

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

Lieutenant  
William Eustace  
O'Halloran

56th Battalion



2040606I

56th Battn.  
A. I. F.

O'Halloran.  
Lieut. W. E.

"Killed in Action 2.4.17"

This officer was killed on 2nd April 1917. He was buried in the field by another unit, I am unable to say where, but a monument was erected in his and other's memory.

Letter from:-  
The Adjutant,  
56th Battalion. A.I.F.

London.  
23.8.17.

S.

A.I.F. 56

O'HALLORAH, Lt.W.E.

K. April 2nd. 1917. Det: D & B.

We attacked at Fremicourt, going over about 40'clock  
in the morning, and later in the morning I saw Mr.O'Halloran's  
dead body. We held the ground. I never heard whether he  
was buried.

Informant: Sergt.A.Johnston. 2961. A.4.  
No.3 Can.Gen.Hosp.  
BOULOGNE. 25.5.17.

S RHL.

Havre

22nd May, 1917.

56th AUSTRALIANS

O'HALLORAN, Lieut. W.E.

K. 2.4.17. Det. D/B.

He was first wounded by a shell and later on I saw his dead body lying on the edge of a wood just outside the village of Louverval. Up to the time we were relieved on the evening of the following day his body had not been buried. We retained the village and it is probable that his body was buried by another battalion who relieved us. The 54th battalion relieved us but only stayed for a day and then the 12th battalion came in for a turn.

Informant: Pte S. Searle, 2462  
56th Australians, B Co.,  
No. 8 Gen. (Quai) Havre.

S

RBS

A. I. P. 56.

O'HALLORAN, Lieut. W.E.

K. April 2nd, 1917.

I heard particulars of his death from a L/Cpl. of B.Coy. whose name I forget but is commonly known as "Paddy" and is a well known character in the Coy. He told me he was with Mr. O'Halloran on April 2nd when he saw him riddled by M.G. bullets and killed instantly. It was in the Sunken Roads. I know that men were detailed from each Coy. to get in the dead and I believe Mr. O'Halloran's body was brought in but know nothing as to burial.

PHE.

Reference:- Pte. E.J. Dawson. 3524.B. H.Q.  
No. 22 Gen. Hosp.

S

Etaples  
17.17.

Havre

30th May, 1917.

56th AUSTRALIANS

O'HALLORAN, Lieut. W.E.

K. E. 4.17. Det. D/B.

He was a Machine Gun Officer. On the 2nd April I saw his body lying out in the open at Louverval on the right of Bullecourt. I recognized him. He was tall, dark, about 35; I knew nothing of his grave.

Informant: Pte S.W. Booth, 4748  
56th Australians, D Co., late C Co.,  
H. S. Essequibo.

GFB

56th Battn.  
A. I. P.

O'Halloran.  
Lieut. W. E.

"Killed 2.4.17."

My mate Pte. Chas. Pluknett B. Coy. Pl 5 told me in 3rd Rouen Hospital on April 12th that he was with the above when he was killed on the Sunken Road at Lunheville while capturing a German M.G. Pluknett was removed later on to a convalescent camp in France and is now probably with unit.

Witness:-

A. R. Strang, 2974.  
56th Battn.

L.P.J.

Dartford.

Lond on.

7.6.17.

Note Written Pte. Pluknett 4.6.17.

S.

Havre

11th June. 1917.

56 Australians.

O'HALLORAN, Lieut. W.E.

K. April 2nd 1917. Det. D/B.

This Officer was in B. Company.

L. Cpl. Colbourn of B. Company was with this Officer when he was killed. Colbourn is still up the line and would know all particulars.

Informant: R.J. Dawson 3524

56th Batt., B.Co.

Australians.

Australian Camp, Rouellea.

GAB.

Written Lefl Colbourn 27.6.17

56th A.I.F.

O'HALLORAN Lieut. W.E.

K. 2nd April 1917. Det D/B.

It was early in the morning during the attack at Louverseal(?) we had got over the top of the ridge and were going down the other side when I saw Lieut. O'Halloran's dead body. I hadn't time to see how he was killed but took his steel helmet as I had lost mine. We left a burying party behind. We took the village that day and stayed there two days. It was very cold, freezing that first night, and there were snow storms the next day. Birney(?) was the nearest village from the Sunken Road from which we started and there is a cemetery close to it. He was a tallish dark young fellow, very dark eyes.

Inf:- Pte J. Callaghan No. 3508 B.Co.

Amb. T. "Stad Antwerpen".

Calais. 18.VI.17. ABD.

56th Battn.  
B. Coy.  
A. I. F.

O'Hallason.  
Lient. W. E.

"Killed 2.8.17."

I knew Mr. O'Hallason personally. He was killed about 3rd April 1917 at Lameville, while he was endeavouring to take a Machine gun. He was known in the regiment as "Paddy". In appearance he was tall, thin, dark man. I did not see him after he was killed. He is buried at Fremont. He was shot through the head.

Witness:-

Cpl. J. Stanford. 2228.  
56th Battn.  
Dartford.

O. A. H.

London.  
19.6.17.

S.



Hevre

27th June 1917

56th AUSTRALIANS

O'HANLON, Lt. W.S.

K. 2nd April 1917 Det. D/B

This Officer was in B. Co., 6th Platoon, L.G.S. He came from Sydney and I think worked with the firm of Dalgety & Co., Wool Merchants. There was no other Officer of the name in the Company. I did not see his grave but I was told by Private F. McGill of B. Co. 6th Platoon, L.G.S., that he was one of the party who buried him on the 5th April 1917. McGill was with the Battalion when I left seven weeks ago.

Informant: Pte. C. A. Solomon 513  
56th Australians B.Co. 6th Pltn  
Australian Camp, Bouville

CHR

*Written by Pte McGill 15.7.17*

56th Battn.  
B. Coy.  
A. I. F.

O'Halloran.  
Lieut. W. E.

"Killed 2.4.17."

Refer to Sgt. Golding 56th Battalion, C. Coy. 10th Pltn. He was the Sgt. of burying party. He is still in France. I left there on the 9th May 1917.

Witness:-

Pte. C. H. Blatchford 3032.  
56th Battn. C. Coy.  
3rd Aust. Aux. Hpl.  
Dartford.

W. Oman.

S.

London.  
3.7.17. Note Written Sgt. Golding 27.6.17.

56th Battn.  
A. I. F.

O'Halloran.  
Lieut. W.E.

"Killed 2.4.17."

He was hit in the side by a shell on April 2nd. Cpl. Craig, Sanitary Sec., 56th Battn. now in France and a mate of mine, buried him. He was buried in the Cemetery near Bapaume. Craig also put a cross on his grave - with his name, rank, etc. He was hit about  $3\frac{1}{2}$  miles to the right of Bapaume. Craig took down full particulars re O'Halloran's death and could give further details.

Witness:-

E. Brien. 3009A.  
56th Battn.  
Harefield.

W. G. J.

London.  
6.7.17.

S.

56th Battn.  
A. I. F.

O'HALLORAN.  
Lieut. W.E.

"Killed 2.4.17."

This officer was first wounded by Machine Gun fire. Before he could be removed for treatment a shell burst over him killing him instantly. I was an eye-witness of the attack on April 2nd at Louvre Ville on the Somme Front. I helped to bring the body in and was one of the burial party that buried this officer at the back of the lines. The grave was marked for identification the usual cross and, was put up later on. Chaplain officiated.

Witness:-

A. R. McPhee.  
W. J. Parkinson 2724.  
B. Coy. 56th Battn.  
Perham Downs Camp.

London.  
7.7.17.

S.

56th Battn.  
C. Coy.  
A. I. F.

O'Halloran.  
Lieut. W. E.

"Killed 2.4.17."

I saw him dead at ?Louvel near ?Doggincourt on the 2nd of April 1917., killed by bullet wounds. Ground held. Buried at the Sanken Road near Headquarters in front of Louvel. Cannot say if grave is marked, was not at the burial. Refer to Capt. Thompson, 56th Battn. C. Coy. now in France, he can give particulars of burial. No other of same name. Knew him ver well. I left France 16th May 1917.

Witness:-

Pte. W. Rowan 546.  
56th Battalion Stretcher Bearer,  
3rd Aust. Aux. Hpl.  
Dartford.

W. Oman.

London.  
9.7.17.

S.

56th Battn. B. Coy.  
A. I. F.

O'Halloran.  
Lieut. W. E.

"Killed 2.4.17."

This officer was killed instantly on April 2nd 1917. He was 2nd in command of B. Coy. in an attack that was made at Louvreville to the right of Bapaume. When making the advance through No Man's Land enemy made a counter-attack; during which Mr. O'Halloran was struck by a bullet (it is believed from sniper's rifle) which penetrated the forehead. I saw him fall and went to his assistance, but when I reached him he was quite dead. I saw the body taken away by stretcher bearers, but do not know where he was buried, as I was wounded and came away that same day.

Witness:-

J. W. Hare.. 5392.

B. Coy. 56th Battn.

Perham Downs Camp.

A. R. McPhee.

{ London.

9.7.17.

S,

56th A.I.F.

O'HALLORAN, Lt. W.E.

(K. April 2nd 1917 Dets D/B)

"When we were advancing through the "Chateau Wood" during the attack at Louvreval on April 2nd 1917, Lt. O'Halloran was shot through the body while leading us on about 20 yards in front of me. He had just taken a machine gun and was very pluckily cheering us on up to the last. He was real game. He died in a few minutes. I do not know where he was buried."

Eye witness: Yes.

Description:

Informant: Pte. John Fairchild, 2408,  
56th A.I.F., A. Coy.,  
Richmond Military Hospital, Grove Road,  
Richmond, Surrey.

July 13.17.  
A.G. Campbell.

*Subd.  
G. B.*

56th A. I. F.,

O'Halloran, Lieut. W.F.

K. April 2/17. Det: D. & B.

"I saw Lieut. O'Halloran shot through the chest by a German officer. He lingered for about half an hour."

Eye Witness: Yes.

Description: Medium build, inclined to be grey haired,  
not long married, was Town Clerk at Warreldale,  
N.S.W.

Informant:-- Cpl. Victor Canby, 2606,  
56th A. I. F., A. Coy. I Pltn.,  
1st London General Hosp:  
Camberwell, S. E.

Home address:-- 30, Johnson Street,  
Arncliffe, Sydney, N.S.W.

24.7.17.  
A.F.M. Baldwin.

CC sug. S.

56th A. I. F.,

O'Halloran, Lieut. W.F.

K. April 2/17. Det: D. & B.

Informant states that "Lieut. O'Halloran was buried in the little Graveyard of the village we took, a mile on the road to Cambrai on the left hand side. A name something like Laventie. If only I had a map I could point out the place."

Eye Witness:

Description:

Informant:-- Sgt. A. Barclay, 2853,  
56th A. I. F.,  
3rd London General Hosp:  
Wandsworth Common, S.W.

Home address:-- Batmans Bay,  
Clyde River, N.S.W.

24.7.17.  
Ethel Woolmer.

CC sug. S.

56th Battn.  
A. I. F.

O'Halloran.  
Lieut. W.E.

"Killed 2.4.17"

I am almost certain that Capt. Chappell (Adjutant) will be able to tell you he is buried at Louvreville (?)

Witness:-

H. H. May 4807.  
56th Battn.  
Dartford.

L. P. J.

London.  
31.7.17

Note Written Capt. Chappell 20.7.17. S.

56th Battn.  
A. I. F.

O'Halloran.  
Lieut. W. E.

"Killed 2.4.17"

Lieut. O'Halloran was killed at a place called Longueval in front of Cambrai. A burial party was sent out on April 6th I do not know where he was buried but think it was near Longueval. If Lieut. Gordon of same Battalion were written to I am sure he could give more information and my name can be mentioned to him.

Eye-witness:  
Description:

Informant:- Pte. Hatcheson 3565.  
56th Battn. A.I.F.

Home address: Hyde Park Barracks, Plymouth.  
12 Maney St., Rozelle,  
Via Sydney, Australia.

6.6.17.

E.G.Hunt.

Note Written Lt.Gordon 20.7.17.

London.

2.8.17.

3.



56th Battn  
A.I.F.

O'Halloran  
W.E. Lieut.

"Killed in Action 2.4.17."

Lieut. W.E. O'Halloran of this Battn. I am sorry to tell you that Lieut. O'Halloran was killed on the Sunken Road. We attacked on the 2.4.17. at about 10. a.m. by a machine Gun Bullet and was buried on this side of this side of the road by one of this Brigade about two days later. Dear Madam. you ask me for anything which would identify him. Well, Lieut. O'Halloran was the ordinary kind of man with nothing out of the ordinary to identify him, but I could and would swear to the man who was killed was the same man that has been in this Battn for the last sixteen months and that no other man by the name of O'Halloran has been in this Battn since so there can be no mistake as to his identity.

Letter from:-

L/Cpl. F. Colburn 1632  
France. 28.7.16.

London.  
13.9.17.

S

56th Battn.  
A. I. F.

O'Halloran.  
Lieut. W.E.

"Killed in Action 2.4.17"

Particulars were forwarded to you a few days ago by Lieut. A.M. Cohen of my Battalion, but in the event of same not having reached you would state that the late Lieut. W.E. O'Halloran was killed in action at Louverval, on 2nd April last. His death was instantaneous and his body was recovered and together with those of his comrades who fell in the same action was afforded decent burial in the Military Cemetery near by.

Letter from:-

The Adjutant,  
56th Battn. A.I.F.  
2.8.17.

London.  
13.9.17.

S.

Oct 8. 6.14 O'Halloran, Lieut W.E.  
56 Battalion  
Kina. 2.4.14 S<sup>d</sup>  
3

The Secretary  
Australian Red Cross Society  
Dear Madam

Re Lieut W.E. O'Halloran

This officer was killed  
on 2nd April 1917. He was  
buried in the field by  
another unit I am unable to  
say where, but a monument  
was erected in his & others  
memory as he had I must  
suppose to the C.R.V.

In future make any  
inquiries please to the Battalion  
direct to the individual  
soldiers. The soldier you  
mentioned has connected them  
nothing of the matter.

Alex H. Allen  
56' Battalion A.I.F.

Serint. W. J. C. Halloran

56 Bath.

see under

Pt. T. Matthews 5421 " "

11/8/17. C C

Leit GORDON 19.7.17

56 Baldrif  
BEF

Joe

W.E

Leit O'HALLORAN

56 Baldrif

K. 2. 4. 17

FM  
28.7.17

19-7-17  
Capt CHAPPELL

Adjutant  
56 Batta AF  
BEK

for

Leut W.E. O'HALLORAN

56 Batta AF

K. 2. 4. 17

FM

28-7-17

4.6.17

Pte Chas PLUTNETT

B Co.

56 Baldrif

B.R.F.

W

C. 10

for

Leut W.E. O'HALLORAN

56 Baldrif

K. 2. 4. 17

COODA

BRANK

19-7-17.

J.P.A.

HOBYLATE

26.6.17

Sgt GOLDING

C, Co

56 Batt AIF

B E F

for

an officer

Leut W. E. O'HALLORAN

B Co

56 Batt AIF

K. 2. 4. 17

19/4/17

J. A.

26.6.17

Lt Col COLBOURN

B. Co

56 Batt AIF

BEF

for his officer

Lt Col W. E. O'HALLORAN

56 Batt AIF

K. 2. 4. 17

19/7/17.

J. A.



Re T. McGILL

T6 Plat

B Co

L. G. Section

56 Batt AIF

BEF

C  
for

Aust

Lt W. E. O'HALLORAN

56 Batt AIF

K. 2. 4. 17

21. 7. 17  
FM

Oct 9/17  
6.

26/7/16

France

To the Secy of the Australian  
Red X Society { wounded and  
missing enquiry ~~Bureau~~  
Bureau.

Dear Madam with  
reference to your Enquiring  
the whereabouts of one  
Lieut W. E. O'halloran of this  
Battillion. I am sorry to  
tell you that Lieut  
O'halloran was killed on  
the Sunken Road of  
the village we attacked  
on the 2/4/17 at about  
10.A.M. by a machine gun  
bullet and was buried  
on the side of the road  
by one of this Brigade  
about two days later

Dear Madam you ask  
me for anything which  
would identify him

well? Leuit O'Halloran was  
the ordinary kind of man  
with nothing out of the  
ordinary to identify him  
but I could and would  
swear to the man who  
was killed was the  
same man that has been  
in this Battalion for  
the last sixteen months  
and that no other man  
by the name of O'Halloran  
has been in this Batt  
since so there can be  
no mistake as to his  
identity. Hoping this will  
meet all your requirements  
I am

Yours Truly

W. E. O'HALLORAN

K 24.7

S 3

McGuffey

Chas. F. Colburn  
1632

P.F.

Please excuse the writing  
as i am on the Sick parade  
myself and my hands are  
not too steady

ackd  
13.5.17.  
L.L.

56th Battalion, A.I.F.

Miss Vera Deakin,  
Secretary,  
Australian Red Cross Society.  
(Wounded and Missing Inquiry Bureau)  
54 Victoria-st.,  
LONDON, S.W.

Re your Inquiry.

Particulars were forwarded to you a few days ago, by Lieut. A.M. Cohen of my Battalion, but in the event of same not having reached you would state that the late Lieut. W. E. O'Halloran, was killed in action, at Louverval, on 2nd April last.

His death was instantaneous and his body was recovered, and, together with those of his comrades who fell in the same action, was afforded decent burial in the Military Cemetery, nearby.

*Al Shoppell*

2/8/17.

Captain,  
Adjutant 56th Battalion, A.I.F.

*Lieut W. E. O' HALLORAN*

*56 BATTAL AIF*

*KA. 2.4.17*

August 10th, 1917.

No 1632 L/Cpl. Colburn,  
56th Batta.,  
A.I.F., B.E.F.

Dear L/Cpl. F. Colburn,

Thank you very much for your letter in answer  
to our enquiries concerning

Lt. W. E. O'Halloran,  
56th Batta.,  
A.I.F.

The information will be of assistance to you  
and of use to our enquirers.

We hope you are now feeling better.

Yours faithfully,

V. Deakin  
Secretary.  
Per E.L.

56th Battalion, A.I.F.

The Secretary,

Aust Red Cross Society  
(Wounded & Missing Inquiry Bureau)  
54, Victoria St

LONDON, S.W.I.

With reference to your letter attached, I am forwarding  
herewith a letter from Sgt Golding in connection with same.

*Alroyall Cohen*

Lieut-Colonel,  
Commanding 56th Battalion, A.I.F.

17/8/17.

Lt W.E.O'HALLORAN

To the "Adyulain f."

5th Bath A.I.F.

16/5/14

Sir

Re. letter from the Red

Cross Society about Lieut. O'Halloran  
of this Bath?

I have to state that the required in-  
formation from photograph of the officer  
named has already been sent to the  
Society named together with  
personal appearance & height.  
The only thing omitted was the  
name of the engagement he was  
killed in viz: - Louervall.  
He was buried in the wood by  
the 1st Bath.

Col. Golding 1553. "C" Coy.  
Set





AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY

(WOUNDED AND MISSING INQUIRY BUREAU),

54, VICTORIA STREET,

LONDON, S.W. 1

Sgt. Golding  
C. Co

56 Batt A.I.F.  
B. S. F.

19/4/17.

Dear Sir,

We are making enquiries for <sup>an officer</sup> ~~a man~~ of your Unit

Lieut. W. E. O'Halloran, B. Coy 56<sup>th</sup> Batt. A.I.F.

Reported K. i. O. 2/4/17. 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 Lt. W. E. O'Halloran 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 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,

Vera Deakin.  
SECRETARY.

6c  
14.9.17

3524 Bugler R.J. DAWSON  
B.Co. 56 Battn. A.I.F. B.R.F.

Dear Sir,

We have to thank you very much for the photograph of

<sup>W.E</sup>  
Lieut. O'HALLORAN  
~~56 Battn. A.I.F.~~

which you so kindly forwarded for our inspection, *wh: we uns return*

We trust this will reach you safely.

With all good wishes,

Yours faithfully,

V.D.  
Secretary

*Jur.*