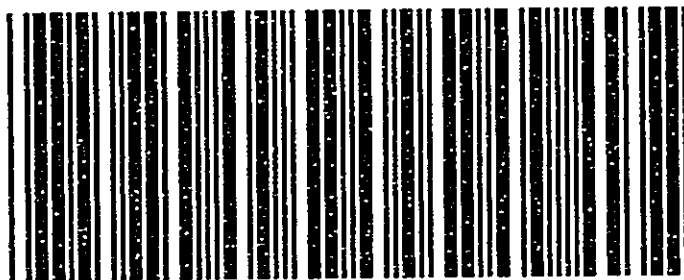


Australian Red Cross Society Wounded and Missing
Enquiry Bureau files, 1914-18 War
1DRL/0428

**5361 Sapper
Walter William
Leonard**

1st Tunnelling Company



1590209Q

A.I.F. 1st Tunn:Coy.

LEONARD
W.W. 5361

"Killed 1-10-17"

Spr. Deekham (a week ago at Depails Camp O.T.B.) 1st Tunn:
Coy. told me that Leonard was killed by shrapnel at Menin Road,
All our fellows are buried at Zillebeke.

Witness: Kitchener F.W. 5388
1st Tunn:Coy.
Hut 16.
Westham.

A

W.A.Rand
London
28-2-18

Note Written Spr. Deekham. 27.2.18.

Letter returned - not known 1st, 2nd, or 3rd T. Coy.
21-5-18

1st Tunn. Coy.
A.I.F.

LEONARD
W.W. 5361

"Killed 1-10-17"

He was killed at Passchendaele, right out Oct. 1st, 1917,
by H.E. shell, together with Alf. O'Neill, and one other, just
before the attack. We held the ground. They were buried on
the field. We called him "Froggie". He was well liked and
quiet.

Informant. Patterson A. 5395 (Reliable witness - brother-in-law)
1st Tunn. Coy.,
Ward 39,
HAREFIELD.

T.St.J.P.P.
London
19-3-18

A.

Havre.

9th. March. 1918.

1st. Aus. Tunnelling Company.

W. W.
Leonard, No. 5361.

X. 1st. October 1917. Dets. D/B.

I was told by Sapper Rose when we were in advanced Billots (Ypres) that they were coming home from sapping in a Crater on the Marais Road on October 1st when a shell burst near them killing 3 or 4 of whom Leonard was one. I think he was carried on to the D/Station. I did not know Leonard, except by sight. He was a young fellow, clean-shaven.

Inf:- Sapper. Pat Kelly. No. 157.
1st. Australian Tunnelling Company.
Ex. Australian Camp.
Rouelles.

CWS.

Written Sapper Rose 25.3.18.

Adel

Havre.

25th. March. 1918.

1st. Aust. Tunn. Coy.

Leonard, W. W. No. 5361.

Z. 1st. October 1917. Dets. D/B.

I was told by Sapper W. Putman about October 4th. or 5th, when we had come down from the line that he saw Leonard lying asleep in a dug-out, and a shell came in and killed him outright. This was at Passchenadele on October 1st. I think he was buried there. Putman is still with the Unit. I knew Leonard, he was a short chap, about 5' 4" fair, we called him "Froggy".

Inf:- Sapper. M. A. Gillman. No. 5325.
1st. Aust. Tunn. Coy.
Australian Camp.
Rouelles.

CWS.

*Written to Sapper W. Putman
4/4/18.*

A

1. Tunnelling Companies.
Australian Imperial Force

Leonard, W.W.
1st Coy.

5361.

(A. Oct. 1. 1917).

" I am afraid it is quite impossible that Sapper Leonard (1. Coy. 3 or 4 Sect.) can be a prisoner, as he was behind the line when he was missing. I was told by Capt. Clinton (1. 2 Sect.) that Sapper Leonard, Sapper Armstrong, and Sapper Spence, went out ration carrying and never came back. We all believe that they must have been hit by a shell. I think one Sise was found. One man who was with them was wounded and came across to England. He said that he believed that the others were killed by the same shell that wounded him. Sapper Winter (1. 2nd Sect) was out for four or five hours looking for them but never found them. This was on Oct. 1st between Westhoek Ridge and Anzac. "

(Another wounded man on Terrace, Sapper Laurice Miller (1. 2 Sect) 338 (Glen Rowan, Stony Creek Rd. Boxley) corroborated this report. He also told me that Sapper Charles Saelfield (1. 2 Sect.) was with the ration party, also Cpl. Ted Haslett (1. 2 Sect) who came away gassed lately)

*written to Sapper C. Saelfield & Haslett
24-4-18.*

Myo witness - He. Capt. Clinton (1. 2 Sect.) told Informant.

Description - I did not know him personally.

Informant :- Cpl. Albert Minton, 2342
1st Coy. 2nd Sect. Tunnelling Companies
Auss. I Force,
3rd Southern General Hosp
Terrace, New College Gardens
Oxford.

Home address :-
(Not given)

30. 3. 12.
H.M. Rickard-Cambridge.

*written to Saelfield & Haslett
24-4-18.*

avre

10th April 1918.

1st Aust. Tunnellers.

Leonard W.W. 5351.

2. 1st Octr 1917. Det D/B.

I knew Sapper W.W. (Peggie) Leonard, he came from South Australia. He told me that he worked in a Motor Garage in, I think, Adelaide. He was about 25, short, thick-set, dark, clean shaven, single. He was killed at Ypres in October 1917. I did not see him, but saw a cross which was prepared for his grave at the Tunnellers Camp close to Ypres.

Inf:- Sapper J.W. McDonough No. 5380.
1st Austl Tunnellers.
Australian Camp.
Rouelles.

RM

1st Tunnelling Coy.
A.I.F.

LEONARD.
W.W. 5361.

"Killed in Action 1.10.17"

Refer to Cpl. A. Hazlett 1st Tunnelling Coy. who is now in Hospital in England, he was in charge of the party at the time of casualty and can give full details. Two other men named Spencer and Armstrong were killed at the same time.,

Witness:- Minton. Upl. A. 2542.
1st Tun. Coy.
S.A.A.H. Dartford.

W. Chen.

London.
19.4.18.

S.A.

1st Tun. Coy.
A.I.F.

LEONARD
W.W. 5361

"Killed in Action 1.10.17"

Re Spt. W.W. Leonard. I was with a man of that name when he was killed, and he was buried in the field, and there is not any doubt he is the man, as his name and No. are the same, also the date, but as for the description, it was the first time I was with him, so I did not know him too well, but if you could let me know where he came from, I could make sure he is the man you mean.

Letter from; Putman Spr. W. 6046
1st Tun. Coy.,
15-4-18

London
23-4-18

A,

1st Tunn. Coy
A.I.F.

LEONARD ,
W.W. 5361

"Killed in Action 1.10.17."

Concerning 5361, W.W Leonard. He was buried on the field, by the side of his pal, who fell with him. The grave would not be registered as it is not in a military cemetery, but he had every attention to the very last. As near as I can describe the poor lad, is, about 5ft 8ins, complexion dark, with rather large eyes, and a very pleasing countenance, always ready to laugh at the merest trifling joke. I may add that W.W. Leonard was a great favourite among the lads and never wavered in performing his duties, no matter how dangerous. He was buried where the Australians took their 1st Objective on 20th Sept. 1917.

Letter from:- G.A. Rose, 3361.
19.4.18.

London.
23.4.18.

A.

A.I.F. 1st Aust. Tunn. Coy.

LEONARD
W. 5361.

KILLED in ACTION 1.10.17.

Re 5361 Sapper W Leonard. Your letter addressed to Cpl. E. J. Hazlett of this Unit has been handed to me for action. As far as can be ascertained Sapper Leonard was buried by his comrades at the Butte, Polygon Wood, on the 1st October 1917.

Letter from:- O.C.
1st Aus. Tunn. Coy.

London
8.5.8.

A.

A.I.F. 1st Tunnelling Coy.

LEONARD
W. W. 5561

KILLED in ACTION
1/10/17.

Re circumstances relating to death and burial of 5561 W. W. Leonard of this unit I am afraid I cannot enlighten you very much. But however I will say as much as I remember. On morning of 29/9/17 Leonard, who was a chap of about 5' 4" or 6", dark complexion, was on a party which included myself, detailed for work at Polygon Wood. All went well until following night when he was killed by a fragment of shell through his head. I myself was wounded by piece of same shell consequently I know nothing more about him except what I was told by another member of the party some weeks ago. He, with 4 others were buried on the field and not in military cemetery. My informer was one of the burial party. Of his belongings however he only knows that they were put in a sand bag with the other dead men's articles and they went astray on the way out through the man carrying them having been wounded.

Letter from:- 265 Spr. C. F. Sealfield,
1st Aust. Tunn. Coy.,
A.I.F.,
France. 6/5/18.

London
18/5/18

A

20/3/18

To.

Sapper ROSE

1st Aus. Tunneling Coy

A. I. 7.

B. E. F.

About

53 H. W. W. LEONARD.

M

1st Aus Tunneling Coy

A. I. 7.

L.H. 1/10/17

25-3-18.
a. l. B.

5361 W.W. Leonard 1 Turn. Coy

3361

K/A 1-10-17

Stephen G A Rose

ack 13.4.18 A₃ (21)
Dear Miss Fisher

19/4/18

Your letter enquiring
for particulars concerning 5361.

W.W. Leonard, duly to hand. He was
buried on the field, by the side of his
pal, who fell with him. The grave
would not be registered as it is not
in a Military Cemetery, but he had

every attention to the very last. As near
as I can describe the poor lad is, about
5 ft 8. complexion dark, with rather

large eyes, & a very pleasing countenance.
always ready to laugh at the merest
trifling joke. I may add that W.W.
Leonard was a great favorite among
the lads & never wavered in performing
his duties, no matter how dangerous.

He was buried where the Australians

took their 1st objective on 20th Sept 1917.
Trusting this will be satisfactory
Faithfully Yours G A Rose

W.W. Leonard 15/4/18 R/A 1.10.17

5361

A

(d)

Dear Mrs. Deakin just a few
lines in answer to your
letter enquiring about

Sapper W.W. Leonard ~~was~~
with a man of that name
when he was killed and

he was buried in the
field and there is not
~~the~~ ~~any~~ ~~more~~ ~~of~~ ~~him~~ ~~now~~ ~~he~~ ~~is~~
the man as his name
and number are the
same as the last one
as for his description it
was the first time I
was with him so I did
not know him so well

But if you could let
me know where he came
from I could make sure
if he is the man you
meant your faithfully

6046 Sapper W. Putman

1st The Trench Coy

24-4-18.

Cpl. Ted. Haslett

1st Tunneling Coy

A.S.F.

About

5365 W.W. Leonard

1st Tunneling Coy

A.S.F.

11-10-19.

Initial

24-478.

5361 W.W Leonard

K/A 1 Tunn Coy

1st Aust. Tunn. Company

Headquarters
30-4-18

Secretary
A.R.C.S.

Re. 5361 Sapper W. Leonard

Your letter addressed to
Cpl. E.J. Hazlett of this Unit has
been handed to me for action.

As far as can be ascertain-
-ed Sapper Leonard was buried by his
comrades at THE BUTTE, POLYGON WOOD
on the 1st October 1917.

Lieut. A.E.
For C.O. 1st Aust. Tunn. Coy.

1st AUSTRALIAN
TUNNELLING
COMPANY.

9/742

30-4-18

5361
To Secretary, 1515 Leonard
1st. French Co. France
Aust. Red. Cross Society. 1-11-18 6.5.18

Dear Miss,

I reply to yours of 24.4.18 re
circumstances relating to death and
burial of 5361 W V L LEONARD of this unit
I'm afraid I cannot enlighten you too
much. But however I'll say as far as I
can remember.

On morning of 29.9.17 Leonard
who was a chap of about 5ft 4" or 6" ^{dark complexion} was
on a party which included myself, detailed
for work at Polygon Wood. All went
well until following night when he was
killed by a fragment of shell through his
head. I myself was wounded by piece of
same shell consequently I know nothing
more about him excepting what I was told
he another member of the party some weeks
ago. He, along with 4 others were buried
on the field and not in military cemetery.
My informer was one of the burial party.

(2)

Of his belongings however he only knows
that they were put in a sand bag with
the other dead mens' articles and they
got astray on the way out through the
man carrying them being wounded.

So hoping the information will be
of some use to you, you can rest assured
that I'll always do my best to give
anything further I know of any other case.

Yours truly

Wm. C. F. Saalfeld
1st Aust. Tunn. Coy.

A. I. F.

France

PARCOURS

INTERNATIONAL GROSS SOCIETY
WASH DC

28 FEB 1986

INQUIRY BUREAU

WASH DC

RETURN TO SENDER
REASON STATED

TO SENDER

TO SENDER

102 Australian Imperial Force
2nd Coy
Not 3rd Coy
9/1/86
London
Albion
S.W.1



28. 2. 18.

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY

(WOUNDED AND MISSING INQUIRY BUREAU).

~~24, VICTORIA STREET~~

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

Telephones:

VICTORIA 8576
8577
Dear Sir,

Spr. Deekhan

1st Tunnelling Coy. G.I.F.

Aboard

Telegraphic Address: We are making enquiries for a man of your unit
"QUESTMAN, LONDON."

G-361 Pte. W. W. Leonard 1st Tunnelling Coy.
K. 1-10-17 G.I.F.

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 Pte. W. W. Leonard 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 us to prove his identity.

Yours faithfully,

(Miss)

Vera G. Catlin.

Secretary.

NOTE In your reply kindly quote name, initials and number of casualty specified for, as without these particulars delay and confusion is caused in identification of this soldier about whom you are writing.