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

5064 Private
Herbert Reginald Tollis

19th Battalion



2760402L

A.I.F. 19. TOLLIS, H.R. 5064.

K. Oct.,9th, 1917. Det. D/B

Tollis (gives initials and number correctly) was a Battn. H.Q. Sigr. and was killed in a pill box at Ypres, Zonnebeke way, I forget the date. The Signallers had just taken over the pill box as H.Q. and were fixing it up inside, when a shell came right inside and killed him instantly and about four others. I was a lines man and was on the spot 5 or 10 minutes later, but I could not stay to see what was done with the bodies. Tollis and I came over together in 13th Reinforcements from Sydney.

Inf. Sigr. F. E. Sales, 5141. B.Sig.
54 Gen. Hospital.
BOULOGNE. 5.3.18.

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A I F. 19 Tollis,H R. 5064.

E Oct.9/17. Det.D/B.

I have seen his grave at Westhoek Ridge at the back of the reserve trench (at that time);there are a lot ~~of~~ of other graves there. Just below there is a big lagoon with a wood on the right. The grave is about 100 yards from the lagoon.

He came from Sydney and was about 18,a very big chap,we called him 'the Baby Elephant'. He was sigr.att. H Q.

Inf:- Young, 5096 VIII
A T ' V de Liege'
Calais 3 4 18 CR

Havre. 30th. April. 1918.

19th. Australians. Tollis, H. B. 5064.

K. October. 9/1917. Dets. D/B.

I knew Private Tollis; he was in the H.Q. Signal Section; he was advancing in single file just behind me at Zonnebeke about 10th. October 1917 changing quarters when he was killed by a shell. I helped to bury him on the top of the Railway Bank just outside the Village and put a temporary Cross with his name in indelible pencil. I could point out the spot.

Inf:- Private. C. A. Convoy. 4682.
19th. Australians. H.Q. Signals.
Australian Camp.
Rouelles.

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RDM.

Havre. 30th. April. 1918.

19th. Australians. Tollis, H. B. 5064.

K. October. 9/1917. Dets. D/B.

I knew Private Herbert B. Tollis he was on H. Q. Signals. Signaller Sergeant Clarence Harris, 71, 19th. Battalion told us that he was with Tollis when he was Killed and knows all about his Death and Burial.

Inf:- Private. F. A. Jullian. 4285.
19th. Australians. H.Q. Signals.
Australian Camp.
Rouelles.

RDM.

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Written S.Sgt. Clarence Harris 13-5-18.

19th Battalion,
A.I.F.

TOLLIS.
Pte. H.R. No. 5064

"Killed in Action 9.10.17."

Informant described Tollis as about 6 ft high, rather stout build, medium complexion, aged about 20/21. Mother lives at 70 Brantling Street, Alexandria.

Informant states that Tollis was attached to Headquarters Signallers. On 9.10.17 the Battalion was near Zonnebeke Railway Station moving positions. At about 4-30 to 5 a.m. a 5-9 shell came over and burst just behind Tollis killing him at once. They were on the march at the time and Tollis was just behind Informant who saw him immediately after he was hit. Informant was wounded by the same shell.

Informant added that Tollis had a good name in the Company and was a good pal. He had personally seen Tollis' mother and given her the above particulars.

Informant: Private C.H. Edwards, No. 5065.
"C" Company, 19th Battalion, A.I.F.

Home address: 54 Gipps Street, Pyrmont.

L.E.G.
5.4.18.
No. 4 Australian General Hospital, RANDWICK.

SYDNEY BUREAU.

A.I.F. 19th Btn. TOLLIS
H.R. 5064

"WOUNDED"

Adm. 10th Gen. Hpl 4-5-17 - G.S.W. left leg

Trans - 11th Con: Depot Buchy 6-6-17
Cert. by A.I.F.Headquarters 4-7-17.

S.

London
4-7-17

19th-BATTALION A.I.F. Private H. R. Tollis.
No. 5064

"Killed in Action 9/10/17".

Informant states that the only Tollis he knew in the Battalion was about 5 feet 6 inches high, medium build, medium complexion, aged about 20-24. He was called Arty, but this Christian name does not agree with the initials given above, so that there is an element of doubt.

Tollis was a Headquarters Signaller and Informant a Headquarters Runner. On the 8th or 9th October 1917 the Battalion was at Passchendaele holding the line. Tollis and another Signaller were out in the support line about 4 p.m. mending telephone wires when a high explosive shell burst near them instantly killing Tollis and wounding his mate. The wounded man came back and told Informant that Tollis had been killed and Informant went over and saw him. Tollis' Officer afterwards went over and saw him. Neither waited long as on account of the heavy firing it was dangerous to do so. Informant did not hear what was done with him, but he was no doubt buried as he was killed in our own lines.

Informant added that Tollis, who had just returned from furlough in England was very well liked by his mates.

Informant:- Private S. H. Eades, 6194,
Headquarters Staff, 19th. Battalion,
Home address:- Pennant Street, Parramatta.

W.E.G.
No.4 Australian General Hospital, RANDWICK. SYDNEY BUREAU.
16/9/18.

19th BATTALION. TOLLIS,
H.R. - 5064.

"Killed 9/10/17."

Tollis was a Signaller on the Battalion Headquarters. Signaller Edwards who was with Tollis wrote to tell me that in the beginning of October he and Tollis were going from Battalion Headquarters to Company Headquarters in front of Ypres, and that a shell burst killing Tollis and wounding Edwards. Edwards who was a Signaller in the 19th Battalion returned to Australia about six months ago. His christian name is Charles.

Informant - A.D. Jones - 6542A,
19th Battalion.

No.4 Australian General Hospital,
RANDWICK.

7/9/18
B.K.

13.5.18

7/

Signaller Sgt. Clarence Harris

19th Battn. A.I.F.

Abroad

Abt.

5064 Pte. H.R. Tollis

19th Battn. A.I.F. N

K. 9.10.17.

14.5.18.
A.I.B.