

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

2136 Corporal  
Leonard Bryant

59th Battalion



0600703G

A.I.F. 59.

BRYANT, L. 2136.

K. Oct 16th 1917.

He was tall, fair, clean shaven, about 26 and I believe single and was a corporal S/B. He was killed instantly by a shell together with six others while sitting in a little dugout covered over with waterproof sheets and dirt, just above Anzac Ridge at 6 o'clock in the morning. The shell fell right in the middle of the group. I helped to bury him in the open, at the back of the trench in a shell hole, and we made a wooden cross and wrote their names on it in indelible pencil. This was in our own front line.

Inf: A.C.Battles. 2377. A.I.

No. 1 C.G.

BOULOGNE. 19.1.18. FD

M

A. I. F. 59.

BRYANT, L. 2136.  
(and 3 others)

K. October 16th, 1917.

We were present when they were killed by a shell at Tokio Ridge on October 16th. We were within 3 yards of the dugout they were in when the shell blew it up, helped to dig their bodies up, and to bury them again on the spot where they were killed. We saw all four bodies. Seven men were killed by the same shell. They were all buried in the same grave. The other three men were Pte. Reynolds, E/B, L/C. Giles, and Sgt. Hubbard. A cross marks the grave with their names on it. We have seen the cross.

References:- R.W.Clark. 3489. A.Coy.

E.J.Mallett. 3100. A.Coy.

I saw their dead bodies at the spot described after they were dug out.

Reference:- E.J.Yade. 2744. A.Coy.

I helped to bury them as described.

Reference:- Sgt.G.Haining. 1651. A.Coy. Enquin.

SA.

Identity cert. from Battn records.

Etaples  
24.1.18.

M

A. I. F. 59.

BRYANT, L. 2138.  
(and 3 others)

E. October 16th, 1917.

These four men were in the same dugout at Tokio Ridge on October 16th when the dugout was blown up by a shell. I was close by and saw the ruins of the dugout after the shell had burst and knew that the men were in the dugout at the time the shell blew it up.

Reference:- L/Cpl. F. L. McDonald. 839. A. Coy.  
Enquin.

I was in a dugout about 30 yards behind them when they were blown up as described. I saw the men of their plat. digging them out after the shell had burst.

Reference:- G. W. Kiely. 3178. A. Coy.  
Enquin.

SA.

Identity cert. from Battn records.

Etaples  
24.1.18. M

59th. A.I.F.

Bryant. L. 2136

K. Oct. 16/17.  
Det. D/B.

"About Oct. 14/17 at Polygon Wood a shell fell into their dug out whilst they were asleep at 4 a.m. Bryant was killed instantly also 6 other men. I was about 15 or 20 yds in front in an outpost. My comrades helped to bury him, we were always together in the same lat, so I knew him well. He was a L/C. He was buried with the others a little distance from the trench."

Eyewitness: No.

Description: Cannot remember.

Informant: Pte. J.R.J. Huey. 3168  
59th A.I.F. A Coy. 2 Pltn.  
Tooting Grove Hospital.

Home address:  
Harefield tomorrow.

6/2/18  
J. Perrin.

A. I. F. 50.

BRYANT, L. 2136.  
HALL, W. 2174.

K. October 16th, 1917.

He was in A.Coy. A man about 5 ft 6 and slightly built. His home was somewhere in Victoria. These two were killed in our lines at Passchendaele on or about October 16th. They were in a dugout. I was in another one not far off. A shell fell up against their dugout and buried them. I afterwards saw their bodies. They were buried again right on the spot there. I heard the grave was going to be marked but did not see it done. It would be about 2 p.m. when they were killed.

Reference:- L/C. R.G. Wilson. 3648. ACOY.

L/G School.

NWH.

Ktaples  
15.2.18.

59th Battn.  
A.I.F.

Bryant. L. 2136  
Andrews C. 2123  
Marshall. W.T. 2203  
Hall. W. 2174

"Killed 16.10.17"

A letter I had from Pte. A.H. Lean 2690 59th Battn. A. Coy. (attached temporarily to 5th Div. H. Qrs. may be returned to Battalion) gave me the information that C. Andrews 2123, L. Bryant 2136, Hall, Marshall, L/Cpl. Giles, Sgt. Hubbard and W. Reynolds all 1st Pltn. were killed together in a dugout by a shell, but he did not say if they were buried. I do not remember if he said where this was or not. It was somewhere round Ypres. Lean was in a dugout only a few yards away and was saying how lucky he was.

Informant:- W.A. Cook 2648  
59th Battn. A. Coy. 1st Pltn.  
Westham.

W.A. Rand

London.  
6.3.18.

*NOTE written by Lean  
27.3.18*

M.

59th Btn.

Cpl. BRYANT, L.  
2136.

K. in act. 16/10/17.

"I knew Casualty. He was a man of medium build, about 25, known as "Len". Casualty was holding the line at Tokio Ridge when an H.E. shell landed alongside killing him instantly and six others and wounding two. I saw his body and helped to bury him. His personal effects were sent to Co. Headquarters. He was buried where he fell."

Informant:- Sgt. G. Haining,  
No. 1651, 59th Btn.

Private address:-

C/o Mrs. Foreman,  
120 Ballarat Street,  
Footscray.

H.A.T.  
14/3/19.

*Cliff Suff.*

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS INFORMATION BUREAU-MELBOURNE.