

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

**6304 Private  
Charles Norris Lake**

**15th Battalion**



1540410F

A.I.P. 15th Batta.

LAKE  
Charles Morris 8504

Prisoner of War

Translation of German Death Certificate received from Capt. Mills and passed on to A.I.P. Hdqrs 29/9/19.

Reichswehrbefehlshaberstelle,  
Prussia.

Berlin,  
17th Sept. 19.

It is hereby certified that there is here the death card of the Ref. II. D according to which the Australian Prisoner of War Lake, Charles Morris, 15th Australian, 4th Division, 4th Brigade, 4th Company, died at Cantrai on 9th February 1917 and was buried in the soldiers' Cemetery, 1 Porte de Paris, E. Grave 268.

(Signed) Mehule v. Stradonitz  
Captain.

Seal of the Prussian War Office,  
Central Information Bureau.

CHANCELLER

CHANCE OF CHANCELS

London  
8/10/19

ANSLATION FIEL  
CHANCELS

S  
P.I.

A.I.F. 15

LAKE, C.H. 6304  
LAKE, W. 8388

6388 off clb  
M. 11-4-17

M. Feb. 1st. 1917.  
M. Apr. 11th. 1917.

One of these men is a prisoner of war in Germany, and I have seen a postcard written by him from there, and I cannot say which one it is.

Informant: W.J. Harris. 3759. 1. Coy.  
No. 2 Asst. General.  
BOULOGNE. 3.7.16.

L.H. Lake died P/O

FD

Not sent on

15th Battn.  
A. I. F.

Lake.  
Pte. C. N. 5304

"Died Prisoner of War"

re 6304 Pte. C.N.Lake. We have made enquiries throughout the Battalion with reference to postcard referred to by you, but cannot trace it. It is possible that the man who received same has since become a casualty. Our latest information re 6304 Pte. C. N. Lake is that he died whilst Prisoner of War in Germany 9.2.17. Re 6388 Pte. W. Lake he is posted Missing 11.4.17. It is more than probable that the German list showing removal from Cambrai to Limburg refers to 6388 Pte. W. Lake.

Letter from:-

The Adjutant,

15th Battn. A.I.F. 18.7.17.

Note

Is the man being confused on German list 21.4.17 with 6388 W. Lake 15th Battn. Missing 11.4.17, of whom we have no trace as P/W or with Sgt. H.L.Lake, 13th Battn. Missing 11.4.17.- who was at Verdun a/Aller Germany, 8.5.17. He might possibly have been sent via Cambrai and Limburg to Verdun.

London.  
9.8.17.

S. & P.I.

15th Batt.  
A.I.F.

Lake,  
Charles Norris,  
6304.

"Prisoner of War"

Reported Died 9.2.17 in Gef. Laz Cambrai, - Buried in Cemetery Notre  
Dame, Cambrai.

Cert, by German death list dated 12.6.17 - Grave No 38.  
Cemetery Cambrai - Cert, by W.O. List dated 9.6.17

London 18.8.17

S. & P.I.

15th Batt.  
I.I.P.

Lake  
Charles, Norris, 6304.

"Missing 1.2.17"  
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Died Laz Cambrai Buried Cemetery Notre Dame de Cambrai -  
Grave 266.

Cert, by German Death List dated 20.8.17

Personal effects forwarded

Cert, by Nachlass List dated 20.8.17

London 17.9.17

S & P.I

15th Batt.  
A.I.F.

Lake,  
Charles, Norris 6304

"Missing 1.2.17"  
-----

Died 9.2.17 - Personal effects forwarded

Cert, by German Nachlass List dated 28.8.17

London 18.9.17

S & P.I.

*Final copy*

15th Batt,  
A.I.F.

Iaka,  
Charles Norris, 6304

"Prisoner of War"  
-----

Died Gef Laz. Cambrai - Buried there Cemetery Notre Dame - Grave 258<sub>6</sub>

Cert. by War Office List dated 18.9.17

London 26.9.17

S & P.I



FRANCE

15th BATT. A.I.F. A.

LARK. C.N. 6304.

M. Feb 1st. 1917.

He was in No 1 Platoon and an Englishman. We were in the 1st German line at Guesdencourt when he was wounded in the head by a piece of High Explosive shell. I saw him just after, as they started to carry him along to a dug-out where he was left. We had to evacuate the line and he was left there.

WSI.

Ref ---Pte C.A.P. Smith. 193. 1V Plat. A.Coy.  
No 16 Gen. Hospital

Le Treport. August 31st. 1917

note  
in German head list  
17-7-17

~~P.H.~~  
G.D.L 26-3-17 S.P.1  
12.5.17

10th Batt,  
A.I.F.

10th Batt,  
Chas. Morris.

"Prisoner of War"

Transferred to Geflg Limburg, from Cambrai.

Cert. by information from German List dated 21.4.17

London  
29.6.17

Off M. & P.I.

15th Batt.  
A.I.F.

Lake,  
Charles, Norris, 6504.

"Prisoner of War"  
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Died 9.2.17 - Death resulting from gunshot wound and heart failure. - Buried in Soldiers Cemetery Porte de Paris Cambrai single grave 268. The grave is marked with a cross and a name

Cert, by Letter from German Red Cross Frankfurtam Main dated 25.8.17 in answer to ours of 10.7.17

London 22.10.17

S & P.I.

16.3.17.

Miss E. Lake,

Delhi Rd. near Sney St. Lower Edmonton, N.

Dear Madam,

We very much regret to tell you that No. 6504 Pte. C.M. Lake  
~~5th. Bn. A.I.F.~~ 15th. Bn. A.I.F. died of wounds as a prisoner of war on 9.2.17 in  
the Gefangenen Lazarett Cambrai, in German-occupied France, there  
being no other details available.

From information obtained from a German list we learn that he  
is buried in grave No. 38 at the Notre Dame Cemetery at Cambrai.

And we fear that it is useless to hope for further particulars.

May we offer you our very sincere sympathy in your great loss  
which occurred <sup>under</sup> such sad circumstances.

Yours faithfully,

V.P.

Secretary.

18-7-17

The Secretary  
A.R.C.S.  
London.

Reference your letter July 12<sup>th</sup>  
re 6364 Pte. Lake, C.V.

Died P.W.

We have made inquiries throughout  
the battn. with reference to postcard  
referred to by you but cannot trace.  
It is possible that the man who  
received same has since become  
a casualty.

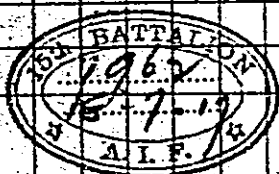
Our latest information re  
6304 Pte. Lake, C.V. is that he died  
whilst Prisoner of War in Germany

9-2-17

Re 6388 Pte. Lake, W. he is  
listed Missing - 11-4-17.

It is more than probable that  
the German list showing removal  
from Cambrai to Limburg refers to  
6388 Pte. Lake, W.

S.P.  
5



B. S. Atkinson CAPTAIN,  
ADJUTANT, 15th BATTALION A.I.F.

October 4th, 1917.

Miss E. Lake,  
7, Delhi Rd,  
Mr. Bury St,  
Lower Edmonton, N.

Dear Madam,

We are now informed that No 6304 Pte. C. H. Lake,  
15th Battalion,  
A.I.F.

who died as a prisoner of war on 9.2.17 in Gefangenenlazarett,  
Cambrai, is buried in Grave 268 in the Notre Dame Cemetery,  
Cambrai.

Regretting that we have no further information to send  
you and assuring you of our sincere sympathy in your loss.

Yours faithfully,

V. P.  
SECRETARY.  
L. W.

29.10.17.

Miss. E. Lake,  
7. Delhi Road,  
Nr. Bury St.,  
Lower Edmonton,  
H.

Dear Madam,

With reference to your inquiry for:-

<sup>4</sup>  
6309. Pte. Charles Morris Lake, 15th Batt, A.I.F.

We beg to inform you that we have now heard from  
the German Red Cross, Frankfurt am Main confirming the previous  
reports we have sent you. They state that Pte Lake, died on  
9.2.17. as the result of a gunshot wound and heart failure.

He was buried in the Soldiers Cemetery, Porte de  
Paris, Cambrai, in a single grave (No. 268) which is marked with  
a cross and a name.

Assuring you of our sincere sympathy

Yours faithfully,

Secretary.

March 30th.1917.

Mrs. A. Lake.  
Delhi Road  
Hr. Bury Street  
Lower Edmonton. N.

Dear Madam;

We are in receipt of your letter re 6304. Pte. Charles, Morris  
Lake, A. Coy. No. 1. Platoon, 15th. Battn. A. I. F. & regret to state that  
at present we have no news of him.

We shall make full enquiries and shall notify you immediately  
we receive any news.

Assuring you of our sympathy in your anxiety.

Yours faithfully,

V. D per A

SECRETARY.



Friday

answered  
28.3.17

7 Delhi Rd.  
H. A. Bury Street.  
Lower Edmonton.  
RECEIVED  
26 MAR 1917  
H.

CARLTON HOUSE TERRACE.

Delhi Rd. Gen. Society

Ans. 28.3.17

Having heard the good  
you Society have done, in getting news  
of our dear ones who are missing,  
I am writing to ask if you would help.  
me, Our dear Boy, was reported missing  
February 1<sup>st</sup> 1917.

Pte. Charles. Norris Lake.  
No. 6304. A. Company.  
No. 1 Platoon  
15<sup>th</sup>. Batt;  
Australian Infantry Force  
France.

Yours Truly  
E. Lake.



AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY.

Tel.: VICTORIA 8858.

ALL COMMUNICATIONS  
TO BE ADDRESSED TO  
"THE SECRETARY,"  
WOUNDED AND MISSING  
— ENQUIRY BUREAU —

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY.

TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS:  
"QUESTMAN, LONDON."

54, VICTORIA STREET,

LONDON S.W.1.

July 12th, 1917.

The Adjutant,  
15th Aust. Inf. Battn.  
B. E. F.

Dear Sir,

On a German Death List dated 26.3.17 we received the information that 6304 Charles Norris Lake of your battalion (reported missing 1.2.17) had died in hospital and was buried at the Cemetery of Notre-Dame - Cambrai.

On a later German List (dated 24.4.17) this same man is clearly shown as having been transferred from Cambrai to Limburg. We have frequently found these German reports of death and burial to be unreliable - but we have to date had no post card from Pte. Lake asking for food parcels etc.

One of our searchers in France now sends in a report from a man in the battalion stating that he has seen a post card written from Germany by either 6304 C. N. Lake or 6388 W. Lake - he is not sure which. We would be much obliged if you could cause inquiries to be made as to this card - and, if it is discovered, could forward it to us. You will realise how important it is, that, if he is



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alive, we should get Pte. Lake's correct address as quickly as possible so that parcels of food may be sent to him without further delay.

We have written to ask the German Red Cross Society to investigate the contradictory German lists - but it will be a long time before we can hope to receive a reply.

Yours faithfully,

*V. Beakin*

Secretary.

*per W.D.L.*