happened him since. another Yass lad writing to me on May 10th from France mentioned he heard Charlie's Division had done splendid work at Bullecourt a few days before so that everything points to Bullecourt on May 3rd. As a lot of men have lately been reported missing and prisoners of war. it just may happen that he and another 19th Battn lad that was with him and reported missing same date (Arthur Leathard) may yet be notified as prisoners of war. and as you will probably know that long before I am likely to. I am just enclosing a letter addressed to my son and asking you (in the event of him being prisoner of war) to please send it to wherever he may be in Germany. I know how the dear lad will be worrying he will know we are wondering what has become of him and I just want to assure him at the earliest possible time that we are still trusting & praying that Our Heavenly Father will still watch over him and guard him and let him return home safely to us very soon. Thanking you in anticipation and enclosing letter. I remain Yours very sincerely
Mrs E. Leslie. Dutton H. Yass
N.S.W.