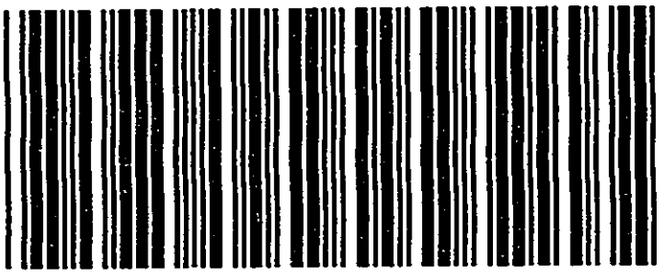
Australian Red Cross Society Wounded and Missing
Enquiry Bureau files, 1914-18 War
1DRL/0428

1723 Trooper
Alexander Robertson

1st Light Horse



2320407I

1st.LIGHT HORSE. Trooper A. ROBERTSON.
No.1723.

"Killed in Action 27/6/18."

I met Robertson in Egypt. He came from Parramatta. He was 5 feet 9 inches in height, dark, clean-shaved. I saw him killed by a shell on 27th. June, 1918. at Messalaba, Jordan Valley. He was next to me lying down when a shell came over and killed him instantaneously, the same shell wounded me, and killed others. I heard that he had been buried at Messalaba. Robertson was a very fine fellow, the happiest man in the regiment. He was always merry and singing. We called him "Robbo".

Informant:- Sergeant W. L. McDonald, 24,
1st. Light Horse.

Private address:- Wyrallah, Richmond River.

F.B.W.
No. 4 Australian General Hospital, RANDWICK.
12/9/18.

SYDNEY BUREAU.

1st Light Horse.

ROBERTSON A.
Trooper No 1723.

"KILLED 27/6/18".

Informant described Robertson as about 5 ft 7 inches high, rather thick set, medium build, aged about 25/6. Thought to have come from Granville. Christian name Alec.

Informant states that on or about 27/6/18 the Regiment was at Kussal-Aba, Jordon Valley, Palestine and was under bombardment from the Turks. About 4p.m. while Robertson and others were in a dugout a shell burst alongside Robertson killing him outright and seriously wounding three others of whom one died a few days afterwards.

Informant was about 50 yards away and although he did not see Robertson actually hit he saw his body being carried out. So far as Informant was aware Robertson was buried in a gully near Kussal-Aba and the burial service was read over him. Informant added that Robertson was one of the most popular men in the Regiment.

Informant: Lance-Corporal H.M. Fraser. No 2330.
C Troop 1st Light Horse.
Present address: E Ward Georges Heights Military Hospital
MOSMAN. Sydney
Home address: Newstead, Lower Wycombe Road,
NEUTRAL BAY.

W.E.J
No 21 Australian Auxiliary Hospital SYDNEY. SYDNEY BUREAU.
7/11/18.

1st LIGHT HORSE.

ROBERTSON A. Trooper.
No. 1723.
O'Donnell V. Private
~~No. 730.~~

"KILLED 27.6.18."

I knew both these men, they were formerly under me in C Squadron and had been on the same post with me. I was wounded on 20/6/18 but have since heard that Robertson was killed outright. O'Donnell wounded and Sergeant 24. McDonald W.L. also wounded by a shell on 27/6/18 at MUSALLABEH about 7 miles north of Jericho. O'Donnell lived about 3 weeks and McDonald has since returned to Australia and could give full particulars. I heard this from several mates.

Sergeant W.L. McDonald was here last Tuesday.

Informant: Lieut: R. R. Matheson.
1st Light Horse A Squadron.

Home address: Cowra. N.S.W.

H.S.O.
No. 4 Australian General Hospital, RANDWICK.
14/10/18

SYDNEY BUREAU.

A.I.F.
1st L.H. Regt.

ROBERTSON
Alexander 1723

Killed in Action 29.6.18.

Buried Palestine Map XV 1/63,360.C.0.11 3 Y.112-3.
Cert. by Hqrs List 25.3.19.

London.
6.10.19.

Cairo.

E. E. F.

1st A.L.H. Regt. (K/A 29.6.15) ROBERTSON 1725 A

Informant says:- " He was killed instantly by a High Explosive Shell which landed in his dugout at Mussellabeh.

There were three men asleep in the dugout, O'Donnell, died of wounds and Sergt. McDonald returned to Australia by the boat before last.

I was a member of the burial party and we buried him at Carol's Hump, Mussellabeh, Jordan Valley.

Informant:- L. Cpl JOHN 1742
1st A.L.H. Regt.

Cairo

No 14 A.C.Hospital,
Port Said.
16.8.15.

S. C. Fischer.

Cairo has sent S

E. E. F.

1st A.I.H. Regt. (K/A 29.6.18) ROBERTSON A. 1722.

Informant says:- " Alec Robertson was a happy little fellow, quiet, but always singing. He came from Strathfield.

I was talking to him about ten minutes before he went into his dugout to go to sleep. The shell landed right on the dugout inflicting many wounds in his back and killing him outright. He was probably asleep at the time and would have known nothing.

This happened at Muesellaben in the Jordan Valley.

Informant:- [illegible] 1st A.I.H. Regt.

No 14 A.G.Hospital,
Port Said,
16.9.18

E.C.Plummer.

Cairo Casualty S

A.E.F.

1st.L.H.Regt. (K/A.29.6.18) ROBERTSON
A. 1723

Informant says:- "It was on Russelebah Hill in June; the Turks were shelling us from the back and sides; the Shells were coming over the Dugout pretty thick. Robertson and three other men were in a dugout they thought wasn't safe, so they crossed over and went into another dugout, and just as they got in a Shell fell on it. It killed Robertson outright and wounded the three others. Robertson's body was taken after dusk to Regimental Headquarters, and buried there. The Grave is marked.

Was of medium height, dark, about 28 or 30. Was very popular, always cheerful and sang all the time at his work. Was much missed. His death cast quite a gloom in the Regiment."

Informant:- Tpr.F.Bull 3707

1st.L.H.Regt.,A.I.F.

14th.A.G.Hospital,
PORT SAID.22.8.18.

Cairo has sent S

Mrs.A.Hayward

A.A.F

1ST.L.H.Regt. (K/A.29.6.18) NO KERESOM
A. 1723

Informant says:- "In the afternoon of the 29th. June, the Turkish Artillery began bombarding us. We were in little Bivouacs under a rock. I had left the bivvy about 3 minutes before he was killed. He was with three others; a Shell exploded in the bivvy killing him outright and wounding the other three men. I was in a bivvy about a yard away and one of the wounded came in to be bandaged. The Stretcher Bearers fetched away the wounded and took Robertson to the Regimental Headquarters, where he is buried. The Grave is marked with a Cross. It was at Bersalam in the Jordab valley about three miles from Jericho.

He was a man of 5ft.6ins., or 7ft., medium colour, about 25 or 26. Came from Granville. Was one of the most popular men in the Regiment. Was a great songster."

Informant:- Tpr.Durand 21A.
1st.L.H.Regt.,A.I.F.

14th.A.G.Hospital,
PORT SAID.8.9.[illegible] Mrs.A.Hayward

Cairo has sent S