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

5404 Corporal
Herbert Harold Lewis

14th Battalion



1591011I

A.I.F. 14th Battn.

LEWIS.
Corp H.H.
5404.

Killed August 1/18.

At Villers Bretonneux, I saw him killed at once with a bomb. He was near me when killed, I know they took his body back, but I do not know where buried.

Inf:- Sgt.Douglas.W.
2365.
W.1, Harefield.

D.P.Dickson.

London.
29/10/18.

P.I.

14th Battn.
A.I.F.

LEWIS
Cpl.H.H. 5404

"KILLED 1-8-18"

I detailed two of my men to carry him out of the line to Battalion Headquarters, to be buried in a British Cemetery near by. At the time the Regiment was on the right of Villers Bretonneux. I was not an eye-witness, but was told by Cpl.Jones.D.Coy. Death was instantaneous. There was no other man of same name in Coy. or Battn. He was 22 years old and called "Bobby".
The ground was held.

Informant - Boyes.Sgt.W.H. 1672
(Reliable)
14th Battn.
4th Lon.Gen.Hosp.
Denmark Hill.

Home Address:-
Lardner
Victoria.

H.Rhead
30-10-18
London
15-11-18
J.E.A.

P.I.

Havre. 21st. November 1918.

14th. Australians. Lewis, Corporal H.H. 5404

K. August 1/1918. Dets. D/B.

He was in D. Company, 14th. Platoon, - I helped to carry his body to the D/Station but I don't know where he was buried. This was on the Villers Bretonneux Front. Dark hair, clean shaven, about 27, about 5 feet 8, thick set. Come from Donald, Victoria.

Inf:- Private W. P. B. Hunt, No. 5395
14th. Australians. D.'14.-
No. 2. Gen. Hosp. (Casino)

HJB RRB

A.I.F. 14th Battn. CPL.H.H. LEWIS
5404.

"Killed 1/8/18."

He was in D. Company, 15th Platoon, I knew him well. He was about 5ft.5ins., fair and 26 years old. At Villers Bretonneux on August 1st 1918, at about mid-night, we were going up to relieve in the front trenches when Cpl. Lewis was killed instantaneously by a hand bomb which was being thrown at the Germans by a Frenchman. Cpl. Jones, D. Coy, 15th Platoon, was wounded by the same bomb. I know nothing of his burial.

Informant:F. Reed, 2472,
Headquarters, 4th Division,

W.H.K.
London
26.11.18.
H.G.

Note. Written Cpl. Jones 27-11-18

P.I.

A.I.F. 14th Battn. Cpl. H.H. Lewis,
5404.

"Killed 1/8/18."

He was in D. Company, 15th Platoon. He was 5ft.9ins., dark, and 23 years old. He came from Donald, Victoria. On the right of Villers Bretonneux near Madam Wood on August 1st 1918, at mid-night, we were going up to relieve the French when Lewis was killed with a hand bomb. He was buried in a Military Cemetery about a mile away next day, and a cross was erected.

Informant:- Sgt. D. Curry, 2589,
D. Coy,15th Battn.

W.H.K.
London
28.11 18.
J.E.A. Note:- This report was substantiated later in the day by Pte. C. Fish, 5374 14th Battn., Headquarters Scout.

P.I.

Havre. 29th. November 1918.

14th. Australians. Lewis. Corporal H.H. 5404.

K. August 1/1918. Det. D/B.

I knew him. He was in D. Company. 15th. Platoon, about 24, tall, medium build, dark, clean shaven. I saw his body being carried out from the right of Villers Bretonneux about August 2/1918. He had been killed the previous evening while going forward to outpost duty. A S/Bearer named Dick Harris, M.M. of D. Company. 13. Platoon, was one of the men carrying him.

Inf:- Private. D. V. Lloyd, 7516,
14th. Australians. D. 14.
Australian Camp.

RDM.

RRB.

Havre 30th Novr 1918.

Australians. 14. Lewis Cpl H.H. 5404.

K. 1st August 1918. Det D/B.

I knew him well. He was medium build. fair, about 25, About the 1st August we were at Villers Bretonneux holding the front line. At night we were relieving the French outposts, and they thoughtwe were Germans, and threw Grenades. Lewis was hit and killed right out. I was guide to the party, and saw it. The body was taken away, and buried, but I don't know where.

Inf:- Pte W.H.Lorcombe No. 1614.
A.I.F. 14. D. IV.
Australian Camp.

CWSG.

PP.

A.I.F. 14th Battn.

LEWIS
H.H. 5404.

"Killed 1/8/18."

Hangard Wood in the front of it, we had just relieved the French, when he was killed by a Bomb. I saw his body after when they were taking him away on a stretcher. He was a mate of mine, came from Australia together. It would appear he was killed by mistake; the French saw a body of men coming up and the bomb was thrown by mistake.

Informant 5442, D. Ryan,
Ward 26,
Harefield.

D.P. Dickson.
London
2.12.18.
J.E.A.

P.I.

A.I.F. 14th Battn.

LEWIS
Cpl. H.H. 5404.

"Killed 1/8/18."

I was informed that Lewis was buried in a French Military Cemetery on the right of Villers Bretonneux, near Hangard on August 1st 1918. The Cemetery is about ½ mile from Hangard and is situated in a gully. Lewis was hit bt a bomb and killed instantaneously. I was told by a Stretcher bearer belonging to D. Coy, 14th Battalion. Description:- 5ft.7ins. tall, young, fair, nick-named"Bobbie."

Informant:- 7584, Pte. W.A. Wilson, (very clear)
14th Battn. D. Coy,
15th Platoon.
Alexandra Military Hpl,
Cosham.

Home address:-
Homebush,
Victoria,
Australia.

Phillis Crawford.
London
5.12.18.
H.G.

P.I.

A.I.F. 14th Battn.

Lewis
H.H. 5404. Cpl.

"Killed 1.8.18."

Informant saw a Stretcher Bearer carrying the body of Cpl. Lewis for burial on the right of Villers Bretonneux, and he told him (informant) that the Cpl. was killed instantaneously by a bomb at Villers Bretonneux, whilst relieving the French Army there. Ground was held. Men not known to Informant;

Informant:- 7493, Pte. Ernest Glenwright,
14th Battn. C. Coy,(Intelligent)
Wc.1. Exeter War Hospital.

Home address:-
16, Charles Street,
Elsternwick,
Melbourne,
Australia.

I. Turner.
London
23.12.18.
E.C.

P.I.

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS.

No. 7260.

Private S. L. Lewis
7th Battalion A.I.F.
Ward. 2. N. C.
Military Hospital
Clifden Rd. Clapton
London E.5.

18 SEP 1918

To O.C.
Sir

Aus

I have been notified from Australian Head Qrs Horseferry Rd. That my brother No 5404. Corporal H. H. Lewis 15 Platoon D. Coy. 14th Battalion Australian Imp Forces was killed in Action on August 1st 1918.
I would be very

2

Thankful if you could find out any further Particulars Concerning his Death, or to hear from anyone who saw or was with him at the time of his death.

Believe me Yours Sincerely

Sydney L. Lewis 7260.
4th Australian Battalion
Military Hospital
Clifden Rd
Clapton E.5.

To

Cpl Jones.
XV Platoon. D. Co
14 Bttn. A. I. F

Cabout

5404 Cpl H. H. Lewis
14 Bttn. A. I. F.

K 1. 8. 18

Written 21. 11. 18
M. E. F.

UV

7260, Pte. F.L. Lewis,
7th Battalion A.I.F.,
Ward. 2. H.C.,
City of London Military Hospital,
Clifden Road, Clapton.

6th November 1918.

Dear Sir,

With further reference to your enquiry for 5404 Cpl. W.H. Lewis, 14th Battn., A.I.F., who is Officially reported killed in action on the 1st August,1918, we regret to inform you of an unofficial report of his death, which we have now received from one of the men in his Unit. 2365 Sgt. T. Douglas interviewed recently at the 1st Australian Auxiliary Hospital, Parefield, stated that he was near by and saw Cpl. Lewis killed instantaneously at Villers Bretonneux. Unfortunately, he could give no information of his burial, although he knew his body was taken back.

We are pursuing our enquiries in the hope of obtaining fuller particulars and as soon as any further evidence reaches us, will again advise you.

With sincere sympathy in your loss, and with good wishes for your recovery.

Yours faithfully,

(Miss)

Secretary.

M.E.H.

7260,
Pte. S.L.Lewis,
7th Battn. A.I.F.
No. 2. Command Depot.
WEYMOUTH.

4/12/18.

Dear Sir,

In further reply to your enquiry regarding your brother 5404.Cpl.H.H.Lewis. 14th Battn.A.I.F. who was killed in action on 1.8.18. We beg to inform you of the following unofficial report received from 2589 Sgt. D.Curry. who states:-

"On the right of Villers Bretonneux Lear Wadam Wood on August 1st at midnight we were going up to relieve the French when Lewis was killed with a hand bomb. He was buried in a Military cemetery about a mile away next day and a cross was erected"

This evidence is confirmed by 2472.Pte. F.Reed, and 5374 Pte. C.Fish.

We are now closing our enquiry, as we fear there is little chance of our obtaining further details, but should we do so, we will at once advise you.

Once more assuring you of our very sincere sympathy,

Yours faithfully,

(Miss)

B M.

SECRETARY.

December 10th, 1918.

7260 Pte.S.L.Lewis,
7th Battalion. A.I.F.
No 2 Command Depot.
Weymouth.

Dear Sir,

With further reference to your enquiry for your brother 5404 Cpl.H.H.L.Wilson 14th Battalion. A.I.F. We beg to inform you of further unofficial evidence of his death, which we think may be of value to you.

7584 Pte. W.A. Wilson of the same unit interviewed at the Alexandra Military Hospital, Cosham stated that he had been told that Cpl. Lewis was killed instantly by a bomb and was buried in a French Military Cemetery situated in a Gully on the right of Villers Bretonneux about ½ a mile from Hangard.

7516 Pte.D.V.Lloyd also of the same unit stated that he knew your brother and had seen his body being carried out from the right of Villers Bretonneux on about August 2nd and he knew he had been killed the previous evening while going forward to outpost duty. These reports are substantially confirmed by 5442 Pte. W. Ryan and 1614 Pte. W.H.Larcombe.

Should any further particulars reach us we would advise you. With renewed sympathy in your loss and good wishes for yourself.

Yours faithfully,

(Miss)

Secretary.