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

# 5799 Private Wilfred Joseph Moss

10th Battalion



1840207M

#### M. April 9th 1917.

Moss - name Will - was in B.Coy at the time. We had come out of reserve at Fremicourt near Bapaums, and his company went over on Sunday night or rather Easter Monday marning to try and take a strong position, Moss was killed. On the Tuesday morning they took the strong point, and found hisbody, but could not bring it out as the snipers were too busy. We were relieved the night after. Pie Ridley of B.Coy, a cousin of Moss, told me this. He and Moss came in the same Reinf. as me, so I know them well, and the information can be relied on.

Inf: Pte A.E. White. 6034. D.Coy. No. 32 Stat. BOULOGNE. 17.5.17.

JE WHOLE

Written Pa Ridley 22.5:17

#### MOSS, W.J. 5799

#### M.April 8th 1917.

I knew him. We were on the other side of Bapaume. It was in the general attack. Hoss was MGS. A man I knew who was a chum of Moss's told me after the action that he had seen him killed, but I have no details.

Informant: Private F.Katekar. 2625 Ho.7 C.C. BOULOGNE. 18.5.17.



RAOI

10th A. I. F. B Co.

W. J. MOSS, 5799.

Missing 8.4.17.

He was on the M.G. Corps at Lagnicourt during the attack, and a man called Dolan came back and told me that Moss with others had been taken prisoner which he had witnessed.

Reference: Pte. C. G. Duke, 5964.

No.1 Australian, Rouen. 7.6.17.

FS.

X

not sent on

10th Battn. A. I.

Moss. 5799. W. J.

#### "Missing 8.4.17."

About No.5799 Pte.W.J.Moss of the 10th Battalion. There is every indication that he was wounded and taken prisener and if you find out anything about him I would like you to let me know. He was about 5'8" in height, thick set, fair.complexion and blue eyes. Hoping to hear good news about him before long.

London. 17.7.17.

Letter from:Pte. F.W.Ridley.
France.. 15.6.17.

A.

10th AUSTRALIANS

2038. H.J. 5799

Mad mg 6th April 1917

Hose was in B. Company. <u>Sergeant H.R. Sparritt</u> of the 10th Btm. B.Qo., 5th Flatcon, ill be able to give definite in ormation about Hose. I we out with Spurritt at Lagaicourt in April after the stant collecting pay-books and discs and i think that I saw Hose amongst the dead, but Spurritt will be able to say definitely. Spurritt is in England suffering from Treach Feet.

Informant: Pto. C.L.J. Pinder 1505 10th Australians R.Co.VI Platoen Australian Camp. Housiles

Weither Of Spuritt 20.7.17 4 P. S.

10th Battn.
A. I. F.

Moss. V. J. 5799.

#### "Missing 8.4.17"

I think Pte. H. A. Dolan could give you some information about 5799 Fte. W. J. Moss of the 16th Batth. at he was with him on the marning of the 9th April. Pte. Dolan was wounded and went to England and is at present on furlough, his address is 6148 Fte. H. A. Dolan, Warne Citadel, Portland, England, so I have just found out.

Letter from:Pte. F. W. Ridley.
France. 6.7.17.

London. 24.7.17.

Α.

Written Pt Dolais 12.10.17

Ioth Batt. A.I.F.

MOSS W.J. 5799.
"B" Coy., No 7 Platoon.
L.M.G.Sect.

" M. April 8th., 17. "

"Moss was near me when we made a charge on April 8th., to the right of Lagnicourt. While crossing No Man's land, he was hit by a machine gun bullet, and killed instantly. I was wounded myself the same day, and came away, so cannot say what happened to his body. We were in the same Coy., and knew each other quite well."

Description. Hgt. Very small. Medium complexion. Stout build.

Witness.

Michael W.W. 6083. IOth Batt. "B" Coy.

Taken at Verne Citadel.

Portland. J.G.W.

September 21st., 17.

S. Whitmes.
No 4 Command Depot,
Coaford.

P.I.

### H. 8.4.17.

Heas was in the L.G.S. We were attacking at Lagnicourt and he was killed by H.G. fire. He was picked up lying on the top of his gun. His cousin, Cpl.A. Mcss. in the same Bn. who is now instructing in England, knows that he was killed. It was just about daybreak on Oth.April. Another cousin. Egt.G. Mcss. was wounded at the same time and has gobe back to Australia.

Reference: L/Cpl.A. Martin. 3804. 4 Gen. Epl.

8.10.17.

britten Chl Moss 25.10.17

R P.I.

10th Australian Imperial Force

Hoss. W. J. 5799

( M. 8. 4. 1917).

Creaser is now at the 3rd Training Battn at Lark Hill, Salisbury Plain and can give all information.

Eye Witness - No.

Description -

Informant: Pte. J. K. Schramm. 5752.

A Coy. 4th Pltn. 10th Aus. Imp Force
2nd Southern General Hospital.
Bishop's Knoll

Home address :Port Lincoln.
South Australia.

14. 10. 17. C. Strachan.

Written Cpl. Creaser 24.10.17.

A s

nkowky

10th Battn. A.I.F.

Mass. 5799 W. J.

#### "Missing 8.4.17

Moss went over with us, we had a certain objective to take, we struck a little German strong post ("Lone Tree Pist") Lagnicourt Easter Sunday morning. Moss with M.G.S. was then on our right. We came to a halt at the top of a rise where we lost our officer, Sgt., and hearly all were wounded. We knew that Moss got as far as this with us, 24 hours later we went over the ground and found no trace of him and concluded he must have been taken presoner. The ground was under observation all the 24 hours. Ground was lost.

> Eye-witness: Saw.him go out I was in charge of . his platoon.

Description: -

Informant: - Cpl.J.Holden 14

Home Address: P.O.Adelside. 19.10.17.

10th Battn.A.I.F. B.Coy.7th Pltn. Ford Hospital Devonport.

E.M. Hall

London.

31.10.17.

P.I.

10th Betn B. Coy., A. I. F.

REOM ਘ.J. 5799

#### "Missing 8.4.17.

Refer to Pte. Dolan 19th Reinforcements 10th Batn who is now in France and who saw him killed instantly while working a Lewis Machine Gun and can give full details of casualty.

> Witness:-Pte S.R. Hewlett 6073 10th Betn C. Coy., 11th Pltn. 3rd A.A. Hospital, Dartford.

rondon.

Note Pte. Dolan written to 18.10.17.

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MOSS W. J. 5799 

#### "Missing 8.4.17."

Re the late Pte. W. J. Hoss. Unfortunately I am afraid I cannot throw any light on the matter with regards to his burisl, The last I saw of him was going towards the enemy with his machine gun and the next I heard that he was Missing, then I was told that he was Miled. With a coursin of his I went out to look for him but could not trace Re the late Pte. W. J. Hoss. him at all. The majority of the men are of the opinion that he was killed and buried by some English regiment that relieved us in the line. Should I hear anything further I will at once communicate with you and let you know of any further developments.

Letter from:- V. J. Creaser.

Sutton Veny:

9.11.17.

London. 16.11.17. Note Cpl Hoss written to. 25.10.17.

10th Batn I.I.E.

11055 W.J. 5799

"Hissing"

Killed in Action 8.4.17. prev. reported Missing Cert. by A.I.F. HdQtrs 12.12.17.

P.I.A

London 18.12.17.

#### DECLARATION.

.10th Battn. A.I.F.

Moss. 5799

#### "Killed in Action 8.4.17"

I HENRY ARNOLD DOLAN of Renmark in the State of South Australia Fruitgrower formerly No.6148 Fte. Dolan in the 10th Battalion of the Australian Imperial Forces do solemnly and sincerely declare as follws:

On the eighth day of April 1917 I was on active service with 1.

my Battalion near Lagnicourt France in Europe. 2. I was detailed for guty with a Machine Gun Section and was No.2 of such section.

3. No.5799 Pte.Wilfred J.Hoss was also detailed for duty with such Machine Gun Section and was No.1 of such section.

During the fighting which took place near Lagnicourt on the eighth day of April 1917 I was wounded.

5. No.5799 Pte. Wilfred J. Moss was at my side during the fighting and was there when I was wounded.

6. While lying wounded. Ptc. Moss who was lying down beside me ta-

king cover was shot through the head and killed instantly.
7. I was lying beside Pte. Moss for some hours after he was killed.

I endeavoured to obtain something from Pte.Moss's pockets as

10th Battn. A.I.F.

Moss. -2-

5799

a means of proof of his death and to send to his relatives but the slightest movement was so fraught with danger that I could 9. Previous to the outbreak of the war I knew and was well acquainted with Pte. Moss and am therefore certain that it was he who was killed as aforesaid on the eighth day of April 1917.

And I make this solemn declaration conscientiously believing the same to be true and by virtue of the provisions of the Statutory Declarations Act 1918 . DECLARED at Renmark the seventeenth day of December 1917. (Sga) H.A.Dolan

> Before me (Sgd) Stanley H.Fleming A. Commissioner etc.

	A.I.F. 10th Btn.	wa.	NOBS 11 iam Joseph 579
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G. A. TON HOUSE TERRACE

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10 Ball Alt BEF 5499 W. J. Moss 10 Ball Alf

France The Secretary. Wounded Missing Engury Bureau Renguiries put ut No 5719 Ste Whatastof the Their is every indication what siff for find out anything about him hoved the sie to let me know. He was about 5 to Brine he in height thick set, said conflexion a the eyes. Hoping to leave good news about himbefore ling. 5499 W. J. Moss J. Remain Ple I. W. Ridley 17.8 4.14

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SI H R SPURRITE B. CO.
10 Bawale BIF FIRS W. S. S. Infanks N 8: 4.17 20.7.17

France 6.7.17 he Secretary Wounded tolksing Enquiry Bureau think Ite Het Dolan. could give you some information about 19 Ste W. J. Moss of lie 10 th Battalion as he was with him on the morning of the got offered. The Lolan was wounded a went to England & is at present on furlough, his adress is 6149 The Hote Tolar. Herrie bitadel. Portland. England, so I have just found out & Remain yours dincirely The F.M. F. Day 5499 W. J. Moss 10 Batt A.1. F M 8. 4. 17 Azb

Tel.; VICTORIA 8858.

ALL.COMMUNICATIONS TO BE ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY. WOUNDED AND MISSING ENQUIRY BUREAU -



#### AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY.

#### AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY.

TELEGRAPHIE ABORESS: "QUESTEAN, LONDON." 54. VICTORIA STREET,

LONDON, S.W. 1.

Pte.W.J.Cresser, 10th Aust.Inf. Ettn, A.I.F., No 1 Command Depot, Sutton Very, Wilts.

November 12th, 1917.

Dear Fte Creaser,

We wish to thank you for your letter in answer to our enquiry concerning

> 5799 <u>V.J.MOS</u> 10 of Partelion, ALLE

We are gridved to learn that you have not heard anything more definite than we have about this soldier, but thank you for your promise to send us further news should any come to hand.

With all good wishes.

Yours faithfully,

Vera benkui SECRETARY. per o.S.

5799 W.J. MOSS 10 Back Sutton Very, M8.4-17 Nov. 9th 1917. Lear Madam, Received your communication the late Ph W.J. 171000. Unfortunally I am afraid I cannot throw any light on the matter with regards to his Buriel. The last I saw of him was going towards the enemy with his machine alen and the next I Meard that he was missing then Iwas Weld that he was helled. With a course of this I went out to look for him but contol not trace dom atall. The majority of the men are of the openion that he was helled and buried by some beyligh regiment that relevest us will the line. Thould I hear aughter futher Juill at once commission for and let you know of any further developments. Not Capitures lette House faithfully 1

October 18th, 1917.

No 5966 Pte.A.Ash, 10th Battalion, A.I.F., 5rd London General Hospital, Wandsworth.

Dear Sir,

In further enswer to your inquiry for details of the death of No 5799 Fte.W.J.Moss.

10th Battalion.
A.I.F.

we regret very much to inform you of an unofficial report which has been given by a man of his unit when at Verne Citadel ... Portland.

Informant states that Pte. Moss was close to him in the: charge on the right of Lagnicourt on April 8th, and while crossing No Man's Land, he saw him killed instantly by a machine gun Bullet. As he was himself wounded on the same day he knows nothing of his buriel.

We deeply regret the distressing character of this news and are continuing the inquiry in hopes of obtaining definite information which we shall immediately forward to you.

Assuring you of our sincere sympathy in your asxiety about

your friend. Yo You V.D. LAW.



#### AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY.

Tel.: VICTORIA 8858.

54. VICTORIA STREET.

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

LONDON S.W. 1.

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY.

6.11.17.

TELEBRAPHIC ADDRESS:
"QUESTMAN, LONDON."

5966. Pte. G. A. Ash, 10th Batt, - A.I.F. 3rd Aux Aust: Hpl Dartford.

Dear Sir.

We regret to inform you of another unofficial report of a sad and distressing character about:-

#### 5799. Pte. W. J. Moss, Ioth Battalion A.I.F.

Which only confirms the fears we already had as to his safety.

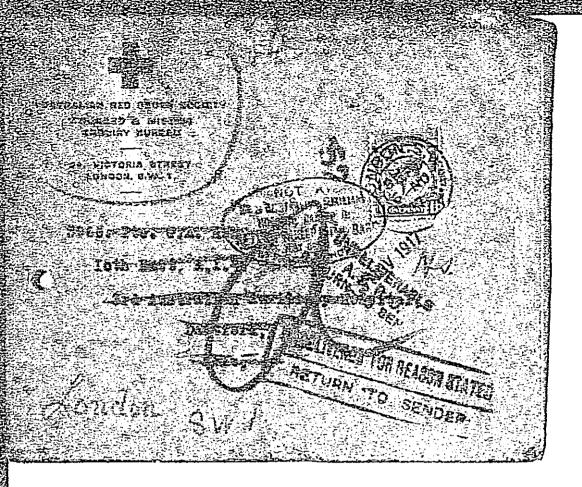
Our informant reported think Pte. Moss was acting on their right

with his machine gun section, in an attack on a German Strong Post
known as Lone Tree Post at Lagincourt, and he was still with them
when they halted at the top of a rise where they lost the officer
and sergeant and nearly all were wounded. No one can say what
became of him after that, but a thorough search was made next day
over the same ground, which although lost, had remained under their
observation all the time, and it was concluded that he was a
Prisoner of War. This hope we feel is no longer to be held, for
we have heard from men who were captured long after that date and
he would surely have availed himself of the opportunity offercas were

If advising someone of his capture. Two other men give somewhat different reports. No.3804 L/Cpl. A. Martin, reported that Pte Moss was killed by machine gun fire, when they were attacking at Langicourt at daybreak on April 8th and was afterwards found lying dead on his machine gun. We have written to his cousin Cpl. Moss, for any details that he can supply and as soon as further news is received you shall be advised. Regretting that these reports continue to be so distressing and trusting that you have almost recovered.

Yeurs faithfully,

SECRETARY,



Jovember 18th, 1917.

Pto.W.J.Crsaser, 10th Aust.Inf.Bttn, 1.I.F., Wo 1 Commend Depot, Sutton Year, Wilts.

Dear Fte Creaser,

We wish to thank you for your letter in answer to our enquiry concerning

5799 W.J.MOSS, 10th Bertelion, A.I.

We are grieved to learn that you have not been saything more definite than we have about this soldier, but thank you for your promise to send us in their news should say come to hand.

with all good wiches.

Years thank subly,

SECRET/RY.

S. C

July 13th, 1917.

Pte. F. W. Ridley.
10th Battn. A.I.F.
B.E.F.

Dear Pte. Ridley.

Very many thanks for your letter in answer to our enquiry concerning -

5799 W. J. MOSS, 10th Battalion, A.I.F., and for your suggestion that we write to Pte. Dolan at Verne Citadel.
With best wishes.

Yours faithfully,

(D)

Secretary.

23rd June 1917.

Pte F.W. Ridley, 10th Aust: Inf: Btn:

Dear Pte Ridley,

了一个时间,我们是这个人的人,我们就是这个人的人,我们就是一个人的人,我们也不是一个人的人的人,也是一个人的人的人,也不是一个人的人,也不是一个人的人,也是一个人

Very many thanks for your letter in answer to our enquiries concerning - 5799 W.J. Moss, 10th Btn, A.I.F. So far, we have not received his name on any birour lists of Prisoners of War in Germanym nor in our Hospital Index, but we have entered your name as enquirer and shall send you word immediately we receive any definite news.

With best wishes,

Yours faithfully,

Secretary Hu

Telephones: Telephones: | 8576 | 8577 | 8578



ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO BE ADDRESSED TO

"THE SECRETARY." MOUNDED AND MISSING

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY.

- ULBRUB YRIUDKE -AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY.

> Telegraphic Appends: -QUESTMAN, LONDON."

36. GROSVENOR PLACE. -54. VICTORIA STREET,

. The

LONDON, S.W. 1.

27th December, 1917.

No.5966 Pte. D. A. Ash, 10th Btn. A.I.P.

No.2 Command Depot, Weymouth.

Dear Sir,

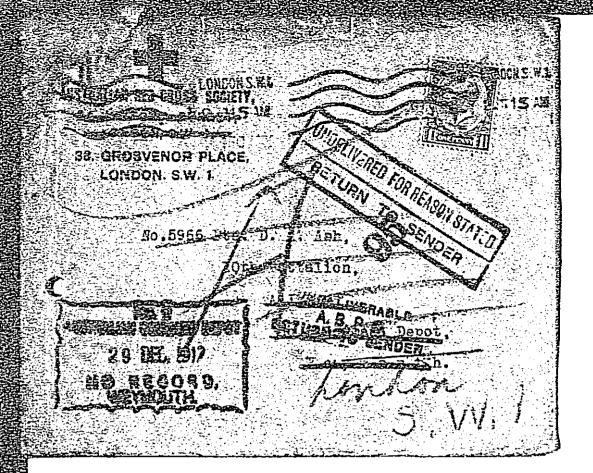
Re. W. J. MOSS 5799, 10th Bath. \.T.F. We regret to inform; on that the above soldier, who was previously reported missing, is now reported killed in action on the 6th April, 1917.

We are making further enquiries in the hope of learning details of his death, and will send you any information that we receive.

> Regretting the distressing character of this news, Yours faithfully,

> > V. Dealin per 5.7?

SECRYWARY.



Telephones: Fel: VICTORIA 6656:

ALL COMMUNICATIONS

TO BE ADDRESSED TO

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY.

"THE SECRETARY." DRISSIM DKA DECKUOW - ZNQUIRY BUREAU --

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY.

TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS: "QUESTMAN, LONDON." 36. GROSVENOR PLACE. =54. VICTORIA STREET,

LONDON, S.W. 1.

27th December, 1917.

Private F. W. Ridley. 10th Btn. A.I.F. B.E.F.

Dear Sir,

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## Re Pte. W. J. MOSS 5799, 10th Btn. A. I. F.

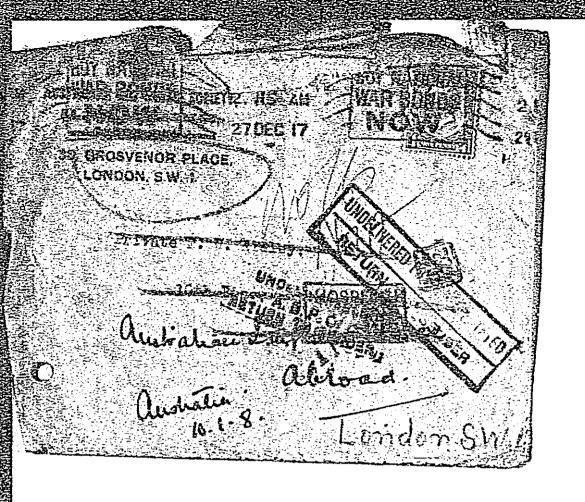
We regret to inform you that the above soldier, who was previously reported missing, is now reported killed in action on the 8th April, 1917.

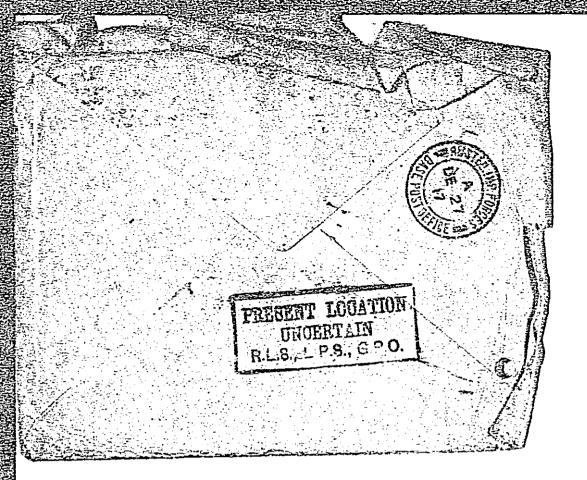
We are making further enquiries in the hope of learning details of his death, and will send you any information that we receive.

> Regretting the distressing character of this news, Yours faithfully,

V. Dealinger 5.57.

SECRETARY.





## -INFORMATION BUREAU

FOR OBTAINING NEWS OF SICK, WOUNDED, OR MISSING SOLDIERS.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN DIVISION

TELEPHONE-CENTRAL 5283.

HOURS-

Monday to Friday: 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., and 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. 8aturday: 10 a.m. to noon.

In reply please quote file

North Terrace,

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10x116 DEFFACE,

Adelaide.

DUPLICATE.

£57.

5th January, 1918.

Honorary Secretary,

Australian Branch,
British Red Cross Society,
Enquiry Branch,
35 Grosvenor Place,
L O N D O N, S.W.

Dear Hiss Deakin,

No. 5799 Private W. J. Moss, 10th Sattalion.

We cabled you on the 11th May last requesting you to institute enquiries regarding the above soldier, who was reported Missing from the 8th April, 1917, since when we have received from you several Slips, one of which reads as follows: -

Think Private H.A.Dolan could give you some information about 5799 Private W. J. Moss of the 10th Battalion, as he was with him on the morning of the 9th April. Private Dolan was wounded and went to England and is at present on furlough, his address is 6148 Private H. A. Dolan, Werne Citadel, Portland, England, so I have just found cut.

Letter from - Private F. W. Ridley,

London, 24.7.17. France. 6.7.17.

Australia and been discharged from the A. I. F. as medically unfit. Although we have not had the opportunity of interviewing Private Dolan personally we have communicated with him by letter, and have received from him the enclosed statutory declaration, giving full

details as to the manner in which Private Moss met his death, and we send same to you in order that you may, if you think fit, hand the documentato the A. I. F. Headquarters and so endeavor to finalise matters in regard to this soldier as there seems to be little doubt but that Private Moss has paid the supreme sacrifice.

Thanking you in anticipation,

Yours faithfully,

Chas. A Edmunds.

Honorary Secretary.

Enclosure (Statutory Declaration.)

**(**:

#### DECLARATION

I HENRY ARNOLD DOLAN of Renmark in the State of South
Australia Fruitgrower formerly No 6148 Private Dolan in the
10th Battalion of the Australian Imperial Forces do solemnly
and sincerely declare as follows:

- 1. On the eighth day of April 1917 I was on active service with my Battalion near Lagnicourt France in Europe
- 2. I was detailed for duty with a Machine Gun Section and was No 2 of such section

(

- 3. No 5799 Private Wilfred J Moss was also detailed for duty with such Machine Gun Section and was No 1 of such section
- 4. During the fighting which took place near Lagnicourt on the eighth day of April 1917 I was wounded
- 5. No 5799 Private Wilfred J Moss was at my side during the fighting and was there when I was wounded
- 8. While lying wounded Private Moss who was lying down beside me taking cover was shot through the head and killed instantly
- 7. I was lying beside Private Moss for some hours after he was killed
- 8. I endeavoured to datain something from Private Moss's pockets as a means of proof of his death and to send his relatives but the slightest movement was so fraught with danger that I could not obtain anything
- 9. Previous to the outbreak of the war I knew and was well sequainted with Private Moss and am therefore certain that it

Stamp

was he who was killed as aforesaid on the eighth day of April

1917

17/10/17 And I make this solemn declaration conscientiously believing the same to be true and by virtue of the provisions of the Statutory Declarations Act 1918

( MECLARED at Renmark the seventeenth

day of December 1917

(Signed) H A Dolan

Before me

(Signed) Stanley H Fleming A/Commissioner etc Telephones: (8576 Tel:: VICTORIA 6656: (8577

TO BE ADDERSED TO

"THE SECRETARY."
WOUNDED AND MISSING
- ENQUIRY BURSAU -

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY.

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY.

Taleselphic Aporess: "QUESTMAN, LONDON." 36. GROSVENOR PLACE.

54. VICTORIA STREET.

December 28th, 1917.

LONDON, S.W. 1.

5966 Pte.G.A.Ash, 10th Bttn, A.I.F., No 2 Command Depot, Weymouth.

Dear Sir.

C

We regret to inform you of another unofficial report of a sad and distressing character about

## 5799 Pte.W.J. MOSS, 10th Battalion, A.I.F.

which only confirms the fears we already had as to his safety. Our informant reported that Pte. Moss was acting on their right with his machine gun section in an attack on a German strong post known as Lone Tree post at Lagnicourt, and he was still with them when they halted at the top of a rise where they lost the officer and sergeant and nearly all were wounded. No one can say what became of him after that, but a thorough search was made next day over the same ground, which although lost, had remained under their observation all the time, and it was concluded that he was a Prisoner of War. This hope we feel is no longer to be held, for we have heard from men who were captured long after that date and he would surely have availed himself of the opportunity afforded every prisoner of advising someone of his capture. Two other men give somewhat different reports.

No 3804 L/Cpl.A.Martin, reported that Pte.Moss was killed by machine gun fire, when they were attacking at Lagnicourt at daybreak on April 8th, and was afterwards found lying dead on his machine gue.

We have written to his cousin Cpl.Moss for any details that he can supply and as soon as further news is received you shall be advised.

Yours faithfully,

Ven Jeaking SECRETARY.

