

Leslie was born at St Pancras, London in 1893, the son of Charles William Grove and his wife Sarah Jane, nee Lewis. In the 1911 census he was shown as living with his parents with his employment listed as shop steward.

On 11th August 1914 he enlisted in D Company, AN&MEF stating that he was a driver – horse and single, giving his mother at Myrtle Villa, Sycamore Grove, New Malden, Surrey as his next of kin. He returned from Rabaul and was discharged, term expired, on 4th March 1915 having completed 206 days service.

On 31st March 1915 he joined D Company, 20th Battalion, regimental number 1213 and was appointed lance corporal on 31st May. He sailed from Sydney on the BERRIMA on 24th June 1915 and after training in Egypt, landed at Gallipoli on 22nd August. He was promoted corporal on 1st September.

On 29th November he reported sick with malaria and was transported on the Hospital Ship DONGOLA to Heliopolis. He was discharged from hospital on 5th Jan 1916 and returned to his unit. He left Alexandria on 18th March arriving in Marseilles on the 25th.

He was hospitalised from 5th August till 27th Nov with an injured ankle and was promoted sergeant on 1st December 1916.

On 22nd September 1917 Leslie was killed in action at Westhoek, Belgium.

In a report on his death, Gunner Daniel West, regimental number 429, stated; -

“Sgt. Groves was killed as we hopped over at Westhoek Ridge. Our Coy. is attached to 20th and I went over with them. There were 5 of them in a shell hole when I looked just prior to burial there was no identification disc or anything of identity on him except a letter from Miss Turner, 68 Fishpond Road, Bristol. I took charge of this, wrote to her and returned her letter. He was buried by the Pioneers where he fell, about 15 or 20 yds. from the gun position. I do not know if a cross was erected nor do I recollect his initial or number.”

Leslie is remembered on the Menin Gate, Ypres, Belgium and on panel 91 at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra.