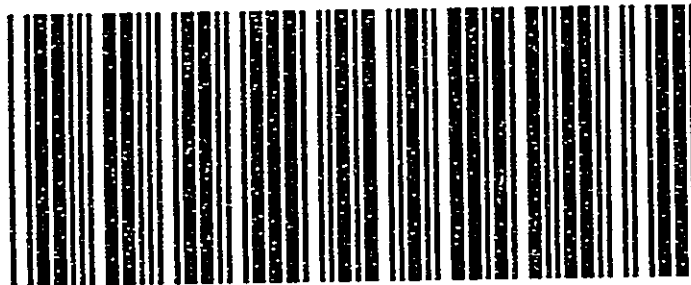


Australian Red Cross Society Wounded and Missing
Enquiry Bureau files, 1914-18 War
1DRL/0428

**14549 Sapper
George Collis**

7th Field Company Engineers



0771205M

Engineers A.I.F.

Collis. Pte. G.14549.
7th.F.D. Coy.

Killed May 7th.17.
Det D/S.

"Collis Pte.G. was buried in a grave at Norsaial, just outside Bullecourt, he was told a cross was put up. Collis Pte. was in No3 Section, No.2 Section does that work, and places the crosses on the graves afterwards. The 7th Field Co. can give information as they have erected a memorial since to the Co. on Yara Hill, near Pozieres and his name is on it."

Eyewitness:

Description:

Informant: Sapp.J.F.Adler.6646.
Engineers A.I.F. 7th F.D. Co.,
1st London General Hospital.
Camberwell.

Home address:
42 Simmons Street,
Ermore, Sydney. N.S.W.
Nov.27th.17.
M.A.Paul.

M

7th Engrs

COLLIS
G. 14549

"Killed May 7th 1917"

Collis was killed between Bullecourt and Norell about 10 yds from me. He was screwing a barb wire corkscrew when a shell dropped behind him and killed him outright. He was taken away and buried but I can't say where. The casualty was at Norell.

Witness:- I. Belkan 14985

7th Engrs

19 Hut.

-Wrah Westham

W.A.Rand
London.
3.1.18.

M

7th Field Company Engineers
A.I.F.

COLLIS
Sapper G. 14549.

Killed 7/5/17.

Informant describes Collis as about 6 ft. high, slight, dark, and aged about 23/24. He did not know where he came from

Informant states that on 7/5/17, Collis and he were in a party at Noreuil, near Bullecourt, which was waiting for darkness to come on in order to fix barbed wire in the Australian front lines. They were in a sunken road, when just before dark a German shell burst near by and Collis was struck by a fragment of shell and instantly killed. Collis was buried in Noreuil Cemetery and Informant saw a cross with name, etc. painted thereon, which was intended to be placed on the grave although he did not actually see it in position.

Collis got on well with his companions, and was very game

Informant:-- Sapper A. Bedford, 6312,
7th Field Co. Engineers, A.I.F.,
No. 4 Australian General Hospital, RANDWICK?

Home address:-- GUNNEDAH.

W.E.G.
16/1/18.

SYDNEY BUREAU. *W. E. G.*

7th Fld. Co. Engrs.

COLLIS, G.
Spr. 14549.

Killed in action 7/5/14.

"I know Casualty. He was a slim man, dark, about 25 years of age. I was taking a party out to Bullecourt and Casualty was on the end of the line. A shell exploded a piece rebounding off the wall of a house and killing Casualty instantly. He is buried at Moreuil and I placed a cross over his grave. He was well known and liked by all his comrades."

Informant:- Sgt. R. C. Burgess,
No. 283, 7th Fld. Co. Engrs.

Private address:-
"Ormond"

58nga Street,
Randwick, Sydney, N.S.W.

T.C.F.
4/1/18.

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS INFORMATION BUREAU-MELBOURNE.

Med 2-11

Australian Engineers

Collis, Pte G. 14549,
7 Coy (Field)

(K. May 7th/17. Det D & B)

"I know that Pte Collis was killed instantaneously on the road whilst at duty. We were marching to put up a barbed wire entanglement when a "whizz-bang" shell exploded and killed him. He was buried at Neuville near Vaulk, on the Somme in a cemetery; a cross was put up and his name on it. I was close by when Pte Collis was hit and saw him fall at 3.0 p.m."

Eye-witness: Yes

Description:

Informant: Sapper I. Shorrocks, 161135,
Australian Engineers, 7th Field Coy,
Kent Nursing Institution,
Mount Zion, Tunbridge Wells.

Home address:
52, Newington Rd,
Sydney, Australia.

22nd Nov. 1917.
Hadwen.

7th Fld. Coy.
Engrs. A.I.F.

COLLIS
G. 14549

"Killed 7-5-17"

Collis was 5 minutes ahead of us and I heard that he was killed by a shell wound through the body. He is buried at Moricuil. Have seen his grave, it has a Cross about 4 or 5 ft. high, in a big grave-yard near the Sunken Road.

Informant. Alexander Spr.L. 2700

W. A. Rand
London
9-3-18

7th Engrs.,
Hut 10,
WESTHAM.
②

Note:-

We regret the delay in typing the above report, but we have been obliged to hold it up on account of pressure of work and shortage of machines.

M

7th Fld. Co. Engrs.

COLLIS, G.
Spr. 14549.

Killed in action 7/5/17.

"I knew Casualty. He was a man about 5 ft. 3 ins. slightly built, dark complexion, about 28 years of age, known as "George". Casualty was being relieved from the front line to Bullecourt when a shell exploded near Casualty killing him instantly. I was 10 yds. from him at the time the shell exploded but I went immediately to his assistance, but he was dead by the time I reached him. He was buried close to where he fell in a small cemetery and a cross was erected with his name and number on it. I was an eye-witness."

Informant:- Pte. J. Appleby,
No. 2746, 7th Fld. Co. Engrs.

Private address:-
33 McKenzie Street,
Waverley, N.S.W.

T.C.F.
6/9/18.

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS INFORMATION BUREAU-MELBOURNE.

7th Fla. Coy. Engrs.
A.I.F.

Collis.
C. 14549

"Killed 7.5.17"

Collis was killed on 7th May just before we pulled out of Somme - killed just out of Noreuil. He was just going up to do some wiring and was struck by a shell splinter and killed on the spot. He is buried at Noreuil in a graveyard and a cross erected with his name on. I was one of the burial party.

Witness:-

Sgt. A.E. Herbert 14481
7th Coy. Engrs.
Hut 19 Westham.

W.A. Rand

London.
19.12.17.

M.