

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

2027 Private  
George Thomas  
Littleboy

42nd Battalion



1610708N

42nd Batt,  
A.I.F.

Littleboy,  
George, T 2027.

"Missing 25.2.17"  
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Died 25.26.2.17 - Personal effects forwarded

Cert, by German Nachlass List dated 20.8.17

London 17.9.17

Off M.

42nd A. I. F.

Littleboy, Pte. G. V. 2027,

(M. Feb: 25/17.)

"The 42nd Battn were attached to us when I went to the trenches about April 14th., and I asked a lot of them about Littleboy whom I knew well as he came from Australia with me. I do not know any of their names. They told me that he had gone out with a covering party and they had disappeared. It was near Armentieres I think at Quality St.

Description:-- About 5ft. 4ins., fair moustache from Queensland.

Informant:--Pte. Wm. Henry Lindsay. 1963.  
41. A. I. F. C Coy, 11 Pl.  
Charing Cross Hospital, London

Home address:-- None in England except the depot.

11 30th  
R. Hamer Hampson.

42nd A. I. F.,

Littleboy, Pte. G. V., 2027,

M. Feb. 25th 1917.

"I was adjutant of the Regt. It was reported to me that on the 25th February, two men (I am pretty well certain they were Littleboy and McKie) were with others, a covering party to a wiring party. The Germans discovered the wiring party and bombed them with pineapple bombs and whizz bangs and drove the party back. When the firing was quieter the Sgt. in charge of the wiring party went out to bring in the covering party. He could not find them. We had scouts out.. Eventually one man of the three came back and said he had missed his mates and had been wandering in No Mans Land as far as the German wire. McKie has sent a post card to his sister saying he is a prisoner in Germany. The matter has been reported on fully and the proceedings sent to the base at Rouen."

Eye Witness: No, see above.

Description:

Informant:-- Capt. F.J. Hibbin,  
42nd A. I. F.,  
3rd Southern General Hospital,  
Somerville Section, Oxford.

4.5.17.

Trevelyn. Home address:-- Hall St., Adderley, Brisbane.

42nd Battn.  
B. Coy.  
A. I. F.

Littleboy.  
Pte. G. T. 2027.

"Missing 25.2.17."

McKie.  
Pte. A. 442.

These men were in a wiring party at night in no man's land. The Germans saw the party and scattered them with M.G. fire. The others got back, but these men disappeared. Lieut. Jamieson told me he had tapped a German 'phone saying they (the Germans) had just got two wounded prisoners, and we think it was these men. I reported this at Nopsbury Hospital.

Witness:-

Sgt. A. A. Cousner 304.  
42nd Battn. B. Coy.  
Southall.

P.C.

Note Written Lieut. Jamieson for Littleboy  
11.5.17.

London.  
17.5.17.

Off.M.

A.I.F. 42.

LITTLEBOY, G.T. 2027.

M. Feb 25th 1917.

Littleboy and McKie and Doug. Ellis were covering a wiring party at L'EpINETTE one night about March I think. It was pitch dark, and the party slept-up split up and got into shell holes when shelling began. Ellis got back and is with the Battn now, but Littleboy and McKie never came back, and could not be found though we searched everywhere. Either they took the wrong direction when they left cover, or got caught by a German patrol - that is what is believed. We have had information that McKie is a prisoner in Germany.

Inf: Sgt. J. Bogue. 277. B.  
No. 14 General.  
BOULOGNE. 12.6.17.

*D.W. as P. War German List 23.5.17*

JT

*RI  
OK  
1/1*

A.I.F. 42

LITTLEBOY, B.T. 2027

M. February 25th. 1917.

I knew him very well. It was during a big raid by the Germans at Armentieres. He got taken prisoner in this raid. Several of the chaps said he was taken prisoner and his mate's whose name is Pte Metcalfe knows definitely that he is a prisoner. I know that someone had a letter from him from Germany, and I expect it is Metcalfe who has had the letter. Littlebby is the same company as Metcalfe namely B. and the same platoon, No.7.

Informant to J.E. Sweaney. 482.  
No. 3 Can. Gen.  
BOULOGNE. 16.6.17.

*D.W. as P. War - German List  
23.5.17*

RAOI

*RI  
OK  
1/1*

AUSTRALIAH. 42.

LITTLEBOY. G.T. 2027.

M. Feb 25th 1917.

He was lost on covering party for wirers. This was in the Armentieres sector. Fritz turned his M.Gs on to the wirers. All wirers got back and one man of covering party but nothing was ever heard of him again. He was in the same company with me,

Inf: Pte J.H. Rowe. 1902. B.  
Dublin 83 General  
BOULOGNE. 21.6.17.

WF

42nd A. I. F.,

Littleboy, Pte. G.T., 2027,

W. Feb. 25th 1917.

"Littleboy whom I knew, was sent out of my trench with a wiring party in No Mans Land on Feb. 25th 1917. They were discovered by the enemy who opened machine gun fire on them. They scattered in all directions, some boys regaining our trenches safely, but Littleboy ran in the wrong direction and was seen running unharmed into the German lines."

Eye Witness:

Description:

Informant:-- Sgt. W.H. Bell, 269,  
42nd A.I.F.,  
Naval Hospital,  
St. Albans.

Home address:-- 18, Phoebe Street,  
Islington, Newcastle,  
Australia.

22.6.17.

*Check Pte  
G.T.  
Did R.W.*

42nd A. I. F.,

Littleboy, Pte. G.T., 2027,  
B.Coy., VII Pltn.,

W. Feb. 25th 1917.

"I knew Littleboy. On February 25th 1917 the Germans raided our trenches and took three prisoners, Littleboy being one of them."

Eye Witness: He, told by Pte. Metcalf of the same Company who was present at the time.

Description: Nothing particular.

Informant:-- Pte. J. Sweaney, 482,  
42nd A. I. F., B. Coy. VII Pltn.,  
Colchester Military Hospital.

Home address:-- Newry Bar, Richmond, River, N.S.W.

23.6.17.

H. Stephens.

*Check Pte  
G.T.  
Did R.W.*

42nd A. I. F.,

Littleboy, Pte. G.T., 2027,  
B.Coy., 7 Pltn.,

M. Feb. 25th 1917.

"It was generally known in the Battalion that Pte. Littleboy while on duty on No Mans Land was wounded and then taken prisoner."

Eye Witness: No, general information.

Description: 5ft.5ins in height, very broad build.

Informant:-- Pte. J. Turner, 1984,  
42nd A. I. F., B. Coy., 8 Pltn.,  
Edmonton Hospital.

Home address:-- Ashbocking,  
Nr. Ipswich, Suffolk.

25.6.17.  
C.Sinclair.

*Did R. W.*

*W. H.  
R. W.  
G.*



A.I.E.

47<sup>th</sup> Batt.

Littleboy,  
George I 2027;

"Missing 25.2.17"

Prisoner of War died 25/26/2/17. East of Armentires,

Gert, by information from German List dated 23.5.17

London  
25.6.17

Off H

Havre

30th June 1917

42nd AUSTRALIANS

LIE LITTLEBOY, G.E. 2027

Missing 25th Feb. 1917

Littleboy is in B. Co. 7th Platoon; he came from Queensland and was a farm labourer - he came over with the 2nd Reinforcement to the 42nd Battalion. I had known him for 6 months. I was at the Bombing School with him and became well acquainted with him there. 2027 is about his No. We were holding the line in the Lobinet sector on the Armentieres front on the 25th Feb. 1917 - the Germans raided us and took Littleboy prisoner of war. We heard screams later and sent out a patrol about 11.30 p.m., of which I was one. We found Littleboy lying dead near the German wire and brought his body in and buried it next day in the Military Cemetery at Armentieres. There is a cross with his name, number and battalion on the grave.

Informant: I/C. G.J. Read 683  
42nd Australians B. Co. 7th Pltn  
Australian Camp, Boulogne

Official  
File



2204 Lieut Oliver K. Littleboy  
A Company  
69<sup>th</sup> Battalion  
Worrigee Camp  
Wareham  
Direct

ans  
6.6.17

June 20<sup>th</sup> 17

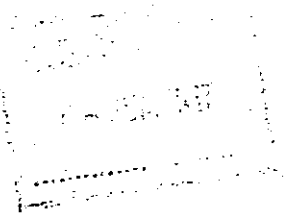
To

Headquarters

Australian Red Cross Society

Could you kindly let me know any news concerning my poor brother A. J. Littleboy 2027 of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Battalion! supposed to have been reported missing since Feb 20<sup>th</sup> 17. I will if very likely be in London during the month. So if I do not get any word I will call round. Hoping I will hear good news concerning him.

and oblige  
Lieut Oliver Littleboy



04. 11 M

7th June

7

2209. Pte Oliver Littleboy,  
69th Batt, A. I. F.  
Worgrot Camp,  
Wareham,  
Dorset,

Dear Sir,

In reference to your inquiry for  
2027. Pte J.T. Littleboy, 42nd Batt A.I.F.  
reported missing 25.2.17. we beg to ~~inform you~~ the following  
unofficial information concerning him.

Pte. W.H. Lindsay 1963, 41st Battalion A. I. F. on  
30.1.17. made the following statement "The 42nd Batt, was  
attached to us when I went to the trenches about April 14th  
and I asked a lot of them about Littleboy whom I knew well as  
he came from Australia with me. I do not know any of their  
names. They told me he had gone out with a covering party and  
they had disappeared. It was near Armentieres I think - at  
Quality St," Informant describes Littleboy, as 5ft. 9" high  
with a fair moustache. He came from Queensland. Capt E.  
J. Dibdin 42nd Batt, states "I was adjutant of the Regt. It  
was reported to me that on 25th Feb two men, I am pretty well

certain they were Littleboy and McKiP) were with others, a covering party, to a wiring party. The Germans discovered the wiring party and bombed them and drove them back. When the firing was quieter the Sgt in charge of the wiring party went out to bring in the covering party. He could not find them. We had scouts out

Eventually one man came back and said he had missed his mates and had been wandering in no Mans Land as far as the German wire.

McKiP has sent a P. C. to his sister saying he is a prisoner in Germany". This information has also been given by

309. Sgt A.A. Cousner 42nd Batt, -

"Littleboy and McKiP were in a wiring party at night in No Man's Land" The Germans saw the party and scattered it with H. G. fire. The others got back, but these men disappeared. Lt. Jamieson told me he had tapped a German phone when it was saying they (the Germans) had just got two wounded prisoners and we think it was these men."

We cannot of course vouch for the accuracy of evidence obtained in this way - and would advise you not to accept it as conclusive in the absence of more definite information. Pte. G.T. Littleboys' name has not come through on any of our lists of Prisoners of War in Germany. We will do our best to obtain any further information respecting your brother. and hope we will have succeeded by the time you come to London.

Yours faithfully,

B. McC  
Secretary,

Leib JAMIESON /  
B Co

42 BATTAL  
B E F

Go

2027 <sup>RE</sup> G.T. LITTLEBOY  
B Co

42 BATTAL

M. 25. 2. 17

8. 6. 17

July 4th. 1917

2204 Pte. Oliver Littleboy,  
A. Company,  
69th. Batta., A.I.F.  
Worret Camp,  
WARRENHAM.

Dear Pte. Littleboy,

In answer to your enquiry we deeply  
regret to tell you your brother :-

2027 Pte. C.T. LITTLEBOY, 42nd. Batta., A.I.F.  
is now officially reported to have died as a Prisoner of  
War 25.2.17. East of Armentieres. This information has come  
through on a German list dated 23.6.17. Several unofficial  
reports we have received concerning him all bear evidence to  
the fact that your brother was wounded and taken Prisoner while  
with a wiring party on 25.2.17.

We wish to send you our most sincere sympathy  
in your great loss.

Yours faithfully,

Secretary.

*B. H. H.*

July 16th. 1917.

2204 Pte. Oliver Littleboy,  
A. Company,  
69th. Battalion,  
No. 4 Command Depot,  
Codford,  
WILTS.

Dear Pte. Littleboy,

Since writing to advise you that your brother :-

2027 Pte. G.F. LITTLEBOY, 42nd. Battn.A.E.F.

is officially <sup>proved</sup> by a German death list to have died just behind the  
line at Armentieres, ~~we~~ we have received an unofficial report from a  
man in his Unit-663 L/Cpl. G.J. Read, who certifies they found your  
brothers' dead body near the German wire and brought his body in and  
buried it the following day in the Military Cemetery at Armentieres.

We have now applied to the Graves Registration  
for a photograph of the grave which if obtainable will be sent to the  
nearest of kin.

We feel it will be of very great comfort to you  
to know your brothers' body was buried and cared for by some of his  
comrades and reclaimed ~~so to speak~~ from the enemy.

Yours faithfully,

*Miss McCannel*

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