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

12017 Private
Harold Gavin McLean

9th Field Ambulance



1940803P

A.I.F. 9th Fld. Amb.

McLEAN
H.G. 12017

"D/Wounds"

Amputated left leg - G.S.W. right leg & neck adm. No.11
Sty Hpl Rouen 4-4-18 - died of wounds 9-4-18.
Cert. by Hpl Index

London
3-6-18

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9th Fld.Amb. A.I.F.

MC LEAN.
Harold Garvin. 12017.

"Died of Wounds"

Re Pte. H.G. Mc Lean. I may state that I wrote to his Father both before and after the lad's death, and can only repeat what I have already said. He was admitted to 11th Stationary Hospital on 4.4.18. grieviously wounded and followed amputation of left leg, gun shot wounds right leg and neck, and was immediately put on the dangerously ill list. Two or three days later it was found necessary to amputate the right leg on account of gas gangrene, and yet again, later to re-amputate, but all the skill of medical officers and nurses could not save the boy's left and he died on 9.4.18. He was conscious most of the time, but too weak to talk much, and, with the exception of asking me to write to his Father, and ask Major Herricoy who here at the time and had been with the same Fld.Amb. to go to see him, which he did several times, he left no message. Like most of our lad's, he was very brave and uncomplaining though he suffered much in those few days. I am afraid there can be very little comfort to his people in these details which are always sad, and I would rather that they remembered only, the noble part he played in life, even to the sacrifices, than his sufferings. He was buried at St. Sever Cemetery where, alas too many of our lads lie.

9th Fld.Amb. A.I.F.

MC LEAN.
Harold Garvin 12017.

I saw Pte. Mc Lean as often as I could, but was not always allowed to see him, because he was too ill, but was able to take him oranges and soda water, the only two things he seemed to take, but such little things are so paltry to be hardly worth mentioning, and he was as well looked after in Hospital as he could be, by the sisters.

Regretting that I cannot give a more comforting report.

Letter from:-

London,
31.7.18.

(Miss) S.B. Riggall.
No.1 Aust.Gen.Hosp.
France.

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ARMY MEDICAL CORPS. McLEAN. H.G. Private.
9th Field Ambulance. No. 12017

"DIED fo WOUNDS 9-4-18"

"I went away with McLean in the s/s "Banalla" 1st May 1916. He was a big fellow, standing 6 ft. (about) - fair, clean shaved. He left England for France 23rdNovember 1916. I went over 25th November 1916 He was in the 9th Field Ambulance. I met him in France. He and I were wounded by the same shell on 2nd April 1918 at Gentelles 2 miles from Villers Bretonneux. We were in the same car on the way back to the Hospital at Boyes. We were taken from there by Ambulance to the train then to Rouen Hospital.

I heard from one of the members of the unit whom I met at Weymouth that McLean had died from his wounds.

McLean was a fine chap. He would do anything for anybody."

INFORMANT:- Private C. W. Wynn No. 12098
Army Service Corps attached to 9th Field Amb.
Private Address:- 36, Garfield Street, Kogarah.

P.B.W.
No. 4 Australian General Hospital
Randwick 15-10-18.

SYDNEY BUREAU.

A.I.F.
Australian Medical Corps,
9th Fld. Ambulance.

Nolson, Private
R.C. No. 12017

"Somme 4-6-18"

Informant described Nolson as about 5'8½" high, robust build, dark complexion, aged about 27/28. Informant states that they both belonged to the 9th Field Ambulance. On or about the 4/4/18 at Cachy during an action Nolson was walking from one house to another in the village of Cachy when a 5.9 shell burst in the middle of the road and wounded Nolson severely in the leg. Informant was about 20 or 30 yards away and heard the shell burst and saw some of his mates running to Nolson's assistance. He also saw Nolson being taken away on a stretcher. He was conscious, but obviously suffering from shock. Informant said goodbye to him and wished him good luck and never saw him again. So far as he knew Nolson died in England.

According to Informant Nolson was a well liked chap.

Informant:- No. 14493, Pte. E.J. Mooney,
9th Field Ambulance.
Private address:- "Goldwell", Redmire Rd., STRATHFIELD.
N.S.W.

No.4 Australian General Hospital,
HAKEWICK.
10/2/19.

SYDNEY BUREAU.

ARMY MEDICAL CORPS. A.I.F.
9th Field Ambulance.

McLEAN.
Private H.G. 12017.

"DIED OF WOUNDS. 9.4.18."

Informant described McLean as about 5 feet 11 inches high, stout build, aged 28 or 29 years. He was a Tailor in civil life.

Informant states that on a date before 9.4.18 the Field Ambulance was waiting orders at Cachey. A shell burst at the entrance to the Billets and McLean was hit by fragments of it. Informant was about 20 or 30 yards away and saw McLean as being carried out. He never saw McLean again, but heard that he died whilst undergoing an operation.

According to Informant, McLean was a very decent chap, and well thought of by his mates.

INFORMANT: Private H. Adams, 7727,
9th Field Ambulance.

Home address: "Atua", Avoca Street, BONDI.

W.E.C.
Victoria Barracks, SYDNEY.
10.5.19.

SYDNEY BURREAU.

ARMY MEDICAL CORPS. A.I.F.
9th Field Ambulance.

McLEAN.
Private H.G. 12017.

"DIED OF WOUNDS. 9.4.18."

We were in action at Villers Bretonneux. I saw McLean. He was wounded in the leg. He was put through our Dressing Station, and then sent on to England. It was reported to our Unit while we were on parade, that he had died there.

INFORMANT: Driver O. Smith, 12065,
9th Field Ambulance.

Home Address; Wolstone, QUEENSLAND.

G.S.A.
A.I.F.Furlough Bureau, SYDNEY.
12.5.19.

SYDNEY BURREAU.

Westhoff June 3rd

Chaplain

Station Hospital

B.7.

Pte S. McLean qm Rees

Ambulance.

A.7.

Clearings. Hqrs 18

6th Battn.
A.I.F.

HOWDEN
Albert 2631

"Killed in Action 4-10-17"

Re 2631 A.Howden, 6th Battn. killed 4-10-17. He was killed on the top of Bracdseinde Ridge, left side and arm shattered by shell, lived about five minutes. Buried on the field by Pioneers, grave not registered. Height about 5'6", hair and complexion, very dark, comes from Northcote, Melbourne. Was in C.Coy.

Letter from:- Allan D2S. 62.4
6th Battn.
No.3 Coy. Monte Video,
No.2 Command Depot,
WEYMOUTH. 25-8-18.

P.I.

London
25-8-18

July 23rd, 1918.

Miss L. Riggall,
Australian Red Cross Stores,
2nd Australian General Hospital,
B. E. F. France.

Dear Madam,

We have been asked by the relatives in Australia to obtain the fullest details possible of the wounds, death and burial of

12017 Pte. H.C. McPAH, 9th Field Amb. A.I.F.

who dies of wounds in the 11th Stationary Hospital, on 9-4-18.

We have written to the O.C. but have received no reply and any information you can give us will be most gratefully received by his relatives in Australia.

Yours faithfully,

(Miss)

Secretary.

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12017
Harold Garmi McLean
9th Fld Amb

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To/
The Secretary
Enquiry Bureau
Aust. Red Cross
London

12017
9th Fld Amb

Dear Madam/

In reply to your enquiry, received to-day, he wounded death to buried of Pte. H.G. McLean, I may state that I wrote to his father both before & after the lads death, and can only repeat what I have already said - He was admitted to 11 Stationary Hospital on 4.4.18 grievously wounded as follows - Amputation of left leg, Gsw. right leg & neck, and was immediately put on the dangerously ill list - Two or three days later it was found necessary to amputate the right leg on account of gas gangrene, and yet again later, re-amputate, but all the skill of medical officers & nurses could not save the boy's life and he died on 9.4.18 - He was conscious most of the time, but too weak to talk much, and, with the exception of asking me to write his father, and ask Major Herring who was I care of the time I had been with the same Field Ambulance, to go to see him, which he did several times, he left no messages - Like most of our lads, he was very brave and uncomplaining

though he suffered much in those few days - I am afraid there can be very little comfort this people in these details which are always sad, and I would rather that they remembered only the noble part he played in life, even to the supreme sacrifice, than his sufferings - He was buried at St Sever cemetery where, alas, so many of our lads lie -

I saw Père Mr. Jean as often as I could, but was not always allowed to see him because he was so ill. But was able to take him oranges & cake waters. The only two things he seemed to crave, but such little things are so pathetic as kindly word, mentioning and he was as well looked after in hospital as he could be by the sisters -

Regret is that I cannot give a more comforting report.

I remain

Yours truly

(Miss) Jones-Piggott

C/

Asst. Red Cross

do Asst. Gen. Hosp

France

28.7.18