

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

**1866 Private
James Herbert Alcorn**

49th Battalion



0040605F

49th Battn.
A.I.F.

ALCORN,
J.H. 1866

"Killed 13.10.17."

Passchendaele Village Front. I saw him being taken back on a stretcher on 12th Oct, with shrapnel, a good lump of it sticking out of his chest, just over the heart. They said there was not much chance for him. He belonged to my Machine Gun Team. We were good mates. I knew him well, comes from Brisbane.

Informant:- Treeman, 3267,
29 Herefield.

D.P. Dickson.

London.
12.2.18.

B.

49th Battn.
A.I.F.

ALCORN,
J.H. 1866

"Killed 13.10.17."

I remember that the above named was killed by shell fire at Ypres on Oct 13th, I believe he is buried just over the parapet. Ground was held.

Eyewitness:- Me.

Description:- Med. Height, fair, black mustache about 30. thick set.

Informant:- Pte. A.F.Cassidy, 3292, (Intelligent.)
49th Battn B.Coy, H.Crs.

Home address: Christchurch Red Cross *mpc*.
Bristol, St,
West End, Brisbane, Queensland.

F.J.Lord,
12.3.18.

London.
18.3.18.

B.

Revised.

30th April 1917.

49th Australian.

Alcorn, J. H. 1800.

October 15, 1917. etc. 4/5.

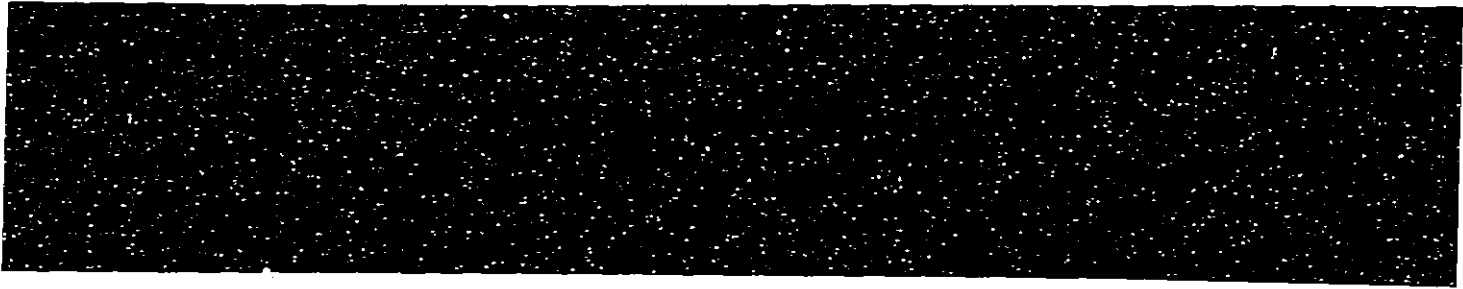
I was in B. Coy. and I know Captain Thomas of the 49th. I saw him at the beach at 10 o'clock that he had seen Alcorn after the landing that day and he also saw him buried. Alcorn was about 5 feet 6, dark, slight. Captain Thomas is down at the base somewhere.

Ref:- Ser cent. Thomas. 277.
49th. Australian. B. Coy.
"Guilford Castle".

RM.

B

Written Capt. Tamberling 13.5.18.



Revised.

30th April 1917.

49th Australian.

Alcorn, J. H. 1800.

October 15, 1917. etc. 4/5.

I know private J. H. Alcorn, his number was 1800, B. Coy. 49th. Platoon, he came from Brisbane, and was a Carpenter. I was with him when he was hit by a shell in front of Polygon Wood about the 15th October 1917, daylight, we were holding the trench. He was badly hit but was conscious; he was carried away to the station by the stretcher-bearers. I heard that he died there.

Ref:- Private J. H. Alcorn. 1800.
49th. Australian. B. Coy.
Australian Coy.
Platoon.

RM.

B

A.I.F. 49.

ALCOORN J.H. 1866.

K. 13.10.17.

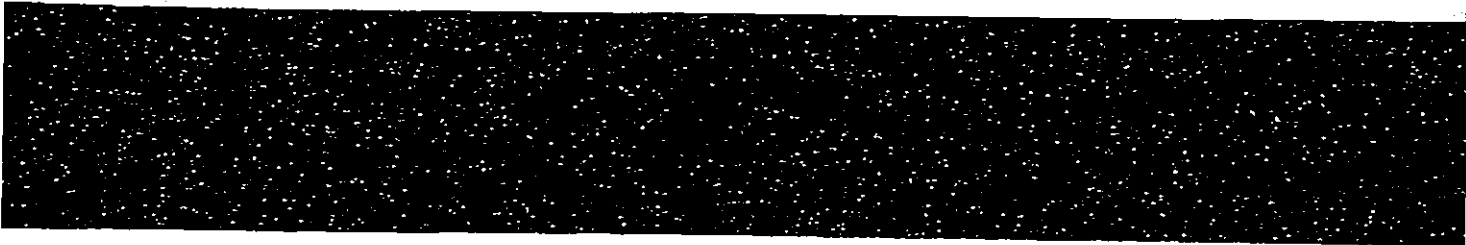
We were in the Ypres sector. Alcorn was in B.Co. 503. He was lamed by a whizz-bang in the chest. I saw him being carried out. This was about 10 a.m. I do not know what happened to his body.

RSH.

Reference: Mts.D.G. Pratt. 7035. B.Co. Co.4 Gen.Hpi.

Styler. 1.5.19.

2



Havre.

1st. May. 1917.

49th. Australians.

Alcorn, J. H. 1866.

K. October. 1, 1917. Det. D/B.

I was two men down from Alcorn when he was struck in the stomach by a piece of shell which passed through him. He was in B.Co. 503. and I was his corporal. I was about 15 yards away from him. It was in the morning about 11.30 o'clock. He was taken away by stretcher and it was afterwards reported that he died of wounds. It is certain that he could be buried near the station. This was on the right bank of the Scheldt ridge in front of Boulogne. He was dark with a black moustache, about 5 feet 6, medium built.

Inf: - Corporal. J. J. Sullivan: 3921. Australians. 49. B. H. S. "Canada".

3

GPO.

Havre.

1st. May. 1918.

49th. Australians.

Alcorn, J. H. 1866.

4. October. 1/1917. Dets. 1/B.

He was in B. Company and the 5th. Platoon. I saw him wounded at Polygon Wood on October 13th; after we had dug in; he was killed by a shell. I saw him buried just behind the trenches. He was dark, tall, rather thin.

Inf:- Private. A. K. Gregory. 1659.
49th. Australians. B. Co.
H. "Panama".

Gas.

Havre.

6th. May. 1918.

49th. Australians.

Alcorn, J. H. 1866

K. October. 13/1917. Dets. D/B.

He was in B. Company, and the 5th. Platoon. I was told by L/Corporal H. Dunbar, of 49th. Battalion, B. Co., on about October 13th. While in a rest camp at Boulogne that he had seen Alcorn killed at Polygon Wood on October 13th by a sniper when we were holding the line. L/Corporal Dunbar is still with the Battalion. Alcorn was a little dark chap, had been a carpenter.

Inf:- Private. J. J. Collins. 371.
49th. Australians. B. Co.
H. "Guildford Castle"

49 Battn. B. Coy.
A.I.F.

ALCORN.
J.H. 1866.

"Killed in Action" 13-10-17.

I saw him wounded at Polygon Wood. He was caught by a piece of shell which hit him about the stomach. He was taken away to the Dressing Station near by where he died after admission. I knew him well, he came from Brisbane, Queensland where he was carpentering prior to enlistment. We held the ground but I do not know place of burial. Refer to Lieut Groats, 5th Coy, 49th Battn, who is now in France, he can I feel sure give details in full.

Informant. Castle. Pte. H.S. 3284.
49th Battn.

C. Coy.
3 A.A.H. DARTFORD.

W.O. Man.
London.
14-5-18.

B.

49th Battn.
A.I.F.

ALCORN.
J.H. 1866.

"Killed in Action 13-10-17"

Re 1866. Pte. J.H. Alcorn. of B. Coy. 49th Battn. A.I.F. Died of Wounds 13-10-17. Pte Alcorn was a member of my company during the Passchendaele fighting and a right good fellow. He was No 1 of a Lewis Gun Team and did well always. On October 12th 1917 we came in for some very heavy shelling and he was very badly hit, somewhere in the back and lungs (if I remember rightly) by a piece of H.E. He died next day either at a Field Amb: or C.C.S. His wife was written to at the time by the officer in charge of his platoon. My sympathy is with the relatives of a really good man. Again regretting the delay.

Letter from:- Richard Tambling. Captain.
A.I.F. FRANCE. 7-9-16.

London.
13-9-18.
H.T.

B.

Oct 21st
1866
J.H.

Dear Mr. Decker,

I have been away
many weeks and have
not been able to answer
you for the delay.

I was in the 11th NY
Regt. 1866. Co. I. H. BROWN of Coy.

Pvt. Brown was a member of my
company during the battle of
Gettysburg and a very good fellow.
He was one of our best men
and did well always.

On October 13th we came in for
some very heavy shelling and he
was shot badly but went where
he had to go (I remember
nightly) by a piece of A.E. He died
at night at a field ambulance
at C.C.S.

His wife was with me at the
time he was shot in charge of his
platoon. He was a very good man
and a really good man.

Yours truly,

1866
J. H. Brown
49 Bath
New York City
Richard Tamm
Captain