

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

**3203 Private
Leslie Spriggs**

3rd Battalion



2600103C

August 8th, 1917.

Mr
S. Whitsee, Esq.,
Australian Red Cross Representative,
No. 4. Command Depot,
Codford, Wilts.

Dear Sir,

We beg to inform you that No 3203 Pte. Leslie Spriggs,
3rd Batth, A.I.F., has been transferred to Gefangenenlager
Minden, Westfalen, Germany, to which address parcels are
now being sent.

Yours faithfully,

RP
Secretary.
RW

Limburg/Lahn

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS
WORGRET CAMP.
WAREHAM.

Miss V. Deastin,
A.R.C.
London.

*sent card with
address required.*

Dear Miss Deastin,
The cancellation
sheet dated 26/5/17, contains the
name of 3203, L. Spriggs. 3rd Bn,
as "prisoner of war".

I shall be
glad to receive his address
in Germany, in order to write
him.

I thank you,
yours etc.

No. 3255. J. G. WATT. (S) 17
3rd Bn.

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS
WORGRET CAMP.
WAREHAM.

A.I.F. 3rd Batn.

SPRIGGS,
Lester 3203.
(Leslie)

Repatriated Prisoner of War.

Arrived Ripon 22-11-18.

Cert. by Inf. from A.I.F. H.Q. 25-11-18

London,
28-11-18.

P.I. & S.

3rd Batt,
A.I.F.

Spriggs,
Leslie 3203.

"Prisoner of War"

Transferred Minden, from Limburg

Cert, by information by Post-Card from Man dated 1.6.17

London
31.7.17

P.I & S

3rd Batt,
A. I. F.

Leslie, Spriggs,
3203.

"Missing 2.3.17"

Prisoner of War, - Interned at Limburg,
Cert, by W.O.List, dated 18.5.17.

London
25.5.17.

S.&.P.I.

3rd Batt,
A.I.F.

Leslie Spriggs,
3203.

"Prisoner of War"

Transferred Sennelager bei Paderborn

Cert, by Bureau de Secours Berne - Post-Card dated 13.8. 17

London 21.8.17

P.I & S

3rd Battn.
A. I. F.

Spriggs.L. 3203.
Hannon. J 5781.
Lindfield.A. 4050.
Kinsella.G. 2355.

"Missing 2.3.17."

Were in B Coy Lewis Machine Gun. They were all taken prisoners at daybreak on March 3rd. Fritz came over and raided our trench and took the above men also the gun. We recaptured the gun. There were 43 of our boys taken, but we recaptured most of them. They were taken from a position known as "triptrench" to the left of Theloy. I saw them being taken.

Witness:-

T. J. McConville.344.
3rd Battn.
Dartford.

W. G. J.

London.
26.5.17.

Note Kinsella is Prisoner of War.

S.
S.
S.F.I
P.I.W

3rd. A. I. F.

Spriggs, L. 3203.

Let P of W
(M. March 2/17.)

"It is understood in the battalion that Pte. Spriggs (3.B. L.G.S.) is a prisoner of war. We were on the left of Bapaume opposite the Maze, just after the evacuation started in March, and we had dug ourselves a trench overnight. Next morning the Germans counter-attacked and took prisoner one post consisting of about 12 men. I was in the next post about 200 yards away. Although the Germans were so far successful they did not occupy the trench, and we all reckon those 12 men are prisoners."

Description:-- Rather short, medium build, called "Spriggsie."

Informant:-- Pte. William Lyons, 1985,
3rd. Australians, B Coy, V Fltn.
3rd Southern General Hospital,
Cowley Section, Oxford.

Home address:-- "Kyarris".
Gibbone St,
Wellington, N. S. W.

April 27th
J. M. Payne.

Written Adf 9.5.17

Regimental Report.

- 1.-

A. I. F. 3.

Goodger, G. 6610
Haworth, J. E. 135.
Jones, W. E. 6432.

Kinsella, G. 2355
Nash, H. V. 6426.
Spriggs, L. 3203.

M/March 2nd 1917. (Bel P of War)

On March 2nd, before daylight, I had to go out to a m.gun post 150-200 yards ahead of our front line beyond Lingny Tilley. It was small and crowded - about 20 men. I remember recognising Spriggs and Haworth. After this, the enemy made a bombing raid on us and got between us and that post, as I myself later carried in two Germans, one dead and one wounded, from there. That night we advanced and dug in level with that post and I saw a fresh party go into it.

Reference: J. Bowen, 5773. 3.B.VI.
No. I A. D.B.D.

While on sentry on the occasion referred to, about daylight, I saw a bunch of men being marched away from this post towards the German line. Just after dusk that night, Cpl Leary (B.Coy.M.Gun) went to the post, and was challenged by a Hun

contd.

Regimental Report. contd. -2-

A. I. F. 2.

Goodger, G, 6510.
(& 5 others).

I heard him reporting this to the officer. The officer sent a section of bombers to clear them out. They found all our men's equipment there, but no m.gun. My brother, Harold Sippel (6570.I.B still with them) was one of this party and told me this. We then advanced about 200 yards and made a incorporating this post, which was then re-occupied by our men. I was in this advance. My brother Harold, saw the team which occupied the post on the night of the 1st. (he was one of the team being relieved) and I remember him telling me he recognised Nash, Goodyer, Jones, and Kinsella; and Spriggs must also have been there as he was first man in that team.

Reference: Sippel, Leslie. 6571.3.B.VI.

No I A.D.B.D.

(N.B. Both witnesses affirmed that the following men were also in the post, but could not give eye-witness
contd.

Regimental Report. contd. -3-

A. I. F. 3.

Goodger, G, 6510—
(& 5 others).

Evidence thereof:

Edwell.	R.H. 3059.
Hannon.	G. 6781.
Harvey.	R.D. 1557A.

Staples,
14.4.17.
P.H.S.

A. I. F. 3.

SPRIGGS, L. 3203.
LINDFIELD, A. 4050.

M. March 2nd, 1917.

These two were out with others on an outpost in a somewhat isolated position in front of Le Sars and when the relieving party arrived there was no trace of them. The missing men were about 19 in all and included a full machine & gun team, some bombers, and riflemen. Lindfield, tall, well built, dark, 21-22. Spriggs, 5'7", nuggetty, fair, 22.

FJE.

References:- Fox, S.T. 1849. B.VIII.
No. 1 Can. Gen. Hosp.

Etaples
12.5.17. S

3rd A. I. E.

L. SPRIGGS, 3203

Missing 2.3.17.

Spriggs went out on outpost duty with five men and a Machine Gun at night about 100 yards from our line near Thillooy. There is strong evidence that he was taken Prisoner. Informant went with a Section next morning to search for them. They had all disappeared, but some of their kit was lying about.

Reference: Pte. A. J. Ogilvie, 6328, B. Coy.

No. 11 Stationary, Rouen, 15.5.17.

VME.

3rd A. I. E.

L. SPRIGGS, 3203

Missing 2.3.17.

On 2nd March/17, we were on outpost duty at Ligny Thillois. Spriggs, who was No.1 on a L.M.G., was with his Gun in charge of another party at another outpost about 400 yards further out on our right. I visited this outpost early in the morning and Spriggs and his party and Gun were all right then. A large German raiding party came over later in the morning on our right and on our left. About 7.0 that evening I, with my party, again visited Spriggs' outpost and found them all gone, gun and all. Nothing more was heard of any of them and it was assumed in the Battn. that they had all been taken Prisoners by this German raiding party.

Reference: Sergt.V.Driscoll, 3745, B.Coy. No.5 Pl.

No.9 General, Rouen, 18.5.17. P.W

WTMR.

P.1 S.6^d

Havre

27th May, 1917.

3rd AUSTRALIANS

~~SPZIGGS, L. 3203~~

~~Edwell, S.N. 3089~~

~~Landfield, A. 4050~~

~~Harvey, R.D. 1557A~~

All M. 2.3.17.

They were in B Co. They were in an outpost and surrounded and taken prisoners of war at Le Barque. I don't think they were wounded. I know for a fact that they were in the outpost at the time the Germans made the raid. It has come through the Battalion H.Q. that they are prisoners of war.

Informant: Pte O. Mills; 2483

3rd Australians, B Co.,

H. S. Grantully Castle.

P.V.

P.I.

Ed

Not sent on

238

ENQUIRIES.

✓ SPRIGGS L. 3203.

3rd Batt.

A letter from France tells us that soldier was last seen surrounded, with the rest of his gun crew, by Germans, and is a prisoner of war. Will you make enquiries, and if possible, send us his address. The information in the ~~xxx~~ letter, is not definite enough to send through as a statement.

✓ FLOWERS E. ~~XXXX~~.
F. 3512.

60th Batt.

Soldier's name was on our "Enquiry" list, but has been taken off for some time. His brother wishes to secure any information you have been able to discover.

()
May 8th., '17.
S. W.

Worgret Camp,
WAREHAM.

(3rd Battn.
A. I. F.

Jones. Pte. W. E. 6432.
Spriggs. Pte. E. 3203.
Haworth. Cpl. J. E. 135.

"Missing 2.5.17."

We have no official information that the above are Prisoners of War. No one in the Battalion has received any communication from them. All that is known here is that they are missing believed to be Prisoners of War. Three men who were on the same outpost have been officially reported to be at Dulmen, Germany.

Letter from:-
Major.
Commanding 3rd Battn.
A.I.F. 17.5.17.

Note The three here referred to as prisoners are evidently
2355 G. Kinsella.
518 O.L. Smith.
2877 H.M. Murray.

London.
31.5.17.

1 copy sent Sydney for Gmp

S.
S. & P.I.

(Plt. L. Spriggs

3103

3 Ball.

See under

^{W. J.}
(Plt. Jones. 6432.

3 Ball.

4.5.17.

Plu. L. Springs 3203
3 Batt.

See under.

Plu. W. L. Jones 6432.
3 Batt

15. 5. 17.

(Pl. Leslie Spriggs.

3203.

3 Ball.

see under.

Pl. Alf. Lindqvist

4050.

3 Ball

30-5-17.