

1ST LEICHHARDT SCOUTS
145 BALMAIN ROAD
LEICHHARDT 2040
PO BOX 155
LEICHHARDT 2040

1ST LEICHHARDT SCOUT GROUP FOUNDED 1908

**RECORDS OF JAMES X COUTTS, SCOUT LEADER AND DISTRICT COMMISSIONER,
LEICHHARDT DISTRICT AND RECORDS OF 1ST LEICHHARDT SCOUTS,
FROM 1908 TO 1938**

(Transcription of records collated by Allan Songberg,
Regional Adviser, South Metropolitan Region)

PART 4

1917

Second in the Fairfax Competition, Summer Hill winning by ½ a point.

The patrol was again led by PL. Seaburg.

A block of land 50ft. X 120 ft., was purchased in Balmain Rd., at a cost of £162/10/-, for the site of a permanent Headquarters.

Scoutmaster Frank Charles killed at the Front, the Troop went into mourning.

Application to Enlist in the Australian Imperial Force

To the Recruiting Officer

at **TOWN HALL.**

I, James Xavier Courtis

hereby offer myself for Enlistment in the Australian Imperial Force for Active Service Abroad, and undertake to enlist in the manner prescribed, if I am accepted by the Military Authorities, within one month from date hereof.

POSTAL ADDRESS 7 Bromwell St - Leichhardt

Signature J. X. Courtis

Occupation Photographer

Date 10 JAN 1916

(For Identification purposes the above space should be filled in personally by the Applicant.)

CONSENT OF PARENTS OR GUARDIANS (For Persons under 21 years of Age)

I HEREBY CERTIFY that I approve of the above application, and consent to the enlistment of my ^{son} _{ward} for Active Service Abroad.

Statement regarding Death or Absence of either or both Parents.

Father's Signature _____

Mother's Signature _____

Guardian's Signature _____

PERSONAL PARTICULARS

Age 28 yrs. 6 mos. Height 5 ft. 6 ins. Chest Measurement (fully expanded) 30 1/2 - 33 1/2 inches

Married Widower Single. Weight 116

PRELIMINARY MEDICAL EXAMINATION

Decision of Medical Authority Accepted for Active Service

Place TOWN HALL SYDNEY

Date 10 JAN 1916

I Concur _____

Signature of Medical Authority _____

Place _____

Date _____

Signature of M.O. at Central Recruiting Depot _____

CERTIFICATE OF RECRUITING OFFICER

I CERTIFY that I have this day provisionally Accepted ~~Rejected~~ this applicant for enlistment in the Australian Imperial Force

Place TOWN HALL SYDNEY

Date 10 JAN 1916

Signature J. C. Timothy

Recruiting Officer _____

[OVER]

RIDGEWAY RESERVOIR

H O B A R T Tasmania

June 24 1919

DEAR MR COUTTS,

I have had it in mind for several weeks to write you about a wish that Mrs Charles and I have had to donate the sum of £5.0.0 to Leichhardt Troop of Boy Scouts in memory of our beloved Son FRANK, for a time a Scout Master of Leichhardt Troop. We feel it would have been his wish, and we take no credit to ourselves for this donation, for the money belonged to your late Comrade.

I am sure that FRANK'S fellow Scouts would be interested to hear further particulars of the manner of his death, it takes a long time to gather this information together but I am determined to know all that there is to know about his life and death as a Soldier.

FRANK was killed by machine gun fire, being struck in the head and dying instantly. He was in charge of a section upon Patrol Duty in front of the trenches at night, they were locating the German trenches, ready for next days battle, FRANK was buried on the field where he fell.

I shall be glad to hear from you, and will then remit to what ever Fund Leichhardt Troop directs the sum I have mentioned.

With every good wish, to the Troop and also to yourself

I remain Dear Mr COUTTS

Yours Sincerely

Ed. John Charles

. RIDGEWAY . RESERVOIR .

. H O B A R T . Tasmania .

. June . 24 . 1919 .

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With every good wish, to the Troop and also to yourself

I remain Dear Mr COUTTS,
Yours Sincerely

Ed. John Charles

Ridgeway Reservoir
Hobart. July 31, 1917

Dear Mr. Coutts,

Mrs Charles & myself
have the greatest satisfaction in
sending you £5.0.0 out of Frank's
own funds, for the purpose of
establishing some little memento
of their dearest Boy, in accordance
with my letter of June 24 last.

Your letter of July 8. speaks of
a very good way to keep the dear boy's
memory green. Do as you think best.

We should very much appreciate
photos of the small & the larger banners
to place along with Frank's papers
which we are binding in a book.

Do you think you have photos of
him, that we have not for?

Yours sincerely
Ed. John Charles

Ridgeway Reservoir

Hobart July 31, 1917

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Your letter of July 8, speaks of a very good way to keep the dear boys memory
green. Do as you think best.

We should very much appreciate photos of the small & the larger banners to
place along with Frank's papers which we are binding in a book.

Do you think you have photos of him, that we have not seen!

Yours sincerely

Ed. John Charles

France
31/8/17.

Dear Jim,

Just a few lines in answer to your very welcome letter of June 18th and to thank you for the photo of the boys. You cannot imagine how I value these photos. I have all you have sent me.

I am so pleased to hear that Annandale was again in the forward march. The old Troop has indeed been in the Trials since I left it. I am sure of heartfelt gratitude must go out to the untiring efforts of yourself and the good people forming the Parents Association not to mention my old friend Bill Carr. I doubt if I should have the cheek to call it my Troop now as I see only three familiar faces. Jim old Chap. Others may call it theirs but they can never say the same of the old Troop as I left it and neither will they kill the affection I have for the Troop as it was, as it is, and as it will be. I look upon those boys as everything which is good. I must ask you to give my sincerest greetings to Burnie Cockburn, Herbie Crews, and Bill Graham for the manner in which they have stuck to the Troop. I only wish that I could take them by the hand and greet them myself. But someday I may be able to do this. Who knows?

France

31/8/17

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Now a little matter about Ossie James. It seems that there has been several rumours in A'Dale about myself both good and bad. This is the latest and the most silly and ridiculous tale. I wonder what Ossie thinks of to tell such blunderous lies. I cannot for the life of me see what advantage he can gain. He can only make himself look silly in the eyes of others even if he does think it makes him look big here. People are not so easily beguiled by tales as this. His own sense ought to tell him to be more discreet with his tales. I will tell you that I am a man who rescues 30 men under heavy fire and the same number of Germans on his patrol are unharmed. I have never done this and am not likely to. For a man to run in among such a lot of huns would indeed be a perfect fool: he would also have to bear an immensely charmed life. If he had said 2 or three there may have been some truth in it. Even so I have not killed any of the enemy. I have rescued men but long before he ever thought of enlisting and then not under heavy fire. Nothing which would have awarded me a medal. I do not like these tales said of me. So next time you see him you may just tell him from me not to be such a little fool and to play the game and tell

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the truth. He has not seen me since I left neither has he been in the trenches, according to a chap who came over in the same reinforcements as he did. He was ~~invalided~~ invalided home with Enteric fever from Egypt. He is only young yet so there is perhaps an excuse for him. I am very ~~indignant~~ indignant over what he has said.

I was sorry to hear of Darrel Washington's death.

Snowy only told me when he saw your letter.

Now I want to say a word about the troop ~~on the 1st of June.~~

I received a letter from my Mother who attended the roll of Honor as A'dale Council Chambers she told me there were no Scouts Present. I would like to know why that was. For I read the speeches in the morning papers of several well known people delivered at that ceremony. Surely that was a chance to bring the troop a little more before the eyes of the Public.

Myself I think it was a good chance missed. Of course the boys may have been somewhere else as the water says.

Then again I have not heard for ages from the boys. I would welcome a letter from one of the new lads. A real good Scouting letter. There is plenty to tell me.

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Now before I end, a word about myself. Snowy
will have undoubtedly have told you by now that I
have received promotion. I am now a Corporal in the same
Unit. It has been a long time coming don't you think.
I am feeling fit and am in the pink of condition and
still going strong. I often wonder how long I will last. I have
had a good run this time. I have outclassed all S.M who
have left Sydney. I think Francis was the only other one with
long service and he has been in England a good time now.
I am the same as a lot of other old hands
and who in a heap all of a sudden. I feel splendid
and they know how I will take the winter
which is fast approaching.

I hope you are all well and keep forging ahead. I think
Hqrs are slow in not sending us circulars regularly to keep
us in touch with things.

I will now end with best of Wishes to all the
Officers and Scouts of N° 6 Div. The only Div in my
pinion. Kindest Regards to all I know and
many thanks for your efforts in my old Troop.

From

Your old Friend

Robt Doyle
C.C.

Now before I end, a nice word about myself. Snowy(?) will undoubtedly have
told you by now that I have received promotion. I am now a Corporal in the
same Unit. It has been a long time coming don't you think. I am feeling fit and
am in the pink of condition and still going strong. I often wonder how long I
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Your old Friend

Ro--- Doyle

Adams. F.	Foot. G.	McCoullough. A.	Williams. Bede
Austin. H. K	Hampson. C.	McCoullough. S.	Winskuffe. K
Andrews. L. J.	Harris. W. -- K	Mumford. C. K	Wells. L.
Attenbourough. A.	Harris. J.	Moore. D.	Webster. R.
Atkins. G.	Harper. C.	Ormerod.	Warton. N.
Aston. A. S.	Henderson. C. W.	Phillips. W. D.C.M mm	Robertson. J.
Britten. W. m.m.	Henderson. H.	Page. L.	
Bragg. B.	Hammond. S.	Patterson. W.	
Charles. F. J. K	Hodgson. C.	Rahn. C.	
Crawford. J. K	Henery. J.	Rowe. F.	
Crawford. K	Isackson. R.	Rushbrook. E.	
Campbell. D.	Johnstone. K.	Riches. G. K	
Campbell. W.	Knight. M.	Sandon. F.	
Crossley. J.	Koosache. J.	Smallwood. H.	
Crook. B.	Killpatric. J. K	Stead. G.	
Dahl. E.	Kenair. H. K	Stead. C.	
Deway. E.	Lee. G.	Storer. H. K	
Dunn. H. K	Littlejohn. W.	Stubb. F.	
Dunn. A. K	J. Machan.	Samuels. C.	
Dunn. A. E.	McMillan. A.	Tallan. H.	
Diomond. A.	McMillan. C.	Taylor. B. K	
K. Killed in Action			

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