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

6475 Private
Thomas Cross

5th Battalion



0840901M

5th Battn.
A. I. F.

Cross.
T 6475

"Killed 22.4.17"

Refer to No.6050 Pte.G.Mackay D.Coy.and Cpl.J.C. Skinner D.Coy.one or other of whom was alongside when he was killed and may know re death and burial.

Witness:-
L.R.Elliott 6391
5th Battn.
Dartford.

L.P.J.

London.
22.10.17.

M.

Note Written Pte.Mackay & Cpl.Skinner
20.10.17.

5th Battn
A.I.F.

CROSS T.
6475

"Killed 22.4.17."

I was present at the time that Cross was killed at Lagnicourt by a shell. He and others were sitting round a fire and the shell landed on it. He is buried at Monchy and I saw his grave.
Wit ess:- Pte. T.R Vipond. 6599
Dartford.
16.10.17.

London.
20.10.17.

M

FRANCE

5th BATT. A.I.F. CROSS. T. 6475.

K.Ap.22nd.1917.Det. BEART. E.V. 2255.

Cross had not joined us long, and a decent fellow he was too, he was a carpenter by trade. We were attached to the same mining party. Beart was on traffic duty at that time. They were killed by the same shell while billeted in a stable in a small village called Beugny on the Bapaume and Cambrai road. It happened at night and both were killed outright. We buried them in separate graves in the cemetery which the Germans had made for their dead opposite Beugny church. I took the crosses up my self and put them on the graves and the names and numbers on them. WSI

Ref ---Pte John Boyce. 1710.
No 16 Gen. Hospital.

Le Creport. Oct 30th.1917

5th Battn.
A.I.F.

Cross.
T. 6475

"Killed 22.4.17"

Beugny?

At Bengong he was sitting at a fire with some other meh. & were killed. Cross and Beart working as meners with me. I saw him killed Four were buried in Cemetery near Bengong I went down after and saw the grave cross up. Knew Cross well.

Withess:-
6254 Farley
W.L.Harefield.

D.P.Dickson.

London.
16.11.17.

M.

5th Battn.
A.I.F.

Cross.
T. 6475

"Killed in Action 22.4.17"

Cpl.J.C.Skinner D.Coy.5th Bat n.has referred to me your enquiry re 6475 Pte.T.Cross Killed in action 22.4.17. near Lagnicourt. I am pleased to supply the following from enquiries made principally by Cpl.Skinner. Pte.Cross was at the time of his death temporarily detached from his company and detailed for a certain work with a Pioneer Battn. His body was buried alongside three of his comrades in a small military cemetery at Bueny (?Beugny) A cross painted white and bearing his name was placed on his grave. I should think the G.R.U. of that area would be sure to register it along with the other graves in that cemetery. The description I have been able to gather is as follows:- A well built man about 5'9" in height, fair complexion, ruddy cheeks.

Letter from:-
Capt.Chaplain C.Neville
5th Battn.A.I.F.
2.11.17.

London.
16.11.17.

M.

5th batt. A.I.F.

Cross. Pte. NO.6475
D.Coy.

Killed April. 22nd 1917. Det. D.B.

I. saw him killed by a shell, We were in billets at Buene near Haplincourt at the time, There were eight men killed by the same shell. I could not say much about this man. He came over with the 21st Reinf of the batt.

Description. Age. 26. Height. 5-8. Complexion. Medium. Well Built.

Witness. Pte. Marshall. NO.6530. C.Coy 5th batt.

Taken at
NO.4.C.D.Hurdcott.
3-12-17.
F.G.H.

S.Whitmee.
NO.4.Command depot.
Hurdcott.

5th. Battn.
A.I.F.

CROSS
T. 6475.

Killed in Action 22.4.17.

Re your note of enquiry to Pte. G. MacKay. Pte. Mac Kay handed your note of enquiry on to me as I wa in charge of the Mining Platoon to which T. Cross belonged when he was killed. He was killed on the night of 21/22nd. April 1917 by a high explosive 5.9. German shell which also killed 5 more men and wounded 8 other men. He was buried by the 2nd. Bde. Padre in the German Cemetery at Bengy along with the other dead men. The 5th. Bn. Prionaers have erected a large cross over his grave. His grave will be registered with 5th. Battn. Head Quarters or with the Padre at 2nd Bgde. I am sorry to say, that there is no doubt as to his identity, as I know him personally for a long time before his death. We also recovered his identity disc.

Ref. Letter from No.4762A A.P.Crockell, Sgt.
5th. Bn.A.I.F.
France. 27.11.17.

London.
31.1.18.

H.

5th Btn.

CROSS. T.
Pte. 6475

Killed in action 22/4/17.

"I knew Casualty. He was a tall man, about 5 ft. 10 ins. well built, fair complexion, about 28 years of age, known as "Tom". He was a 21st Rfcts. of the 5th Btn. Casualty was sleeping in a billet at Bune outside of Bapaume. An H.E. shell exploded in the fire where a party of men were sitting around killing Casualty instantly and Pte. T. Addis. I was 100 yds. away at the time the shell exploded but came over directly afterwards and saw Casualty's body lying there. His chief wounds were about the body. He was buried in a ~~small~~ cemtery just near the C.C.S. at Bune and a cross was erected with his name and number on it.

Informant:- T. Williams,
No. 2094.

Private address:-
Holton Street,
Carlton.

T.C.F.
3/5/18.

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS INFORMATION BUREAU—MELBOURNE.

M Ca Dup

Ack'd letter 8-11-17

In the Field
2/11/17.

The Secretary
Wounded and Missing Dept.
Australian Branch B.R.C.S.
54 Victoria St
London S.W. 1.

Dear Madam

Cpl J.C. Skinner D. Coy 5th Batt. A.I.F. has referred to me your enquiry in re 6475 Pte T. Cross 5th Batt. A.I.F. Killed in action 22/4/17. near Lagnicourt. I am pleased to supply the following from enquiries made principally by Cpl Skinner. Pte Cross was at the time of his death temporarily detached from his company and detailed for certain work with a Pioneer Batt. His body was buried alongside three of his comrades in a small military cemetery at Bueny (? BEUGNY). A cross painted white and bearing his name was placed on his grave. I should think the G.R.U. of that area would be sure to register it along with the other graves in that cemetery. The description I have been able to gather is as follows – A well built man about 5 ft 9 in. in height, fair complexion, ruddy cheeks.

I trust the above particulars may be of some assistance to you. Not being with the 5th Batt at that time I cannot state these particulars from personal knowledge.

Yours faithfully
C. Neville Capt Chaplain
5th Batt. A.I.F.

Reply C
FM 6.12.17

6475
T. CROSS
5 Batt.
KA. 22.4.17
M/3

Miss Deakin

See Aims Red Cross Society

Dear Miss Deakin

Re your note of enquiry to Pte G MacKay. Pte MacKay handed your note of enquiry on to me as I was in charge of the Mining platoon to which T Cross belonged when he was killed. He was killed on the night of 21/22nd April 1917. by a high explosive 5.9 German shell which also killed 3 more men & wounded 8 other men. He was buried by the 2nd Bde Padre in the German cemetery at Beugny along with the other dead men. The 5th Bn Pioneers have erected a large cross over his grave. His grave will be registered with 5th Bn HQ Quarters or with the Padre at 2nd Bde. I am sorry to say, that there is no doubt as to his identity, as I have known him personally for a long time before his death. We also recovered his identity disc

Yours faithfully
No 4762 A P Crosskill sgt
5th Bn A I F
France

27/11/17

GC

Capt.C.Neville, C.F.
5th Australian Infantry Battn,
A.I.F., B. E. F.

November 9th, 1917.

Dear Sir,

We wish to thank you for writing to us in answer to our letter to Cpl.J.C.Skinner, concerning

6475 Pte.T.Cross,
5th Battalion,
A.I.F.

The information and details you have supplied will be of much assistance to us, and of value to our enquirers.

We shall now apply to the Graves Registration and Enquiries asking them to forward a photograph of the grave to the next of kin.

Again thanking you for the trouble you have taken to help us.

Yours faithfully,

SECRETARY.

OS