

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

**305 Private
John Henry William
Morris**

1st Field Ambulance



1830201F

Havre

9th February 1918.

1st Field Amb. Aust. M.C.

M Morris J.H.W. No.305. KIA 6.10.17

S Seymour R. R. No.9767. KIA 4.10.17

K. 6th October 1917. Det D/B.

I knew both men. I only knew Morris slightly; he was fairly tall, slim, dark, and about 24. Seymour was above medium height, strong, fair, was a good ~~cricketer~~ cricketer, and came from N.S.Wales. On the 6th October the Corps was at Ypres, and Morris and Seymour were attached to the Main D/Station at Dickebusch. I do not know much of death and burial for I was in England, but on my rejoining a day or two after they had been killed I saw the Battn crosses with names etc. being prepared for the graves.

Inf:- Cpl E.E.Boutcher No.34343.
1st Field Amb. Aust. M.C.
Australian Camp.
Rouelles.

PM.

1st F.Amb.
A.A.H.C.

MORRIS,
J.H.W. 305

"Killed 6.10.17."

During the attack on Oct 6th, he was in a "bow-hut" dressing station at Zonnebeke with Capt. Davies of 1st F.Amb, A.I.F. when a shell came right through and burst inside. He died immediately. L/Cpl. Buchholz of 1 Fld Amb, was present and brought down the body and Cpl. Heive and L/Cpl. Woolland put up a cross over his grave.

Informant:- L/Cpl. McLelland,
1st Fld Amb A.I.F.

London
26.2.18.

NOTE Written L/Cpl. Buchholz 25.2.18.

M.

1st Flld. Amb.
A.I.F.

MORRIS,
J.H.W. 305

"Killed in Action 6.10.17."

Concerning the regrettable death of my late friend No. 305 Pte. J.H.W. Morris, 1st Australian Field Ambulance. Unfortunately the authenticity of his death or identity is unquestionable as I, having met him in Monte Video Camp, England, in February 1916 and we were together as both comrades, right up to the moment of his death. The actual date of his death was the 7th of October, 1917, and as far as I could calculate about 9.45 a.m. In reason of our comradeship being universally known throughout our unit I was immediately called to resuscitate him, but alas he had passed away. This occurred at the Auxiliary Advanced Dressing Station on Westhoek Ridge where we were in performance of our duties. That same evening he was carried down to our Hd Qrs at the Advanced Dressing Station, Menin Road, and on the following day he was buried in an adjoining cemetery, known as the Menin Road South Military Cemetery. As soon as it was convenient I made it my duty to acquaint his parents in Australia and relatives in England of the sad occurrence. I have received replies from his relatives and friends in England but so far not from his parents in Australia. I am enclosing a pamphlet which was sent me from Paris. When Morris and I were on furlough in June 1917 we went to the "Corner of Blighty" a photograph was taken of which ultimately was printed in the enclosed circular. I have marked Pte. Morris with a X in both.

1st Flld Amb.
A.I.F.

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MORRIS
J.H.W. 305

The official notification of his death was published in the "Times" (London) Dec 10th 1917. His description is:- Fair. Blue grey eyes, a healthy clean complexion, squatly built, height about 5ft 8ins and about 11stone in weight.

Letter from:- L/Cpl. F.H.O. Buckholz, 57
France, 2.3.18.

London,
12.3.18.

M.

1st Fld Ambulance.
A.A.M.C.
A.I.F.

MORRIS,
J.H.W. 305

"Killed 6.10.17."

I did not see the actual casualty, but I saw him immediately after it happened. He was killed at Westhoek Ridge. He was caught by a shell and was very badly knocked about, death being instantaneous. He was attending a wounded man at the time. I knew him very well, he came from N.S.Wales, and was the only man of this name in the unit. I saw his grave at the advanced dressing station at Menin Road, and it was marked with a cross bearing his number name and unit.

Informant:- Bugler, W.C.Medcalf, 725,
1st Fld Amb.
3.A.A.H.
Dartford.

W. Oman.
London.
12.3.18.

M.

1st. Field Ambulance. A.I.F.

305.
Morris. J.H.W. Pte. NO.3

Killed Oct 6th 1917. Det. D.E.

I saw him brought into the dressing station, then taken to the Advance Dressing station at Ypres where he died. He was buried close by in a cemetery, it is almost certain for a cross to be erected. I knew him in the coy, he came from Victoria.

Description. Height.5-8. Complexion. Dark. Medium Built.

Witness. Pte. Laver.J.H. NO.220. 1st. Field Ambulance.

Taken at
NO.3.C.D.Hurdcott.
16-3-18

S.Whitnee.
NO.4.Command Depot
Hurdcott.

NO. 4. 2-17

122-2-18

L/cpl. Buckholz

1st Field Ambulance

A. I. F.

Abroad.

What

305 H. W. MORRIS

1st Field Ambulance

A. I. F.

6-10-17

25-2-18
C. J. B.

305
J. H. W. MORRIS
1st Amb.
K/A 6-10-17
m
3

France,
2nd March 1918

Dear Miss Deakin

I am in receipt of your communication of the 25th ult. I am only too pleased to be in the position to give you the necessary information concerning the regrettable death of my late friend - No. 305, Pte. J. H. W. MORRIS, 1st Australian Field Ambulance.

Unfortunately, the authenticity of his death or identity is unquestionable — as I, having met him in Monte Video Camp, England, in February 1916 & we were together, as boon comrades, right up to the moment of his death.

The actual date of his death was the 7th of October 1917, and, as far as I could calculate about 9.45 A.M. In reason of our comradeship being universally known through our Unit I was immediately called to resuscitate him, but alas — he had passed away. This occurred at the Auxiliary Advanced Dressing Station on Westcock Ridge where we were in performance of our duties. That same evening he was carried down to our Adgts at the Advanced Dressing Station, Menier Road

and on the following day he was buried in an adjoining cemetery, known as the MENIN ROAD SOUTH MILITARY CEMETRY.

As soon as it was convenient I made it my duty to acquaint his parents in Australia and relatives in England of the sad occurrence. I have received replies from his relatives & friends in England but, so far, not from his parents in Australia.

I am enclosing a pamphlet which was sent me from Paris. When Morris & I were on furlough in June 1917 we went to the "Corner of Eighty", a photograph was taken of which ultimately was printed in the enclosed circular. I have marked the names with a + in both.

The official notification of his death was published in the "Times" (London) Dec. 10th 1917.

His description are: - Fair - blue^{grey} eyes, a healthy clean complexion; Squarely built, height about 5ft 8½ inch & about 11 stone in weight.

I trust that I have given the information you require & I shall only be too grateful, in the fond memory of my late friend, to answer any further enquiries I am.

Yours Sincerely,
No. 57 L. H. Buchholz L. Col.

The Secretary
N & M Enquiry Bureau
Australian Branch

B. R. L. S.

36 Grosvenor Place

London S.W. 1

11th March 1918

57 L/Cpl. F.H.O. Buchlotz
1st Pld. Amb.
Aust: Imp: Force,
B.E.F.

Dear Sir,

We wish to thank you for your letter in answer to our enquiry concerning - 305 Pte J.H.W. Morris, 1st Pld. Amb. The information and details you have supplied, will be of much assistance to us and value to our enquirers. We are very glad to learn that you have written to your late friends' relatives and friends, knowing as we do, how much such letters are appreciated, especially when coming direct from comrades at the front.

If we find we need any further particulars about Pte. Morris' death, we will write to you again, in the meantime please accept our deep sympathy in the loss of your friend,

Yours faithfully,

Secretary