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

1352 Private
Roy Holcombe King

19th Battalion

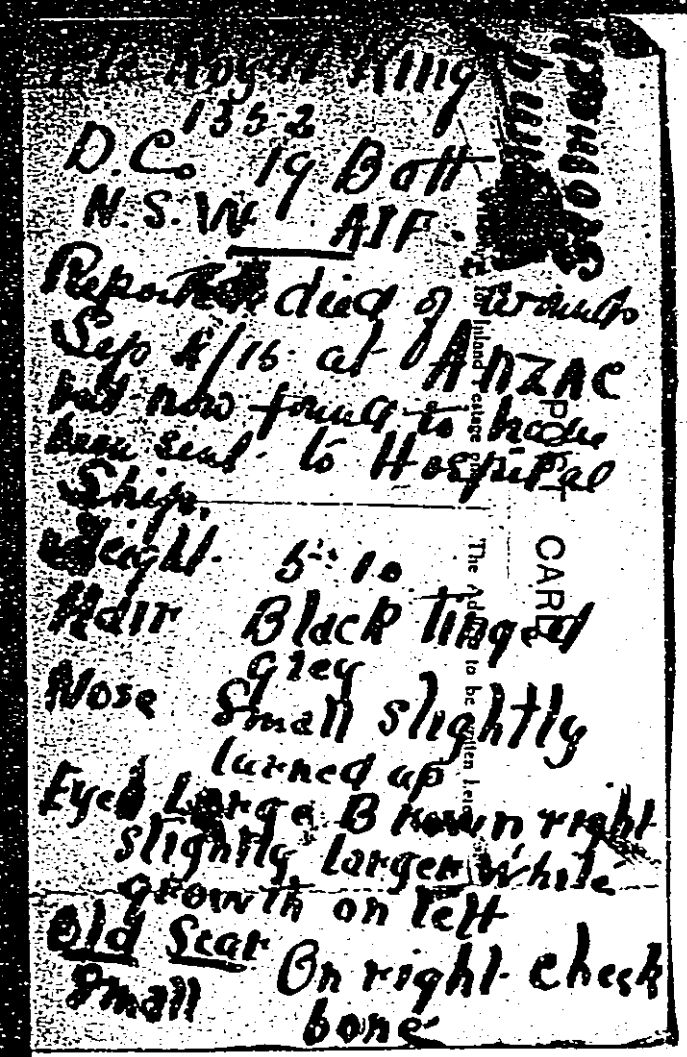


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The following photograph has been copied for the Australian War Memorials' photograph collection at

P03483.028




1352
D.C. 19 Batt
N.S.W. AIF.
Reported died of wounds
Sept 4/15 at ANZAC
but now found to have
been sent to Hospital
Ship.
Height 5'-10
Hair Black tinged Grey
Nose Small slightly turned up
Eyes Large Brown right slightly larger white growth on left
Old Scar On right cheek bone Small
CARD
The Address to be written legibly

A.I.F. 19 Batt. MED.

KING ROY D Coy XVI Platoon. 1352.

I saw an advertisement in the ,London "Express" a short time ago, while I was in the trenches, asking for news of King. I meant to have replied but was prevented. I saw King killed at the Donga, Anzac between Aug. 14th and 21st 1915. A Turkish 75 m.m. shell came over and killed him outright in his dug-out. I was just opposite in my dug-out at the time. I knew King well.

Reference: Pte. D.C. Stewart, 1311,
26 Gen.
Etaples. 24.7.16.

SA.

19th Battalion. D. Coy.

Roy Holcombe
KING. R. H. Pte.
No. 1352.

Officially reported died of wounds, 4/9/15, at 16th Clearing Station, Anzac.

The relatives have been informed by a member of the A.M.C., who is a son of Archdeacon Darcy Irvine that the casualty was placed on board a Hospital Ship bound for England. Other men bear out the statement and say they saw and spoke to the casualty whilst he was being taken to the Hospital Ship.

It was alleged there was no record of his burial on land or sea.

The casualty's Captain in a letter to the relatives stated that he was chatting with him after the casualty was wounded and that he had no expectation of death.

It is also rumoured that casualty has been seen or heard of in hospital, with his memory gone, and under a wrong name.

It is desired that inquiries be made as to the truth or otherwise of statements.

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS INFORMATION BUREAU-MELBOURNE. 15 MAY 1916

A.I.F.
19th. Battalion.

KING. 1352.
Pte. Roy. Holcombe.

"Died of Wounds 4.9.15".

Died of wounds 4.9.15.

Cert. by H.Q. List. 28.8.19.

London. 11.10.19.	Unit	Casualty.	Cause of Casualty.

AUSTRALIAN LIST
CANCELS

19 A.I.F. D. Coy.

KING
Pte. R.H. 1352.
Roy Holcombe

D. of W. 4.9.15.

I remember King being killed and buried at Anzac. I saw him buried and the colonel wrote to his friends at Neutral Bay, Sydney.

Ref:- J. Laycock, Orderly Room Sgt. 19 A.I.F.
Sporting Club Hospital, Heliopolis, CAIRO.

J.B. Donkin,
10.1.16.

S.

19 A.I.F.
D. Co.

KING
Pte. R.H. 1352.
Roy Holcombe

Died of wounds 4th Sept.

Died of gun shot wound in abdomen at 16 Casualty Clearing Station, Anzac, 4.9.15.

Cert. by:-

3rd Echelon Record Office, Alex.

CAIRO,
13.1.16.

S. & P.I.

3rd Batt., A.I.F.
D. Co.

KING,
Pte.R.H. 1352.
Roy Holcombe



About 3rd September informant was in the 16th Clearance Station on the left of Anzac, and saw King leave the Clearing Station on a stretcher for the ship. He was wounded in the head and body. Informant left on the same boat, but he never heard again of King. There were 58 deaths on the way to Alexandria.

Ref.:- Mind,
Cpl. R., 571,
19th Battalion, B, Co.,
4th Australian General Hospital,
[redacted].

D.V.
2.3.16.

SYDNEY BUREAU.

Med.

19th Btn. A.I.F. D.Coy.

KING
Pte R.H. 1352.

Roy Holcombe

D/W 4/9/15.

A few days after the Btn. landed at Gallipoli (21st Aug.) King was camped in a Donga on the left flank under Hill 60. A shrapnel shell burst just over him, and informant saw him fall. He was carried to the nearest field hospital, and informant did not see him again, but word was brought back soon afterwards that King had died on the Hospital Ship before reaching Alexandria. This was confirmed at the Base Hospital at Gallipoli, where informant afterwards inquiredd

Ref:- Pte F.H. Sullivan, 1424,
19th Btn.,
4 A.G.H. RANDWICK.

D.W.
5/4/16.

4 SYDNEY.

Cd.

19th A.I.F. D. Coy.

King,
Pte. R.H. [illegible]
Roy Holcombe

D. of Wounds 4/9/15:

Reference for above:

Orderly Room Sergeant J.Laycock,19th Battalion, sailed from Suez to Australia per "Argylshire" 3/3/16, for six months change.

A.I.F.Headquarters, 130 Horseferry Road,
7/7/16.

London,
7/7/16.

S.

19th Btn. D. Coy.

KING,
Pte. R. H. No. 1352.
Roy Holcombe

Reported Died of wounds, 4/9/15.

Informant states that he was a tent mate of casualty in Egypt. They landed at Suvla Bay on the 28th August, and informant was with casualty for 5 days, then informant was wounded and up to that date casualty was quite alright. This was the last occasion on which informant saw casualty.

The photograph of casualty was produced, and identified by informant.

Ref:- Pte. F.O. Thorbeck,
No. 1811, 19th Btn. E. Coy.

Soldiers' Club,
George St., Sydney.

H.A.B.
11/7/16.

S. P.I. Cd.

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS INFORMATION BUREAU--MELBOURNE.

19th Battn D Coy.
A.I.F.,

KING,
Pte. R.H. 1352
Roy Holcombe

"Reported Died of wounds, 4-9-15.

Informant states that he was a friend of casualty, and he was a dug-out mate of his on the 8th September. (Informant identified photograph produced and the description on the back of same).

Informant states that he himself was wounded on the 10th September, and that casualty was supposed to have been killed on the 9th September, according to common report. There were three others of the 19th Battalion, D. Company, who positively agreed that casualty was killed near Hill 60, on the 9th.

Reference;- Pte. H. Howll.1096,
C. Company,
19th Battalion,

Private Address;-
1. Vine Lane,
Redfern, Sydney.

H.A.B.
11-7-16

S. &
P.I.

Moore's Modern Methods, Ltd., London, England Binder and holes in leaves, Pat'd No. 6713, 1914.

Australian Branch
British Red Cross Society,
Boulogne July 17

Nivka
Harrette St.
Neutral Bay
Sydney April 14th

Dear Miss Collingridge

I received your kind letter asking me for the information we have obtained about Roy. Chell first. I have met & cross questioned for a day two two Soldiers who said him leave on a Stretcher the 16th Clearing Station where he is supposed in the official report to have died. Pte McNamara D. Co 19 Batt knew him well & went to the hospital to enquire for him, and said him leaving for the boat. He spoke to him and he answered him.

Cpl Hind 19th Batt who was known to McNamara was in the above hospital being slightly wounded! he said Roy brought in & enquired all particulars. These tally with our information. He states Roy was carried out to the boat (either Drakenso or Salta - both were waiting) at 4 P.M. of Sept 4th. He was quite sure of the time, and date. He followed at 7 P.M. He said all Roy had on was a torn shirt and he was found round the top of head & round his body. I have interviewed many dozens of men & nurses whom to place faith in & consider these two men quite reliable, also the third Pte Sullivan D. Co 19 Batt who has given me a signed Statement that he knew Roy, & went to

the Base Hospital Anzac to Enquire for him. He was told there that he had been sent aboard the Hospital Ships. He said the Base was the last before the Ships & as hundreds of men have died & I think it must have been the 16th Station.

Archdeacon Darcy-Irvines son being an Orderly at Lemnos & who is doing all he can to Enquire & Send the 19 Batt while there. He writes "I found out that Roy was first treated in Col. Rotten's Field Ambulance Hospital and then put on board a Hospital Ships bound for England."

Mr Parkes late Ass. Pay Corps late medical Orderly Base writes me that he has asked many of the men of the 19th Batt and most inclined to that belief that he reached the Ship. He also gives me to understand that he has written to the Records Office and that they have no Record of his burial.

V.C. Rottins D.Co. 19 a friend of Roy's was told by Col. Mackenzie that there was no Record of his burial.

Mr Captain Captain Edgley Slater that he was Chatting with Roy after he was wounded & that he died but think he would die.

The men who saw he died or was buried at Sea only hopes to form the Official Casualty List. His death there reported being Sept 4th. They knew had he died then after being sent off the boat he must have been buried at Sea but the Official under Date death is that he died at Anzac. The Base at Melbourne advises

he h' answered (on Enquiry that that means actually what it says, and not while on the way to the boat, or while the Ship was off land. The Victoria Barracks Casualty department make the same statement. They say the Pass would be filled and dated so to hold such heads to work on. Had he died at Sea, or while on the Ship, or on the way to it we should have been informed so. Therefore you cannot work that we consider a mistake has been made in this way, especially as we continue to hear several cases a day of men reported dead turning up.

Again Thanking you for your kind wish to help me by Enquiries,

Believe me

Yours Sincerely

Cornelia O'Leary.

"I. Cloud"
Ryde.
Sydney

April 12th 1916

Dear Mr. Du Boise

I would be very grateful to you if you would be so kind as to make inquiries about Private Roy Holcombe King of D. Comp. 19th Bat. He was reported to have died of wounds on the 4th Sept. 1915. His family has had various reports about him. from different soldiers, there is no record of his burial at the Base Hospital which seems strange since he was reported to have been in a hospital. I have written to Miss King to ask her to send along the different reports & will send on letter to you when I get it. I don't suppose you will remember me but you know my people & feel sure you will do your best for me. I saw your Mother & Sister

not so long ago, & they were both well. Mrs Makemson has been worrying over Gill, but was pleased to hear through you that he was well. I think both Gill & Poor Roger met Roy King several times.

Hoping this finds you well
With Kindest Regards
from all.

Yours very sincerely
Louise Collingridge

TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS
BUDDEN STRALIS CAIRO

TEL: CAIRO 2867

.A. I. F.

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HENRY E. BUDDEN, J.P.
AS APPOINTED BY
THE HON G. F. PEARCE
MINISTER OF DEFENCE, AUSTRALIA

COMMISSIONER'S SECRETARY
W. F. A. LARCOMBE

A. I. F. GIFTS STORE
THE SAVOY HOTEL

Cairo 8th January 1916

Australian Branch,
British Red Cross Inquiry Bureau,
Gresham House,
Cairo

Dear Sir,

We have been requested to endeavour to obtain ~~information~~ Confirmation of the death of Pte. Roy Holcombe King, 1352, "D" Company, 19 Battalion, 5th Brigade who is reported to have died of wounds on the 4th September last.

Private King was 5ft. 10in. in height, broad and well made, nearly black hair and large brown eyes, short nose and small mouth.

We will be very grateful to you for any information you will be able to obtain.

Yours faithfully,

FOR THE VARIOUS AUSTRALIAN COMFORTS FUNDS,

W F A Larcombe

Yours faithfully,