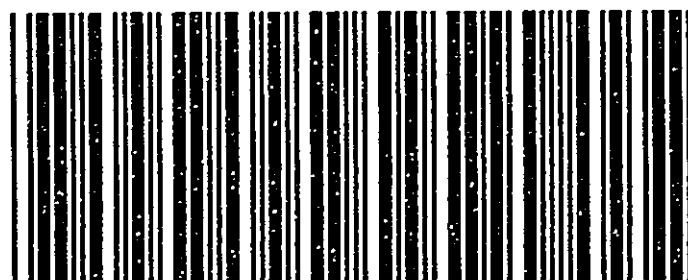


Australian Red Cross Society Wounded and Missing  
Enquiry Bureau files, 1914-18 War  
1DRL/0428

6286 Private  
William Henry North

1st Battalion



2020405D

A.I.F. I.

NORTH. W.H. 6286.

K. April 16/17. Det. D/B.

North was in B.VII. and was killed at Hermies, I cannot give the date. Our lines were quite close there and he was sent up to dig an M.G. Post. The Germans were bombing and North got one of the bombs all over him and was killed at once. I was about 10 yards behind him. This was about 3 p.m. We buried him next morning not far behind our line on a decent piece of ground not broken up by shells and put up a cross. There were about 4 buried there already and we brought down more during the day. North came from a Sydney suburb † age 20 or 30, married I believe. He was in the next or next but one, reinforcements to mine which was the 18th. He was wearing a steel breast plate.

Informant. Pte L.F.R. Murphy. 5748. B.VI (late VII  
54 Gen Hosp.  
BOULOGNE. 6.10 17.

JT. P.1

A. I. P. 1.

NORTH, W.H.6286.

K. April 6th, 1917.

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I did not know him personally but there is a man up the line who is a bit of a poet named Pte De Sylverice of D XVI who showed me some lines of poetry he had written on North's death and he knows everything about him. I read the poetry. I know he was killed about April 16th at Dornesch on the Somme near Veiu.

PKE.

Reference:- Bugler H.V.Hansen. 6813. D.XVI.  
No. 1 Can. Gen. Hosp.

Not sent on to P. 1

P. 1

Etapes  
22.9.17.

Written Pte De Sylverice  
3.10.17

Havre

8th October.1917.

1st AUSTRALIANS

NORTH, F.N. 6286

K. April 16th.1917. Det. D/B.

I know Pt. Wm. H. North of B.Co., VIII.Pltn. He came from Sydney in the 20th to 1st reinforcement in the "Euripides" on 9th September 1916. I saw his grave in April 1917 in the open at Doignies, alongside a road, near our front line. We held the ground. It had a rough cross on it. I could point out the spot.

Informant: Pt. C. Haynes, 6256  
1st Australians, B.Co., VI.Pltn.  
Australian Camp, Rouelles.

RDM.

P11

1st Battn.  
D.Coy.  
A. I. F.

North.  
W. H. 6286

"Killed 16.4.17"

I saw him killed at Hermies. He was caught by a shell and very badly mutilated, death being instantaneous. I do not know place of burial, and I cannot refer to anyone for particulars. I knew him well, he was the only man of that name in the Coy.

Witness:-

Pte. G. O'Neil 6290 <sup>Pte.</sup>  
1st Battn. B. Coy. 5th Rfls.  
3rd Aust. Aux. Hospital.  
Dartford.

W. Oman.

London.  
9.10.17.

P.I.

Havre

12th November. 1917.

1st AUSTRALIANS

NORTH, W.H. 6286

K. April 16th. 1917. Det. W/B.

He was in B.Co., VI.Pln. 7. I was told that North was killed on the 15th April, just outside (Borces Village?) near Hermies. A pineapple bomb hit him, and killed him instantly. I helped to bury him near the Chapel, alongside of the road; a few were buried at the same place. I made a rough cross, and put his name etc. on it.

Informant: Pt. W.E. Cheadle, 29  
1st Australians, B.Co., VI.Pln. H.G.  
Havre Hospital, Havre.

HPG.

1st Batt. A.I.F.

North. Pte. NO. 6286. W. H.  
B. Coy.

Killed. April 16th 1917. Det D.E.

I saw his body just after he was killed, he was killed by a German grenade. We were in the front lines at the time, close to Biennes, on the right of the villiage. He was buried close to where he died, A party from the coy formed the burial party. I do not think there was any cross erectdd. I only knew him in the coy, he came over with the 20th reinf of the batt. leaving Sept 9th 1916 on the transport Eurypides. he came from N.S.W.

Description. Age. 23. Height. 5-7. Complexion. Dark. Medium built.

Witness. Pte. Brenner. F.A. NO. 6281. B. Coy. 1st Batt.

Taken at  
NO. 4. C. D. Hurdicott.  
13-11-17.  
F.C.E.

S. Whitmee.  
NO. 4. Command Depot  
Hurdicott.

P. H.  
B. L.  
Suff

Havre

14th Nov. 1917.

1st AUSTRALIANS

NORTH, W.M. 6286

K. 16.4.17. Det. D/B.

North was a mate of mine, with whom I left Australia on the 9th Sept. 1916. I knew him well. He lived in Sydney, and was in the employ of the City Council. He was in B Co. I was in the lines, about 300 yards away, when he was killed. I was told that he was killed by an enemy bomb thrown into the trench. He did not see the bomb coming, nor did he hear the warning, and did not take cover. He was the only man killed there. He is buried in the Military Cemetery adjoining the village of Daignies, on the same front. There is a white cross over him, with his name and other particulars.

Informant: Pte. J.G. Lowler, 6275  
1st Australians, C Co., 12th Pltn.,  
Australian Camp, Ronelles.

20

P. I  
L. d  
S. W



1st Batt:  
A.I.F.

North. Pte: W.H. 6286.  
A Coy: 7 Pl:

(K. Ap: 16/17)  
Det D/B.

"He was a close friend of mine. We were in Camp, training together in Australia. I had known him for 18 months. I saw him killed (16th April) He was wearing an armour plate at the time. We were on an outpost. A 'pine-apple' bomb caught him. We were sent out to re-inforce the 4th Bat: and while we were at our post he was killed instantaneously. I saw him buried, close on night. The place was called Boissy or Boisseul. He was laid in a separate grave, next to Neilson. No service held. A cross was placed at the head of the grave. There were remains of a ruined church or chapel close by. He was a married man."

Eye-witness: Yes.

Description: He was about 5ft 6 to 8". Fair. partly bald,  
age 30 to 40.

Informant: Pte: Martin Joseph Kerwan. 5723.  
1st Bat: A.I.F. A Co: 7 Pl:  
Stanley Hos: Liverpool.

*p.1*  
*ed*  
*Staff*

Home address: Gribben,  
By Henty,  
New South Wales.  
Australia.

23.11.17.  
F.W. Miller.

1st Battn  
A.I.F.

NORTH  
Pte. W. 6286

"Killed 16.4.17."

He was in the same Batt. and was killed by a pineapple bomb and I saw his grave just outside Boursies on the road to Cambrai and near a wayside shrine. I saw the wooden cross with his name, number and date of death.

He came from Australia with me.

Mosphett. M.A. 6279

R.D.B.

1st Battn

Dartford.

London.  
28.6.17.

P.I.

Have

5th Sept. 1917

1st AUSTRALIANS

NORTH, W.H. 6286

K. 16.4.17. Det. D/B.

He was in B Co., 7th Bn. I helped to bury him in the open at Boursie just outside the village near a sunken road. I put his rifle and a piece of board with his name, battalion, and number on it. I could point out the spot. We held the ground.

Informant; Pte. P.C. Madson, 3862  
1st Australians, B Co., 6th Bn.,  
Australian Camp, Ronellon.

P.I.

RDM

A. I. F. 1.

NORTH, W.H. 6286.

K. April 16th, 1917.

I knew him well. We used to call him "Billy". He was in B Coy and in either V or VI, I think VI. He joined up in F.S. Salas. Aged 20/25. Height 5 ft 9. Fairly well built, neither dark nor fair. I saw him killed at Boisies on left of Cambrai Road about April 16th. Midday. By a pineapple bomb which got him all over killing him instantly. I was about 50 yards away. He fell by a sunken road in our line just behind our outposts. Know nothing as to burial.

PHE.

Reference:- Pte. A.G. Doyle. 6240. B.VIII.  
No. 1 Can. Cen. Hosp.

Staples  
20.9.17.

P.I

Havre

2nd September.1917.

1st AUSTRALIANS

NORTH, W.H. 6286

Z. April 16th.1917. Det. D/A.

I knew Pt. William Henry North of B.Co. He was a great friend of mine, and came across with me in the 20th to 1st reinforcement in the "Scripides" Tom Sydney on September 9th, 1916. He came from Wales; his people live there; he had been in Sydney for about 5 years, and worked for the City Council. I saw his grave in a Military Cemetery at Doullens; there is a cross on it.

Informant: Pt. J.G. Taylor 6275  
1st Australians, B.Co., 211. Plin.  
Australian Camp, Rouelles.

R.H.

P.1

1 C / 3.10.17

X  
P<sup>6</sup> De. SILVERICE

D. Coy. 16 Plat

1st Bateria A.I.F.

B. E. F.

C  
C  
about

6286 W. H. NORTH

1st Bateria A.I.F.

K. 6.4.17

C  
R.P.  
4.10.17

September 10th, 1917.

Miss E. North,  
6, Caich Terrace,  
Nelson, Glemoganshire.

Dear Madam,

In answer to your inquiry for details of the death  
of

No 6286 Pte. <sup>A</sup>W.A. North,  
1st Battalion,  
A.I.F.

and we regret to inform you of an unofficial report received  
from a man of the unit who was in the 3rd Australian  
Auxiliary Hospital, Dartford.

No 6279 Pte. W.A. Murphett, stated that Pte. North was  
killed instantly by a pineapple bomb on 16.4.17 and he has  
seen his grave just outside Boursies on the road to Cambrai  
near a wayside shrine, marked by a wooden cross bearing his  
name and regimental particulars.

We are continuing our inquiries and hope soon to send  
you definite information which we feel sure you will appreciate  
and we wish to express our sincere sympathy with you in your  
loss.

Yours faithfully, VJ

RAW

1st October 1917

Miss E. North,  
6 Carach Terrace,  
Nelson,  
Glamorganshire.  
N.B.

Dear Madam,

We deeply regret to inform you of another report about No 6286 Pte. William Henry North 1st Bata A.I.F. and trust that it will be of some comfort to you to know that he was buried by his comrades. No 5862 Pte. F.C. Hudson who is in an Australian Camp in France stated that he helped to bury Pte. North out in the open near the Sunken Road outside the village of Boursies, his grave being marked by <sup>his</sup> rifle and his name and regimental particulars. The ground was held by us so probably his grave has been registered.

We are pursuing the enquiry as we hope to obtain a definite account of his death and burial which we shall immediately forward to you.

Assuring you of our sincere sympathy in your loss.  
Yours faithfully.

J.R. for L.A.W.

October 18th, 1917.

Miss E. North,  
6, Golden Terrace,  
Nelson, Glamorganshire.

Dear Madam,

In further answer to your inquiry for details of the death and burial of No 6286 Pte. W. H. North,  
~~1st Battalion,~~  
A.I.F.,

we regret to inform you of unofficial evidence given by men of the same unit some of whom witnessed the casualty.

Informants agree in stating that your brother was killed instantaneously by a pine-apple bomb at Doignes<sup>hi</sup> near Bapaume on April 16th, and some of them have seen a cross erected over his grave which is in the open near the Cambrai road and near our front line. The ground has remained in our possession and there seems very reason to believe that it is registered.

No 6275 Pte. J. G. Lawler, gives, similar evidence. He says that Pte. North who was his great friend came from Australia with him in the Euripides and he has seen his grave in the Doignes<sup>hi</sup> Military Cemetery, marked by a cross bearing his regimental particulars.

We are continuing our inquiries for details of his death



and burial and as soon as we obtain further news we shall  
let you know as we realize how anxious you must be.

Assuring you of our sincere sympathy.

Yours faithfully,

V A  
SECRETARY.

A. J.

December 5th, 1917.

Miss E. North.  
6. Cefach Terrace,  
Nelson, Glamorganshire.

Dear Madam,

We beg to forward further unofficial reports that have come to hand concerning the death of

6286 Pte. W. H. NORTH,  
1st Battalion,  
A.I.F.

6875 J. G. Lawler, stated that North was a mate of his, and that he left Australia with him in Sept. 1916. He lived in Sydney and was in B. Coy of the Battalion. He was killed instantly by an enemy bomb which was thrown into the trench. He is buried in the Military Cemetery adjoining the village of Daignies on the Somme front.

6221 Pte. T. E. Brenner who describes North as dark complexion, medium build, and about 23 years of age, gives a similar report.

29 Pte. W. F. Cheadle also confirms this evidence and says he helped to bury him near the Chapel, alongside the road.

Trusting these few details may be of some help to you.

Yours faithfully,  
*Mrs. Craig*  
SECRETARY.

Miss E. North,  
6, Caisch Terrace,  
Nelson, Glamorganshire.

January 3rd, 1918.

Dear Madam,

We regret to inform you of another unofficial report given by No 5723 Pte. M.J. Kerwan, 1st Battalion, A.I.F., about the death of No 6286 Pte. WILLIAM HENRY NORTH, 1st Bttn, A.I.F. for whom ~~you~~<sup>we</sup> have now closed our enquiries. Should however we obtain further details ~~we~~<sup>we</sup> shall immediately forward them to you.

Informant reported, <sup>that</sup> Pte. North, who had been in camp together in Australia, and who was his close friend was killed instantaneousl by a pine apple bomb when they were on outpost duty at Boisseul, and he witnessed his burial towards evening at the place of casualty near a ~~small~~<sup>small</sup> church in a grave, marked by a cross bearing his regimental particulars." Informant also describes him as fair, slightly bald and about 5'6 or 8" in height.

With our sincere sympathy in your loss.

Yours faithfully,

*HW*  
SECRETARY.