

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

**51501 Private
Leslie Worthington**

2nd General Reinforcements



3020909N

A.I.F. 2nd Genl. Service Rnfts.

(REVERTING)
WORTHINGTON
Leslie 51501

"DROWNED 12/6/18"

Drowned New York Harbour No. 58 Pier ex Transport A.14 from Aust.
12/6/18.

Cert. by A.I.F. Hqrs 10/8/18.

London
12/8/18.

M

2nd Gen Rfts.
A.I.F.

WORTHINGTON.
Leslie. 51501.

"Acc Drowned"

Accidentally drowned in New York Harbour.

The body was not recovered from North River till 21st June after the transport had moved out of the harbour.

The remains were then afforded a Military funeral (full honours) and buried from the Scotch Presb: Church, 96 St. to the Greenwood Semetary, Brooklyn.N.7. Full particulars have been supplied to Base Records.

Cert:—by A.I.F. Searcher at Hqrs 19-9-18.

London.
23-9-18.

S.

2nd Gen Ser: Rfts.
A.I.F.

WORTHINGTON
L. 51501.

"Drowned 12-6-18"
Ex Transport New Ycrk.

COPY FROM NEW YORK SUN.

TRUANT ANZACS VISIT BROADWAY.
YOUNG SOLDIER KILLED IN LEAP FROM TRANSPORT.
RIVER DRAGGED FOR BODY.
'LIGHTLESS' CITY GREET'S MEN AFTER STAMPEDE.

When reveille was sounded this morning on board the transport Euripides, anchored at Pier 53 in the North River at Eighteenth Street, everyone of the 40 Anzacs, who had taken French leave last night to see the sights of New York, had returned and were sleeping in their bunks. They were tired but happy and being soldiers were ready to take any punishment that might be meted out to them.

Although 60 of the young volunteers, who have been waiting to sail for France since May 1st started from the ship, only 40 reached Broadway. The remainder with the exception of an 18 year old lad, were rounded up by the guard and policemen before they had gone very far on their journey.

BODY STILL UNRECOVERED.

The youngster, whose body is still being grappled for by the harbor police, was drowned when he leaped from the deck of

2nd Gen Ser: Rfts.
A.I.F.

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WORTHINGTON
L. 51501.

the ship to the dock. He lost his balance as he left the ship rail, turned over in the air and struck his head on a piling at the water's edge. It is believed the missing soldier was Leslie Worthington. (Note. This should be Worthing)

Ever since May 1st the Anzacs have been occupied on board ship, waiting for the day when they would start for France. Each day their requests for leave had not been granted and at night the bright lights of Broadway would blink at them in an inviting manner. Although Officers managed to get ashore there was no freedom in sight for the others.

There was a sudden change in affairs shortly before dusk last night. A Lance Corporal was patrolling the deck of the transport while the 60 were idling their time away at various things. Apparently a plan of action had been agreed upon for all at once the 60 surrounded the Corporal and asked for shore leave. He transmitted their request to Lieut Robert Stevens and returned with the information that leave had been denied.

FORTY ESCAPED GUARD.

Before the Corporal could say a word the sixty wheeled about and dashed for the after rail of the Euripides and with a shout jumped to the string piece of the dock. All but the unfortunate Worthington made the jump. Immediately the soldiers disappeared in all directions, but fifteen of the less agile

2nd Gen Ser. Rfts.
A.I.F.

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WORTHINGTON
L. 51501.

were rounded up by the ship's guard. Later five more were brought back by the police.

The forty who made their escape met at Twenty-third Street and Broadway, but were doomed to disappointment as the famous white lights no longer glittered. Some of them gave up a dollar for a trip to Chinatown on a sight seeing bus, while others sought the gaiety of Coney Island.

Even the much talked of Coney was dark, but the Australians all agreed they had enjoyed the night off. They resented the reports that they had deserted and said they had grown tired of life aboard ship.

ri. (Copy from cutting kindly lent by:- Spt Gartrell. 58566.
Aust: Corps Sigs:
3rd A.A.S. DARTFORD.

M. Priddle.
London.
14-11-18.
M.I.S.

M.

2nd Gen. Ser. Rfts.
A.I.F.

WORTHINGTON
L. 51501.

"Drowned 12-6-18".
Ex Transport. New York.

I was in the above Reinforcements and saw him jumping ashore at the Atlantic wharf, New York., from the Euripides, stepping on to boat rail and then into doorway of wharf, he slipping on alighting and falling on to wharf flooring, 60 ft below. He was stunned and rolled into river between side of boat and wharf, the suction of the current at the place of occurring holding his body under. When the Euripides steamed out, it was signalled that his body floated and was recovered. I gladly give print and copy of New York Sun reporting this casualty. In the photo he is the one with his back to the camera. He came from Victoria and I think he was in an institution there. He won the light weight championship on board and had the making of a fine boxer. He was a real "hard dcer" and was exempted from C.B. after winning the above boxing tournament. Refer to Major Devine, R.C. Padre, Croix de Guerre, 4th, who refereed the boxing and took a great interest in Worthing. This Padre seemed to understand him and was the only one on boat, of whom this boy took much notice of.

Informant:- Spr. Gartrell, H.B. 52566.
Aust Corps. Sigs.
3rd A.A.H. DARTFORD.
M. Priddle.
London.
13-11-18.
M.I.S.

Photo sent Melb. with report.

M.

2nd Gen. Service Rfts.
A.I.F.

WORTHINGTON
Leslie. 51501

"DROWNED 12-6-18"

Accidentally drowned in New York harbour. The body was not recovered from North River till 21st June, after the transport had moved out of the harbour. The remains were then afforded a funeral with full Military Honours, and buried from the Scotch Presbyterian Church, 96th Street, to the Greenwood Cemetery, Brooklyn, New York. Full particulars have been sent to Base Records, Melbourne.

All records re this soldier at Headquarters are in the name of Leslie Worthington - not Worthing. I have inspected three signatures and seen letter from Guardian, all clearly reading Worthington.

A.H.W.B. Searcher at HdQtrs. 19-9-18.

Written Major Devine C.F. 16-11-18

M.

O.C.

H.M. Australian Transport.

A.14.

C/O G.P.O. LONDON.

August 14th 1918.

Dear Sir,

We have received a cable of the enquiry from our
Melbourne Bureau relating to an Australian Soldier:-

51501. Pte Leslie Worthington. A.I.F. 2nd General Service Rfts,
who is officially reported to have been drowned on 12-6-18 at
No 56 Pier while your ship was in New York Harbour. We should
therefore be very grateful if you would give us what information
you possess of the circumstances under which this accident occur-
ed as we are anxious to reply as soon as possible to his relatives
in Victoria. Was the body recovered and if so where was he
buried?

With apologies for troubling you,

Yours faithfully,

(Miss)

SECRETARY.

ALL COMMUNICATIONS
TO BE ADDRESSED TO
"THE SECRETARY."
WOUNDED AND MISSING
— ENQUIRY BUREAU —
AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY.



AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY.

Tel.: VICTORIA { 8576
8577
8578

File

P.C.

H.M. Australian Transport.

A.14.

C/O G.P.O. LONDON.

36 GROSVENOR PLACE

(NEAR VICTORIA STATION)

LONDON, S.W. 1.

August 14th 1918.

Dear Sir,

We have received a cable of the enquiry from our
Melburne Bureau relating to an Australian Soldier:-

51501. Pte Leslie Worthington. A.I.F. 2nd General Service Rfts, (Vic)
who is officially reported to have been drowned on 12-6-18 at
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therefore be very grateful if you would give us what information
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ed as we are anxious to reply as soon as possible to his relatives
in Victoria. Was the body recovered and if so where was he
buried?.

With apologies for troubling you,

Yours faithfully,

(Miss) *Miss Deakin*

SECRETARY.

left Sept 11/18
Evans
arrived 11/18

O.C.
Major L. T. Ross
left for Aus 6
22-7-18

Worthington

2 en rfts.

Leslie (Acc. Drowned)

51501

(verify)

Accidentally Drowned in

New York Harbour

The body was not recovered

the after ~~left~~ 21st June

after the transport had
moved out of the harbour

The remains were then
afforded a ~~general~~ full military

general honours & buried
from the Scotch Presb. Church

at St. to the Greenwood

Cem. Brooklyn N.Y.

Full parties have been

supplied whose Records include

HQ 19-9-13

S.

A. I. H. 37th Bn.

HUNTER, D. C. 3408.

B/W. June 7/18. Det. D/S.

I know Hunter fairly well. He was in the same Plat. - No. 3 of A. Coy. He was a clever fellow and previous to coming to France had a clerical job at Horn Ferry Road. He went into the line at Villers Bretonneux on Mon. June 4th, and 3 days later he was badly wounded by one of our own shells which fell short; both his legs were broken. I was 10 yards away in the next bay and saw the occurrence. An Officer came and asked for help and I was one of the 4 men who carried him away to the Regimental Aid Post where his wounds were dressed. Pte. Haxley and a man named Richards, both of A. Coy. III Plat. were two of the other S/Ds, the fourth man I forget. He was fairly cheerful on the way down and spoke to us asking one of us to write to his brother, and for his valor to be given to one of his friends. A few days later I learnt the news that he had died after having a leg amputated, but I know nothing definite of his death. Capt. Carréus, O.C. of A. Coy., now in England at an O.H.H. knew him very well and will probably be able to give further information.

Reference: Pte. Reg. Robertson, 3378.

No. 8 General, Rouen, 5.9.18.

GJS.

November 18th, 1918.

Major W. Devine. C.F.
48th Infantry Battalion.
AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.
B.R.F.

Dear Major Devine,

We have received a cabled enquiry from Melbourne about 51501 Leslie WORTHINGTON - who was drowned in New York Harbour on 12th June.

One of his friends advised us to write to you for information, but if you were there you will probably have sent all possible information to his people and we do not wish to trouble you again.

We have a newspaper account of the accident and the official report of burial. The point that is still not clear however, is the man's name. All his papers at Head Quarters bear the name of Worthington and are clearly signed with that name - but both our cabled enquiry and the posted confirmation are for Worthing, and his comrades on the ship insist that Worthing is the correct name - If you can offer any explanation on this point we should be glad.

Thanking you in anticipation.

Yours sincerely

(Miss)

SECRETARY. 9.5. D.