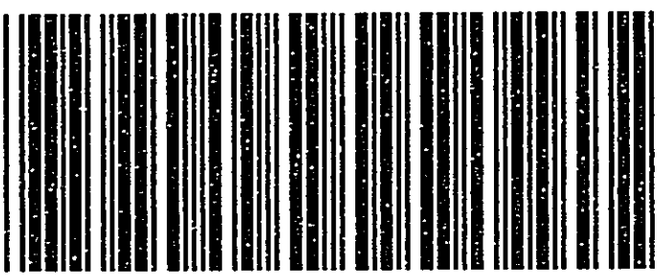
Australian Red Cross Society Wounded and Missing
Enquiry Bureau files, 1914-18 War
1DRL/0428

1226 Lance Sergeant Charles William Leslie

19th Battalion



1590402L

19th Batt'n.
A.I.F.

Leslie.
L/Sgt. C.W. 1286

"Missing 3.5.17"

Re 1221 L/Sgt.C.Leslie. I can't give you very much about him only that on the day of the 3rd May 1917 he was with me until about an hour after Zero? time and I am sorry to say that nothing has been seen or heard of him since and I have already written home to his parents giving them as full particulars as I possibly could.

Letter from:-
Cpl.J.R.Silk
France
11.11.17.

London.
27.11.17.

S.

19th Battn.
A. I. F.

Leslie.
L/Cpl. C.W. 1226.

"Missing 3.5.17"

Killed at Bullecourt near the German barbed wire, I think by machine gun bullet. We saw him fall into shell hole, I was alongside. I shook him, felt him, spoke to him, he seemed to be dead to the world. Don't know if he was buried.

Witness:-
V. L. Smith 5884.
W.33 Harefield.

D. P. Dickson.

London.
3.8.17

S.

ORIGINAL STATEMENT ECHELON 2337/3/2

(COPY)

Statement made by No.5884 Pte Smith V.L.19th Btn

re No.1226 L/C Leslie C.W.19th Btn
Missing 3.5.17

I was with L/Cpl Leslie C.W. in the 19th Btn, Bullecourt on 3rd May last, he was beside me at the time he was hit by a shell he then fell into a shell hole, the Battalion was moving forward at the time. Nothing more was seen or heard of him, and it was the general opinion that he was killed. He was a personal friend of mine, and we always shared the same dugout.

Dated at Bulford this 3rdmday of September 1917.

(Sd) V.L. Smith

Statement made and signed before me (SD) I. Armstrong.

S.
2

A.I.F. 19. LESLIE, L/Sgt C F.W. 1226

M. May 3rd 1917.

At about 4.30 on May 3rd L/Sgt Leslie was with his company in an attack on Reincourt. We had to withdraw and in doing so the Germans turned heavy M.G. fire on us. There was a big mix up and neither side could get any prisoners. It was believed that Leslie was killed. Capt Taylor of B.Coy. 19th Battn would however be able to give more definite information at the the Sgt.'s fate than I can. Sgt Leslie was of medium height and stoutly built and about 26 years old.

Inf: A.E.Fry. 3020.
No 57 General
BOULOGNE. 20.9.17. HH

S

Wrote Capt Taylor
27-9-17

Havre 22nd Oct. 1917.

19th AUSTRALIANS LESLIE, L/Sgt. C.W. 1226

M. 3.5.17.

I knew him well. He was in my company and platoon. His initials and number are as stated. He came from Yass, N.S.W. We were attacking at Bullecourt on the 3rd May. I was not near Sergt. Leslie, but was told by Corpl. J. Silk of D Co., 15th Bltn. (with the battalion when I left) that Leslie had been killed. I got no details.

Informant: Pte. A. Surman, 4767
19th Australians, D Co., 13th Pltn.,
Australian Camp, Ronelles.

L de D.

S

Written Cpl. Silk 1-11-17

A. I. F. 19. LESLIE, L/Sgt.C.W.1226.

M. May 3rd, 1917.

His mate, James White of D.Coy. XIII, LGS, now up line is No. 2 on my gun and he told me Leslie was killed at Bullecourt on May 3rd and that he had sent his wallet with photos &c to his people. White and Leslie used to play football. I think Leslie came from Yass.

PHK.

Reference:- L/C. H.Johnson. 4450. D.XIII.
L.G. School.

Etaples
23.10.17.

S. written White 6.11.17.

A.I.F. 19. LESLIE L/Sgt. C.W. 1226.

M. 3.5.17.

I am an original man. I know L/Sgt. Leslie well fromt the time we left Australia. L/Cpl. J. O'Grady of D.Co. now up the line, told me Leslie was killed at Bullecourt on 3rd. May and I am under the impression that he saw the casualty happen. In any case he knows all about him. I know no details. He was in D.Co.

PHE.

Reference: Pte.F. Young. 72. D. XVI.
7 Can.Gen.Hpl.

Stq lee.
1.11.1.7

Written L/Cpl. J. O'Grady 10.11.17.

19 Australian. Leslie, L/Sgt. C.W.n 1226.

M. May 3/17.

" I saw Sgt. Leslie (19.D.XIII) killed instantaneously by a shell at Bullecourt on May 3rd. We went over at daybreak. I believe his body was found & that Pte. Anderson (19.D.XIII) wrote to his mother people about it."

Eyewitness:- Yes, of death.

Description:- None. He thinks he lived the other side of Sydney.

Informant:- Pte. Leslie Ross. 2970.
19 Australian. D Co.,- XV Plat.
3rd Southern Genl. Hosp., Oxford, Base.

Home address:- Mrs. S. Ross,
Cadell St.,
West Hay, N.S.W.

5/11/17.
Janet H. Payne.

Written Pte. Anderson 15.11.17.

Att'd P.C. 19.1.17

1226 L/Sgt C. W. LESLIE
5 Bath Coy
Nov 11 1914
M3-5-17
S
4.

To the Secretary

Madam,

In regard to your letter of enquiry re reward to No 1221 L/Sgt C. Leslie, 5th Bath, I can give you very much about him only that on the 4th day of the 3rd month 1914 he was with me in the advanced trenches at Ypres & I am sorry to say that nothing has been seen or heard of Since. I have already written home to his parents giving them so full of particulars as I for my could & trusting this will be Family favourable. I am sorry I can't give any fuller information but I come to a close

Yours Obedient Servant
Capt J. R. Leith

Qu's 10.12.14

D Coy 56th Btn
Australian Imperial Forces
Abroad
2/12/14

To
The Secretary
Enquiry Bureau

Dear Sir.

Just a line to try and get a little information that may help me to find my old mate who has been missing for some time. His address was No. 1226. Lance Sergeant Leslie C.W. of the 19th Btn. I will accn it a great favour if you could oblige me with the least information that might assist me in finding him.

Thanking you in anticipation

I am
yours Faithfully
Will McEachern.

Please address:-

No. 3439
Lieut. W. McEachern
D Company
56th Battalion
Australian Imperial Forces
Abroad.

December 11th, 1917.

3439 L/Cpl.W.McEachern,
56th Aust.Inf.Bttn,
A.I.F.,B.E.F.

Dear Sir,

With reference to your inquiry for

No 1226 L/Sgt.CHARLES H.LESLIE.
19th Battalion, A.I.F.

who is officially reported Missing since 3.5.17, we much regret to inform you that all the unofficial evidence we have concerning him on our books states him to have been killed on that date.

Though we cannot of course vouch for the accuracy of any unofficial evidence, we are much afraid that these reports must be correct as so long a time has now elapsed without news of L/Sgt.Leslie as a prisoner of War.

5884 Pte.V.L.Smith, states concerning him "C.H.Leslie was killed at Bullecourt near the German barbed wire. I think by machine gun bullet. We saw him fall into a shell hole. I was alongside I shook him, felt him, spoke to him, he seemed to be dead."

2970 Pte.Leslie Ross made the following statement "I saw Sgt.Leslie killed instantaneously by a shell at Bullecourt on May 3rd. We went over at daybreak."

4460 L/Cpl.H.Johnson states "Leslie's mate, James White of D.Coy, L.G.S., is No 2 on my gun. He told me Leslie was killed at Bullecourt and that he had sent his wallet with photographs etc to his people. White & Leslie used to play football together".

Should we obtain further information concerning L/Sgt.Leslie we shall at once advise you. Regretting that we should have to forward such sad news and assuring you of our sympathy.

Yours faithfully,

SECRETARY MR

A.I.F. 19th Btn
Late Camel Corps

LESLIE
L/Sgt Chas.W. 1226

"MISSING"

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

S & P.I

London
14-1-18

19th BATTALION A.I.F.
late Camel Corps

LESLIE C.W. L/SERGEANT
No. 1226

KILLED 3/5/17.

Informant described Leslie as about 5 ft.5 inches high, medium build, rather dark complexion, aged about 22. Thought to have come from Orange.

Informant states that both he and Leslie belonged to "D"Coy., No.13 Platoon, Leslie being Lance-Sergeant of the Platoon. On 3/5/17, the Battalion was taking part in the attack on Bullecourt. The hop over took place at about 3 a.m., and Informant and Leslie were then only about two or three man away from each other. Informant saw Leslie again at about 3.30 a.m., just before they got to the German front line. He was then all right. The attacking force had to retire, and Informant never saw Leslie again. Other chaps, however, saw him enter Fritz's front line, but all agreed that no one saw him after that.

Informant added that Leslie was well liked by all.

Informant:- Private W.A.R. Mitchell,
No. 5094 "D" Co.19th Battalion.
Home address:-
Rosedale Street,
St. Ives, SYDNEY.

Lt Lent P. Sigs

P.E.G.
8.3.18.

No.4 Australian General Hospital,
RANDWICK.

SYDNEY BUREAU.

(27-9-17

Capt. TAYLOR

B. Coy. 19th Battn

A.D.T.

B.E.F.

about

1226 L/Sgt C. W. LESLIE

19th Battn A37

M 3-5-17

C.C.

1-10.17

X-Z

(1-11-17 B

Cpl. J. Selk

10 Eng. XIII Plts.

19te Baltn. a.1.7.

B.1.7.

abt.

1226 L/Nyt. G.W. Leslie

519te Baltn. a.1.7.

M. 3-5-17

1-11-17
a.1.B.

James White
D. Coy. L.G.S.
19. A.I.F.
B.S.T.

about

d/Sgt. C.W. Leslie
1226
19 A.I.F.

Missing 3.5.17.

Enl.
6.11.17.

10.11.17

L/Cpl. J. O'Grady
D Coy.
19th Battn. A.I.F.
B.E.F.

abt.
1226 L/Sgt. C.W. Leslie
19th Battn. A.I.F.
M. 3-5-17

10.11.17
A.I.B.

15-11-17

Pte. Anderson
D. Coy. XIII Pltn.
19th Battn. A.I.F.
B.T.F.

abt.
1226 L/Sgt. C. W. Leslie
19th Battn. A.I.F.
M. 3-5-17.

15-11-17
A.I.B.

Australian Imp!.

Mrs E. Leslie:
Dalton Street
Yass
N.S.W.

1226 d/ Sergt. Chas: G: Leslie 19th Batt.

1.10.17..

A.I.F. 19th Battn.

late Camel Corps

LESLIE
L/Sgt.Chas.William
1226

K/A. 5/5/17

No trace in Germany
Cert. by Capt. Mills 10/10/19

London
20/10/19

S
P.I.