

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

Lieutenant  
Harold Doust

30th Battalion



0941009N

A.I.F. 30th Btn

DCUSE  
S/Lt. Harold

"Rep: Z/A. 15-10-18 dtls D/B"

Killed in action 30-9-18 - no burial report  
Cert. by A.I.F. Mps 18-3-19.

P.I.

London  
19-3-19

4 30th Battn. B.Coy.  
A.I.F.

DOUST.  
2/Lieut. *Howell*

"Killed in Action 15-10-18"

I was on patrol with the above officer on <sup>the night</sup> September 29-30th., when a sniper shot him through the heart, death being instantaneous. I saw him fall. It took place on the road <sup>leading</sup> south of Nouroy. I left the next morning, so don't know what happened to his body. He was a popular man and came from Sydney on the "BRITANA".

Informant:- Sgt. Johnson. R.E.  
B.Coy. 30th Battalion.

E.L.M.  
T.S. "KARMALA"  
London.  
12-9-19.  
J.E.A.

S & P I.

30th Battn.

DOUST 2nd Lieut H.

Killed in action 5-9-18

Informant C.C. 30th Battn. on 30th Sept received in his night report. ( custom being to report after dark) from O.C. "B" Coy- Capt. W.N. Zander, the report of Lt. Doust being killed that day Pte E.H. Baker the Col.'s batman told the Col. that he was with Lt. Doust and gave full particulars that he was sniped through hip and the stomach on Sept 30th when within a few yards of delivering a message to the 29th Battn. for them to come up on the flank of the 30th Battn.

Informant personally saw the cross before it was taken and placed in position and also wrote to Australia giving every particular. He says everything should be properly in order.

Addresses Capt. W.H. Zander

"Gorallyn"

25 Wycombe Rd.

Neutral Bay

Sydney.

Pte E.H. Baker

Fasserslan

Newcastle.

Inf; Lt. Col. Fredrick Street D.S.O.

C.C. 30th Battn.

S.M. Lord

H.M.A.T. Port Melb.

9-8-19

Private address. Buul St., Cook's Hill.

Newcastle. N.S.W.

30th Battn.

DOUST 2nd.Lieut H.

Killed in action 5-9-18

Informant on the 30th Sept when on a Lewis Gun saw Mr Doust and a Pte F.G. Brittle leave their position about 11 a.m. with a message for 29th Battn roughly about 150 yards away from 30th Battn. Informant was at a distance of about 80 yards from where they started. An hour after this time the accompanying runner Pte F.G. Brittle personally told informant that Lt Doust was sniped through the hips when near the 29th Battn Lines---death was instantaneous.

Address Pte F.G. Brittle ? Maitland, N.S.W.

Inf. Pte J. Smith

Niangala

Walcha Rd, N.S.W.

During the second week in Oct 1918 Cpl. C. Crisp a machine gunner in 8th Platoon, chatting with informant at Bgde H.Q. during general conversation mentioned that Mr. Doust was killed in action in the stunt of Sept 30th. Crisp himself was in this action and he and Lt. Doust both of the same Platoon were the greatest of pals.

Address: Cpl. C. Crisp, "Berowa" Gordon St, Arncliffe, Sydney.

Inf. Pte H. Berger,

67 Leinster St.,

Paddington

Sydney

S.M. Lord

H.M.A.T. Port Melbourne

8-8-19

30th Battn

DOUST 2nd Lieut H.

Killed in action 5-9-18 ---(?)

In the Billecourt stunt on 30th Sept 1918 the 30th Batt In which Lt Doust of "B" Coy. was Platoon Commr. went into the Line taking up position between Mamroy and the Sugar Mill. Informant of the same Coy. and on a Lewis Gun about 200 yards away from casualty at about 11 a.m. heard the news which was passed down the Line (a chain of shell.holes) that Lt. Doust had been killed. Later Pte F.G. Brittle brought back particulars. Some little time before mid-day (11-12) under a heavy barrage (shell and M.Gun) this officer and Brittle, a runner, left the Lines carrying a message for the 29th Battn to come up on the right of the 30th Battn -- a run of about 100 yards. When within a few yards of the 29th Battn and about to jump into a shell hole when sniped, --through the hip (possibly entering stomach) death being instantaneous; machine gun fire which came from enemy Front Line at Sugar Mill, ceasing at noon. Pte "Snowy" Whyatt (M.M.bar) on Oct 1st--the day the Battn went out -- told informant that he and other stretcher-bearers buried Doust on the spot where he fell and during same afternoon; that is near the graves of Sgt. Webb, Pte. McVieaty and Pte. Stan Ryan. who were killed about 3 p.m. the same day and buried practically half way between Mamroy and Sugar Mill. A week later two of the stretcher bearers took up, with others, a Battn cross for Lt. Doust. in a G.S.Waggon from Rasiel (14 Km from Peronne These men --Whyatt and Pte Halle-- personally told informant they were

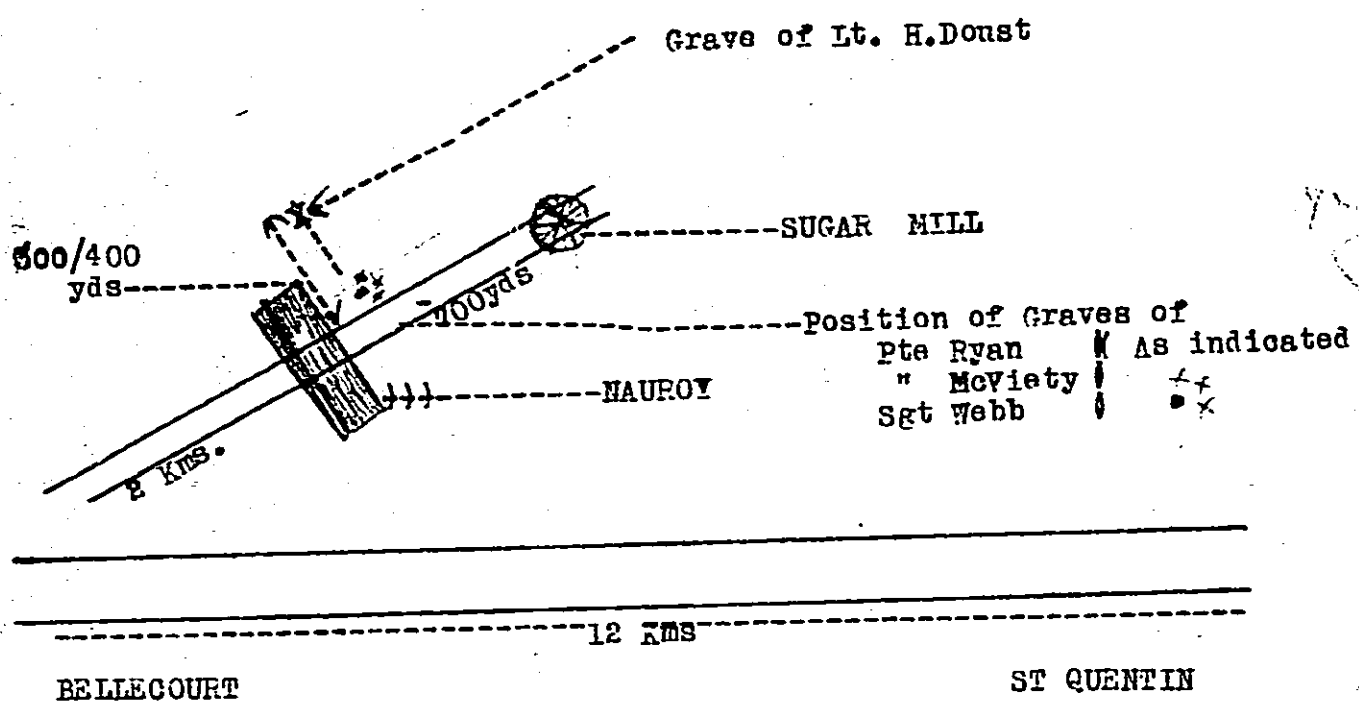
DOUST  
(contd)

taking up Lt. Doust's. Lt. Doust was at time 2nd in command of Coy. and Lt. Laurie Hall. took over. Was a big man of 6' Was very regimental on parade but off was very pleasant and in the Line was very popular and familiar with his men. Names and addresses of the four stretcher bearers mentioned:

Pte "Snowy" Whyatt (M.M. bar)  
Railway Parade, Mortdale. Sydney.  
Pte "Ted" Otton  
Ottonville, Bega, South Coast, N.S.W.  
Pte "Jack" Halle,  
Wargo. N.S.W.  
Pte Bob Smith.

Inf. L. Armagnacq  
"B" Coy 35th Battn  
Private address Coolgarra  
Via Cairns Nth Q'land

S.M. Lord  
H.M.A.T. Port Melbourne  
17-8-19





30th Battn.

DOUST 2nd Lieut H.

Killed in action 5-9-18

On 30th Sept 1918 "B" Coy of 30th Battn went into the Line at 3a.m. between Bellecourt and Sugar Mill. There was very heavy shelling all day. About mid-day Lt Doustand a runner left the Lines to deliver a message to the 29th Battn 150/200 yards between distance between the Battns. Message was to the effect that 29th Battn was to come forward on the left (?) of the Battn. A few yards off 29th trenches and when about to jump into a shell hole the officer was sniped through the heart falling into the shell hole--- death was instantaneous. Informant was at time batman to Lt. A.J. McCullam of Sydney who personally got this information from the runner with Lt. Doust. He was a good line officer and a popular man.

Inf. Pte. L.W.E. Drew

Howlong Via Albury N.S.W.

Informant the 31st Battn orderly room Sgt, and now holding Bris. Casualty List reports as follows

"Killed 30th Sept 1918 and buried Bellecourt-- cross erected"

Inf. Sgt. C.N. Colless

21 Station St.,

Auburn

Sydney

S.M. Lord

H.M.A.T. Port Melbourne

7-8-19.

30 th Battn.

DOUST 2nd Lt. H.

Killed in action 5-9-18

Informant had a brother -Pte McVeity of 30th Battn- killed on the same day as Lt. Doust --the 30th Sept. On March 15th 1919 informant went down from near Charleroi (Belgium) to see his brother's grave, in a party including Cpl.C.Crisps who was particularly looking for Mr Doust's. The directions given him for this grave were 100-200 yards on left from the graves of Pte McViety Sgt Webb and Pte Ryan. direction taken with men's back to Bellecourt and Nauroy. He failed to locate the grave however and during the second week in April 1919 Lt. A.E.Webb of 30th Battn made a trip down to photograph all 30th Battn graves in this area. He too missed Lt. Doust's, but later at the end of April 1919 he made a special trip for this photograph and secured it. Lt Webb took the same direction as Cpl Crisps and that of his own previous visit but this time going further in 300/400 yds to the left of the graves of Sgt Webb Pte McViety and Pte Ryan which are between. Nauroy and Sugar Mill. With one's back to Nauroy and Bellecourt and facing Sugar Mill then the direction from their graves is to the left as illustrated in the accompanying sketch. Lt. A.E.Webb is at present on Non-military employment in England terminating about end of August 1919. His address is Nelson St., Penshurst N.S.W.

Inf; Sgt D. McViety 30th Battn  
Private address Cobargo N.S.W.

S.M.Lord  
H.M.A.T.Port Melbourne  
9-8-19

30th. Btn.

DOUST. 2nd. Lict. H.

K/A. October 5th. 1918.

Informant was in the same stunt and knew that this officer was killed on the 1st. October 1918, at Bellecourt by a sniper. Not an eye-witness of death. He would probably be buried at Bellecourt of Neuroy.

Informant: 30th. Btn. Capt. T.C. Barbor,

Private address:-

95 Power Street,  
Hawthorn. Victoria.

R.A.Smith.

H.M.A.T. Ascanius.

31.10.19.

30th Battn.

DOUST  
2nd Lieut. H.

Killed 30/9/18

He was killed at Nyenroy near Bellicourt about 2 or 3 in the afternoon. He was killed outright with a sniper's bullet, and was buried where he fell. A cross was erected where he fell.

He was a business man in Moree, N.S.W. and was a native of that town.

v

Informant:- 5045

Pte. Le Briton  
30th Battn.

L. W. Gwynne  
H.M.A.T.\*Port Dennison.  
14/11/19.