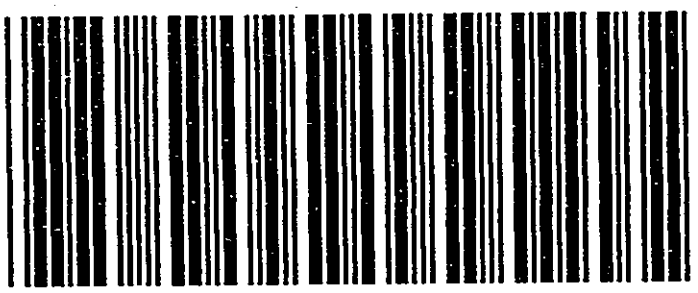
Australian Red Cross Society Wounded and Missing
Enquiry Bureau files, 1914-18 War
1DRL/0428

1699 Private
Robert Morgan Worth

58th Battalion



3020904I

58th Battn.
late 8th Battn.
A.I.F.

Worth.
R.M. 1699

"Killed in Action 11.5.17"

Re 1699 Pte.R.M.Worth. I was in charge of a platoon and Pte. Worth was a member, at a place called Bullecourt and on the 11th of May was killed by a shell splinter in the front line. We were about to bury him when the enemy made an attack and after that we attacked them. The last I saw of him was on the following day (the 12th) when I was coming out wounded he was still lying in the trench and I think it would be impossible for anyone to fetch him out to be buried, and most likely he would be buried where he lay. His description was - Height short about 5'5", rather broad built, and had a very heavy moustache.

Letter from:- Sgt.C.E.Free
58th Battn.
B.Coy.
15th Battn.
Codford.
19.2.18. M.

London.
28.2.18.

C

58th Australian I.F. North Pte. R.M. 1699

(K. May 11th 1917 Dets. D/B)

"On May 11th 1917 at Bullecourt Arras-Bapaume, there was heavy shelling and Worth was sitting in the trench alongside of me, a shell burst not far off and a piece hit him in the throat, and his death was all but instantaneous. He lived for five seconds at most. He tried to get up on his feet and then fell forward, dead. The 3rd Londons relieved us and he was probably buried by them."

Eye witness: Yes.

Description: Height 5' 6" medium build, age 40, dark, single I think, had a bald head of peculiar shape.

Informant: Pte. A.N. Hopgood 208, 58th A.I.F., A Coy. Edmonton Mil. Hos: Elia Ward W.

Home address: Residence House, Wilson Street, Croxton, Melbourne, Aus.

13.3.18
M.F. Baillie.

M

58th Battn.
A.I.F.

WORTH,
R.H. 1699.

"Killed 11.3.17. Det. D/B"

He was killed alongside me about 300 yards just to the right of Bullecourt. He was right alongside me about a foot away and a piece of shrapnel hit him in the neck and killed him outright. He fell across me with his head on my shoulder. He was one of the finest fellows ever seen in an army and was buried, that night, by L/Cpl. Free, A. Coy, 58th (now with the Coy) just at the rear of the parados. I can't say if a cross was erected.

Informant:- Kingston, L/Cl. J.H 2777
58th Battn, A. Coy,
19 Hut,
Westham.

W.A. Rand.

London.
5.2.18.

Note: Written L/Cpl. Free. 4.2.18. H.

4.2.18

L/Cpl. Free
A Coy.
5-8th Battn A.I.F.

B.9.7.

G

and.
1699 Pte R. M. Worth
5-8th Battn. A.I.F.
K. 11. 5. 17.

6.2.18

Ack.
P.6.21.2.18.

1699

R. M WORTH.
5-8 Batt Late 5 Batt
K/A 11-5-17
M
3

1st Company,
15th Training Bde
Godsford
19/2/18

Dear Friend

In reply to the enquiry of
1699 Pte R. M. Worth, 1st Coy. 58th Bde.
I was in charge of a platoon and Pte
Worth was a member, at a place called
Bullecourt and on the 11th of May was
killed by a splinter of shell, in the
front line. We were about to bury him
when the enemy made an attack, and
after that we attack them!
The last I saw of him was on the
following day (the 12th) when I was coming
out wounded. He was still lying in the trench
and I think it would be impossible for
anyone to fetch him out to be (buried) barried, and
most likely he would be barried where he
lay) layed.)

His description was, ~~short build~~
Height Short about 5ft 5 in. rather broad
built and had a very heavy moustache.

This is all I can say and hoping to be
of some value to you

Sgt C E Free
58th Bde