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

5219 Private Geoffrey Hugh MacPherson

3rd Battalion



1970302M

3rd Batt. A.I.F.,

MACPHERSON
G.H. 5219

3

"K. in A 4.11.16"

Cpl P Godbolt 3rd Batt. A.I.F., who is in this hospital suffering from wounds of the right arm so that he is unable to write, has asked me to reply to your letter of enquiries about 5219 G.H.Macpherson. He says ~~that~~ there is no doubt of the lad's death, that he was buried by the padre at night in a soldier's cemetery a little out of the town of Flers and that a few of his chums were at the burial. The grave will be registered. Godbolt appears to have known MacPherson well.

Cert. by letter from The Matron, Scottish
Scottish Red Cross ~~Hospt~~.
11th Sty Hospt.
B.E.F.
21.4.17.

London
5.17.

S.

MacPherson-G.H. 5219

A.I.F. 3.

MCPHERSON, G.H. 5219

K.Nov. 3. 1916.

He was killed by a shell, near Batt. HQ. at Flers, on Nov. 3. I did not see him killed, nor have I seen his grave, but I saw some men making a cross to put on his grave. His name was already on the cross when I saw it. I made enquiries and elicited the facts I have given. He belonged to B.Coy. and came across with a lot of Tamworth (N.S.W.) boys. I came in the same Half. as him.

SA.

References: Pte. J.F.Stapleton, 5188, C.
No. 1- [illegible] A.D.M.S.

Etaples
23.March 1917

3rd A.I.F.

Mac
McPherson G.H. No.5219.
K. 3rd November 1916. Det D/B.

He came from Tamworth N.S.Wales, and was a Bank Clerk in the bank of N.S.Wales there. His people have been written to and know all possible particulars.

Inf:- Sergt. A.J.Monk No.154. B.Co.
H.S. "Stad Antwerpen".
Calais. 3.3.17. EMR.

3rd Batt.
A.I.F.,

Mac
MC PHERSON
G.H. 5219

"Killed Nov.3/16"

I did not see this man killed but I was at his burial in a military cemetery near Flers on the sunken road. Ground was held. He was buried on 4th Nov.1916 a chaplain McKenzie of Salvation Army read the Service. A cross with his name and no. was placed over the grave. From the Chaplain I learned that McPherson had been killed at Flers on Nov. 3.16 by a shell. He was about 5.9 or 10. Medium build, dark between 19 and 21 yrs. From Tamworth. N.S.W.

Reference:- W.H.Curran 5063
C.Coy 3rd Batt. A.I.F.,
Perham Downs Camp,
21.4.17

London
27.4.17.
A.R.McPhee

S.

3rd Batt.
A.I.F.,

Mac
MC PHERSON
G.H. 5219

"Killed Nov. 3/16"

I did not see him killed but I saw him dead. It was by a shell instantaneously in a trench near Flers. 4 men were killed at the same time. I knew him by sight only. Don't know if buried. About 5ft 6in brown and clean shaven. Don't know state.

Reference:- De A Smith 2953
3rd Batt. A.I.F.,
Ward 40
Harefield Hospital.
23.4.17.

London
28.4.17.
W.Alison

S.

3rd Batt.
A.I.F.,

Mac
MCPHERSON
G.H. 5219

"Killed 3.11.16"

I saw his grave in the cemetery at the Sunken Road at Flers. Cpl Percy? Godbolt of B/Co. told me he was killed by a shell.

Reference:- 5063 W.H.Curran
3rd Batt. A.I.F.,
Dartford,
14.3.17.

Note: Written Cpl P Godbolt 22.3.17.

London
23.3.17
L.P.J.

S.

Mac

3rd A. I. F., McPherson, G.H., 5219,
B. Coy.,

K. Nov. 3rd, 1916. Det: D & B.

"McPherson and three other men were killed by shell near Flers on Nov. 3rd, and I saw him buried in a small Cemetery near Flers at the same time as Broadbent of the same Coy."

Eye Witness:
Description:

Informant:-- Pte. W.S.Kerr, 5693,
3rd A. I. F., B. Coy., 7 Pltn.,
Beaufort War Hosp:
Beaufort.

Home address:-- Brook Street,
Naremburn,
North Sydney.

14.3.17.
F. Gardiner.

France.

A. I. F. 3. Mac McPHERSON, G.H. 5219.

M K/3rd.Nov.1916.

He came over with me. He came from Tamworth, N.S.Wales. He was killed at Flers, and buried close to Battn. H.Q., Bull Trench. I saw the cross being made for his grave.

Reference: Scott, 5739, C.Coy.,
No. 18 General.

Staples.
16.2.17.
HBA.

Cpl. P. Godbolt
B. Co 3rd Btn A.I.F.
B.E.F.

for 5219 G. H. McPherson
3rd Btn A.I.F.
K.A. 3.11.16

J. de
23.3.17

C and have been told C hat you may be able to help us by supplying some information.

We should be most grateful for any details you can send us concerning but our enquirers wish especially to know whether he was buried, if so, whether it was on the field or in a Soldier's Cemetery, where the grave would be registered. We should also be glad if you could add a short description of his personal appearance or any points that might help to prove his identity.

Yours faithfully,

Secretary.

JM/IR.

30th April, 1917.

The Matron,
Scottish Red Cross Section,
11th Stationary Hospital,
B. E. F.

Dear Madam,

We have to thank you very much indeed for your kindness in personally answering ~~the enquiry~~ for Cpl. Godbolt the enquiry we had made to him about No. 5219 G.H.Macpherson.

We appreciate it all the more as we fully understand how very little spare time you have in ordinary circumstances and can well imagine that under present conditions the whole of the Nursing Service is working overtime.

Yours faithfully,

V.D

Ack
F.M. 24-4-17

SCOTTISH RED CROSS SECTION,
11 STATIONARY HOSPITAL,
B.E.F.

21st April 1917.

Miss Vera Deakin.
Australian Red Cross Society.

Dear Madam.

Corporal P. Godbolt 3rd Batt A.I.F. who is in this hospital suffering from wounds of the right arm & that he is unable to write. He asked me to reply to your letter of enquiries about 5219 J.H. Macpherson.

He says there is no doubt of the lad's death; that he was buried by the padre at night in a Soldiers cemetery a little out of the town of Flers. and that a few of his "chums" were at the burial. The grave will be registered. Godbolt appears to have known Macpherson well.

Yours faithfully.
Margaret S. Riddell
Matron.

5219. G.H. Macpherson.
3 Batt A.I.F.

KA 3 11 16

S V

27th April, 1917.

Corporal P.Godbolt,
2rd Battn. A.I. F.
Scottish Red Cross Section,
11,Stationary Hospital
B.E.F.

Dear Corporal Godbolt,

Very many thanks for the information you have sent us in answer to your enquiry for

5219 J. H. Macpherson,
3rd Battn. A.I.F.

Through this, we shall be able to apply to the Graves Registration Union to locate his place of burial.

We very much regret that our enquiry found you in Hospital, but trust your arm is making good progress and this will mean a furlough for you shortly

With best wishes,

Yours faithfully,

V.D.

Secretary.