

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

2nd Lieutenant
John Ellis Pooley

38th Battalion



2180108K

A.I.F.
38th Btn.

POOLEY
2/Lieut. John Ellis

Killed in action 1.1.17.

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

London.
24.10.19.

P.I. & M.

38th Battn.
A.I.F.

POOLEY
2/Lt. J.E.

Missing - 1-1-17.

Re 2nd.Lieut.J.E. Pooley of 38th Battn. reported missing your letter dated 20/2/17. Lieut.Pooley was Officer in Charge of a small party in an enterprise against the enemy on 1/1/17. We succeeded in reaching his wire before he opened a heavy Gun fire upon us. Lieut.Pooley was in front and I am sure he must have been either killed or badly wounded, in fact I actually saw him fall from a sitting position as if shot. Soon after I made enquiries from those about me who were left alive. I also called out several times: "Are you there Mr, Pooley"? but got no reply. He could not have been more than 15 yards away. I then assumed Command of the survivors and gave the word to return to our trenches. Under the circumstances it was impossible to bring anyone else back. The Germans got the bodies in the next night. Lieut.Pooley had a slip of paper in his pocket inscribed with his rank, name, battalion and religion.

I would be glad to supply any further particulars if required.

Letter: W.S. Rowe, 2/Lieut.

France - 23-2-17.

London
8-3-17.

Jff. M.

A.I.F. 38

POOLEY, 2nd Lt. J.E.

M. Jan. 1st. 1917.

I knew Mr. Pooley, he went out on a raid on the night of the 31st December at Armentieres. I was told by Pte Cull ~~Pull~~, D. Coy, that there were about 17 men in the party and that Mr. Pooley was in command. Only 7 or 8 returned of whom Cull was one. Mr. Pooley did not return.

Informant: Pte C. King. 1660. B.7.
No. 8 Stat. Hospital.
BOULOGNE. 15.3.1917.

RHL.

On E. K. Cd
off dt.

38th A. I. F.

Pooley, 2nd Lieut J.E.

(M. Jan 1st/16)

"I saw 2nd Lieut Pooley caught in the barbed wire, and I saw him shot where he was and we all tried to disentangle his body, but could not, and we had to leave his body there. This happened at Armentieres."

Eye-witness: Yes

Description:

Informant: A.J. Leeson, 1745,
38th A.I.F., C. Coy,
Kitchener's Hospital, C. Block,
Brighton.

Home address:
Rupanyrep,
Victoria,
Australia.

Don E. K. G. d.
uff db

16th March 1917.
Maud M. Seaman.

3
28th A.I.F.,

3
Pooley, 2nd Lieut. I.E.,

M. Jan. 1st, 1917.

"Lieut. Pooley belonged to my Coy., He went out with 15 men of my Coy., from Armentieres to make a silent raid on the night of the 1st Jan, 1917. Only 5 of the men returned, and it was reported in my Company, by the survivors, that the other ten men with the Lieut were killed that night by high explosives. I was not in the trench at the time they went out, and I cannot give the precise names of my Informants who came back. I was wounded on the 16th Jan. 1917, hit by a shell."

Eye Witness:

Description:

Informant: Pte. Wm. Edward Simms, 1695,
28th A.I.F. B. Coy., Vill. Pltn.,
Harbourne Hall V.A.D. Hosp.,
Birmingham.

Home address:-- Lake Charm,
Victoria, Australia.

16th Nov. 1916.

Geo: Bullock.

Un E, K
PI off all

38th Batt.
A.I.F.,

BATTALION REPORT

"Missing Jan. 1st 1917"

I knew all these men quite well. They all went on a raid at night at Armentières. I was on the parapet and saw them all start. During the raid Mr. Pooley got hit and he sent up a S.O.S. signal for us to open a barrage. The signal attracted the German fire and Mr Pooley was absolutely riddled with bullets and killed outright. There were 17 went on the raid and only 6 returned. All the five men told me that they had seen Mr Pooley killed and they told what had happened. They said that they had seen Fowell riddled with bullets and killed. They also reported that there is not the slightest doubt the remainder of the men marked as missing are killed. Pte Bull was one of the six that returned but he had lain out all that night and all the next day and when he got back after he was too confused to say anything and did not appear to know anything. He was wounded in the foot and sent to England. Pte Strachan was another who returned; he was wounded and sent to England. Cpl Poole returned unwounded, he was with the Batt. on the 6th Jan as I saw him there

POOLEY 2/Lt J.E.
ARTHUR L.O. 1768
COHILL J.A. 841
FEWELL A 1169
GUMMING Gnr W.J. 1176
HOLMAN H.R. 1210
JOHNSON A 1332
JOHNSON H.A. 1213
NYLON F.A. 1891

(BULL Dvr Top

No Enquiry (Strachan Pte

(POOLE Cpl

Battn. Report. 38th A.I.F.

and he will be able to confirm what I have said. None of the bodies were recovered.

Reference:- Pte J.B. Birdsall 1795
No 1 Con Camp,
Boulogne 9.3.17.

RAOI

We find that Nyblom was officially struck out on the 6th March as Prisoner of War. We notice another report was sent in from Cpl. C.R. Norton 1257 at No 3 Canadian Gen. Hospital, in which he says that Sgt. Roe found Nyblom's dead body in No Man's Land riddled with bullets. RAOI

1 Slip sent to M for group.
Written Re Strachan 22.3.17

A.I.F. 38th Battn.

POOLEY
2/Lieut. J. E. Ellis

MISSING 1.1.17.

2nd. Lieut. Pooley of our Coy and Battalion was in the same little business that I wrote to you about previously. He led us across No Man's Land and was seen by us to fall. He was either killed or very badly wounded. I have no grounds for saying so but I am afraid it was the first. Mr. Pooley was about 5'8" in height, weight say 11stone, stockily built, ruddy complexion small black moustache. In private life he was employed by Messrs. Connibere, Grieve and Connebere, Flinders Lane, Melbourne. and lived with his Mother in Malvern. He was an ex Citizen Force Officer.

Cert. by letter from. Harold F. Poole Sgt.
France.
15.3.17.

LONDON.
29.3.17.

Off. Missing

38th A. I. F. D Coy.

General Account,

file under Lieut Pooley -
(M. Jan: 1/17.)

"I believe the nine men mentioned in the list (all D Co) are killed. Sixteen men under 2nd Lieut. Pooley went out on New Year's eve (Dec: 31/16 - Jan: 1/17.) on a silent raid on the German trenches at Armentieres. It was unsuccessful as the Germans were waiting for them with grenades and rifle fire. Six got back that night and one was rescued the following night, he was wounded in the foot and crawled to a shell hole nearer our lines, he brought the news that the other nine were killed in No Man's Land."

Eye-witness:-- No.

Description:--

Informant:-- Pte. C. Bretherton, 1121,
38th A. I. F. D Coy,
Graylingwell Hospital,
Chichester.

Home address:-- 67, Beach St,
Port Melbourne.

March 28th
V Beaumont.

Havre

Jan. 20th 1917

AUSTRALIANS 38

POOLEY 2/Lt.J.E.

M. Jan. 1/17

He was in D Co. Lt. Pooley went out with a raiding party of about 8 men. They got up to the German barbed wire when they were all wiped out by machine gun fire; this was at Armentieres about the end of Dec. I was told this by Pte. Lehman 38th battn. C Co. who was with his unit when I left about the 12th Jan. He had had a letter from one of C Co. men.

Informant Pte. E.V. Jones 1047
38th A.I.F. C Co. IX pltn.
H.S. Formose
H.P.G.

off. dl.

Written Pte. Lehman 25.1.17

A.I.F. 38.

POOLEY, 2/Lt G.E.

M. Jan 1st 1917.

Pte Ball was the only man that returned from the raiding party in charge of Lt Pooley and he was wounded and crawled back. They were all lying down at the time and Lt Pooley knelt up to give an S.O.S. signal to the artillery when he was shot instantly. ~~This xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx.~~

Informant: L.C. Smith. 12306. 38 A.M.C
No. 2 Australian Hospital.
BOULOGNE. 25.1.17.

JDP

Written by Pte Ball 31. 1. 17
see report by Base 11/2. 17

off M

38th Australian Imperial Force

Poley, 2nd Lieut. J.E.

(M. Jan 1/17.).

" I knew Lieut. Poley (38. D) He went out on a raid at night about 1st Jan at Armentieres and was shot by the (?) German Barbed wire. Cpl. Henry Lorrimore (38. A) - ~~who~~ was with him said that he was killed close to him and was left on the wire. He could be seen there. "

Eye Witness - No. Cpl. Henry Lorrimore (38 A) told him.

Description :- 5' 9" slight moustache, good looking

Informant :- Cpl. Edward Mills, 343,
38th Australian I.F. A Coy. II Pl
3rd Southern Gen. Hospt.

Home address :- Cowley Section, Oxford.
Bendigo,
Victoria.

3/2/17.
H.M. Pickerd-
Cambridge.

Written Cpl Lorrimore 12.2.17

Off ellb

A.I.F. 38¹/₂

POLEY. 2nd.Lt.J.E.

M. Jan. 1st. 1917.

I knew him quite well. We were at Armentieres. He went out on a raid at night, 15 or 16 men went with him. They started at night for a raid on the German Trench. While on the way the Germans threw up several lights and discovered them. They then turned their M.G.s on to them. Only six men returned and these were; Cpl. Poole, 38 Battn. D. Coy. XVI. Pte. David G. Strachan. 38. Battn. D. Coy. XVI. He returned wounded. Pte. Tom Ball 38 Battn. D. Coy. XVI. Returned wounded. ~~Pte. L. T. Ryan - 1221 - - 38. Battn. D. Coy. - XVI.~~ Lt. Rowe and ~~the~~ others. All these men that returned said that Mr. Poley was killed by M.G. fire and that all the remaining men who did not return were also killed by M.G. fire. I was not in the raid myself but I could see a certain distance from the trench. At any rate the next day we saw the men who did not return hanging on the barbed wire, evidently killed. Cpl. Poole was made a Sergt. after this day. He is now with his Battn, and can confirm what I say and give you a fuller account if necessary.

Inf: Pte. L. T. Ryan. 1221.

No. 7, Con. Emp.

BOULOGNE. 6.2.17.

RAOI.

Written Lt. Rowe
Pte. Strachan 3.19.2.17

AM

M. January 1st. 1917.

Lt. Poley was in D. Company, and was in command of 16 pltn. I was told by Corporal H.F. Poole of D. Company that during the attack at on Armentieres on New Year's eve, Lt. Poley was about to signal by Verey light for artillery assistance, when he got wounded. As the Germans were using search lights at the time it was very necessary to keep quite still. Cpl. Poole was close by Mr. Poley who offered him his revolver, saying that he was done for. I did not hear what happened to Mr. Poley after that. Parties went out to bring in the dead and wounded, but his body was not found.

Informant: Cpl. C.R. Norton. 1257. 38.D.14.
No. 3 Can. Gen. Hospital.
BOULOGNE. 9.2.17.

Written Cpl Poole 19.2.17

AGL

OHM

38th A. I. F.

⁰⁰
Peley, 2nd Lieut J.E.

(M. January 1st/17)

"I saw Peley at Armentieres on a Bombing raid. The wire was cut and he was just about entering the German trench when he was killed by bomb. I was next to him."

Eye-witness: Yes.

Description: Officer.

Informant: Pte Thos. Ball, 1106,
38th A. I. F., D. Coy, 14 Plat.,
1st Southern General Hospital,
Birmingham.

Home address:
Kew,
Victoria,
Australia.

10th February 1917.
J. Passey.

OTGM

A.I.F. 38.

POLEY, 2nd Lt. J.E.

M. January 1st. 1917.

Lt. Poley went out on a bombing raid with about 17 men. He was the first to be hit and sent up distress signals. He fell on the wires and was seen for some days there, but it was impossible to get at him. Cpl. Pool, Tom Ball, or Strachan who were in the raid would be able to give more particulars about him. His correct name is Pooley.

Informant: J.G. Birdsall. 1795.

No. 2 Aust. Hospital.

BOULOGNE. 12.2.1917.

off. cl.

JDP

38th A. I. F.

Poley, 2nd Lieut J.E.

(M. Jan. 1st/17)

"I heard it rumoured that Lieut Poley was killed. We were attacking and Lieut Poley was lying crawling towards the German trenches. He knelt up so as to fire a shot for our Artillery to see and he was shot as he knelt up. I heard that the body was brought back."

Eye-witness: No.

Description:

Informant: Pte C.S. Cornell, 837,
38th A. I. F., C. Coy,
Horton County of London War Hospital,
Epsom.

Home address:
Letter to Base.

14th February 1917.
Phyllis A. Flond.

off all

38th Batt.
A.I.F.,

POOLEY
Lieut. J.E.

"Missing 1.1.17"

Lieut. Pooley was in charge of a party in No Man's Land early in the morning of Jan. 1st and while close to the enemy's trenches were fired on. Several of the party who were fortunate enough to get back reported that Mr. Pooley was one of the first to be hit and was undoubtedly killed, his body however has not been recovered.

Cert. by letter from Pte Fred M Lehman,
38th Batt. A.I.F.,
France,
11.2.17.

London
23.2.17

Off.M.

A.I.F. 38.

⁰
POLEY, 2nd Lt. J.E.
JOHNSON, A. 1332.

M. Jan. 1st. 1916.

Mr. Poley and A. Johnson (not H.A. Johnson about whom I cannot be sure though I was told he was killed) went on a small bombing raid of about 16 men or so at Armentieres on New Year's Eve. Several were wounded, but these two were the only members of the party who were missing. In the morning we saw a man on the German wire and thought we could recognise little Johnson but a party that went out next night could not find him. If either of these is alive he must be a prisoner.

Informant: Pte B.D. Tranter. 1340.

No. 5 B.R.C.S.

BOULOGNE. 19.2.17.

JT

off M

38th A.I.F.

Poley

Poley 2nd Lt. J.E.

(M. Jan. 1st 1917)

"I believe that 2nd Lt. Poley (38 D) was killed on New Year's Day at Houplines near Armentieres. He was in charge of a party of 17 D. Co. Scouts. There were several different raiding parties, but something went wrong with this one and the Germans were ready for them, only 6 came back and they all said that Lt. Poley was killed. They tried to find the bodies".

Eye-witness: No, he was in the front line but not in the raid.

Description: Aged abt. 30, a fine fellow, well liked.

Informant: Pte. S. Hutchinson 894,
38th Australians, C. Coy., XII Plt.,
Home address: 3rd Southern General Hospt., Oxford.
Horsham,
Victoria,

Feb. 24th 1917,
J.M. Payne. Australia.

J.M.

A.I.F. 38.

POOLEY 2 Lt. J.E.

M. 1.1.17.

There was a bombing raid at Armentieres on 1st. Jan. 17 men went out, only 4 came back. Lt. Pooley was killed. His body was subsequently seen on the German wire. Major Maudeley, D.Co. 38th.Bn. could confirm this and supply details. The body was not recovered up to the time we came out.

SA.

Reference: Pte. J.P. Woldstenholme. 690. att: C.Co.
3 A.D.B.D.

Staples.
2.3.17.

off M
out
H
2

38th A.I.F.

Pooley, 2nd Lieut J.E.

(M. Jan. 1st/17)

2nd Lieut Pooley, with a party of men whilst on a raid in front of trench 86 and 87 Houplines, Armentieres got caught in machine gun and rifle fire from the enemy trenches and was killed."

Eye-witness: Yes

*instantly
burial uncertain*

Description: Short, about 26, very nice and great favourite with his men, had been a Sergt

Informant: Pte S.H.V. Toll, 133,
38th A.I.F. A.Coy, 3 Plat.,
Edmonton Hospital, George West.

Home address:
5, Nicholson Rd,
Walthamstow, N.E.

6th March 1917.
M. Still.

*off M.
over
ed*

38th A. I. F.

Pooley, 2nd Lieut J.E.,
C. or A. Company

(M. Jan 1st/17)

"I was told by Lieut Peters of 38th Batt. A.I.F. C. Coy that Lieut Pooley had been shot to pieces with seven others on a raiding party. Lieut Peters got most of his information from a wounded member of the raiding party whom he brought in next day."

Eye-witness: No, told by Lieut Peters, 28 A.I.F. C. Coy

Description:

Informant: Pte Herbert A. Miller, 344,
38th A. I. F., C. Coy,
Edmonton Hospital

Home address:
18, Alexandra Rd,
Croydon,
Surrey.

6th March 1917.
W.G. Middleton Edward.

*Don E. K. Bd
off ch.*

38th Batt.
A.I.F.,

POOLEY
2 Lieut. J.E.

"Missing 1.1.17"

Well 2nd Lieut Pooley and sixteen privates went out on a silent raid on the 1.1.17 at 10.30 p.m. and was killed and also ten Privates they were supposed to have the wires cut at 1 o'clock that night and enter Fritz's trenches by 1.20. pm. but sorry to say they were seen when they had the wires cut and that was the end of the raid. The first S.O.S. light Lieut Pooley ~~had~~ had supposed to fired never acted ~~but~~ but when he was firing the second S.O.S. light in the very light pistol ^{when} he was shot. Well this is all the information I can give you about 2nd Lieut J.E. Pooley he was in my Platoon at Lark Hill, England.

Cert. by letter from 1308 Pte D.R. Strahan,
B.E.F.

London
7.3.17.

Off.M.

A.I.F. 38.

BATTALION REPORT.

POOLEY, 2/Lt J.E. *On E.K. Ed*

ARTHUR, L.G. 1768.

COGHILL, J.A. 841

FEWELL, A. 1169

GUNNING, Gnr W.J. 1176

HOLMAN, H.R. 1210

JOHNSON, A. 1332

JOHNSON, H.A. 1213

NYBLOM, F.A. K.K. 1891.

(BULL, Dvr Tom

No Enquiry (STRACHAN, Pte

(POOLE, Cpl.

M. Jan 1st 1917.

I knew all these men quite well. They all went on a raid at night at Armentieres. I was on the parapet and saw them all start. During the raid Mr Pooley got hit and he sent up a S.O.S. signal for us to open a barrage. The signal attracted the German fire and Mr Pooley was absolutely riddled with bullets and killed outright. There were 17 went on the raid and only 6 returned. All the five men told me that they had seen Mr Pooley killed and they told what had happened. They said that Nyblom was also riddled with bullets and killed. They also said they had seen Fewell riddled with bullets and killed. They also reported that there is not the slightest doubt the remainder of the men marked missing are killed. Pte Bull was one of the six that returned but he had lain out all that night and all the next day and when he got back after he was too confused to say anything and did not appear to know anything, he was wounded in the foot and sent to England. Pte Strachan was another who returned; he was wounded and sent to England. Cpl Poole returned unwounded, he was with the Battn on the 6th Jan as I saw him there

PTO

Written by Pte Strachan 22.3.17

Batta Report. 38th A.I.F.

and he will be able to confirm what I have said. None of the bodies were recovered.

Informant: Pte. J. B. Birdsall. 1795.
No. 1 Gen. Camp.
BOULOGNE. 9.3.17.

RAOI

We find that Nyblom was officially struck ^{out of} ~~RAOI~~ the 6th March as Prisoner of War. We notice another report was sent in from Cpl. G. R. Norton 1257 at No. 3 Canadian Gen. Hospital, in which he says that Sergt. Roe found Nyblom's dead body in no-man's-land riddled with bullets. RAOI.

1 Slip sent to M for Group

38th Btn.

POOLEY, J.E.
2nd Lieut.

Killed in action 1/1/17.
Prev. reported missing.

"A stretcher bearer named Meredith, who has since been killed, told me that he found casualty's body hanging up on the enemy's barbed wire entanglements at Armentieres about the 1st January, 1917. The body was found with a hand tightly grasping a revolver."

Informant:- S.W. Garnatt
No. 24, 38th Btn.

Private address
Mildura,
Victoria.

H.A.B.
13/8/17.

Not sent P.I.

*M Ed -
P.I. On G.K*

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS INFORMATION BUREAU—MELBOURNE.

38th Btn.

POOLEY, J.E.
2nd Lieut.

Killed in action 1/1/17.

"Casualty was killed under the following circumstances. He was in charge of a raid on New Year's Eve in D. Coy. Sector at Armentieres trenches. It is reported that on reaching the enemy wire, the party was picked up by the enemy search light. Then the enemy bombed them and opened up by machine gun fire. It was reported to him that Casualty was shot on the wire whilst endeavouring to communicate, by a pre-arranged signal of the vercy light, to our front line trench, for the aid of the artillery which had previously arrived to open fire in necessity. Lieut. Rowe escaped and came back. He was one of the party. It is also a fact that two men with the party which were 15 have been reported as prisoners of War in Germany."

Informant:- Captain Ackeroyd
38th Btn

Private address
Vida Street,
Essendon.

H.A.B. AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS INFORMATION BUREAU-MELBOURNE.

2/10/17.

1 Extra

M
P. I. Ed
On E.K

38th Batt.
A. I. F.

Pooley,
2/Lieut J.E.

"Missing 1. 1. 17"

Now reported Killed in Action ~~on Evid K.~~ 1. 1. 17.

Cert, by A. I. F. Headquarters, 11.5.17.

London
21. 5. 17.

Off M. & P. I.

38th Batt
A. I. F.

Pooley
2nd Lieut J. E.

"Missing 1. 1. 17"

Killed in Action 1. 5. 17

Cert by A. I. F. Headquarters List 1. 5. 17.

London
14. 5. 17.

P. I.
Off M

Australian Draft to

Mr. Pooley
5. Normanby Avenue
Malvern
Melbourne

Sent
21/9/17.

the her son

2/Lieut John Ellis Pooley
38th. Batta.

"reported missing 1/1/17.

38th Batt. A. I. F. (Mch list 117, 47A)

2nd Lt. J. E. Pooley, M. Jan 1/17.

Answered
11-4-17

Dear Sir,

I am requested by Rev. J. O. Hagger, B.D.,
Waterfoot, Manchester, to ask if you will send to
him any information which may have come to
hand concerning his cousin, 2nd Lt. Pooley -
as well as to the persons originally asking for
news.

Thanking you in anticipation,

I remain, Sir,

Yours faithfully

J. D. Hosland, Seacher,
Newchurch, Waterfoot
Manchester.

The Secretary,

B.R.C.S. Australian Enquiry Dept.,

54 Victoria St., London S.W.

ack

I have now got the pleasure
of answering your letter which I received
today. ~~you~~ you say that you are
making enquiries for a Officer By the
name of J. E. Pooley who is reported
missing since 1-1-17. Well 2nd Lieut. J. E. Pooley
and sixteen Privates who went out on
a silent raid on the 1-1-17 at 10:30 pm
and was killed and also ten Privates
they were supposed to have the wires
cut at 1.0 o'clock that night and enter
Fitz's trenches by 1:20 pm but sorry to say
they were seen when they had the wires
cut and that was the end of the raid.
The First S.C.S. light Lieut Pooley had
supposed to fire never acted but when
he was fixing the second S.C.S. light

Rooley
2/12/17

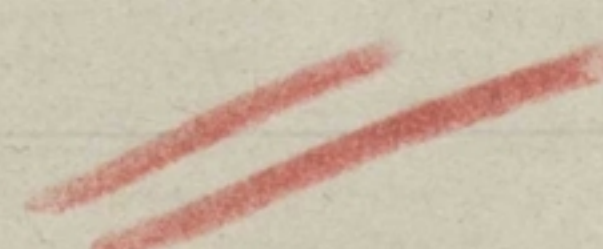
38 Batt

M 1. 1. 17.

off M
3

11
in the very light pistol, ^{where} he was shot. Hill
this is all information I can give you about
2nd Lieut. J. E. Pooley he was in my Platoon
at Lark Hill, England.

From Yours
Faithfully
Reg No 1308 . D. R. Strahan Pte



30th January

-7.

Private Lehman,
C. Company.
38th Australian Infantry Battalion.
B. E. F.

Dear Private Lehman,

We are making enquiries for an Officer of your Battalion and have been told that you may be able to help us by giving us some information.

We should be most grateful for any details you could send us concerning 2nd Lieut. J. E. Pooley, 38th Battalion A.I.F. Rep. Missing January 1st 1917. as we are anxious to send all possible information to enquirers.

Yours faithfully,

Secretary. *P. M. for Mrs. Walter*

7th February, /7.

Dear Sir,

We are making enquiries for an officer of your
Battalion - 2nd.-LIEUT J. E. POOLEY 38th Battalion A.I.F.
reported "Missing on 1-1-17", and have been told that you may
be able to help us by giving us some information.

We shall be most grateful for any details you can
send us concerning Lieut. Pooley, as we are anxious to send
all possible information to enquirers.

With best wishes.

Yours faithfully.

Pte. Ball,
38th Aust:Inf. Battn.,
B. E. F.

SECRETARY.

PM for 7 M.

20 Ashington St
Materford
Lancs.

Act
12.2.18

10/2/18

Dear Sir,

Will you please send information
possible, concerning:

2nd Lieutenant John E. Poley
10th Infantry Brigade.
D. Company.
38th Battalion

France
A. I. A.

By so doing, you will oblige me
very much, thanking you in anticipation

Yours sincerely

Mrs. Hardman.

Ack
Thu. 21. 2.17

France
11. 2. 17

The Secretary.

Wounded & Missing Enquiry Bureau.
Australian Branch. B.R.C.S.

Dear Madam,

38
J. E

Your enquiry re. Lieut. Pooley

to hand.

Lieut. Pooley was in charge of a party in No. 10 Man's
land early in the morning of Jan. 1st & while
close to the enemy's trenches were fired on.
Several of the party who were fortunate
enough to get back reported that
Mr Pooley was one of the first to be hit
& was undoubtedly killed. his body,
however has not been recovered.

Faithfully Yours
Rt. Hon. Fred. J. Lehman

Lt. J. E. Pooley

38 Batta

38 Batta

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February 15th 1918.

Mrs A. Hardman.,
20 Ashworth Street.,
Waterfoot.,
Lancs.,

Dear Madam,

In answer to your enquiry about 2nd Lieut. J.R. Pooley.

38th Battalion A.I.F., we regret to inform you that he is officially reported killed in action 1.1.17.. We have obtained unofficial information concerning his death from men in the same Battalion. 1721 Pte. L.T. Ryan in his own words says "I knew him well. We were at Armentieres, he went out on a night raid with 15 or 16 men with him. While on the way the Germans threw up several lights and discovered them. They then turned their machine guns on them, only six men returned. I was not in the Raid myself but I could see a certain distance from the trench and saw the bodies the next day." 1106 Pte T. Ball says " I saw Lieut. Pooley at Armentieres on a bombing raid. The wire was cut and he was just about entering the German trench when he was killed by a bomb. I was next to him ". This is confirmed by 1308 Pte D.R. Stradhan and Sergeant H Poole, 2nd Lieut. Rowe, who were survivors of the raid. Lieut. Rowe says he

saw him fall as if shot and called out to Lieut. Pooley who was about 15 yards away, but got no answer. He then took over the command and gave the word to return to the trenches. It was impossible to bring any bodies back.

We have received no particulars of the burial but should any come to hand we will advise you at once.

Regretting that we have such sad information to give you,

Yours faithfully,

L.B.
SECRETARY.,

20th February

- 7.

Private David G. Strachan.
14th Platoon. D. Company.
38th Australian Inf. Battn.
B. E. F.

Dear Sir,

We are making enquiries for an Officer of your Battalion and have been told that you may be able to ^{help} ~~help~~ us by giving us some information.

We should be most grateful for any details you could send us concerning 2nd Lieut. J. E. Pooley. 38th Battalion A.I.F. Reported Missing 1.1.17. as we are anxious to send all possible information to enquirers.

Yours faithfully,

V. D.

Secretary.

J. D.

20th February

- 7.

Corporal H. F. Poole.
D. Company.
38th Battn. A.I.F.
B.E.F.

Dear Sir,

We are making enquiries for an officer of your Battalion and have been told that you may be able to ~~help~~^{help} us by giving us some information.

We should be most grateful for all details you could send us concerning 2nd Lieut. J. E. Pooley, 38th Battn. A.I.F. as we are anxious to send all possible information to enquirers.

Yours faithfully,

V.D.

Secretary.

Shi

20th February

- 7.

Lieut. Rowe.
38th Australian Infantry Battalion.
B. E. F.

Dear Sir,

We are making enquiries for a brother officer of yours and have been told that you may be able to help us by giving us some information.

We should be most grateful for any details you could send us concerning 2nd Lieut. J. E. Pooley. 38th Battn. A.I.F. Reported Missing 1.1.17. as we are anxious to send all possible information to enquirers.

Yours faithfully,

W.D.

Secretary.

J.H.

22nd February

-7.

Pte. F.M. Lehman,
C. Company.
38th Australian Inf. Battalion.
B. E. F.

Dear Private Lehman,

Many thanks for your letter of Feb. 11th
in answer to our enquiry for:-

2nd Lieut. G. B. Pooley. 38th Battalion. A.I.F

With best wishes,

Yours faithfully,

V. D

Secretary.

Hu

22^r J. E. POOLEY

38 Baltham AIF

M 1.1.17..

M
cd

France
23.2.17

Secretary
Aust. Branch
B. R. C. S.

Dear Mr Adam,

Re 2nd Lieut. H. Pooley of
38th Batt. reported missing - your letter dated
20/2/17. Lieut Pooley was officer in charge
of a small party in an enterprise against
the enemy ^{on 11/1/17}. We succeeded in reaching his
mine before he opened a heavy fire upon
us. Lieut Pooley was in front & I am
sure he must have been either killed
or badly wounded; in fact I actually
saw him fall from a sitting position as if
shot. Soon after I made inquiries from
those about me who were left alive. I
also called out several times "Are you
there Mr Pooley" but got no reply. He
could not have been more than 15 yards
away. I then assumed command of the
survivors & gave the word to return to our
tranches. Under the circumstances it was
impossible to bring anyone ^{else} back. The
German High the bodies in the next night.
Lieut Pooley had a slip of paper in
his pocket inscribed with ~~his~~ rank, name,
batallion & Regiment. If you ^{desire} any
further ^{particulars}, if required,
I would be glad to supply any ^{of the above} ~~of the above~~ ^{particulars}.

6th March 1917.

2/Lt W. Rowe,
38th AustL Inf: Battn:
B.E.F.

Dear Sir,

We have to thank you very much for your letter of February 23rd, in answer to our enquiry for -

2/Lt J.E. Pooley, 38th Battalion, A.I.F.

though we regret what you tell us seems to confirm his death.

Under the circumstances, it would appear that there is no further information you could supply, though we thank you for your offer; but would be very grateful if later you should learn anything definite you would communicate with us.

We regret that inadvertently two enquiries for -

1210 H.R. Holman, 38th Battalion

had been sent you, but the information given in your previous letter was what we desired and we need not trouble you further.

With repeated thanks,

Yours faithfully,

SECRETARY

*H. D.
S. L.*

Mrs. Hardman,
20, Ashworth Street,
Waterfoot, Lancs.

15th March, 1918.

The Rev. J.O. Hagger, B.D.,
Woodlea Manse, Waterfoot,
MANCHESTER.

Dear Sir,

With reference to your enquiry concerning -

2/Lieut. J.H. POOLEY, 58th Battalion, A.I.F.

We have received the following unofficial report from Capt.

Ackeroyd of the same Battn. He states that 2/Lt. Pooley was in

charge of a raid on New Year's Eve, at a sector of the Armentieres trenches. It is reported that on reaching the enemy wire, the party was picked up by an enemy search light, and were then bombed, and fired upon by machine guns. 2/Lieut. Pooley was shot ^{near} the wire, while endeavouring to communicate, by a pre-arranged signal of the Verrey light, to our front line trench, for the aid of the Artillery, which had previously arrived to open fire in case of necessity. Lt. Rowe who was also one of the party, escaped and came back and it is a fact that two of the men who took part in this raid are prisoners of War in Germany.

We have now concluded our enquiries, and hope that the details we have been able to obtain, may have been of some comfort to you.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs Craven

SECRETARY.

March 28th.1917.

Sgt.H.Poole.
38th.Battn.A.I.F.
B.E.F.

Dear Sgt.Poole.

Very many thanks for your letter of March 15th. in answer to our enquiry for 2/Lt.J.E.Pooley,38th.Battn.A.I.F. The information you have sent will be of great assistance as regards Lt.Pooley and also 1891.F.A.Nyblom.38th.Battn.

We are very pleased to be able to tell you however that Pte.Nyblom is now a prisoner of War. We have received a card from him (on 5.3.17) dated 21.1.17 from Dülmen. in Germany. and as this came from an ordinary camp or Barracks and not a Hospital, we presume he was only slightly wounded.

We have lately addressed another enquiry letter to yourself about one or two other men who took part in the same raid, and about whom we were lately advised to write you. We trust it is not troubling you too much, but so few of you seem to have got back, that there is really nobody else to whom to apply to.

Yours faithfully .

V. D.
SECRETARY. F.M.

April 13th 1917.

Rev. J. O. Haggart. B. D.
Woodlea Manse.
Waterfoot.
Manchester.

Dear Sir;

We are in receipt of your inquiry for your cousin. 2/Lt. J. E. Pooley, 38th. Battn. A. I. F. who is officially reported "Missing" as from 1.1.17.

We have received a number of unofficial reports from men of his battalion and unfortunately all their statements agree that Lieut Pooley. was killed by Machine Gun fire when in charge of a raid on the enemy on 1.1.17.

1795. Pte. J. G. Birrell who was in No. 2. Australian Hospital on 12.2.17. said:- "Lt. Pooley. went out on a bombing raid with about 17 men. He was the first to be hit and sent up distress signals, He fell on the barbed wires and was seen for some days there, but it was impossible to get at him"-

1221. Pte. L. T. Ryan who was in No. 7. Convalescent Camp stated on 6.2.17.- "I knew Lt. Pooley well, he went on a raid at night 15 or 16 men went with him, while on the way the Germans threw up several

lights and discovered them, they then turned their Machine Guns on them. Only six men returned. And all the men that returned said that Mr. Pooley was killed by machine gun fire"

This evidence is borne out by the following men;-

1257. Cpl. C.R. Norton, 1106. Pte. Thos. Ball who was in 1st Southern General Hospital Birmingham 10.2.17. Pte. Fred Lehman, 1340. Pte. B.D. Tranter, 894. Pte. S. Hutchinson 690. Pte. J.P. Wolstenholme, 133. Pte. S.H.V. Toll, who was in Edmonton Hospital 6.3.17. 1308. Pte. D.R. Strathan all of whom belonged to 38th Battalion.

2/Lieut. W.S. Rowe, wrote from France 23.2.17, - "Lieut. Pooley was officer in charge of a small party in an enterprise against the enemy 1.1.17 We succeeded in reaching his wire before he opened a heavy gun-fire on us. Lieut. Pooley was in front and I am sure he must either have been killed or badly wounded in fact I actually saw him fall from a sitting position as if shot. Soon after I made enquiries from those about me who were left alive. I also called out "Are you there Mr Pooley"? but got no reply. He could not have been more than 15 yds away. I then gave the word to the survivors to return to the trenches. Under the circumstances it was impossible to bring anyone else back. The Germans got the bodies in the next night. Lt Pooley had a slip of paper in his pocket inscribed with his rank, name, battalion and religion"-

Lt. Pooley's name has unfortunately never come to hand on any of the lists of prisoners of war, nor on the German death lists.

We regret that the reports are all so distressing and should like to express our sympathy in your loss, should we hear any other

particulars we shall at once advise you.

Yours faithfully,

Vera Deakin

SECRETARY.

per Shu.

19th April 1917.

Rev. J.O. Haggart B.D.
Woodlea Manse.
Waterfoot.
Manchester.

Dear Sir,

We have to hand a further unofficial report for 2nd Lieut
J.E. Pooley, 38th Battn.A.I.F. for whom you were enquiring.

A man of his battalion 1695. Pte. Wm^x Ed. Simms, stated:-

" Lieut. Pooley belonged to my Coy. He went out with 15 men
" of my Coy. from Armentieres, to make a silent raid on the
" night of 1st January 1917. Only 5 of the men returned and
" it was reported in my company by the survivors that the
" other ten men with the Lieut. were killed that night by
" high explosives. I was not in the trench at the time they
" went out and I cannot give the precise names of my inform-
" ants who came back. I was wounded on 16th January 1917.
" hit by a shell"

We shall continue our enquiries and shall at once advise you
when we receive any further particulars.

Yours faithfully,

V. D.

Secretary.

MR per a.c.

May 25th, 1917.

Rev. J.O. Hagger,
Woodlea Manse,
Waterfoot, Manchester.

Dear Sir,

End. Lieut. J.E. Pooley, 38th Battn. A.I.F.

We very much regret to inform you that the above soldier who was previously reported "Missing since 1-1-17", is now officially reported Killed in Action on that date.

We are making every possible enquiry for details, of his death, and will advise you immediately on receipt of such information, as we fully realise your great anxiety.

Assuring you of our sincere sympathy in your sorrow.

Yours faithfully,

V. D.
Secretary.

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off

RECEIVED
19 SEP 1917
CARLTON HOUSE TERRACE

Aus: Draft 21/9/17

5 Hornamby Ave
Malvern
Melbourne
50 Victoria
Australia

Red Cross

18 Carlton House Terrace
London

Will you kindly let me know if you have had any information of 2nd Lieutenant John Ellis Pooley "reported missing" January 1st 1917 D Company 38th Battalion 10th Infantry Brigade

if you can give me any information of my son I will be greatly obliged

yours truly
M. Pooley