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

5092 Private Hunter Laurence Smith

30th Battalion



2550405L

A.I.F. 50th Battn.

SMITH
Hunter L.5092

"MISSING 23/9/18"

Killed in Action 23/9/18 - previously reported Missing
Cert. by A.I.F.Hqrs 19/11/18

London
18/11/19.

2

30th Battn.
A.I.F.

SMITH
H.L. 5092

"MISSING 23-6-18"

Smith was killed by a bullet when bringing in a wounded man on the night of the 23rd, during a raid by his Coy. in the Bray-Corbie Road Sector. This was witnessed by Thos.Wolfe, of B.Coy., now in Bristol Hpl. The body was not recovered at the time. The ground was not held.

Eye-witness:- No.
Description:- Short stout man, dark complexion, could speak German fluently.

Informant. Leeson. Pte.W.W. 4377 (satisfactory
Home address:- 30th Battn. B.Coy. 5th Pltn.,
Whitton, N.S.W. Bath War Hpl.,

F.J.Kingsley
14-9-18
London
9-10-18
H.G.

Note:- Written Wolfe 25-9-18.

S.

Havre 10th Octr 1918.

Australians. 30. Smith H.L. No. 5092.

M. 23rd June 1918.

In B. Company. Informant gave the initial correctly, and says that the Christian name was Hunter. On the 23rd June at Morlancourt, the Battn made a raid at night. Half of B.Company got into the enemy's lines, but the other half got held up, so the half that got over had to retire. Tom Wolf of B.Coy. was with Smith. Wolf kept very calm and crawled from shell hole to shell hole. He urged Hunter Smith to keep cool and calm but after a bit Smith could stand lying down no longer, and in desparation made a dash. The enemy opened up M.G.Fire, and Smith fell, and never moved. Wolf was near him a long time, but did not dare creep up to him. Search parties went out on the following day, but never came across a sign of Hunter Smith The enemy must have got him. Wolf is almost sure he was killed.

Inf:- Pte T. E. Turner No. 5101.
A.I.F. 30. B.
Hospital Ship.

JND. PP.

Letter returned marked "Not with unit 26-10-18" 18.10.18

STATEMENT ECHELON. 2652/40/11

C O P Y.

Statement made by No 336 Sgt METCALFE T.W. 30th Bn.
re No 5092 Pte SMITH H.L. 30th Battalion.

Missing 23.6.18.
K.A

On the 23rd June, 1918 No 5092 Pte Smith H.L. was a member of a raiding party of the 30th Battalion which carried out a raid South East of Morlancourt on that date. I was present at Battalion Headquarters on the return of the raiding party, and it was reported that several men had been killed Pte Smith's name mentioned as being amongst the number killed.

Dated at, Codford. (Sgd) T.W. METCALFE.

STATEMENT MADE AND SIGNED BEFORE ME. (Sgd) E.M. HILLINGTON. Lieut.

Original Statement Echelon. C.R.2652/40/11.

NV9

C O P Y.

Statement made by No.447.Pte.JACK. A. 30th Bn.
re. No. 5092. Pte SMITH. H.L. 30th Bn., A.I.F.

Missing 23.6.18.
K.A

No. 5092. Pte. Smith. H.L. 30th Battalion was killed during a raid on the enemy trenches at the left of Bray Corbie Road, in front of Morlancourt, I was about 6 yards away from Pte Smith at the time. I saw him throw up his arm and drop and believe death was instantaneous.

Dated at, Sutton Veny. (Sgd) A. JACK.

Statement made and signed before me. (Sgd) R.DOOLEY.Lt&Adjt, No.1. Command Depot.

ORIGINAL STATEMENT ECHELON. INF.

COPY.

STATEMENT MADE BY Lieut BRAGG "M.C." B.A. 30th Bn. A.I.F.
re No. 5092 Pte. SMITH H.L. 30th Battalion.

Missing. 23.6.18.

K.I.A

5092 Pte Smith H.L. was one of my party in a raid at Morlancourt night of 23/24/6/18. He did not return with party after raid. We were in front of several machine guns which caused heavy casualties. I can only state Smith may have been shot and dropped in the crops unnoticed. He had absolutely noidentification on him at the time. Parties searched for wounded men after raid.

Dated at Longbridge Deverill. 2/9/18.

(Sgd) Boyd A.Bragg Lieut.

(Sgd) F.S.Sephton Lieut.

Original Statement Echelon. 2652/40/11.

INF.

COPY.

Statement made by No. 2483. Pte. WOLFE. T. 30th Bn.
re No. 5092. Pte SMITH .H.L. 30th Bn., A.I.F.

Missing 23.6.18.

K.I.A

On the early morning of the 23rd June, 1918 during raiding operations near Morlancourt , I saw No. 5092.Pte H.L. Smith 30th Battalion, A.I.F. shot down by machine gun fire about forty yards from the German outposts. Shortly after a large patrol of the enemy emerged from their trenches and bombed over and also passed over the spot where Smith was lying, being myself encumbered with a wounded man at the time I was unable to ascertain whether Smith was dead or alive. I called out to him as soon as I saw him fall, but got no reply. I never saw or heard of Pte. Smith since.

Dated at, Bishops.Knoll. Hospital.

(Sgd) T. WOLFE.

Statement made and signed before me.

(Sgd) Robert. BURK.
Commandant
Hospital.

A.I.T.
30th BATTALION,
"B" Co.

SMITH,
Hunter L.

Private
5092.

"MISSING, 10.6.18."

Officially reported "Missing" on 10th June, 1918, and mentioned in our cable and in our letter of the 27th July 1918.

No. 2483, Private T. Wolfe of the 30th Battalion, "B" Coy, has written on the 24th June 1918, stating that he had seen Smith killed by Machine Gun fire, but the letter is very vague and give no details. If possible, interview Wolfe.

If no reply [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

Written to
The Sec. Carlton House,
26.11.18

11.9.18.

SYDNEY ENQUIRY.

A.I.F. 30th Battn. SMITH
H.L. 5092.

"Killed 23.6.18."

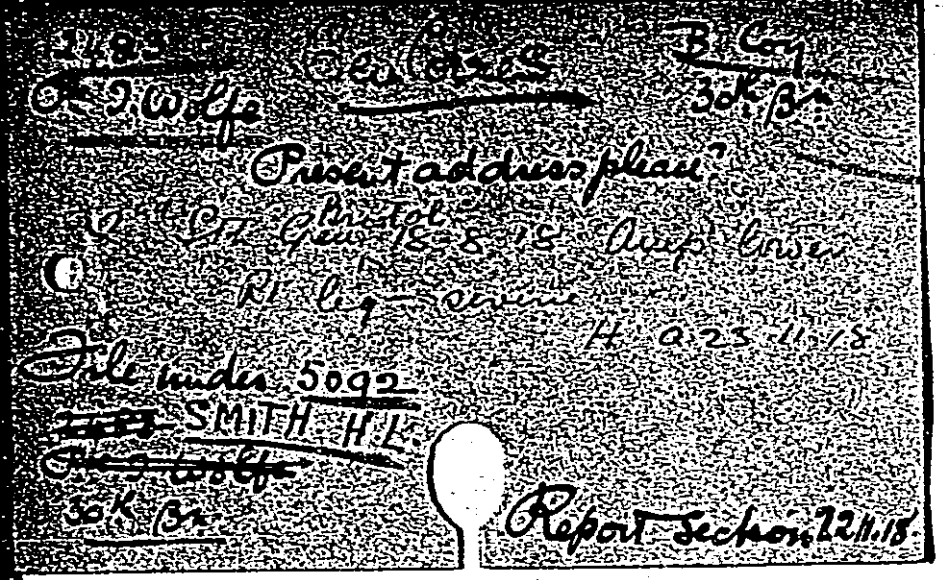
I was next to Smith in a raiding party and when we obtained the information required, we were told to return; just then the Germans opened fire with machine guns. I was helping a wounded man and saw Smith fall and shouted to him to come on, but received no reply. The ground was continually bombed for more than 15 minutes all about where Smith fell. I have sent all Smith's personal belongings which were in his quarters, to his people. Casualty happened at Magniecourt; was dark at the time. I was an eye-witness.

Informant:- 2463, Pte. T. Wolfe,
30th Battn. A.I.F,
B. Coy, 6th Platoon,
Ward 2, Bishops Knoll Hpl.

Home address:-
Aberdare Street,
Kurri Kurri,
N.S.Wales.

C. Strachan.
London
30.12.18.
H. C.

S.



1483 Gen Corres B Coy
Pte J. Wolfe 30K Br.

Present address please?

Pte Bristol
Gen 18-8-18 Amp lower
R1 leg — severe
H 9.23.11.18

File under 5092
~~1483~~ SMITH H.L.
~~Pte J. Wolfe~~
30K Br.

Report Section 22.11.18

To
2483 Pt T. Wolfe -
B. Co
30 Battn A. I. F

2nd Southn Genl Hospl -
Bristol

Attest
5092 Pt H. L. Smith
B. Co
30 Battn
A. I. F

M June 23/18

Written 25.9.18

M EF

To

Pte Tom Wolf.
B. Co
30 Battn
A.I.F.

about

5092 Pte H. L. Smith
30 Battn
A.I.F.

Th June 23/18

Written 18.10.18

MCS

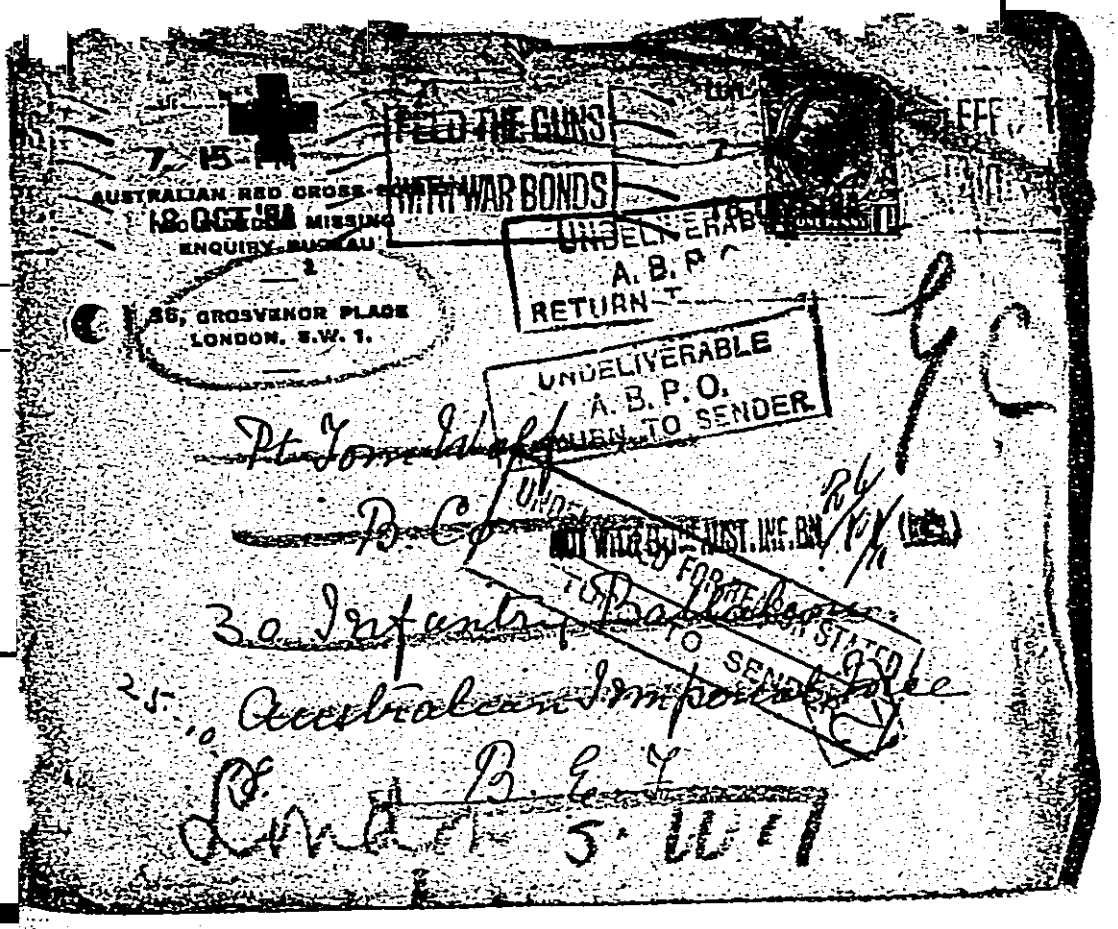
7th Bttn K Aug 9/18 Lcpl A/S. A Godrich 557A

of B compy. H Q. Scout. on 9th Aug during our attack at Harbonnieres about 20'c in afternoon, was killed outright by bullet. I was only 5 yards away from him at the time, was hit in head. Was buried in military cemty outside Harbonnieres, by pioneers.

I have not seen his grave myself, but the pioneers informed me where he was buried. Was an Englishman, Enlisted in Victoria. All graves had crosses erected in this cemty.

ADG Augne Buffet 8/10/18 J.C.

Sgt F H Ellsqn 3033 2 Bilique
7th Bttn B Compy VIII plan



7 15 PM

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY
MISSING
ENQUIRY BUREAU

36, GROSVENOR PLACE
LONDON, S.W. 1.

FEED THE GUNS
WITH WAR BONDS

UNDELIVERABLE
A. B. P. O.
RETURN TO SENDER

UNDELIVERABLE
A. B. P. O.
RETURN TO SENDER

UNDELIVERABLE
NOT WITH B.O. IN AUST. INF. BN.
FORWARDED
RETURN TO SENDER

Pt Tom Wolff
B. Co
30 Infantry Battalion
25 Australian Imperial Force
B. E. F.
London S. W. 1

Tel.: VICTORIA {8576 8577 8578

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

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY.

36. GROSVENOR PLACE
LONDON S.W. 1.

18.10.18

Pte Tom Wolf
B. Co
30 Battn
A.I.F.

Dear Sir,

We are making enquiries about a man of your unit

5092 Pte H.L. Smith 30 Battn. A.I.F.
who is reported Missing June 23/18

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

We should be most grateful for any details you could send us concerning him, and would also be glad if you could add a short description of his personal appearance, or any points that would help us to prove his identity.

In your reply kindly quote name, initials and number, as without these particulars delay and confusion might be caused in identifying the soldier about whom you have written.

With best wishes,

Yours faithfully,

(Miss) Vera Deakin

Secretary.

5092
Pte H.L. Smith
30 Bttn

Mrs. Lyall.
Wounded & Missing Dept. B.R.C.S.
18 Carlton House Terrace, November 26th, 1918.
W.

Dear Madam,

We have received a special request from Sydney requesting us to interview fully 2413 Pte. T. WOLFE B.Coy, 30th Battn, about 5092 Pte. H.L.SMITH. 30th Battn, reported Missing 10.6.18.

The Sydney office reports that "Pte. Wolfe wrote on 24.6.18, stating that he had seen Smith killed by machine gun fire, but the letter is very vague and gives no details". No answer to our enquiry has been received from Pte. Wolfe and we have been informed by Headquarters that he was admitted to the 2nd Southern General Hpl, Bristol on 18.6.18 and is suffering from amputation of the right leg - severe. We should be glad if you would ask the principal Searcher at the 2nd Southern General Hospital, Bristol to get into touch with Pte. Wolfe and obtain from him as many particulars as possible about the fate of Pte. H.L.Smith.

Thanking you in anticipation.

Yours faithfully,

(Miss)

SECRETARY. per G.E.D.