

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

**5792 Private  
Asa Corning**

**17th Battalion**



0810201C

A.I.F. 175

CORNING, A.E.A. 5792.

K. Sept 20th 1917.

A. Corning was in A. Co and either II or III platoon. I don't remember his number. He came from N.S.W. He was fair, clean shaven, about 5ft 7 or 8, slightly built and about 25 or 26. I don't know if he was married. I saw his dead body in a shell hole with those of several others on the 20th Sept on the Menin Road. We had just then reached our objective. I don't know if his body was recovered and buried.

Ref: Pte W. Brogden. 2867. A.I.

No. 1 C.C.

BOULOGNE. 20.5.1918. AGL

H.S.

5

17th Battn.  
A.I.F.

CORNING.  
A.S.A. 5792.

"Killed 20.9.17."

I saw Corning killed in a shell-hole, just where we dug in, in front of Anzac House to the left of Polygon Wood in the daytime. He was just trying to make a better place for the machine gun. His brains were blown right out by H.E. Shell and he died instantly. Ten were killed by the same shell including Lt. Harnford, Anderson, and a mate of mine. A.T. Bramwall (17th Btn.) of West Cowra of whose death I gave particulars at Harefield, and some men of the 28th Batt. I don't know anything about burial. we covered them with dirt and probably that is all they got.

Corning was a small chap of slight build-about 5ft 4, fair. I don't know where he came from. He was in A.Coy.

Informant:- Fisher, Pte. W.A. 5819.  
17th Batt. A.Coy.  
SUTTON VENY.

London.  
5.7.18.  
J.E.A.

NOTE.  
See report by Pte. Fisher,  
on A.T. Bramwall. 5786.

S.

17th Battalion.  
Lewis Machine Gun Section.

CORNING, A.S.A.Fte. No. 5792.

Killed, 20-9-17.

I knew Corning well, he and I were in "A" Co., 4th platoon, No. 4 Section, and on the same gun in the Lewis Gun Section. There were 7 or 8 of us in a shell hole at the end of our objective on 20-9-17, in front of Passchendaele - we went over from Westhoek Ridge. A shrapnel high explosive shell burst right on us, and wounded myself and two other men, and killed No. 5792 Private Corning instantly. Corning was fair and slightly freckled, he was struck in the head and killed instantly. I was wounded in both arms, but was able to walk back, and told Stretcher Bearers to go up for the others.

Informant of Private T.C. Whiteman,  
17th Battalion, "A" Co., 4th platoon  
Home Address - 15 Napier Street,  
Paddington.

H.S.O.  
No. 4 Australian General Hospital,  
Randwick,  
11-6-18.

C.S. 11  
S.V.

A.I.P. 16/17th Bn

Ass. 0031110  
6792

"K/A. 20-9-17"

No trace Germany  
Cert. by Capt. Mills 10-10-19.

London  
16-10-19

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