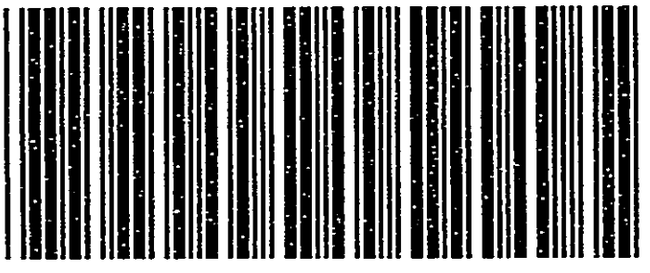
Australian Red Cross Society Wounded and Missing
Enquiry Bureau files, 1914-18 War
1DRL/0428

2711B Lance Corporal Alfred Roy McConnell

7th Battalion



1890905W

A.I.F.
7th Btn.

McCONNELL
Alfred Ray 2711b.

Killed in Action 20.9.17.

No trace Germany.
Cert. by Capt. Mills 10.10.19.

London.
14.10.19.

M.

A.I.F. 7th Battn.

McCONNELL
A.R. 2711.

"Wounded & Missing 20/9/17"

Killed in Action 20/9/17.

Previously reported Wounded & Missing.
Cert. by A.I.F. Hqrs 5/7/18.

London
9/7/18.

H

R.O.S.

7th Battn.
A.I.F.,

McConnell.
A. 2711 B
R
(Archie Roy)

"Wounded July-Aug.Sept.

Admitted to Military Evinghen 4-9-16. with gunshot wound head and back
Cert. by Hospital Index 2-10-16.

Recently had an operation and making satisfactory progress.
Cert. by letter from O.C. 4-10-16.

London
4-10-16

M.

C

7th Battn.
A.I.F.

McConnell A. R 2711
Elvins G.H. 2644
White R.S. 5775

"Wounded & Missing 20.9.17"

Elvins was killed on Sept.20th at about 10 a.m. when we were attacking at Polygon Wood. I was about 50 yards off and Pte. Brodrick of D.Coy. XVI Pltn. M.G. 7th A.I.F. came up to me with machine gun, told me that Elvins was killed and that the whole crew had been knocked out. White of D.Coy. was on the same gun with him and was taken back to the dressing station with shell shock. McConnell was badly wounded by a shell at about 11.a.m. the same day. He waved his hand to us as he was being taken down to the dressing station, which was also Battn.H.Q. and was badly knocked about by shell fire, a number of men being killed. McConnell was about 22. Thin, fairish, curly hair, was em^D.Coy XIII.

Informant:- C/S/M F.McDonald D.C.M. 940
D.Coy. 7th Battn.
Dartford.

A.G.Campbell.

London.
13.2.18.

M.

7th Battn.
A.I.F.

McConnell.
A.2711.
R

"WOUNDED AND MISSING" 20.9.18"

Was a L/Cpl, A mate of mine, Was in D coy, 15 Pltn. Initials A.R." Roy"; I saw him blown up by a shell about 20 or 30 ft in the air, His left leg and foot was smashed, He was conscious all the time, four 6th Battn stretcher bearers carried him out, I dont know their names or where they took him, It happened about 200yds from our final objective at Ypres on Sept, 20th 1917..

Informant:- Fowler. T.S. 2636.
7th Battn.

W.H.G.J.

M.

London.
18.12.18.

ORIGINAL STATEMENT EDITION 2356/52/2

C O P Y

Statement made by No.2836 Pte Fowler T.S. 7th Batta.

re No.2711 L/Cpl McConnell A. 7th Btn.
Wnd and Missing 20.9.17.

On the 20th September 1917 near Polygon Wood, about 200 yards from our final objective, I saw No 2711 L/Cpl McConnell A. in a shell hole with Private Hagg of No.13 Platoon, "D" Company, a shell landed on top of them and killed Hagg. L/Cpl McConnell was blown about 20 feet in the air. I saw him about a quarter of an hour afterwards on a stretcher, he was quite conscious and talked to me. Four men of the 6th Battalion carried him out.
I have not heard or seen anything of him since.

M

2 copies

Dated at Weymouth this 8th day of March 1918.

(Sgd) T.S.Fowler.

Statement made and signed before me (Sgd) J.L. Prosser. Lieutenant.

Note. No.5152 Pte T.H. Hagg. Killed in Action 20.9.17.

ORIGINAL STATEMENT ENCLOSE

2345/63/2

C O P Y

Statement made by No.940 CSM McDonald F. 7th Btn.
re No.2411 L/Cpl McConnell A. 7th Btn.
Wnd and Missing 20.9.17.

I saw the above named soldier wounded and being carried to the rear on a stretcher on the 20th September 1917, during the advance.

2 copies.

M

Dated at Littlemoor Camp this 10th day of March 1918.

(Sgd) F. McDonald.

Statement made and signed before me

(Sgd) T. Selwyn.
Lieut.

A.I.F. 7. McCONNELL, A. R 2711.
(Archie Roy

W & M. Sept. 20th, 1913.

McConnell - Archie - was in my pltn. D.XIII. On Sept. 20th at Polygon Wood in the course of the advance we were waiting in shell holes for our barrage to lift. Some of us had got too far forward and McConnell, who was my L/Cpl. at the time, told me get back a bit. I did so, but our barrage caught him himself. I could see that one leg was badly smashed, and I think the other one was broken. He was carried back from that part, but I cannot say what became of him as we were still advancing. He was quite a young fellow of about 20 I should say. He had been wounded at Pozieres.

Inf.
54. Gen.
BOULOGNE. 17.5.18.

JT.

Cannot get name of informant. See Boulogne note in Gen Corres - P.T.O M

Note: Tried to trace the men of 7 Pdn who were in Hpl. 54. Gen at that time. Took a list of 58 ~~[illegible]~~ were w'd about this time without success. Was not able to follow up more than 30 and none of them were in that Hpl at or about that date. AWWS 20.6.18

NOTE TO BOULOGNE

Attached is a copy of a report received from your Bureau. Could you please obtain the informant's name from your Searcher? The Military Authorities here wish to obtain a signed statement from the Informant.

London
24-6-18

See report from 54 Gen
17.5.18
J. T.

We are very sorry not to be able to supply you with the name of the informant. The Searcher who took the report is unfortunately on leave at this moment, and will not be back for some time. We feel quite sure that had he known the name of the informant, he would have put it to the report. He always corrects his reports carefully himself, and we think that in this case he must most unluckily have omitted to take the name. It would be impossible to trace the informant without the Searcher.

Letter from:- B.E.C.S., Boulogne.
Headquarters,
A.P.O.3 21-6-18

London
24-6-18

7th Battn.
A.I.F.

MC CONNELL.
A.R. 2711.

"Killed 20-9-17"

He was of D.Company. XV Platoon. At first Battle at Menin Road, on 20th September. We were at our 2nd objective. He was in a big shell crater (about 12 of us here including Major Tubb.V.C) Shell burst right in middle of us. Pte Fitzpatrick and Pte Fry were killed outright. Mc Connell was blown out of shell hole, leg broken. I helped to bandage him up - was conscious. he said he felt alright, I told him he was going toAustralia. S/B took him out - about a week later word came through to Company Headquarters that he had died at C.C.S. - I was surprised to know that he had died. Knew him as Mac. Had been wounded at Pozieres - only a little fellow about 8 stone, was L/Cpl in charge of Rifle grenades. A good man and a good soldier. Came from Victoria.

Informant:- Sgt.C.G.Kingsley. 799.
7th Battn. D.Co. XV. Pl.
HAREFIELD.

A.D.G.
London.
22-8-18.
N.W.

M.

7th Battn.
A.I.F.

MC CONNELL.
Alfred Roy. 2711.

"Killed in Action 20-9-17"

Statement made by 2636,Pte.Fowler.T.S. 7th Battn.

Statement made by 940.C.S.M. McDonald.F. 7th Battn.

Court of Enquiry 6365. 20-9-17 - declared Killed in Action.

The Court of Enquiry find that having regard to intense shelling and the severe fighting at the time, the above mentioned men were reported "Missing" and also to the absence of evidence respecting their fate, these men were "Killed in Action" on the dates shown opposite their names.

Cert: by M.C.Searcher at H.Q. 2-9-18.

London.
1-10-18.

M.

A.I.B.
7th Battn.

McConnell A.R.
2711.

Killed in action 20-9-17.

D.Coy. dark, single, age 21-23, 5'7. He was wounded at Polygon Wood Sept 20th 1917. I got him a stretcher. He had a bad wound in the leg. The last I saw of him was the stretcher bearers carrying him back to the dressing Station and never heard any more of him.

Inf. Pte C.Grimble
2842 D.Coy.

R.C.Wheeler
H.M.A.T.City of Poonah.
15-5-19.

M
Three

7th Battn.

McCONNELL
A.R. 2711

D/W. 20/9/17

I saw McConnell hit on September 20th 1917 in front of Glencourse Wood by a piece of shell. He was badly hit in the legs, cannot say if he had other wounds. I saw him carried away towards the dressing station in a stretcher at about 10 or 11 in the morning. I did not hear him speak after being hit. Do not know how long he lived nor do I know where he was buried. I knew him well. He was a general favorite of the 13th Pltn. I think he came from Ballarat. We called him Roy. He was previously wounded at Pozieres. About 5'6" in height, slight build, dark hair and inclined to be dark complexioned. Between 20 and 25 years of age.

Informant:- 6627
Pte. R.V.E. Douglas
7th Battn.
Private Address:- C/o Mrs A. Field
9 Wright Street
MIDDLE PARK.

H.L.Pleydell
H.M.A.T."Persic"
29/8/19.

From:- The Officer in Charge,
North Evington Military Hospital,
Leicester.



To:- The Secretary,
Wounded and Missing Enquiry Bureau,
Aus. Branch B.R.C.S,
54 Victoria Street, S.W.

Leicester. Oct. 3rd.1916.

Madam,

I am in receipt of your letter of yesterday's date, and beg to inform you that 2711, Pte A. McConnell A.I.F, was admitted here suffering from a G.S.W. head and back. He has recently had an operation and is making satisfactory progress.

Yours faithfully,

major
~~Capt.~~ R.A.M.C. T.
for Officer in Charge.

Mc 1.72 [illegible]

& Connell 2411.

Alfred [illegible] Kn A. 20.9.17. 4th Bhi.

Statement made by 2636 Pte Fowler T.S.

4th Bhi.

Statement made by 940 C.S.M. McDonald F.

4th Bhi.

Court of Enq. 6365 -

20.9.17 - [illegible]

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(N.G. Searcher at H.Q.)
2.21.9.18.

not sent on

M

Gen. Pears

A.I.F. 7.

McCONNELL A. 2711

W & M. Sept. 20th, 1917.

McConnell - Archie - was in my Pltn. D.XIII.
On Sept. 20th at Polygon Wood in the course of the advance we were waiting in shell holes for our barrage to lift. Some of us had gone too far forward and McConnell, who was my L/Cpl. at the time, told me to get back a bit, I did so, But our barrage caught him himself. I could see that one leg was badly smashed, and I think the otherone was broken. He was carried back from that part, but I cannot say what became of him as we were still advancing. He was quite a young fellow of about 20, I should say. He had been wounded at Pozieres.

Inf.
54. Gen.
BOULOGNE. 17-5-18

JT.

NOTE TO BOULOGNE.

Attached is a copy of a report received from your bureau. Could you please obtain the informant's name from your searcher?. The Military Authorities here wish to obtain a signed statement from the informaht.

London.
13-6-18.

JOINT WAR COMMITTEE.

BRITISH RED CROSS SOCIETY.
THE ORDER OF ST. JOHN OF JERUSALEM IN ENGLAND.

Please reply to _____ Headquarters B.R.C.S.,
and quote No. _____ A.P.O. 3,
B.E.F.

21. June 1918

We are very sorry not to be able to supply you with the name of the informant. The Searcher who took the report is unfortunately on leave at this moment & will not be back for some time.

We feel quite sure that had he known the name of the informant he would have put it to the report.

He always corrects his reports carefully himself & we think that in this case he must most unluckily have omitted to take the name.

It would be impossible to trace the informant without the Searcher.

Gen. Corres

A.I.F. 7. Lcpl McCONNELL, A.R 2711.

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Inf.
54. Gen.
BOULOGNE. 17.5.18.

JT.

Cannot get name of informant

This is the H.Q. copy
Writing Bigue for informant 11.6.18

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS,
WOUNDED & MISSING
ENQUIRY BUREAU.

Gen. Cannon

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BOULOGNE. 17.5.18.

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Written Record of informant 11.6.18

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS,
WOUNDED & MISSING
ENQUIRY BUREAU.