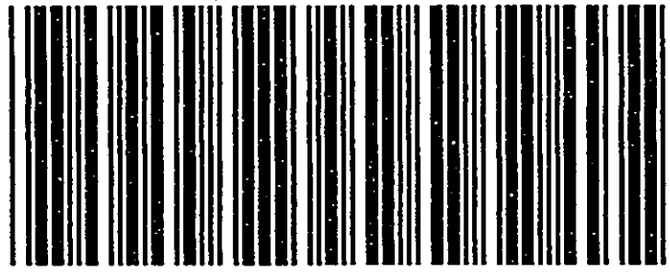
Australian Red Cross Society Wounded and Missing
Enquiry Bureau files, 1914-18 War
1DRL/0428

2996B Private
Leslie Pulsford Wills

19th Battalion



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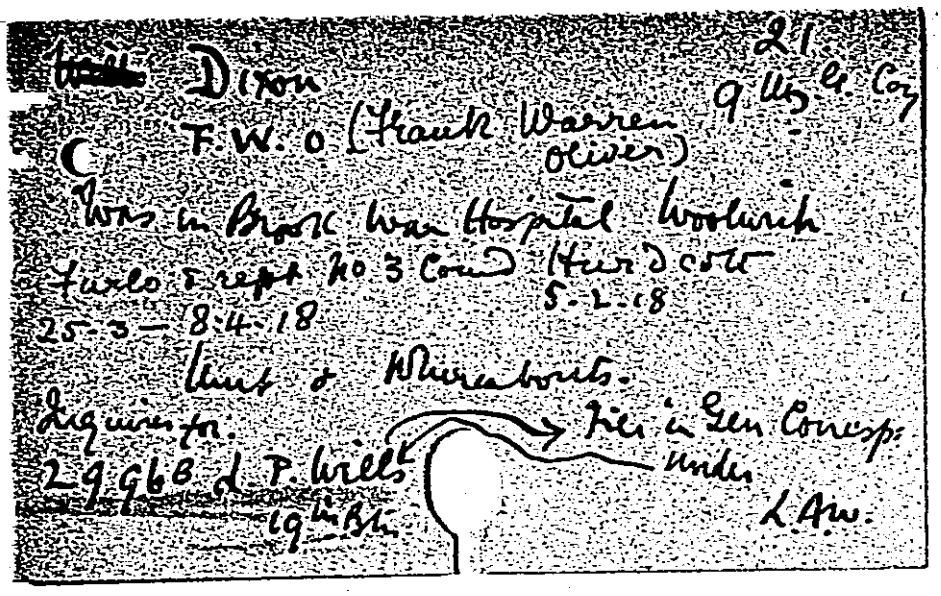


21

~~[illegible]~~ Dixon 9 Mtg. Co.

F.W.O (Frank Warren Oliver)

Was in Brook War Hospital Woolwich

Furlo & rept No 3 Cond Hurdcott 5-2-18

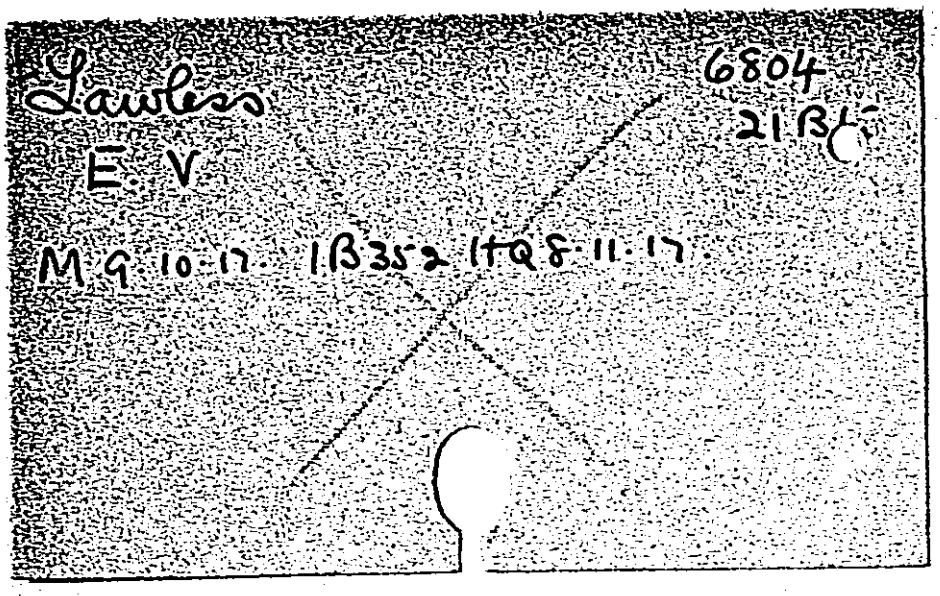
25-3 — 8-4-18

Unit & Whereabouts.

Inquiries for.

29 9 6 B L. P. Wills 19th Bn.

File in Gen Corresp. under L.A.W.



Lawless
E. V.

6804
21 B

M 9.10.17. 1B352 HQ 8.11.17.

A.I.F. 19th Btn
late 56th Btn

WILLS
L.P. 2996B

"Missing 3-5-17"

Note to Etaples.

Please inform Mr. Pulsford that we have to date no information about this man and have today sent the following L.C.O. cable as he requested in his letter of 27-6-17, to Mr. Marsh.

"Wills, - Alm St. - Ashfield, - Sydney,

Enquiring - Pulsford."

London
2-7-17

A.I.F. 19th Btn
late 56th Btn

WILLS
Leslie Pulsford (P.I) 2996B

"MISSING"

Killed in action 3-5-17 previously reported Missing
Cert. by A.I.F.Hqs 8-1-18.

S & P.I

London
17-1-18

A.I.F. 19th Btn.
late 58th Btn.

WILLS
Leslie Pulsford 2996B

K/A. 5/5/19

No trace in Germany
Cert. byCapt. Mills 10/10/19

London
20/10/19

S
P.I.

AUSTRALIAN
RED CROSS.

recd. 8.11.17

K2 ward,
Brook War Hospital,
Woolwich S.E. 18.

"The Secretary"
Wounded & Missing,
Enquiry Bureau,
London SW1.

Dear Madam,

I must sincerely thank you for your letter of the 2nd inst. concerning 2575 T. A. Dixon etc. & note contents. I expect it is too late now to make any further inquiries re my brother-in-law

2991. Pte. L. P. Wills 54th Batt.
A.I.F. & at time posted Missing
was with the 19th Battalion.
Have not heard any
particulars concerning
this case at all. Are
you able to advise me if
he is a prisoner in Germany.
Thanking you for your letter
& hoping you will be able to
find trace of the above
& regretting the sad news
concerning my brother
With Kindest Regards
Yours very Sincerely
F. M. O. Dixon.

No. 21. Private
Brookwood Hospital

L. P. Wills 19 Batt.

See under.

Pte. Fred. H. Walshe. 2803.

55 Batt.

1.7.17.

2996 Pt Leslie P.

Wills - 19 Cate 56th

Bt.

Ap. 3.5.17.

Wire aus. Mr Pulford

Kr - Herbert Wills

Sydney.

AUSTRALIAN BRANCH

B. R. C. S.

June 30.

The Austn Red Cross Commrs
London

Dr Sirs

I have your wire:—
"Herbert Mills cables
can you trace 2996
Pr Leslie Pulsford Mills
19th late 56th infantry battn
reported missing may 3 reply"

This soldier is a cousin of mine and I shall be grateful if you can give me any date for a cable in reply & if in the mean time you will put the name on the

book.
But please note that
the surname is
Wills
not
Mills

Yours faithfully
F.C. Pulford

No 2996
Pte L P Wills
19th East 5-6 Batt

Trial Draft

8.10.19.

To

Miss A. P. Wills

Eastbourne

Vansittart Rd

Torquay

Devon

Re.

2996B. L.P. Wills

15 Hoba Villas Hove Sussex

RECEIVED
[illegible] 1917
[illegible] TERRACE

Answered 13-7-17

Sirs

Having read the acct of Y Society in the Sunday Times of the 8th Inst I write to ask if it be possible to trace my nephew Private Leslie P Wills No 2996. 56th Battalion Aust Imp Forces — France. I had news from the Australian Headquarter in London. He is officially reported missing since May 3rd 1917 — His home is in Sydney New South Wales and his age is about 20 or 21. Anything you can trace I shall be most thankful for it is the uncertainty that is so very trying

I remain Yrs very truly

Mrs / Alice Page Wills

14th July 1917.

Miss. A.P. Wills,
15, Hove Villas,
Hove,
S U S S E X .

Re 2996B. Pte. Leslie P. Wills,

19th Bn. A.I.F. attd 5th

missing 3.5.17 above

Draft 5. Miss Craig

Pte. Wills

15 Hova Villas. Hove. Sussex

23.7.7

Re. 2996 B. Dr Leslie P. Wills
19th Batt. A.T.F. late 5th Batt.

Sir

In reply to y. letter regarding my nephew the above. Leslie P. Wills & for which I thank you most sincerely. I write to let you know my change of address on the 27th of July I go to Exeter in Devonshire and my address will be. 6 Carlton Terrace New North. Road - Exeter Devonshire & from there. if I shd hear. any news. I will write you without fail. It is too sad. I have another nephew. at the Front AIF but so far. he is safe.

Anxiously look. for news from you

Remain

Yrs faithfully

Alice Page Wills

Oct 18.9.17

"Eastbourne" Vansittart Road. Torquay
Devonshire

16-9.17.

Sir, I rec^d. a letter from you on July 14th 1917 in reply to my enquiries about my nephew. Pte Leslie P Wills 19 Battalion late 56. Batt^n A. I. F. reported missing since the third of May 1917

I regret to say I have no news or wd have written you as you requested. I shd be very glad of a line from you. This anxiety and waiting for news is so trying

Remain
Yrs truly
Miss Alice Page-Wills

All communications
to be addressed to
THE AGENT-GENERAL FOR NEW SOUTH WALES.

Telegraphic Address: "ALICUJUS, WESTRAND, LONDON."
Telephone No.: GERRARD, 2337 (2 LINES)

Reference No.....

Agent-General for New South Wales.
Sydney House, Cockspur Street,
Trafalgar Square, S.W.1.

August 29th 1917

Dear Sir,

I am directed by the Agent-General for New South Wales to transmit copy of an application received from Mrs. Wills, concerning her son, Private Leslie P. Wills, No. 2996, of the 19th Battalion, Australian Imperial Force, reported missing since May 3rd.

I am to ask if you will be good enough to cause enquiries to be made in this case and communicate the result at your earliest convenience.

Yours faithfully,

Secretary.

The Secretary, Branch
Australian Red Cross Society,
54 Victoria Street, S.W.

Copy letter from Mrs. E. Wills

31 Alt Street,
Ashfield, Sydney, N.S.W.

June 24th 1917

Dear Sir,

Pardon the liberty I take in writing to you but under the circumstances you will understand my son Private Leslie P. Wills, 2996 of the 19th Batn. Infantry late of the 45th has been reported missing since May 3rd this year. We received a cable June 5th saying he was missing. Both his father and I are very anxious to hear further news of him.

As a member of the Federal Association, I have been advised by Mrs. Newsome to appeal to you, she told me you would be only too pleased to do anything for us in our trouble, that would lead to finding our boy. He is the only son, just 20 years old. We have cabled through the Red Cross, they have promised to do all they can to help find him. I as a mother feel it very much. We will be very grateful to you if you could make any enquiries as I know you visit the boys in Hospital and perhaps might hear something. Thanking you in anticipation. With kind regards trusting your health has improved.

Yours faithfully,

Elizabeth Wills

September 11th, 1917.

The Agent General for New South Wales,
Sydney House,
Cockspur Street, S.W.1

Dear Sir,

We sincerely regret we have been unable to obtain any news about 2996 L.P.Wills.,
19th Battalion,
A.I.F.

Very few prisoners are coming through amongst the men missing on that date, so we fear any news now obtained will only be of his death.

Enquiries have already been made through Sydney and Mr. Pulsford here.

Under these circumstances do you wish to remain an enquirer also?

Yours faithfully,

W79

SECRETARY.

All communications
to be addressed to
THE AGENT-GENERAL FOR NEW SOUTH WALES.

Telegraphic Address: "ALICUJUS, WESTRAND, LONDON."
Telephone No.: GERRARD, 2337 (2 LINES)

Reference No. 6011.

Agent-General for New South Wales.
Sydney House, Cockspur Street.
Trafalgar Square, S.W.1.

12th September, 1917.

Dear Sir,

I am directed by the Agent-General for New South Wales to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 11th September, respecting No. 2996, L. P. Wills, 19th Battalion, A.I.F.

In view of the enquiries to which you refer which have already been made through Sydney and Mr. Pulsford in regard to the matter under reference, I am to say that it will not be necessary for the Agent-General to remain an enquirer also.

Yours faithfully,

Secretary.

The Secretary,
Wounded and Missing Enquiry Bureau,
Australian Red Cross Society,
54, Victoria Street,
S.W.1.

September 19th, 1917.

Miss A.Page-Wills,
Eastbourne, Vansittart Rd,
Torquay, Devon.

Dear Madam,

In answer to your letter of 16th inst., about your nephew No 2996 b Pte. L.P.Wills,
19th Battalion,
A.I.F.

we are very sorry to tell you that we have no further information about him and we very much fear that he is not a prisoner of war. We fully realise how great must be your anxiety about him and you may rest assured that as soon as we receive any information you will be advised immediately. Exhaustive inquiries are being made by our searchers among men of his unit in camps and hospitals but so far they have been fruitless.

Assuring you of our very sincere sympathy in this great suspense.

Yours faithfully,

V.D.,
SECRETARY.
Lpw.

F. W. O. Dixon, Esq.,
K.E.Ward,
Brooks War Hospital,
Woolwich.S.E.18.

Nov.10th, 1917.

Dear Sir,

In answer to your enquiry about -

2990? Pte.L.J.WILLS - 19th Battn.A.I.F. - we regret that since we had the report that he was missing 3.5.17 though we have done all possible, we have received no further trace of him. Could you give us the name of any friends in his battalion that we could apply to for news? We quite realise how anxious you must be and would do our best to help you.

Yours faithfully,

Secretary.

L.B.

Pte. T.W.Dixon,
K 2 Ward, Brook War Hpl.
Woolwich, S.E.18.

February 1st, 1918

Miss A.P.Wills,
Eastbourne, Vansittart Rd,
Torquay, Devon.

Re 2996B LESLIE PULSFORD WILLS, 19th Bttn, A.I.F.

Dear Madam,

We regret to inform you that the above soldier who was previously reported Missing is now reported Killed in Action on 3.5.17.

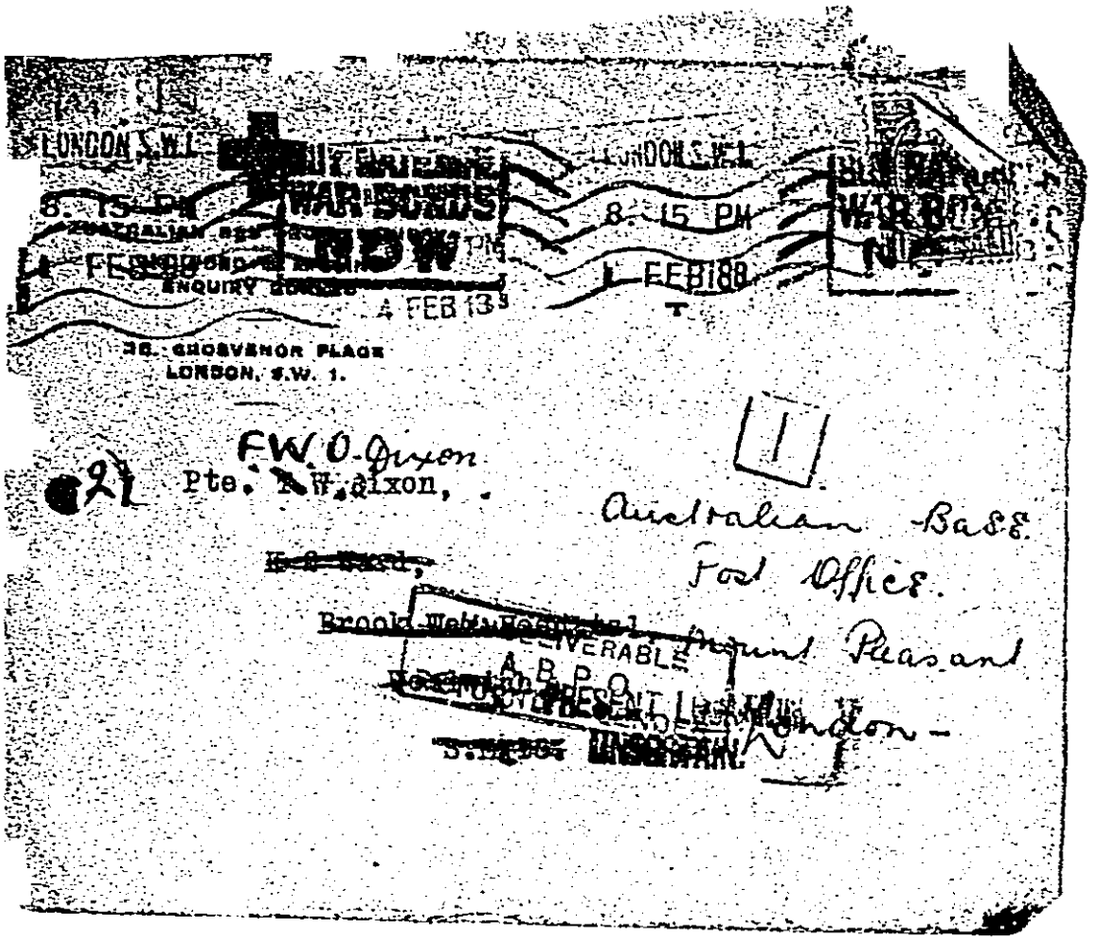
We are making further enquiries in the hope of learning details of his death and will send you any information that we receive.

Regretting the distressing character of this news.

Yours faithfully,

SECRETARY.

DMB.



LONDON S.W.1.
8. 15 PM
1 FEB 88

BUY NATIONAL WAR BONDS NOW
ENQUIRY BUREAU
4 FEB 13

LONDON S.W.1.
8. 15 PM
1 FEB 188

BUY NATIONAL WAR BONDS NOW

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

F.W.O. Dixon
2) Pte. ~~T.W.~~ Dixon,

~~H.S. Ward,~~

~~Brook Wear Hospital~~

~~Hospital~~

~~S.E.~~

DELIVERABLE
A.B.P.O.
PRESENT LOCATION
UNDERTAIN

1

Australian Base
Post Office.
Mount Pleasant
London -

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY.

TELEPHONES
Tel.: VICTORIA 8858.
VICTORIA 8576, 8577 & 8578.

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

TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS:
"QUESTMAN, LONDON."

36, GROSVENOR PLACE
84, VICTORIA STREET.
LONDON, S.W.1.

February 1st, 1918.

Type again,

21 Pte. T.W.Dixon, 9th Machine Gun Coy
~~K 8 Ward, Brook War Hpl,~~ A.I.F.
~~Woolwich, S.E.18.~~ No 3 Command Depot Hurdcott.

Re 2996B LESLIE PULSFORD WILLS, 19th Btn, A.I.F.

Dear Sir,

We regret to inform you that the above soldier who was previously reported Missing is now reported Killed in Action on 3.5.17.

We are making further enquiries in the hope of learning details of his death and will send you any information that we receive.

Regretting the distressing character of this news.

Yours faithfully,

Vera Deakin

SECRETARY.

DMB.

For God. For King & For Country

Y.M.C.A.

Y·M·C·A

H.M. FORCES ON ACTIVE SERVICE

Y.M.C.A.

PATRON
Y.M.C.A. NATIONAL COUNCIL.
H.M. THE KING.

PATRON
MILITARY CAMP DEPT
H.R.H. DUKE OF CONNAUGHT.

Reply to _____ Company _____ Bat. _____ Regt. April 12th 1918. 191

Stationed at. No 3 Command Depot
Hurdcott.

To the Secretary
Aust. Red. Cross.
Wounded & Inquiry Bureau,
36 Grosvenor Place
London S.W.1.

Dear Madam,

Your information to hand this morning & at the same time must express my regret at receiving such distressing news.

However I Sincerely thank you for the way in which you handled the case of 2996B Leslie P. Wills 19 Batt. A.I.F. also for your kind attention to my inquiries.

Thanking you once again & looking forward to receiving any further details of his death.

Yours very Sincerely.
F. W. Oliver Dixon