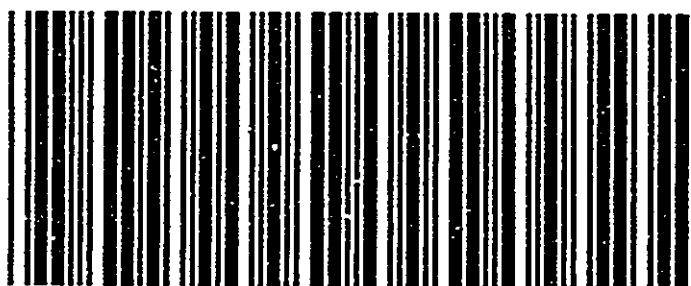


Australian Red Cross Society Wounded and Missing
Enquiry Bureau files, 1914-18 War
1DRL/0428

Captain
Arthur Harold Appleby

12th Battalion



01202027

12th A.I.F.

Appleby, Capt. A.H.

(K. May 6/17)

"Capt. Appleby, who was the C.O. of my Coy. was hit in the head by a piece of shell while we were being heavily shelled after the Bullecourt attack. I was one of the stretcher bearers who carried him to a dugout close by where he died about half an hour after. He was buried in a Sunken Road about $\frac{1}{2}$ of mile behind the line and Griffiths of C. Co. XI Pl. was, I believe, one of those who took the body to be buried."

Eye-witness:

Description:

Informant:- Pte. S.J. White, 5497
12th A.I.F. C. XI.
Richmond Military Hospital, Grove Road.

Home address:

July 3.
A.G. Campbell

Written Pte Griffiths 5777 H.

12th A.I.F.

Appleby Capt. A.H.
C. Company.

(K. May 6/17 Det. D/F)

In the action at Bullecourt on 6th May 1917 in which this Battalion was engaged, Pte. McKierman saw his Capt. - Capt. Appleby shot dead. He was subsequently present at his burial, and helped to carry the corpse, and was present during the ceremony, and saw the earth shovelled in. The location was close to the Railway dump, to the right of Bullecourt, near to the third Dressing Station between Bullecourt and Norielle. The grave was a detached one, surrounded by barbed wire and a cross was erected.

Eye-witness: Yes

Description:

Informant: Pte. J. McKierman 677,
12th A.I.F., C. Coy.,
4th London General Hospt., Denmark Hill.

July 6/17,
A. Haywood.

Written Pte McKierman 6777

Havre

11th July, 1917.

12th AUSTRALIANS

APPLEBY, Capt. A.H.

K. 6.5.17. Det. D/B.

He was killed by a shell being hit in the head in the front line trenches at Bullecourt in the early morning. He was buried out in the open about 1000 yards ~~from~~ behind our front line. His grave is marked.

Informant: Corpl. J. Dooley, 1709
12th Australians, CCo.
H. S. Warilda.

RBE

At.

Havre

21st July, 1917.

12th AUSTRALIANS

APPLEBY, Capt. A.H.

A. Day 6th. 1917. Det. D/B.

I know a Capt. Appleby who was Captain of my company - C.Co. It was at Bullecourt in the Hindenburg line that he was hit by a shrapnel bullet in the head. He was buried near the 1st Dressing Station on the right hand side of the sunken road. Lieut. Adams was also buried alongside of him. I saw Capt. Appleby's grave with a cross erected and his name etc on it.

Informant: Lt. -ingley, 1709
12th Australians, C. Co., M. 10.
H. S. Warilda, Havre.

A. I. F. 12.

²⁵³⁴
APPLEY, Capt. A.H.

2. May 6th, 1917.

I have seen his grave in a sunken road about 3 yards from the advanced aid post at Bullecourt. A cross was erected with name, rank and regiment on. Lieut. Adams is buried next him. I saw the grave shortly after May 6th. He only remained there 4 days. He held all that ground now. The battn. Pioneers buried him. I know nothing as to his death.

Reference:- W/Cpl. F. Mitchell, 2639. D. XIII
L. Gun School.

RHS.

Staples
21.7.17.

Barre

29th July, 1917.

12th AUSTRALIANS

APPLEY, Capt. A.H.

R. 6.5.17. Det. D/B.

He was killed by a shell during the early morning in the Hindenburg line, being hit in the head. He was also buried by the shell, but his body was dug out and he was buried in one of the cemeteries on the right of Bullecourt.

Informant: Pte. A.G. Seymour, 6083
12th Australians, C Co.,
Hos. Ship, Kalyan.

41.
RHS

12th A. I. F.

⁶
Capt. A. H. APPLEBY

Killed ~~33333333~~ 6.5.17. Det.D/B.

His name is wrongly spelt in the book, it should be Appleby. He was in C.Coy. and was killed at Bullecourt on the 6th May/17. He was hit in the back of the head when in a trench where he died. Lieut.Radford was the only Officer left in C.Coy.

Reference: Pte.A.F.Smith, 5982, A.Coy.

No.5 General, Rouse, 31.7.17.

WMR.

H
d
S
t



12th Battn.
A. I. F.

Appleby.
Captain. A. H.

"Killed 6.5.17"

Refer to Pte. E. Reid 6337 C.Coy. 12th Battn; 12th Platoon who saw him killed, he is still in France.

Witness:-

Pte. W. Bailey 6235.
12th Battn. C.Coy. 12th Pl.
3rd Aust.Aux.Hospital.
Dartford.

W,Oman.

London.
3.8.17.

H.

Note Written Pte. Reid 31.7.17.

12th Battn.
C. Coy.
A. I. F.

Appleby.
Captain A.H.

"Killed 6.5.17"

His name is spelt wrongly in the book, it is Appleby not Appley.
I knew him very well and certain of his name. I saw him carried
down into the Headquarters dug-out at Bullecourt the 6th of May
1917. I assisted to dress his wounds, his brains were protruding.
A shell burst close to him, he lived two hours breathing heavily.
Stretcher Bearers were going to try to get him out for burial. Refer
to Pte. L. O'Loughlin 12th Battn. C.Coy. 10th Platoon he was there
and helped to dress his wounds, he should know if he was buried.
He was very popular with the men.

Witness:-

Pte. J.P.O'Brien 5443.
12th Battn. C.Coy.
3rd Aust. Aux. Hospital.
Dartford.

N. Oman.

London.

3.8.17.

Note Written Pte. O'Loughlin 31.7.17.

H.

12th Battn.
A. Coy.
A. I. F.

Appleby.
Capt. A.H.

"Killed 6.5.17"

I was an eye-witness of this casualty. This officer was killed
instantly while commanding A. Coy, during the attack at Bullecourt
on May 6th 1917. A machine gun bullet penetrated the body, he also
had other wounds. I saw him fall, but when I went up to him he was
quite dead. I was also wounded myself soon after this, and was
taken from Battalion. Did not see his burial.

Witness:-

S. R. Gillam 5979
B.Coy. 11th Battn.
Perham Downs Camp.

A. R. McPhee.

London.

9.8.17.

S.
H.

12th Battn.
A. I. F.

Appleby.
Capt. A. H.

"Killed 6.5.17"

Near Bullecourt Sunday May 6th. Hit in Head by piece of shell.
He was taken to dug-out and died Sunday morning. I was in dug-out
when he died also two stretcher bearers. He was a fine man, real
good sort.

Witness:-

D. F. Dickson.

Cpl. Kaye 2600
7.33. Harefield.

London.
10.8.17:

H.

12th Battn.
C. Coy.
A. I. F.

Appleby.
Capt. A. H.

"Killed 6.5.17"

I saw him killed at Bullecourt on the 6th of May 1917 by a Trench Mortar bomb, he died almost immediately after casualty, he never spoke. He was hit on the head and body. He was very popular. He recommended me for a Military Medal which I received. I was very fond of him. His belongings were given to me. I handed them to Captain Vowler 12th Battalion C.Coy. He was not buried, left in the dug-out at the Bullecourt Line with a sheet over him. We lost the ground. I did not see his grave. We were driven out twice that day. That day I was wounded. His name was spelt wrongly.

Witness:-

Pte. L. Hassen 2609
12th Battn. C.Coy. 13th Pl.
3rd Aust. Aux. Hospital.
Dartford.

W. Oman.

London.
13.8.17.

H.

12th Battalion

Appleby, Capt. A.H.

13th Platoon

Witness:-
Pte. L. Hassen 2609
12th Battn. C.Coy. 13th Pl.
3rd Aust. Aux. Hospital.
Dartford.

Witness:-
W. Oman.

Witness:-
Pte. L. Hassen 2609

Witness:-
W. Oman.

Witness:-
Pte. L. Hassen 2609

13th Platoon
13.8.17.

M
S

12th Battn
A.I.F.

Appleby.
Cptn. A.H.

"Killed in Action 6.5.17."

Re. Pte. L.O'Loughlin of C. Coy. 12th Battn has asked me to supply you the following information re death of Cptn. A.H. Appleby of same Coy. and Battn. I went into to Bullacourt as second in command to the above mentioned officer and if I remember correctly on May 5th the morning after we had taken over the line he was visiting his men as he did not return and being engaged on some job I found him half buried and suffering from a severe wound in the head. Had him taken to our Coy., Hdqtrs and handed him over to O'Loughlin who was head stretcher bearer and he tended his wounds. The Cptn did not regain consciousness and just prior to him passing away lockjaw set in but that was remedied without avail. When we were relieved the Cptn. was buried quite near to the line a rough cross being placed to mark his last resting place along with another of his company officer's not being in a soldiers cemetery but exact map reference and location was furnished to other channels as in other cases for registration. His only brother was taken to the place I understand after we had evacuated that area and details supplied etc., As regards his identity Well, I have been with this Coy., under Cptn Appleby for some considerable time so a

12th Battn
A.I.F.

Appleby.
Cptn. A.H.

mistake is impossible.

Letter from Ralph D. Radford. Lieut.
dated 6.8.17.

London.
1.9.17.

H

F.M. 16.07

~~O'Dougherty~~
Capt A. H. APPEBY ~~123~~ 123 at 11/17

6/8/17.

3

It is from the ...
... of R.C. ...

Dear ...

Private ...

... and he ... the following ...
... of ...

... in ...
... on 5th, this morning ...
... he was ...
... he did not return ...
... he found him ...

... from a severe wound in the head,
had him taken to our company headquarters & hand-
ed him over to O'Dougherty, who was head stretcher
bearer, & he tended his wounds. The captain did
not regain consciousness, & just prior to him pass-
ing away, lockjaw set in, but that was remedied
all without avail.

When we were relieved, the capt. was
buried quite near to the line, a rough cross being
placed to mark his last resting place, along with

another of his company; or vice, not being in a
soldiers' cemetery, but exact map reference + loca-
tion was furnished to other channels, as in other
cases, or registration

This other matter was taken
place - I understand, after we had vacated
area, + details supplied etc..

As regards his identity, well, I have
been with this company under Capt. Upsher for
some considerable time, so a mistake is im-
possible.

Trusting above will be borne

in our sincerity,

Ralph H. Hartford (R)

17.8.17

Lieut. W.D. WILFORD,
1st Australian Infantry Battalion. A.I.F. 20th A.

Dear Sir,

I have been asked by our informant to
our enquiries - W.D. WILFORD -

service number 11111111

1st Battalion. A.I.F.

The information you have sent will be of considerable value and
of value to our enquiries.

Our object in asking for identification in this case is a report
forwarded to our enquiries is obtained as well as to know how long
such detail as home town in Australia or elsewhere, occupation in
civil life previous to enlistment whether an original man or a
Reinforcement, personal description etc.: so that the relatives
may be convinced that the man about whom our informant is speaking
is indeed their son, brother or husband etc.

If you were known personally to Capt. Appleby's relatives of
course your name would be sufficient guarantee that you were
speaking of him: but if your acquaintance was only since joining
the Battalion they may not know your name.

Yours faithfully,

Secretary.

VAD

Jlu