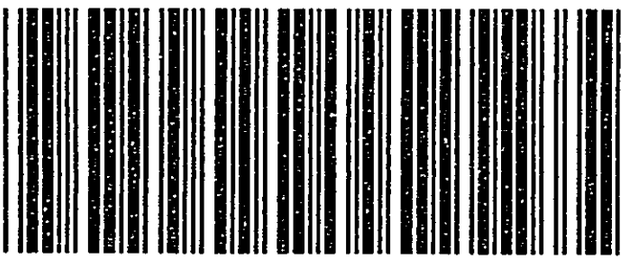
Australian Red Cross Society Wounded and Missing
Enquiry Bureau files, 1914-18 War
1DRL/0428

854 Private
Alan Herman Crockett

6th Battalion



0840208M

6th Battn.
A.I.F.

CROCKETT
A.H. 854

"Killed 10-7-18"

He was in C.Coy., I saw him killed at Merris when death was instantaneous, he being hit by a bullet in the heart. He was in action at the time of casualty, which happened about 5-30 a.m. I knew him well, and he came from Victoria. I cannot give any details of burial, but we held the ground and he would be buried, I think at Borre Cemetery, near Hazebrouck. I cannot refer to anyone.

Informant. McNamara. Sgt.W.N.J. 4245
Hqts. C.Coy. 6th Battn.,
3rd A.A.H.,
DARTFORD.

W.Oman
London
2-10-18
H.G.

P.I.
M.

6th Battn.
A.I.F.

CROCKETT.
A.H. 854

"Killed in Action 10-7-18"

He was of C.Company. Was Lewis Gunner. About this date. in front of Merris, during raid on Enemy's line, about 11.30.p.m. was hit by piece of shell in neck. He was brought out by S/B, but died shortly after reaching the R.A.F. Was unconscious. I prepared his body for burial. Was buried next day in Borre Military Cemetery. Cross erected. I was not at burial, but saw his cross ready for erecting. He came from Malle District. in Victoria.

Informant:- Pte.P.H.Farmer. 2222.
6th Battn.H.Q.
ANZAC BUFFET.

A.D.G.
London.
16-10-18.
J.F.A.

P I & M.

6th Battn.
A.I.F.

CROCKETT
A.N.H. 854

"Killed 10-7-18"

We were in front of Merris, in front line attacking. Crockett was No.1 in Lewis gun team. I met Sgt.Grant at dressing station, and he told me Crockett had been knocked. Grant was in the same gun team and was at Dartford, and is now on furlough. Sgt.Grant was wounded in this stunt, and so was I.

Informant. Cain. J. 5359
6th Battn.,
SOUTHALL.

T.St.J.P.P.
London
18-10-18
M.P.

Note:- Written Sgt.Grant 18-10-18.

P.I.
M.

6th. Battn. Crockett, A.H. 854.

K. 9/7/18.

I saw Crockett (C. Coy:) killed outright by one of our own shells, which fell short during a barrage in front of Merris. He was carried out by stretcher-bearers. I know no other particulars.

6th. Battn. Maughan, J. Pte. 3852.

A. 16. Dartford. 29/10/18.

R.D.B.

M
P.1

6th Battn.
A.I.F.

CROCKETT.
A.H. 854.

"Killed in Action 10-7-18"

Re 854A Pte Crockett.A.H. C.Company. 6th Battalion. A.I.F. He was killed the same night as I was wounded and did not see it myself but I have got the required information from one of his comrades who was beside him at the time. Pte Crockett came from Australia with the 38th Battalion, and after leaving them through illness, joined the 6th Battalion. He was of fair complexion and was about 5ft 10 high, and belonged to No 9 Platoon of which I was Platoon Sgt. We were attacking in front of Merris about 1.a.m. July 10th when deceased was killed.

Letter from:- 5098.Sgt.W.Grant.
6th Battalion. A.I.F.
No 8 Co. No I Command Depot.
SUTTON VENY.

London.
7-11-18.

M. & P I.

A.I.F. 6th Battn.

CROCKETT
A.H. 854.

"Killed in Action 10.7.18."

In reply to your enquiry to Sgt. Grant as to the death of my late comrade No.854 Pte. A. Crockett, C. Coy, 6th Battn. A.I.F., I regret to say he was shot dead alongside me on the 10th July;soon after we rushed forward when the barrage lifted a bullet from a machine gun went through his heart and he only said as he fell, "I am shot." I being his number on the Lewis Gun, took the gun on and our Corporal did all he could for our fallen comrade. His body was carried out by our D. Company Stretcher Bearers at early morn and taken back to our Headquarters. As we left ~~and~~ that Sector soon after, I was not able to find out for sure as to where he was buried; no doubt he would be buried in one of our Cemetries about Borre and Hazelbuck. He came over with the 38th Battn. from Australia, and was wounded in Ypres last year. I, with my other mates, have written hom to his people since his death.

Letter from:- 7094 Pte. L.A. Welsh,
C. Company,
6th A.I.F. Battn.
1. Command Depot
Sutton Veny.

London
13.11.18.
U.K.A.

M.P.I.

6th Btn.

CROCKETT, A. H.
Pte. 654.

K. in act. 10/7/18.

"I knew Casualty. He was a man about 5 ft. 10 ins. well built, fair complexion, about 21 years of age, known as "Allan". Casualty was raiding a German post on the Harris Sector, Hazebrouck. I was in the same raiding party and was alongside of Casualty. He was hit by a machine gun bullet in the chest which killed him almost instantly. He was buried in a Military Cemetery just outside of Hazebrouck."

Informant:- L/Cpl.G. H. Wheeler,
No. 4333, 6th Btn.

Private address:-
C/o Mrs. Bosworth,
72 William Street,
Balaclava.

T.C.F.
20/12/18.

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS INFORMATION BUREAU--MELBOURNE.

6th Btn.

CROCKETT, A.H.
Pte. 854

K. in act, 10/7/18

"I knew Casualty. He was a man about 5'8", well built, fair complexion, about 26 years of age. A H.E. Shell exploded near Casualty, in front of Merris, killing Casualty instantly. I was 10 yds. away at the time of his death and I saw his body afterwards. He was most severely wounded in the chest. I do not know where he was buried."

Informant:- Cpl. K.R.McKenzie,
Private address:- 3877 6th Btn.
"Girvan"
Sunbury.

T.C.F.
6/3/19

M
P

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS INFORMATION BUREAU-MELBOURNE.

Informant-P 1.

6th Btn.

CROCKETT, A.H.
Pte. No. 854

Kld. in act. 10.7.18.

"I knew Casualty. He was a man about 5' 9", well built, stout, fair complexion about 22 years of age. Casualty was advancing at Merris. I was in the same advance. He was hit by machine gun bullet which killed him instantly. I did not see Casualty killed but I saw his body as I was passing laying near some barbed wire. He was buried at Borre Cemetery and a cross was erected with his name, number and unit on it."

Informant:- F.L. McGuane
No. 7277

Private address
4 Princes Street,
Prahran.

M. Pl. Cd [illegible]

[illegible]

T.C.F.
4.4.19.

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS INFORMATION BUREAU-MELBOURNE.

6th Btn.

CROCKETT, A.H.
Pte. No. 854

Kld. in act. 10.7.18.

"I knew Casualty. He was a man of medium built, about 5' 8", fair complexion about 23 years of age. He embarked from Australia with the 38th Battalion on the Runic. Casualty was in the advance at Hetterin and as he was going forward he was hit by a piece of shell in the head. I was close by at the time and saw him go down. I again saw his body as he was being carried out behind the line. I do not know Where he was buried."

Informant:- T.H. Wills
No. 1152

Private address
Glengarry,
Grange Road,
Glenhuntly.

H.A.T.
17.4.19.

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS INFORMATION BUREAU-MELBOURNE.

ack 19.9.18.

HIGHBURY HOUSE,
HITCHIN.

Sept 18.

Dear Sir.

I should be much obliged if you could tell me if

854 Pte. A. H. Crockett 6th Batt.

is safe. My last letter has been returned as "undeliverable" and though he wrote regularly before I have not heard from him for nearly 3 months.

Yours truly
Emily C. Mather

Visitor for A.R.C.S. in Hitchin hospitals

Highbury House. Hitchin Oct 8.

Many thanks for the trouble you have taken in answering my enquiry for 854 Pte. A. H. Crockett. I have sent the said particulars on to her mother in case she had not enquired herself.

Emily C. Mather.

A.R.C.S. visitor.



The Secretary

Wounded & Missing Enquiry Bureau
A.R.C.S.

36 Grosvenor Place.

S.W. 1.

Sept.2 8th, 1918.

Mrs. E.C. Mather.
Highbury House.
Hitchin.

Dear Madam.

In reply to your enquiry for - 864 Pte. A.H. CROCKETT. 6th Battalion. A.I.F. We very much regret to inform you that he is officially reported Killed in Action on 10-7-18.

We are making every possible enquiry for details of his death and burial and as soon as any information reaches us, we will advise you.

Regretting the distressing nature of this news and with sincere sympathy.

Yours faithfully,

(Miss)

Secretary.

A.B.

October 7th, 1918.

Mrs. Emily C. Mather.
Highbury House.
Hitchin.

Dear Madam.

In further answer to your enquiry for - 854 Pte. A.H. CROCKETT. 6th Battalion. A.I.F. We regret to inform you we have obtained unofficial evidence which confirms the official report of his death in action.

Sgt. McNamara interviewed while in the 3rd Australian Auxiliary Hospital, Dartford, stated that he saw Pte.Crockett killed instantaneously by a bullet which wounded him in the heart, about 5.30 a.m while in action at Merris. Informant knew him well stating he came from Victoria and he thinks he would be buried in Berre Cemetery near Hazebrouck as the ground was held. We feel sure it will be consolation to know his death was instantaneous and again assuring you of our sympathy,

Yours faithfully,

(Miss)

Secretary. Mrs Baker

ack.
p.c. 30.10.18
S.E.D.

854
a. H. Crockett,
6th Batt.
K. in a. 10.7.18
M.P.I.

[illegible]

Mrs. Emily C. Matter,
Highbury House.
Hitchin.

October 19th, 1918.

Dear Madam.

In further reference to your enquiry for details as to the death and burial of - 854 Pte. A.H. CROCKETT. 6th Battalion. A.I.F. - We beg to inform you that we have received an unofficial report from 2222 Pte. P.H. Farner of the same unit. He stated that Pte. Crockett was in C.Coy and about the time of the casualty one of the Lewis Gunners. He was one of a raid party in the front of Morris when about 11.30 p.m. he was hit by a piece of shell in the neck. The Stretcher-bearers brought him behind the lines and he died soon after reaching the Regimental Aid Post, without recovering consciousness . He was buried next day in the Borre Military Cemetery where a cross was erected over his grave.
Pte. Farner stated that Pte. Crockett came from Mallee district Victoria.

We are continuing our enquiries and will advise you as soon as we receive any further particulars.

With our sincere sympathy.

Yours faithfully,

(Miss) G. Watt.

Secretary.

Mrs. Emily C. Mather,
Highbury House,
Hitchin.

6th November. 18.

Dear Madam,

In further answer to your enquiry for 854 Pte. A.H. Crockett, 6th Battn., A.I.F., we beg to inform you of an unofficial report from a man of his Unit.

3852 Pte. J. Maugham interviewed in the 3rd Australian Auxiliary Hospital, Dartford, states that he saw Pte. Crockett of C. Coy killed outright by a shell which fell short during a barrage in front of Merris, and carried out by Stretcher Bearers, but he know no particulars about his burial. We have now closed our enquiries for Pte. Crockett, as we consider it improbable we shall obtain further particulars, but should we do so, we shall forward them to you, and we trust our evidence has been of some assistance to you.

Again assuring you of our sincere sympathy in your loss of a friend,

Yours faithfully,

(Miss)

Secretary.

Mrs Whitfield

ON THE OTHER SIDE, IF REQUIRED.

ack. p.c. 30.10.18 J.S.D.

854 A.H. Crockett, 6th Batt. K. in A. 10.7.18 M.T.P.I. 3

Y.M.C.A. WITH THE AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

Command Depot.

Sutton Veny
21.10.18

Dear Miss Wiatkin

A few lines in reply to your inquiry to Sgt Grant as to the death of my late Comrade No 854 Pte A. Crockett C company 6th Battalion I regret to say he was shot dead along side me on the 10th July soon after we rushed forward when the barrage lifted a bullet from a machine gun went through his heart & he only said as he fell I am sent. I being his number two



Y.M.C.A. WITH THE AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

2

of the Lewis Gun took
the gun on & our Cpl.
done all he could for
our fallen Comrade.
His Body was carried
out by our D. Company
Stretcher Bearers at early
morn & taken back to
our head quarters.
as we left that sector
soon after I was not
able to find out for
sure as to where he
was Buried, no doubt.
He would be buried
in one of our Cemetery.
about Boore & Hazelbuck

PTO.



Y.M.C.A.
WITH THE
AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

3

He came over with the 38th Battalion from Australia & was wounded in Ypres last year. I with my other mates have written Home to His People since His Death. Trusting these lines may help you in your inquiry.

I am
Dear Madame.

No 7094
Pte L.A. Welsh
C Company
6th A.I.F. Battn.

P.T.O.

20.12.18

854

Pte A. H. Crockett

6 Btn

See under

10625

Gnr A. G. Crockett

16 Btty

"In the Field"
30 - 12 - 18

"The Secetary"
Wounded & Missing Inquiry Bureau
Australian. Red. Cross. Society

Dear Sir,

I have much pleasure in thanking you, for the information, I have just received, from you, concerning, No 854. Pte. A. H. Crockett, 6 Bttn - & also No.× 10625. Gnr. A. G. Crockett, & especially the detailed information of the former, & I am 16 Bttn A.F.A. anxiously awaiting "the fuller inquiries" of the latter, when that comes to hand.

Thanking you in anticipation,

Yours faithfully,

Stanley. F. Crockett
No. 29510
No. 1 Section
5th D. A. C.
Aust. F. Artillery

× Slip

29510 Sadler S.F. Crockett.
1st Section. 5th D.A.C.,
Australian Fld. Art. B.E.F.

December 20th, 1918.

Dear Sir,

In reply to your enquiry dated 12.12.18, regarding 854 Pte. A.H. CROCKETT. 6th Battalion. A.I.F. who was Killed in Action on 10.7.18. We beg to inform you of the following unofficial reports received from men in the Battalion.

4245 Sgt. W.H.J.McNamara states :- "I saw Pte. Crockett killed instantly at Merris, he being hit by a bullet in the heart. Casualty occurred at about 5.30 a.m. I knew him well, and he came from Victoria."

2222 Pte. P.H.Farmer states:- "Pte. Crockett was killed at Merris during a raid on the enemy's line. I prepared his body for burial and he was buried next day in Boore Military Cemetery, and a cross was erected over the grave."

7094 Pte. L.A.Welsh states:- "I regret to say Pte. Crockett was shot dead alongside me on the 10th July. Soon after we rushed forward when the barrage lifted, a bullet from a machine gun went through his heart and he only said as he fell "I am shot". He was buried in a cemetery at Boore."

In reference to your enquiry for Gnr. A.G. Crockett, 16th Btty. A.F.A., A.I.F. We beg to inform you that we are pursuing our enquiries and will advise you as soon as particulars of his death and burial come to hand. Assuring you of our very sincere sympathy in your great loss, and with all good wishes.

Yours faithfully,

(Miss) B M.

Secretary