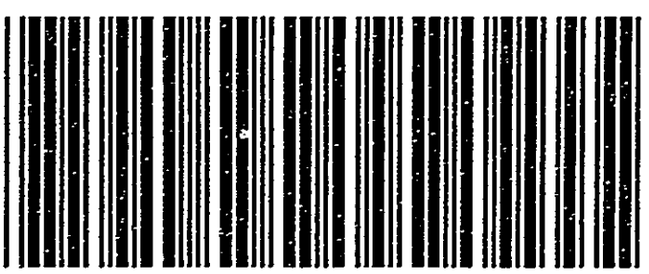
Australian Red Cross Society Wounded and Missing
Enquiry Bureau files, 1914-18 War
1DRL/0428

6578 Private
John Henry Lewis

12th Battalion



1600202B

A.I.F. 12th Bn

LEWIS "M"
Jack H. 6578

"MISSING"

Killed in action 7-10-17 - previously reported Missing
Cert. by A.I.F.Hqrs 14-5-18.

H

London
15-5-18

Havre 26th Nov. 1917.

12th AUSTRALIANS LEWIS, J.H. 6578

M. 7.10.17.

He lived at Upper Davey St., Hobart. I was running with him on Oct. 7th at Westhoek Ridge. He went down to H.Q. with a message and they thought he must have walked straight into the German lines. He was never seen afterwards. It was at night-time. It was very easy to lose your way. Just before this he and I guided a wire party up to the front line.

Informant: Pte. W. Graham, 6279
12th Australians, A Co., 4th Pltn.,
Australian Camp, Rouelles.

GLT

AUSTRALIANS. 12.

LEWIS, J.H.6578.
WHELAN, P.C. 1430.
HALE, Lt W.H.E.

M. Oct. 7th 1917.

We were in Polygon Wood on 6th Oct. Lt Hale was up in the trench leading a party over when he was struck by a shell qnd wounded in the breast, and he died a few hours later. I saw this myself, and helped to bury him 300 yards the other side of Zonnebeke Gasometer. We went out of the line. I On Nov, 3rd we took a cross up and the Adjutant and an Intelligence officer were there, when we arrived at the grave we found that the body had been blown out and also those of two soldiers. The two officers and the party buried all three again and put up a cross for Lt Hale and the two soldiers. Privates Lewis and Whelan were the two soldiers in question. I do not know how they were killed but these two names were on the cross, above referred to, which was erected on the grave.

Inf: Pte T.H.Cowderoy. 2581. 12.D.XV½
On Leave.
BOULOGNE. 26.11.17. PRBL

12th Battn.
A.I.F.

LEWIS
Pte.J.H. 6578

"Missing 7-10-17"

I believe Pte.Lewis was killed, but I have no evidence. He was sent on a message to Coy. Hqts., in the lines, and on the way back he disappeared, and was never heard of again. He could not have been taken prisoner. It was assumed that he had been hit by a shell. This was at Passchendaele way, early Oct. General report at the time.

Eye-witness: No.
Description: Little short fellow, very dark, a Tasmanian.
I think he had received M.M.

Informant. Dalwood Pte.Vic 6997 (intelligent, but general report only)

Home address:-
Brisbane Street,
Hobart,
Tasmania.

12th Battn. A.Coy. 4th Pltn.,
Horton War Hpl.,
EPSOM.

P.L.Waterhouse
13-3-18
London
16-5-18

H.

A.I.F. I2. LEWIS J.H. 6578.

K. Oct 7th 1917.

The last I saw of Lewis, he was going as guide for the relief party. This was at West Hoek ridge between Zonnebeke and Passchendaele ridge. My mate Craig was with a rationing party that was coming in and says that he passed Lewis with another party composed of signallers. Lewis and his party took cover in a sap from the barrage. Eventually that sap was blown to pieces by the intense shelling and there is no doubt that Lewis perished with the rest. The body is not likely to be recovered. He was quite young - I7. I have known him since he was a baby and also his family who reside at Hobart Tasmania. It was only his third time in action and he had already won the M.M. for a gallant act at Polygon Wood. Appearance short fair weighed not more than seven stone. Had been batman to Lt Butler.

Inf. R.J.Seymour. 3345. I7 A.I.F. A Co. II.
No 2 Aus. Gen Hosp.
BOULOGNE. 20.6.I8.

SAA,

N.W.

H