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

137 Company Quartermaster Sergeant Wilbraham Lee Fowler

15th Battalion



1100208C

16th Batn
A.I.F.

FOWLER
W.L. C/G/M/S 137
(Gillingham Kent)

"Information wanted"

Wounded 27.9.17. No further report.
Cert. by A.I.F. HdQtrs 24.10.17.

No further report. (14th in pregious letter was a misprint).

Cert. by Rouen letter 6.11.17.

London.
10.11.17.

P.I.

15th A.I.F. C.Q.M.Sgt. W. L. FOWLER, 137.

W. ~~Unoff.~~M. 27.9.17.

He was in charge of a ration party at night when we had our shell holes in Polygon Wood. He got wounded while bringing up the party along the line. I saw him in the D/S, lying on a stretcher about 1 a.m. His left leg was almost off. He was nearly dead. I then took charge of A Co. rations. Later on at 6 a.m. we attacked a ridge meeting Pill boxes on our way - but we succeeded and had few casualties. I had known Fowler for 2½ years. He came from Queensland.

Reference: Sgt. E. A. Coggins, 1931. A Co. 4 Pl.
No.8 General, Rouen. 5.1.18.

ET.

ORIGINAL STATEMENT ECHELON 2051/6/11

C O P Y

Statement made by No.1931 Sgt Coggins E.A. 15th Btn

re No.137 CSM Fowler W.L. 15th Btn.
Wnd and Missing 27.9.17.

A dead body said to be that of CSM fowler W.L. was shown to me, lying on a stretcher at Polygon Wood on 27.9.17. I did not uncover the body, but believe the statement of my comrades that it was his body.

B.
P/

Dated at Dartford thus 13th day of February 1918.

(Sgd) E.A. Goggins

Statement made and signed before me

(Sgd) R. Sullivan.
Lt-Col.
O.C. /3rd A.A.H. Dartford

4th. March 1918.

Havre.

15th. Battalion. A.I.F. Fowler. C/M/S. W. L. No. 137.

W. & M. 27th. September 1917.

I knew C/M/S. Fowler for 3 years; he was tall, broadly built, fair, and about 28. On the 27th. September the Battn. was at Passchendaele and in action. We had taken our objective - Polygon Wood - on the 26th. and were holding the line. Fowler was on ration fatigue when a shell exploded and a piece hit him. It was rather a bad wound. My informant, who was with him and saw him in the C. C. S. afterwards, was L/Corporal Sullivan. 15th. Battn. A. Coy. 2nd. Pltn. He is still with the Battn. and could give information.

Inf:- Private. J. E. Carroll. No.
15th. Battalion. A.I.F.
A. Company.
2nd. Platoon.
Australian Comp.
Rouelles.

B
P1

M.

Written L/C Sullivan 16.3.18.

Havre 15th January 1918.

15th A.I.F. Fowler C.Q.M.S. W.L. 137.

W/M. 27th Septr 1917.

He was a pal of mine.
We were at Zonnebeke on the 27th September. We attacked on the 26th and took our objective. We held it. L/Cpl Sellvan of the 15th Battn A.Co. 11 Pltn (who was with the Battn when I left on the 10th January) told me he saw Fowler wounded, while we were holding the trenches after the attack on the previous day. A shell dropped near him and wounded him badly. He helped to put him on a stretcher. I was told he got to the D/Station. About a week afterwards it was officially stated in orders that Q.M.S. Fowler had died of wounds.

Inf:- Pte I.R.Carroll No.1415.
15th A.I.F. A.Co. 11 Pltn.
Havre Hospital.

MPG.

A. I. F. 16. FOWLER, COMS, N.L. 137.

W/M. September 27th, 1917.

His storeman, who is still with Battn, but whose name I do not know, told me he saw Fowler when he was very badly wounded on September 27th at Anzac Ridge. I have also heard it stated that he was buried by the Pioneers of the 18th Battn and that his grave has been seen. He was in A.Coy. If I am written to on my return to Battn next week I will get details and reply.

PHE.

Reference:- Lt. B.W.Simon. A.Coy.
L/C School.

Etaples
17.1.18.

Witte Lt Simon 8 - 2 - 18

15 Btn.
A.I.E.

FOWLER
C/O/11/S. W.L. 137

"Wounded and Missing Sept: 27/17"

Sgt. J. Chevilling 4th Training Battalian, Cadford can give information as to the death of Fowler. I understand he saw him dead in a shell hole.

Informant: Wright. Cpl C.E. 960.
15 th Btn.
11 Hut,
Westham.

W.A. Rand

Shevelling

Note: Written ~~Chivelling~~ 15/1/18

London.
30/1/18

B.
P.I.

16th Bn.
A.I.F.

FOWLER
C/Q/M/S W.L. 137

Wounded and Missing 27.9.17.

C.Q.M.S. W.L. Fowler No. 137. He was Coy. Quartermaster Sgt. of A. Cey. 15th A.I.F. I knew him ever since the Battalion was formed, but would hesitate to try and describe his appearance. It may seem strange, but the fact of it is, knowing him so well, there was no need to pick out all descriptions to recognise him.
The last seen of him was one night when he started out for the base with rations - some say he was killed, others say wounded. Search was made in the records of the 12th, 4th, 8th and 13th Field Ambulances, also in records of 53rd and 66th Casualty Clearing Station and in our M.O's. records but no record was to be found of him as having passed any of these peoples hands. I will still continue enquiring and if anything definite should be found out I will let you know.

Letter from Chas. W. Shevelling, 86,
15th Bn. 12th Batty.
Sergeants' Mess,
12th Training Battalion,
Codford. 18.1.18

London.
6.2.18.

B
P1

Havre 8th February 1916.

15th A.I.F. Fowler C. .M.S. W.L. 137.

W/M 27th Septr 1917.

He was called 'Dick'. He ~~xx~~ used to be in a Bank before the War. He was fair, small built, 5 ft 6 or so.

We wanted to get some rations through at Ypres at the end of September, and he volunteered to go out and get them. He never came back and we could find no trace of him. He must have been blown to pieces. He was very popular in the Battn and was the best C.M.S. we ever had.

Inf:- Pte H. Barratt No.3909.
15th A.I.F. A.Co. XIII Pltn.
Australian Camp.
Rouelles.

GLT.

B
P.1
14/52

8

COPY

Statement made by No.86 Sgt Shevelling J.W. 15th Btn

re No.137 CQMS Fowler W.L. 15th Btn.
~~Wnd and Missing~~ 27.9.17. Prev Rep. W.M.
K/A.

I was not in France on.27.9.17. but made enquiries from No.3822 Cpl Nilon K.T.J. 15th Battalion, and 2396 Sgt Monro A.C. 15th Battalion. I know no other facts concerning the case beyond which I have already stated in writing to Miss V. Deakin of enquiry bureau.

not sent on

Bel. K.

B
P1

Dated at Codford this 24th day of February 1918.

(Sgd) J.W. Shevelling.

Statement made and signed before me (Sgd) S.A. Richards.
Capt.

NOTE. Sgt Monro. - B.E.F.
Cpl Nilon. - Written 27.2.18

AUSTRALIANS. 15. FOWLER, CQMS W.L. 137.

W/M Sept 27th 1917.

CQMS Fowler in A.Co went up in charge of rations with a convoy of mules from the stores at White Chateau in Sept. They got to Zonnebeke and then Fowler was hit inside the ~~shell~~ thigh by a shell. Kirkland (Battn Butcher), and Fred Febbey (spelling?) a batman were with him. They bound him up and handed him over to two S/Bs of the 16th Battn, and went back. Nothing more was heard of Fowler. An enquiry was going on when I left the Battn. I knew Fowler well, and got the above information from Kirkland, who also said he was pretty well gone when they left him, and couldn't speak. Kirkland and Febbey are with the Battn now.

Inf: Pte W.G.Hartley. 2502. D.XVI.
No. 55 Gen.Hosp.
BOULOGNE. 28.2.18.

JT

P1
B

written Kirkland & Febbey
15-3-18

A.I.F. I5. FOWLER, CQMS. W L. I37.

K/A
~~D. of W.~~ Sept. 27th 1917.

He was wounded up at Ypres. Polygon Wood. There was a heavy bombardment going and he was hit by a shell. He was put on a stretcher; I saw this myself, and I know that he died on the way down to the D/S. He was in A. Coy.

Inf. H.E.Athorn 3683 I5 B. A.I.F.
A.T.'Newhaven'
CALAIS. II.6.18.

GGP.

N.B. I asked Athorn what proof he had that Fowler died on the way down? But all that I could get out of him was 'there can be no doubt of what happens toa CQMS amongst the men' and a repition of his absolute certainty that he did die. GGP.

B
P1

A.I.F. 15th Btn

FOWLER
C/Q/M/S.Wilbrahams 137
Lee

"MISSING"

Killed in action 27-9-17 - previously reported Wounded & Missing
Cert. by A.I.F.Hqrs 28-2-18.

B & P.I.

London
1-3-18

15th Battn.
A.I.F.

FOWLER
C/Q/M/S. W.L.137

"Killed in Action 27-9-17"

Re 137 C/Q/M/S. Fowler W.L. I was with him during the night of 27-9-17, we proceeded to a locality in the proximity of front line, and encountered heavy gun fire. Q/M/S. Fowler was hit badly in the groin with a portion of a shell, the bone being badly broken and exposed. The artery appeared to be severed and the profuse bleeding ensued. He spoke very little after the accident, became unconscious almost immediately. He was removed by two 16th Battn. stretcher bearers and proceeded in the direction of the dressing station. We have from that time lost all trace of him and the dressing station referred to have no records of his admission. I am of opinion the patient did not reach the dressing station and probably died from loss of blood, in which case he would have been buried in the vicinity of the scene of the accident.

Letter from:- Kirkland H. 2703
15th Battn.,
FRANCE. 19-3-18

London
3-4-18

P.I.
B.

NOTE TO MELBOURNE

15th Battn.
A.I.F.

FOWLER
W.L. 137

"Killed in Action 27-9-17"

All information has already gone to the Brisbane office. We would be glad if you will obtain them from there.

London
14-6-18

M.

Pay office
No 1 Command Depot
Sutton Veny
Near Warminster

21/10/17

To Australian Branch Red Cross Society
Victoria Street
London.

I would be very much obliged if you could give me any particulars regarding my brother No 127 C.Q.M.S. W.L. Fowler. 15th Batty. A.I.

Thanking you in anticipation

Yours faithfully
J. Fowler

From No 146 Cpl J.C. Fowler
9th Batty.
c/o Pay office
No 1 Command Depot
Sutton Veny
Near Warminster

November 14th, 1917.

No 146 Cpl.J.C.Fowler,
9th Bttn, A.I.F.,
C/o Pay Office,
No 1 Command Depot,
Sutton Veny, Wilts.

Dear Sir,

In answer to your inquiry for

No 137 C/Q/M/Sgt.W.L.FOWLER,
15th Battalion,
A.I.F.

we regret to tell you that he was wounded on 27.9.17, since when there has been no report about him, and we fear that he may prove to be missing as nearly seven weeks have elapsed since his casualty occurred, during which time his admission to hospital has not been recorded.

We are making inquiries through searchers in camps and hospitals in the hope of learning his whereabouts and as soon as these are received you shall be advised.

Assuring you of our sincere sympathy in the anxiety this must necessarily cause you.

Yours faithfully,

Law.

SECRETARY.

Re. 22.11.17.

The Secretary.
British Red Cross Society.
83, Pall Mall. W.

Dear Sir.

I shall be much obliged if you can obtain any information for me of No. 137 Cmr. Sgt. W. L. Fowler. A Coy 15 Battalion Aust: 4th Infty Bde. France.
A letter has been returned to me marked "wounded & missing" but on inquiring at the Aust: Hd. Qtrs in Horseferry Road they can only tell me he is wounded (they have no record of how seriously or where he is.
I am told that if anyone can tell me anything of him, your Society can, & I shall be very grateful if this is so. I am enclosing a stamped addressed envelope for reply.

Yours truly.
Chas. J. Walkus.
Capt. A.O.D.

28 Castellain Mansions
Maida Vale.
London W. 9.
18/11/17

Sgt. J. CHEVILLING
15 A.I.F. 9C
4 Training Batt.
Codford.

about W.L.
Coy. Dte. hist. Sgt. FOWLER
137
15 A.I.F.

Wx M 27.9.17.

EW.
15.1.18

ack'd letter
O.S. 21-1-18

137
C/Q/M/S W. L. FOWLER
15 Bltn.
W/M 27-4-17
P.1.5

Sergeants' Mess,
12th Training Battalion,
Codford.

18. 1. 18

Miss Deakin
Secretary.
A.R.&S.

Dear Lady,

In reply to yours of 15th inst enquiring for C.Q.M.S. W.L. Fowler №137
He was Coy Quartermaster Sgt of A Coy 15.A.I.F.
I knew him ever since the battalion was formed but would hesitate to try & describe his appearance. It may seem strange but the fact of it is knowing him so well there was no need to pick out all descriptions to recognise him.
The last seen of him was one night when he started out for the base with rations some say he was killed others say wounded.
Search was made in the records of the 12th, 4th, 8th & 13th Field Ambulances
Also in records of 53rd & 66 casualty clearing stations & in our M.O.'s records but no

Sergeants' Mess,
12th Training Battalion,
Codford.

record was to be found of him as having passed through any of these peoples hands. I will still continue enquiring & if anything definite should be found out I will let you know.

I Remain
Yours Faithfully
86 Jas W Shevelling
15th Bn 12/7/3

January 22nd, 1918.

86 Sgt. J.W.Shevelling,
16th Bttn, A.I.F.,
Sergeants' Mess,
12th Train,Bttn, Codford.

Dear Sir,

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

137 C/O/W/Sgt.W.L.FOWLER, 15th Battalion, A.I.F.

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

It is very kind of you to say that you will forward any definite news ot us if you can gather it, and we shall be most grateful to you for any help you can give us in this way.

With all good wishes.

Yours faithfully,

SECRETARY.

146 Cpl.J.C.Fowler,
9th Bttn, C/- Pay Office,
No 1 Command Depot,
Sutton Veny, nr Warminster.

January 24th, 1916.

Dear Sir,

We deeply regret to inform you of unofficial report about your brother

1327 C/S/M/Sgt.W.H.Fowler, 15th Battalion, A.I.F.

which we fear contains some very sad news though we cannot vouch for its accuracy.

1931 Sgt.E.A.Coggins, in Bethnal Green Military Hospital, said your brother came from Queensland and he knew him for 2½ years. He was wounded while bringing up a ration party to Polygon Wood. Sgt. Coggins saw him lying on a stretcher about 1 a.m. in the Dressing Station. His leg was very badly wounded and he was dying then.

We are very sorry to have to send you such very bad news of your brother and are continuing our enquiries and hope to get more definite news.

Assuring you of our deep sympathy.

Yours faithfully,

SECRETARY.

AR.

Capt.C.T.Watkins, A.O.D.,
28, Castellain Mansions,
Maida Vale, W.9.

January 24th, 1918.

Dear Sir,

We very much regret to have to inform you of an unofficial report about

C/C/M/Sgt.W.L.FOWLER,137, 15th Battalion, A.I.F.

which we fear contains very sad news, though we cannot vouch for its accuracy.

1931 Sgt.E.A.Coggins, in Bethnal Green Military Hospital, said Fowler came from Queensland and he knew him for 2½ years. Sgt. Fowler, was wounded while bringing up a ration party to Polygon Wood and Sgt. Coggins saw him lying on a stretcher about 1 a.m. in the Dressing Station. His leg was almost blown off and he was dying then.

We are very sorry to have to send you such bad news, and are continuing our enquiries in the hope of getting somethingmoredefinite.

Yours faithfully,

SECRETARY.

AR

9/C/57/M.
W. L. Fowler
13 — — 15 Bttn
~~The Secretary.~~

Ordnance Depôt
York.
16. 2. 18.

A.R.C.S. 36 Gosvenor Place.
London - S.W.

Dear Madam.

I am indeed very much obliged for your kindness in making enquiries about Fowler, and fear that there is no hope of seeing him again.

Considering the nature of his wounds, I can feel glad that he did not live to be a cripple for life. He always said he would rather be killed outright

than that. Your work must be very sad & depressing but believe me, it is deeply appreciated by those, who like myself, would be unable otherwise to get authentic news of friends & relatives.

Once again thanking you for all your trouble,

Believe me

Yours very faithfully.

Chas. T. Watkins.

Capt. A.O.D.

Sat.

28 Castellain Mansions
Maida Vale.
London W9.

G C

8-2-18

Lt. B. W. Simon
A. Cy
15th Infantry Batt
A. I. F.
Abroad

abt
134 C/Q/M/S. W. L. Fowler
15th Inf. Batt
A. I. F

W/M. 27-9-17. 11.2.18

146 Corpl J.C.Fowler 11:2:18
9th Battn. c/o Pay Office
No 1 Command Depot
Sutton Veny
Warminster

Dear Sir,

We have received the following unofficial report respecting 127 Pte W.L.Fowler, 10th Battn A.I.F. which you may care to have, though it does not amount to much. Lieut W.B.Simon A.Coy L.C.School, reports that Fowler's storeman, who is still with the Battn. told him he saw Fowler very severely wounded at Anzac Ridge on Sept 27th. It has also been stated that he was buried by the Pioneers of the 10th Battn., and that his grave has been seen. Lieut Simon offered to procure details on his return to the Battn., and we have written asking him to do so. We will let you know when we hear from him.

Regretting that these reports are so depressing in character.

Yours faithfully

Flora K.Q.St.Grape
for Secretary

Capt Chas. T. Watkins
A. O. D.
28 Castellian Mansions
Maida Vale
W. 9.

11:2:18

Dear Sir,

We have received the following unofficial report respecting 137 Pte W. L. Fowler, 15th Battn. A. I. F., which you may care to have, though it does not amount to much. Lieut W. B. Simow, A. Coy L. G. School, reports that Fowler's storeman, who is still with the Battn., told him he saw Fowler very severely wounded at Anzac Ridge on Sept 27th. It has also been stated that he was buried by the Pioneers of the 15th Battn., and that his grave has been seen. Lieut Simow offered to procure details on his return to the Battn., and we have written asking him to do so. We will let you know when we hear from him.

Regreting that these reports are so depressing in characture.

Yours faithfully

Flora K. E. St George
for Secretary

R) Capt Chas. I. Watkins
A.O.D.
28. Castellan Mansions
Maida Vale
W-9-

February 16th 1918.,

(1) No 146, Cpl. J.C.Fowler.,
9th Battalion,
C/o Pay Office.,
No 1 Command Depot.,
Sutton Veny., Wilts.,

Dear Sir,

With reference to your inquiry concerning,

No 157. C.Q.M.S.W.L.FOWLER, 15th Battalion, A.I.F.,

we have received the following report from, No 3909 Pte M.Barratt, 15th Battalion A.I.F., He states that he knew C.Q.M.S.Fowler very well and he was most popular in the Battalion. When they were at Ypres at the end of September, they wanted to get some rations through, and C.Q.M.S.Fowler volunteered to go and get them. He never returned and they could find no trace of him. We have no further information at present, but are continuing our inquiries and hope to send you more definite details at a later date.

Yours faithfully,

SECRETARY.,

February 16th 1918.,

Captain Chas. I. Watkins.,
A.O.D.,
28 Castellian Mansions.,
Maida Vale.,
London. W.9.

Dear Sir,

With reference to your inquiry concerning,

No 197. C.Q.M.S. W.L.FOWLER, 16th Battalion, A.I.F.

we have received the following unofficial report from No 3909, Pte M. Barratt, 16th Battalion A.I.F. He states that he knew C.Q.M.S. Fowler very well and he was most popular in the Battalion. When they were at Ypres at the end of September they wanted to get some rations through, and C.Q.M.S. Fowler volunteered to go and get them. He never returned and they could find no trace of him. We have no further information at present, but are continuing our inquiries and hope to send more definite details at a later date.

Yours faithfully,

SECRETARY.,

18th February 1918.

Capt. Chas. T. Watkins A.O.D.
A80Castellian Mansions
Maida Vale, W.9.

Dear Sir,

A letter has just reached us with reference to No. 137 C.Q.M.S. W.J. Fowler 15th Batt. A.I.F. from No. 86 Pte. C.W. Shevelling 15th Batt. 12th Battery, Sgts. Mess, 12th Training Batt. Codford. 16.2.18. He says that he Fowler was Coy. Quartermaster Sgt. of A. Coy. 15th A.I.F. and Shevelling had known him ever since the Batt. formed The last seen of him was one night when he started fornthe Base with rations, he was variously stated to be wounded orkilled. Search was made in the records ofthe 12th, 4th, 8th, and 13th Field Ambulances, also in records of 55rd and 66th C.C.Stations and in the A.O's records, but no mention of him was found. Pte. Shevelling will continue enquiring, and we will advise you if he discovers any further information.

Unofficial information is also given by No. 1415 Pte. J.R. Canol, who was in hospital in France recently. He states that he was told by Sgt. Sullivan that C.Q.M.S. Fowler had been badly wounded on Sept. 27th by a shell while they were holding the trenches after their successful attack on the previous day, they helped put him

on a stretcher. Sgt. Sullivan saw him wounded. Informant heard that he reached the dressing station and a week afterwards it was announced in Batt. orders that he had died of wounds.

We are continuing our enquiries about C.Q.M.S. Fowler as we realise how anxious you must be, and hope soon to be able to send you definite information.

Regretting the distressing character of this report

Yours faithfully,

Secretary

F.R.S.F.G.

18th February 1918

No. 146 Corpl. T.C. Fowler
9th Batt. c/o Pay Office
No.1. Command Depot
Sutton Veny, Nr. Warminster.

Dear Sir,

A letter has just reached us with reference to No.137 C.Q.M.S. W.L. Fowler 15th Batt. A.I.F. from No.86 Pte. C.W. Shevelling 15th Batt. 12th Battery Sergeants Mess, 12th Training Batt. Codford 18.1.18. He says that he (Fowler) was Coy. Quartermaster Sergt. of A. Coy. 15th A.I.F. and Shevelling had known him ever since the Batt. was formed. The last seen of him was one night when he started for the Base with rations. He was variously stated to be wounded or killed. Search was made in the records of the 12th, 4th, 8th, and 15th Field Ambulances, also in records of 55rd, and 66th C.C. Stations and in the M.O.'s records, but no mention of him was found. Pte. Shevelling will continue enquiring, and we will advise you if he discovers any further information.

Unofficial information is also given by No.1415 Pte. J.A. Canol who was in Hospital in France recently. He states that, he was told by Sgt. Sullivan that C.Q.M.S. Fowler had been badly wounded on Sept 27th by a shell while they were holding the trenches after their successful attack at Zonnebeke on the previous day, they helped put him on a stretcher. Sgt. Sullivan saw him wounded. Informant

heard that he reached the D/Station, and a week afterwards it was announced in Batt. orders that he died of wounds.

We are ~~also~~ continuing our enquiries about C.Q.M.S. Fowler as we realise how anxious you must be, and hope soon to send you definite information.

Regretting the distressing character of this report.

Yours faithfully,

Secretary.

8th March, 1918.

Capt. C.J.Watkins,
A.O.D., 28, Castellian Mansions
Maida Vale, W.9.

Re 137 C/S/M/S. WILBRAHAM LEE FOWLER, 15th Battn, A.I.F.

Dear Sir,

We regret to inform you that the above soldier who was previously reported Wounded and Missing is now reported "Killed in Action 27-9-17."

We are making further enquiries in the hope of learning details of his death and will send you any information that we receive.

Regretting the distressing character of this news.

Yours faithfully,

SECRETARY.

146 Cpl. J.C.Fowler,
9th Battalion, C/o Pay Office,
No 1 Command Depot, Sutton Veny,
W I L T S.

8th March, 1918.

Re 137 C/Q/M/S. WILBRAHAM LEE FOWLER, 15th Bttn,A.I.F.

Dear Sir,

We deeply regret to inform you that the above soldier who was previously reported Wounded & Missing is now reported "Killed in Action on 27-9-17".

We are making further enquiries in the hope of learning full details of his death and will immediately forward to you any information that we receive.

Assuring you of our sincere sympathy in your loss.

Yours faithfully,

SECRETARY.

9 e.

Pte KIRKLAND

Pte FEBBEY?

15 A.I.F.

B.4.7.

about.

137

C/O/M/S W.L. FOWLER

15 A.I.F.

Wr M 24.9.17

Ew.
15-3-18

L. Corpl SULLIVAN
A. Coy 15 A.I.F.
B.E.F.

about
137

A/M/S W.L. FOWLER
15 A.I.F.

WoM 27.9.17.

16.3.18.
a.2.B.

137 C.Q.M.S. / W.L. FOWLER 15 Bttn
France
K/A 27.9.17 B+P1 19.3.18
4 (Cd) ck
The Sec
wm Eng Bureau p.6 28.3.18

Re No 137 C.Q.M.S. Fowler. W.I.

Reference your enquiry re the above mentioned Soldier I have the honor to submit hereunder report as desired

I was with [redacted] QMS Fowler during the night of 27th Sept 1917. we proceeded to a locality in the proximity of front line, & encountered heavy enemy gun fire.

QMS Fowler was hit badly in the groin, with a portion of shell, the bone being badly broken & exposed. The artery appeared to be severed & the profuse bleeding ensued.

He spoke very little after the accident

became unconscious almost immediately. ~~The~~ ~~[illegible]~~ Oml Fowler was removed by two 16th Bn Stretcher bearers & proceeded in the direction of the nearest dressing stn.

We have, from that time lost all trace of him & the dressing stn referred to, have no records of his admission.

I am of opinion that the patient did not reach the dressing station - and probably died from loss of blood - in which case he would have been buried in the vicinity of the sun of the accident.

I have the hono to be
Your Etc.

H Kirkland

No 2703.

15 Bn A.I.F.

Capt. Chas. I. Watkins,
A.O.D., 28, Caslettian Mansions,
Maida Vale, W.9.

21st March, 1918.

146 Cpl.J.C.Fowler,
9th Bttn, A.I.F., C/o Pay Office,
No 1 Command Depot, Sutton Veny,
Nr Warminster.

Dear Sir,

We are sending you still further unofficial reports concerning - 137 C/Q/M/Sgt. W.L. FOWLER, 15th Battalion, A.I.F. - in the hope that they may contain some little information that you have not already received.

2502 W.G.Hartley states "C/Q/M/Sgt. Fowler, in [illegible]Coy, went up in charge of ~~reast~~ rations with a convoy of mules from the stores at White Chateau in Sptr. They got to Zonnebeke and then Fowler was hit inside the thigh by a shell. Kirkland (Bttn Butcher) and Fred Febbey a batman, were with him. They bound him up and handed him over to two stretcher bearers of the 16th Bttn, and went back. Nothing more was heard of Fowler. An enquiry was going on when I left the Battn. I knew Fowler well, and got the above information from Kirkland who also said he was pretty well gone when they left him and couldn't speak. Kirkland and Febbey are with the Battn now."

We also have another report given by Pte.Carroll 15th Bttn, who says:- "I knew Q/M/Sgt. Fowler for 3 years, he was tall, broadly built, fair, and about 28. On the 27th Sept, the Battn, was at Passchendaele and in action. We had taken our objective, Polygon Wood on the 26th and were holding the line. Fowler was on ration fatigue when a shell exploded and a piece hit him. It was rather a bad wound."

We have written to L/Cpl.Sullivan and Ptes Kirkland and Febbey in the hope that they can give us information and will at once write you when we received their replies.

With a renewal of our sympathy.

Yours faithfully,

Chris McConnell

SECRETARY.

Capt. Chas. I. Watkins,
M.C.S., 26 Castellian Mansions,
Maida Vale, London, W.9.

146 Cpl. T.J.Fowler,
9th Bttn, C/o The Pay Office,
No 1 Command Depot,
Sutton Veny, Wilts.

5th April 1918.

Dear Sir,

With reference to your enquiry concerning - 156 C/9/H/S. W.L. FOWLER, 15th Battalion, A.I.F. - we have now received a reply from 2703 Pte.H.Kirkland, 15th Battalion, to whom we wrote for further particulars. He states that he was with C/9/H/S. Fowler on the night of 27-9-17 and they proceeded to a locality in the proximity of the front line, where they encountered heavy gunfire. C/9/H/S. Fowler was wounded severely in the groin with a portion of a shell, the bone being badly broken and exposed. The artery appeared to be severed and profuse bleeding ensued, and he became unconscious almost immediately. He was removed by two 16th Battalion stretcher bearers and they proceeded in the direction of the Dressing Station. Informant ends his letter by saying "We have from that time lost all trace of him, and the dressing station referred to, had no records of his admission. I am of the opinion that the patient did not reach the Dressing Station, and probably died from loss of blood, in which case he would be buried in the vicinity of the place of casualty."

The above report is confirmed in detail by 3683 Pte.H. Athorn of the same Battalion, who adds that the casualty occurred at Polygon Wood, on the Ypres Front.

We have now concluded our enquiries, and hope that the

details we have been able to obtain may have been of some comfort to his bereaved friends.

Yours faithfully,

Chris Craven

SECRETARY.