

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

**717 Sergeant
Arthur Bertram Newell**

12th Battalion



20001036

A.I.F. 12th Bn
12th Inf: Bgde (A.C.)

NEWELL
Sgt A.B. 717

"MISSING"

Killed in Action 24-7-16 - previously reported Wded & Missing
cert. by A.I.F. Hqrs 6-7-17.

London
17-7-17

NAVY

31st May, 1917

18th AUSTRALIANS

NEWELL, Sgt. A.B. 717

W & M 24.7.16

He was in C Co., 9th platoon. On Tuesday the 24th July we were attacking at Pevieron. I saw Sergt. Newell on the way over lying in a shell hole wounded; I spoke to him; he was hit ~~by~~ by a bit of a shell in the chest. He was very bad; we could do nothing for him. We carried on; gained our objective and held the ground. We were relieved that night. He could not have been taken a prisoner; he was lying about 300 yards from the German lines which we took and held. He came from South Australia. He was a married man.

Informant: Pte J.O. MacKenzie, 8374
18th Australians, C Co., 9th Bn.,
now 11th Platoon
Australian Camp, Reuilles

HEG

A

12th A. I. F.,

Newell, Sgt. A. B., 717,

W. & M. July 24th 1916.

Informant states that on July 24th 1916 at Pozieres Newell was very severely wounded and in all probability died coming out of the trenches.

Eye Witness: Yes.

Description:

Informant:-- Cpl. Fred Green, 2889,
12th A. I. F.,
1st London General Hosp:
Camberwell, S. E.

Home address:-- Refer to Regt.

30.5.17.
F. Ross.

A

12th A.I.F.

Newell Sgt. A.B. 717,
C. Company.

(W. & M. July 24th 1916)

Sgt. Newell was buried in the same grave as Sgt. Clark of this Battalion near Pozieres. A large cross marks the grave which is not or was not registered by the graves commission.

Eye-witness: Told by men of the Company.

Description: He was dark, 5ft 8ins., medium build.

Informant: Capt. Newlands,
12th A.I.F., C. Coy.,
3rd London General Hospt.,
Wandsworth.

Home address:
Australian A.H.G.

A

May 24th 1917,
V. Devenet.

12th Battn.
A. I. F.

Newell.
Sgt. A. B. 717.

"Wounded & Missing 24.7.16."

Your letter of the 4th May to Capt. Appleby to hand. I regret to inform you that the Capt. has been killed in action, and I have made inquiries re Sgt. Newell and find that No 722 Pte. S. A. Gregory 12th Battn. states that 717 Sgt. A. B. Newell died on the stretcher coming out of the trenches and did not reach the dressing station. Pte. Gregory was C.Coy's groom in July 1916, Capt. Appleby not being with the Battn. then.

Letter from:-

A. D. Tynan, Lieut.
12th Battn.
France. 10.5.17.

London.
17.5.17.

A.
P.I.

(COPY)

Statement made by No. 703 Sgt Lowcock A. 12th Btn

re: No. 717 Sgt Hewell A.B. 12th Btn
Wounded & Missing. 24.7.16

I saw 717 Sgt. Hewell A.B. 12th Btn lying seriously wounded through the lungs and not expected to live, he was bleeding from the mouth. We dare not move him for fear of killing him. The 12th Btn was relieved that night the date being the 25.7.16, and to the best of my knowledge Sgt Hewell was left in the trench.

Dated at Monte Video this 1st day of September 1917.

(Sgt) A. Lowcock.

Statement made and signed before me

(Sgd) A.E. Cairns.

T. Cairns

a

12th Batt. A.I.F.

NEWELL, Sergt. A.E. No. 717
"C" Coy, 12th Batt.

24
Wounded & Missing July-August, 1916

"I saw Newell badly wounded in the chest and lung by a piece of shell on July 4th, 1916 when in our front line trenches near Armentieres. He was so badly wounded that we could not remove him when we left the trenches the same evening. He appeared to me to be fatally wounded when we left the trenches. He was bleeding badly from the mouth. If he died he would probably be buried by the relieving unit. Newell was a Londoner, but enlisted in South Australia. We came over together in the ship "Geelong"."

Description. Height 5'7", dark hair and complexion, medium build.

Witness. Sgt Lowcock. A. No. 703, 12th Batt., Hdqr Bomber.

12th May, 1917.

S.W.

Worgret Camp,
WAREHAM.

A

A. I. F. 12.

NEWELL, Sgt. A. B. 717.

W. & M. July 24th, 1916.

Lt. Kelly, A. Coy. (at the time a L/Cpl.) was the last man who saw Newell at Pozieres on July 24th. Newell was on our parapet, lying there in a badly wounded condition with a piece of shell almost through his body. Kelly told me this himself. Our S/N. could not get Newell in, and left word for those who relieved them to do so. There is no further trace of him however. He was Sgt. of XI pl. G. Coy. He came from Adelaide where he worked for Hatters and Coy. Pte. E. M. Appleby, grows to Capt. Appleby, C. Coy. could also give information. He shook hands with Newell and said goodbye to him after he (Newell) was wounded.

Reference:- L/Cpl. H. A. Harvey, 2368. C. Coy. SA.
No. 1 A. D. B. D.

Written W. Kelly 2.5.17
" Cpl Appleby 2.5.17

A
P. I.
Etaples
21.4.17.

12th A. I. F.

Sgt. A. B. HEWELL, 717.

W & M. 24.7.16.

Capt. Appleby wrote to Hewell's sister stating that he had been buried at Pozieres.

Reference: Sgt. W. H. Possingham, 576.

No. 11 Con. Camp Bucy Nr. Rouen. 4.6.17.

FS.

Ed. A
Dm E. K

12th Battn.
A. I. P.

Newell.
Sgt. A. B. 717.

"Wounded & Missing 24.7.16."

This man with his Platoon went over in the attack at Pozieres on July 24th 1916. He and some of his men were hit by a shell and buried. About 27th July 1916 I saw this man's body lying exposed, this was caused through another shell bursting near former one and so lifting up body that had been hidden. I fully identified the body thus blown out as that of Sgt. Newell's. Sgt. Heurtly (O Sgt. Maj.) attended to the burial but I do not know where he was buried. He was medium height, well built, dark, 25 or 26 years. Came over from South Aust. and joined up the 12th Battn. in Tasmania.

Witness:-

Lieut. B. W. Mitchell.
12th Battn.
Ferham Downs Camp.

A. R. McEhee.

London.
7.6.17.

A.

12th A. I. F.,

Newell, Sgt. A.B., 717,

W. & M. 24.7.16.

"I think it has already been reported to the Red Cross organization that Sgt. Newell was killed at Pozieres. At any rate I have seen his grave at Pozieres. It was a joint grave, for himself and a Sgt., named Clarke, and is marked by a cross."

Eye Witness: No, see above.

Description:

Informant:-- Capt. Newland,
12th A. I. F.,
3rd London General Hosp:
Wandsworth, S. W.

*One E.K.
A G d*

Home address:-- H.Q., A. I. F.,
130, Horseferry Rd., S.W.

14.6.17.
J.R.C.Hall.

Lieut. KELLY/ACo

12 Batt AIF
B.E.F.

for

714 Sgt A.B. NEWELL

12 Batt AIF

W + M. 24. 7. 16.

written Lieut Kelly

4.5.17

G.A.

OK
P.M. 16.5.17

717 Sgt A.B. NEWELL
W.M. 24.7.16 12 Batt A.I.F

France
10th May 1917.

A.P. 14.

The Secretary
Australian Red Cross Society
London.

Dear Madam

Your letter of the 4th May to Captain Appleby to hand, I regret to inform you that the Captain has been killed in action and I have made inquiries re Sgt Newell and find that:

no 722 Private S.A. Gregory 12th Battalion states that 717 Sgt A.B. Newell died on the stretcher coming out of the trenches and did not reach the dressing station.

Private Gregory was C. Coy's groom in July 1916, Captain Appleby not being with the Battalion then. Hoping this information will be of some use to you.

Yours faithfully

A.D. Tynan, Lt. 12th Batt.

4th May 1917.

Capt. Appleby,
C. Coy,
12th Aust. Inf. Bn:
B. E. F.

Dear Sir,

We have been requested by our Adelaide Bureau to make enquiries for - 717 Sgt A.B. Newell, 12th Battn, A.I.F., W. & M. 24-7-16, and have been advised to apply to "Pte E.M. Appleby, groom to Capt. Appleby, C. Coy" for information. We are rather afraid there may have been some confusion in the typing and that your groom may have another name than that given in the report.

We should be very grateful if you could recall the name of the soldier who was acting as either your groom or batman in July 1916, and if possible, pass him this enquiry for any details he can give us concerning Sgt Newell, or if you could yourself give us any information regarding the fate of Sgt Newell that we might transmit to our enquirers, we should be most grateful.

With apologies for troubling you and thanking you in anticipation,

Yours faithfully,

SECRETARY

V. D. J.

17.5.17

Lieut. A.D. Tynan
12th Battn. A.I.F.
B.E.F.

Dear Sir,

We have to thank you very much for your letter of May 10th in answer to our enquiry about

717. Sgt. A.B. Hewell 12th Battn. A.I.F.

We much regret the cause of your writing us, i.e. Capt. Appleby's death.

The information you have sent will be of much assistance.

Yours faithfully

V. D.
Secretary.

[Handwritten signature]