



Ministry of Defence

Defence Business Services
Secretariat Team
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Ref: DBS/SEC/FOI2018/08190/ROBERTSON

E-mail: DBSRES-Secretariat@mod.gov.uk

Mr W Robertson
request-483031-cde74dcc@whatdotheyknow.com

10 July 2018

Dear Mr Robertson,

Thank you for your email of 19 June 2018, providing further information in respect of your Freedom of Information request of 7 May 2018 in which you requested the following information:

"I am contacting you in order to trace records relating to my great grandfather and his military service between 1936-1945.

Name: John Conway

Rank: Lance Corporal

Unit: 7th Battalion Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders Service number: 2980896 Date of service: 27 March 1936-11 October 1945

He also saw active service in WW1 with the 4th and 14th Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders under the service number S/19646

I already have a copy of his service record which was obtained from the MOD however, I believe there may still be other records possibly held in relation to a war pension application. My great grandfather was a prisoner of war between June 1940 and April 1945. Records kept by the German forces of their captives were captured at the end of the war and are currently held in the National Archives at Kew. A previous FOI request revealed no record in the archive however and it is my belief that he may have requested his POW records to support a pension claim.

The National Archives website states: "Cards for some service personnel may be missing as part of claims made by ex-POWs, cards were taken out of the collection and used as evidence to support the claim. In most cases, the card was placed on the claim file and not returned to this series."

I would like to formally request that a search of the records be undertaken to locate the aforementioned documents and any others not already release to my family. My mother, Mrs Kate Robertson (maiden name Conway) is the next nearest living next of kin and I am submitting this request with her full authority".

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

In order for us to check our records to ascertain whether Mr Conway ever claimed a War Disablement Pension, we asked you to confirm his National Insurance number, date of birth and date of death.

On 19 June you confirmed his date of birth, his date of death and the address at the time of his death. However, you were unable to provide his National Insurance number.

A further search for the information has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence and unfortunately no information can be located for an Armed Forces Pension or a War Disbarment Pension for a Mr John Conway with the date of birth you provided. However, if you were able to provide a National Insurance Number then I would be more than happy to check our records again.

If you have any queries regarding the content of this letter, please contact this office in the first instance.

If you wish to complain about the handling of your request, or the content of this response, you can request an independent internal review by contacting the Information Rights Compliance team, Ground Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail CIO-FOI-IR@mod.gov.uk). Please note that any request for an internal review should be made within 40 working days of the date of this response.

If you remain dissatisfied following an internal review, you may raise your complaint directly to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not normally investigate your case until the MOD internal review process has been completed. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website at <https://ico.org.uk/>.

Yours sincerely,

Defence Business Services Secretariat