

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

**5414 Private
Arthur Edward O'Leary**

5th Battalion



2050105D

A.I.F.
5th Btn.

O'LEARY
Arthur Edward 5414

Killed in Action 22.9.17.

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

London.
15.10.19.

Off.M.

NAME

UNIT

CHARGE

DATE OF CHANGE

RECEIVED

OFFICE

A.I.F. 5th Btn

O'LEARY
A.E. 5414

"MISSING"

Killed in action previously reported missing 22-9-17
Cert. by A.I.F. Hqs 10-6-18.

CONFAL.

London
1216-18

5th Battn.
A.I.F.

O'Leary. A.E. 5414
Langley. B.H. 7046

"Killed 20.9.17"

We advanced through Glencorse Wood and had reached our objective at Black Watch Corner Polygon Wood. We were being shelled and I was trying to dig a man out when a high explosive shell fell and partly buried me. When I pushed out I could see three men lying killed and three wounded and Langley and O'Leary whom I had spoken to a few minutes before were never seen again, they must have been either been buried or blown to pieces.

Eye-witness:-

Description:-

Informant:- Pte.H.Burke 654A
5th Battn.

Home address:

Ashgrove, Cororooke.

Victoria, Aust:

Ampton Ho pital Suffolk.

26th.Nov.17.

C.H.Hawkins.

London.

13.12.17.

Off.M.

Λ

5th Battn.

D.Coy.

A.I.F.

O'Leary.

A.E. 5414

"Missing 20.9.17"

Refer to Pte.M.Burke D.Coy.5th Batt'n.who is now in France and who saw him killed at Ypres and can give full details of casualty. I believe he was caught by a shell, and killed instantly.

Witness:-

Pte.R.L.Elliott 6391

5th Battn.D.Coy. 15th Pltn.

3rd A.A.Hospital.

Dartford.

W.Oman.

London.

18.12.17.

Off.M.

Note Written Pte.Burke 5.12.17.

C O P Y

Statement made by No. 654. Pte Burke H. 5th Btn⁵⁴¹⁴
re No. 5415 Pte O'Leary A.E. 5th Btn
Missing 25.9.17.

No. 5415 Private O'Leary A.E. 5th Battalion was a member of a party of nine, who were blown up by a shell. I am of the opinion that he was killed instantaneously.

*2 copies of statement**W. H. M. M.**off. m.*

(Dated at Sutton Veny this 31st day of January 1918.

(Sgd) M. Burke.

Statement made and signed before me

(Sgd) R. Donley.

Lieut and Adj't.
No. 1. Command Depot.

5th A. I. F.

O'Leary, A.E. 5414.

(M. Sept. 20th/17)

"On Sept. 20th/17 at Menin Road, O'Leary was killed. They were not able to find his body but his paybook was found by a man named Mahoney, who gave the money to the Roman Catholic Padre. Three or four men were buried by a shell and O'Leary was believed to be one. Informant cannot supply Mahoney's number, but Pte Mahoney, 15th Pltn, D. Coy, 5th A.I.F., France, would find him."

Eye-witness:

Description:

Informant: Pte J.L. Hogah, 2457 B,
5th A.I.F.,
1st Birmingham War Hospital,
Rubery.

Home address:
Beulah,
Victoria,
Australia.

7th April 1918.
R. Clegg.

Written Pte Mahoney
23-4-18

A.I.F. 5.

O'LEARY, A.E. 5414.

M. Sept 20th 1917.

I saw him killed on the night of the 21st in Polygon Wood. After we had attacked and dug in. I think he was buried by explosion. He was very slim, 34 or 35, dark, clean shaven, had a good deal to do with racehorses in Australia, I do not know if he was married or where he came from. With the Battalion five or six months.

Inf: L/Cpl. W. McCluskey. 1587. D.XV.
No. 1 C.O.
BOULOGNE. 6.5.1918.

WG

9/11 M

5th Btn.

O'LEARY A.E.
Pte. 5414.

K. in act. 22/9/17.

"I knew Casualty. He was about 5 ft. 9 ins. medium build, dark, 30 years of age, known as "Arthur". Casualty and I were in a trench when he got buried. We tried to get him out and we had just got him half out when he was buried again, and when we got to him this time he was dead. We buried him at Polygon Wood."

Informant:- Private D. J. Mahoney,
No. 6784, 5th Btn.

Private address:-
129 Cecil Street,
South Melbourne.

S.V.P.
5/9/19.

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS INFORMATION BUREAU-MELBOURNE.

(S. 12. 17)

Pt. M. Burke

C. D. Coy.

S. 14 Battery. A. 1. 7 C

B. 1. 7.

abt.

S. 414 Pt. A. E. O. Leary

D. Coy.

S. 16 Battery. A. 1. 7 C

M. 20 - 9 - 17.

S. 12. 17.
A. 1. B.

25-4-18

Re Mahoney

15th Pet.

J. Law.

5th Q. 7-7.

5414. A. E. O'Dearry

5th Q. 8-7.

Winding 2-9-17.

W. H. C.

25-4-18

T