**6557 Leslie John McCulloch**

**6th Australian Field Ambulance**

Leslie John McCulloch was born in 1897 to John & Agnes McCulloch in Glenferrie. Sands & McDougall of 1915 lists their address as 40 Manningtree Road, Hawthorn. By 1916 the family had moved to 84 High Street, Kew. The Victorian Electoral Roll of 1925 has the Kew address & lists his father’s occupation as ‘grain Merchant’; also listed are his mother Agnes – home duties, his siblings Agnes King – typiste & Frederick George – student.

On enlistment on 14th June 1915 with his parent’s consent, Leslie’s occupation was given as ‘clerk’. He was 18 years & 7 months, 171cm tall & weighed 68kg with a fresh complexion, blue eyes & light brown hair. He had previous military service in the 53rd Glenferrie Infantry Regiment & the 56th Infantry Company, Richmond - “Yarra Borderers’.

Along with all of Kew’s young men who enlisted, Leslie was presented with the “Roll of Honour – Town of Kew” certificate signed by the Mayor of Kew – Cr FR Ratten & the Town Clerk – H Harrison. Our copy was found by Ray Waters in a shop in Kew & given to the Kew RSL in November 2017.

After basic training, Leslie embarked for Egypt as a private 6th Australian Field Ambulance reinforcements in November 129125 on the HMAT ‘Commonwealth’. He arrived in France with his unit in March 1916 & served in France & Belgium. In July 1916 he was in hospital with influenza. Leslie was granted leave in England from 13 July to 1 August 1917. Leslie was admitted to hospital 21st December 1917 & on the 1st January 1918 he died in 7th General Hospital of ‘cebro spinal meningitis’ aged 21.

Leslie’s name is recorded on the Kew War Memorial & the Kew Presbyterian Church’s Honour Board – now in the possession of the Kew RSL.

Sources: Australian War Memorial, National Archives of Australia, Sands & McDougall directories & the Victorian Electoral rolls.