

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

**410 Private
James Balfour
Leathem**

42nd Battalion



1570607Q

42nd Batt.

A.I.F.

Leather

LATHERN

Pte J

410

"Died of illness"

He was admitted to this hospital on 24th Nov. 1916 and died on the morning of 26th. He had been at Hollywood Convalescent Hospital for some time previously the onset of his illness was very sudden. On admission he was semi-conscious, but was able to take fluid nourishment. His relatives were sent for and a lady who told me she was his step-mother came to see him and remained with him to the end. He suffered no pain but sank into deeper unconsciousness and departed peacefully on the morning of 26th November. The Sister whom I appointed as special nurse was most devoted in her attentions to him and is now on active service in Mesopotamia. I regret that I cannot give further details as he was only about 30 hours under my charge. He had the best medical Officer in Hospital looking after him but the case was hopeless and nothing that we could do could save him. I watched by his bed for some time before he died and he looked as peaceful as a sleeping child.

Cert. by letter from M. Flynn, (Matron)

Military Hospital,

Victoria Barracks,

Belfast. 10.2.17.

B.

London

12.2.17

42nd. Battn.,
A.I.F.

LEATHAM,
J. 410.

"D. of illness on 26-11-16."

Admitted to Belfast Military Hospital on 4-11-16 dangerously
ill with meningitis.

Cert. by - Hospital Index.

Died of Meningitis on 26-11-16 at Military Hospital, Belfast.
Cert. by - A.I.F. Headquarters on 5-2-17.

London,
7-2-17.

B.

90
Military Hospital
Victoria Barracks
Belfast
10th Feb. '14.

Dear Madam

In reply to your letter
I beg to say that 410 Pte. J. Southern
42nd Battalion A. I. D. was admitted
to this Hospital on 24th Nov. 1916
and died on the morning of 26th

He had been at Holwood Convalescent
Hospital for some time previously.
The onset of his illness was very
sudden. On admission he was
Semi-conscious, but was able
to take fluid nourishment. His

Relatives were sent for and
a lady who told me she was
his step mother came to see
him and remained with him
till he died. He suffered no pain
but sank into deeper unconsciousness
& departed peacefully on the
morning of 26th November.

The sister whom I appointed
as special nurse was most
devoted in her attention to
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about 30 hours under my
charge. He had the best medical
officer in Hospital looking after
him but the case was hopeless
nothing that we could do could
save him. I watched by his
bed for some time before he
died and he looked as peaceful
as a sleeping child.

Yours faithfully

A. Hyatt

(Morton)

7th February

-7.

The Matron,
Military Hospital.
Belfast.

Dear Madam,

We should be most grateful for any details of the death of No. 410. Pte. J. Leathen, 42nd Battalion A.I.F. who died of meningitis in your hospital on Nov. 26th. 1916.

We have just received an inquiry for particulars of his sufferings and death from his people in Brisbane and they will greatly appreciate all that you can tell us.

With many apologies for troubling you.

Yours faithfully.

P.M./m C.A.W.

Secretary.

Feb.12th.1917. ---

The Matron.
Military Hospital
Belfast.

Dear Madam;

In reply to your letter of the 10th.Inst, I wish to thank you most gratefully, for answering so promptly and fully, our inquiries re the late 410.Pte.J.Leathron,42nd.Battn. and for all the care and attention you have bestowed on him.

It is a great comfort to his relatives to know that his last hours were passed under the devotion and care of yourself and your splendid nurses.

Yours faithfully,

Secretary. FM *for him*
Allen