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

5991 Private
George John Croft

7th Battalion



0840309O

7th Battn.
A.I.F.

CROFT
G.J. 5991

"KILLED 9-8-18"

George Croft was a Pte. in C.Coy. 9th Pltn. 7th Battn. tall, dark, thick set, came from Gippsland. We were the other side of Peronne on 9th Aug. advancing, when a 9" shell burst and a piece hit him in the head and killed him instantly. It was about 6 a.m. daylight and I was near by. I did not actually see him hit, but saw him when the Stretcher Bearers were carrying him away. I went on and did not see him buried, but it was not far from the Dressing Station... Am not sure of his number, but he was the only man of that name in the Coy.

Informant - Robertson.Pte.P. 6403
7th Battn. C.Coy. 10th Pltn.
3rd A.A.H.
DARTFORD.

Home Address:-
Maryborough
Victoria.

H.T.Cowan
20-11-18
London
25-11-18
H.G.

M.

7th Battn.
A.I.F.

CROFT
G.J. 5991

"KILLED 9-8-18"

Of C.Coy. 9th Pltn. On Aug.9th in afternoon about 2.30 during our attack at Rosieres. He was killed outright by Machine Gun bullet - hit in head. I saw his body lying in a trench. I know nothing of Burial. Knew him in Coy. Christian name "George" - was well known. One of the men has written home to his Mother.

Informant - Barry.Pte.A. 6216
7th Battn. C.Coy. 11th Pltn.
Anzac Buffet.

A.D.G.
25-11-18
London
29-11-18
J.E.A.

H.

7th Batn.,
A.I.F.

CROFT,
G.J., 5991.

"Killed - 9-8-18."

"On 9th Aug. at Rosieres, during our attack about 3 o'clock in afternoon. Was killed outright by Machine Gun bullet hit in chest. I was alongside him at the time. Not certain of place of burial, but fron inquiries made I heard that he was buried at Rosieres.

Was mate of mine, Christian name George, came from Bairnsdale. I have written to a friend of his full details so that he could tell his Mother. Was a fine man.

Informant:- Pte. A.S.Cheeseman, 7464,
7th Batn., C. Coy.,
A.I.F.

A.D.G.,
London,
11-12-18.
J.F.A.

H.

7th Battn.
A.I.F.

CROFT.
G.J. 5991.

"Killed in Action 9-8-18"

He was killed instantly by a bullet through the chest during our attack in front of Harbonnieres ataboutt 2.30.p.m. on August 9th 1918. I saw his body about an hour after. I was wounded soon after myself so do not know where he was buried. His name was George. He was in C.Company and came from Lake Entrame. Gippsland. with the 19th Rfts.

Informant:- Lieut.R.P.Whalley.
7th Battn.C.Coy.
A.I.F.
3rd London General Hospital.
WANDSWORTH.

A.G.Campbell.
London.
14-12-18.
J.E.A.

M.

A.I.F. 7 CROFT, G.J. 5991.

K.Aug.9/18. Det. D/B.

Croft belonged to C Co. and came from Bairnsdale, Gyppsland, Victoria. He had been a sailor on the lakes there.

He was killed by M.G.Bullets on Aug.9 at Harbonnieres on the Somme. L/Cpl.Carlyon, who has come through all right, saw him killed. Carlyon is in C Co. Croft was buried with 51 others of the Bn. by Sgt.Bulmer, ~~Painter~~ Sgt. of the 7th Bn. ~~xx~~ between Rosieres en Santerres and Vauvillers. The Map Reference to this is Harbonnieres sheet, X 15 C.2.2. I myself that day was acting as orderly room clerk at Bn.H.Q. and got all the particulars from Sgt.Bulmer and made the cross with all the names on it.

Reference: E.S.Grant, 6503, C Co.
No.12 General, Rouen. 2.1.19.

GB.

A.I.F. 7. CROFT. G.J. 5991.

K. Aug.9th 1918.

He was of C.Co rather tall, 5ft 8; medium colouring clean shaven, comes from Victoria, age between 25 and 30. On August 9th just past Villers Bretonneux at about 2 p.m. we were advancing. I saw Croft lying in a trench with his face lying against the trench. We pulled him back to see who he was and found he was Croft. There was no blood about the body as far as we could see so I can't say where he was hit. He was stone dead. We had to leave body lying in the trench and continue on with the advance I got wounded soon after so never heard if his body was got in and buried.

Inf: Pte.J.H.Baxter. 6963. C.Co.
Queen Street, Warragul, Victoria.

No. 3 Can Gen Hosp.
BOULOGNE. 8.1.1919.

JND

7th Battn.
A.I.F.

CROFT.
G.J. 5991. Pte.

"Killed in Action 9-8-18"

Pte Croft was killed on August 9th 1918 - in a communication trench - as we were advancing. It was at Rozieres.- Somme front. He fell dead instantly- hit by a bullet. The body was left in the trench till the following day - when he was buried, with several others, near the Rozieres dump. A cross with all the names was put up. That ground was never disturbed again.

The ground was held.

Eye-Witness:- Yes.

Description:- Pal of mine.

Home adress:-
Geneva.
35 Mary Street,
St Kilda, Victoria.

Informant:- Isaacs.S.4838. Sgt.
(Intelligent).
7th Battn. A.I.F.
King George Hospital

Mrs.E.Slater.
London.
27-2-19.
H.G.

M.

7th Btn.

CROFT, G.J.
Pte. 5991

K.in act. 9/8/18

"I knew Casualty. He was a man about 5'9", well built, medium complexion, about 27 years of age. Known as "George". He came from Bairnsdale. Casualty was advancing in front of Rozieres. I was in the same advance and had got about 1000 yds. from our starting point. I did not see him killed but saw him in a sitting position in an old trench, but quite dead. His personal effects were taken charge of by Lt.Wallie. I do not know where Casualty was buried."

Informant:- Pte.A.Clapp
No. 1308 7th Btn.

Private address:-
142 Bell St.,
Preston.

T.C.F.
6/3/19

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS INFORMATION BUREAU-MELBOURNE.

CROFT, G. J.
Pte. 5991.

K. in act. 9/8/18.

"I knew Casualty. He was a stout man, about 5 ft. 10 ins. dark complexions about 25 years of age, known as "George". Casualty was advancing at Villers Bretonneux when a machine gun bullet entered his chest killing him instantly. I was alongside of him at the time. I was wounded shortly afterwards and evacuated to England. I took his personal effects and handed them to a Padre in Birmingham Hospital and he forwarded them on to Casualty's parents. I handed his pay-book in at Weymouth later."

Informant:- Pte. L. G. Cartledge,
No. 2614, 7th Btn.

Private address:-
McArthur Street,
Sale.

H.A.T.
14/3/19.

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS INFORMATION BUREAU—MELBOURNE.

7th Btn. CROFT, M.J.

Pte. No. 5991

Fld. in ant. 9.8.18.

"I forget Casualty's description. I do not know what Casualty was doing exactly at the time of his death, but he was advancing on Lihons and was killed in advance. I found his body lying out in the open field and carried him back to a small wood one mile on the left side of Ronisexan. He was buried just on the edge of the wood in a large hole with 21 other men, and I helped to bury him. A fence was placed round the grave to protect it, and a temporary cross was erected with their names, numbers and units on it."

Informant:- S. Simons
No. 5787

Private address
210 Montague Street,
South Melbourne.

M. Croft

T.O.T.
22.2.19.

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS INFORMATION BUREAU–MELBOURNE.