

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

2619 Lance Corporal  
George William  
Douglas Oliver

59th Battalion



2050212C

59th Batn.,  
A.I.F.

OLIVER,  
G.W.D., 2619.

"Killed in action - 4-7-18."

"He was a Corporal in "B" Coy., I was alongside him and saw him killed by one of our own bombs as we were going over the top at the right of Ville-sur-Ancre in the early morning about 4.30 a.m. I called out "are you all right George", but he could not answer me. We went on and took the position, that of the enemy front line trench and beyond and to the right of Ville-sur-Ancre. He was buried after, when they went back for his pay-book, etc., at Merricourt in A.I.F. cemetery there, where everything was in good order.

I knew him well and he was a fine chap, being also rather a quiet sort. We often played cricket together in the Battalion.

Informant:- Pte. Arthur, J.A., 3489,  
"B" Coy., 59th Batn.,  
3rd A.A.H., Dartford.

M. Burns Priddle,  
London,  
15-11-18.  
H.G.

M.

A.I.F. 59th Battn.

OLIVER  
G.W.D. 2619.

"Killed 4/7/18."

He was a Lance Corporal in B, Coy, and was killed at Ville-sur-Ancre after we hopped off the tape. He was missing, but I believe his body was found later, though I cannot say where he was buried. I went to two different Cemeteries to try and find out where his grave was, but it was in neither of them. Refer to Pte. Crout R. "B" Coy, who is somewhere in England wounded, for he was the last to see him, and told me that when they were going through thick crop, he called out "Are you alright, George," and Oliver replied "Yes," but when he looked round a little later, he could not see any sign of him. He was pretty popular with the boys, and had been about 20 months with the Battalion.

Informant:- Pte. D. Caithness, 3366,  
"A" Coy, (Ex.B.Coy)  
59th Battn.,  
3rd A.A. Hospital,  
Dartford.

M. Burns Priddle.  
London  
27.11.18.  
H.G.

Note:- Written Crout, 21.11.18.

M.

*Letter returned not with unit*

59th Batn.,  
A.I.F.

OLIVER,  
G.W.D., 2619.

"Killed in action - 4-7-18."

"He was in my Coy., we were in front of Morlancourt, 4th July after taking enemy front line.

The next day I was a runner and saw the Stretcher Bearers bring his body back. I recognised it, as I knew him well.

I saw him buried at a small cemetery just behind Morlancourt, other bodies were put in same grave. No Cross was erected at that time.

Description:- Age 24 - 25. Height about 5ft 5 - 6 ins. Weight about 10 - 11 stone. Dark complexion.

Informant:- Pte. Williams, A., 2674,  
B. Coy., 59th Batn.,  
Littlemoor Camp,  
Weymouth.

T. C. Osborne,  
London,  
27-11-18.  
J.E.A.

M.

59th Battn.  
A.I.F.

OLIVER  
G.W.D. 2619

"KILLED 4-7-18"

He was in B.Coy., and was a L/Cpl. I did not see the Casualty and cannot give any details of same. I saw his grave in a Military Cemetery at Ribemont near the Railway Line and grave was marked by a Cross having full details marked thereon.

He was missing for a few days but found his dead body in standing crop. Corporals Rule, W. and Rusden and Pte. Grenville, J. all of B.Coy. are all buried in the same Cemetery side by side, and graves are all marked.

Informant - Hill, Pte. J. 5115  
59th Battn. B.Coy.,  
3rd A.A.H.  
DARTFORD.

W. Oman  
21-11-18  
London  
27-11-18  
J.E.A.

M.

59th Batta.

OLIVER,  
G. W. D., L/Cpl. 2619

K. 4/7/18

I knew casualty, he was a man of medium build, medium complexion, 5'10" in height, about 25 years of age. Casualty was at front line at Villers sur Ance and was on duty in the trench when a high explosive shell killed him instantly. I was fifty yards away at the time and saw his body lying in the trench. I do not know where he was buried.

Cpl. C. KRONPSTIC,  
2427

Private Address:- 246 York Street  
Pahran.

N.A.T.  
8/8/19.

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS INFORMATION BUREAU-MELBOURNE.

A.I.F. 69.

OLIVER, G. W. D. 2619.

K. July 14th, 1918.

I didn't actually see L/Cpl. George Oliver, of B.VII., killed at Villers-sur-Ancre by m.g. fire shortly after he hopped over, but we left the tape together at 3.15 a.m. and I was the last man he spoke to. He said "Come on, Gribbo.". When we reached our objective he was missing and we didn't get the body (it was in a high crop) for two days. He was not much knocked about but must have been killed instantly soon after we started as the body was quite near the starting point. I saw the dead body. He was buried near where he fell.

George Oliver was from Victoria. Tall, thin, about 25 years of age. A very nice fellow and well - liked.

Inf. Pte. J. M. Gribbin, 3400, 59. D.Co. (late B.VII)  
No. 3. Aust. Gen. Hosp.  
Abbeville. 7.11.18. HHH.

M

To.

Pte R. Crowl

B. Co. 59 Pctn

a. I. F

Amount

2619 Pte G. W. S. Oliver

59 Pctn

a. I. F

K 4:7:18

Winston 21. 11:18

Inds



AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY  
WOUNDED & MISSING  
ENQUIRY BUREAU



35, DROVER'S PLACE  
LONDON, S.W. 1.

UNDELIVERABLE  
B.P.O.  
RETURN TO SENDER

Pte R. Cooper  
B. Co. 59 Infantry Battalion  
Australian Imperial Force  
London B. E. F.

RECEIVED  
TO  
TO SENDER

NOT WITH 69th AUST. INF. BR. 2/12/41

gp



Tel. VICTORIA (8576  
8577  
8578

ALL COMMUNICATIONS  
TO BE ADDRESSED TO

"THE SECRETARY."

WOUNDED AND MISSING

— ENQUIRY BUREAU —

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY.



A

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY.

36, GROSVENOR PLACE.

LONDON S.W. 1.

21. 11. 18

J. C

*Pte R. Croust  
B. Co. 59 Bttn  
A.I.F.*

Dear Sir,

We are making enquiries about a man of your unit,

*2619 Pte G.W.D. Oliver. 59 Bttn. A.I.F.*

*Reported Killed 4. 7. 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 can  
send us concerning him, but our enquirers wish especially  
to know whether he was buried, if so, whether it was on the  
field, or in a soldiers' cemetery where the grave would be  
registered. We would also be glad if you could add a short  
description of his personal appearance or any points that  
might help 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.

Yours faithfully,

(Miss) Vera Dearlin

Secretary.

*herms*

*Don't re-call, 185 letter*

*Case Can call*