

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

Lieutenant
Walter Joseph Host

2nd Battalion



1370802L

France.

A. I. F.

2.

HOST, Lt.W.J.

D/W. 24th. July 1916.

I knew Mr. Host; he was in D.XVI. and I saw him lying wounded shot through the stomach at Pozieres by a bullet on 24.7.16; this was in No Man's Land near the village. He was alive and his wound had not been dressed when I saw him and he was taken to the dressing station soon afterwards. I heard in England about a week after that he had died. I am quite sure it was Mr. Host; he was the only officer of that name in the Batt. and had been a Sgt. in the original Battn. He joined at Randwick, Sydney. I do not know where he was buried.

References: A. C. Wildon, 122, D.,
(a careful reliable witness).

18 General,

Staples. 21.10.16.

H30.

France.

A.I.P. 2.

HOST, Lt. W. H.

D. of W. July 24th. 1916 Det. D & B.

I was close by and I saw the shell come over which Mr. Holt in the stomach, and from which wound he died. It was the next morning, Sunday, after the attack on Pozieres. He was actually getting some German prisoners back at the time, and was marching them away, and he was facing the German first line at the time. He was not really under cover, it was on the road. I did not actually see this happen myself but it was so well known that I tell you.

Informant: Lce. Cpl. D. S. Earl. 2813.

H.S. "Jan Breydell".

BOULOGNE. 7.11.16.

RFN.

A very intelligent witness. RFN

S

2nd Australian Imperial Force

Host Lt. W.J.

(D/W July 24th 1916 Det.
D. & B.)

Informant states that on July 24th near Pozieres, Mr. Host was hit by shrapnel while escorting some prisoners back. He was buried at Warloy near Albert,

References: Sgt. James Thomas 4330,
2nd Australian Imperial Force, D. Coy. XVI Plt
3rd Southern General Hospt.,
Oxford.

Home address:
391 Bridges Rd.,
Richmond, Victoria.

Nov. 14th 1916,
K. Wylie.

sd
cd

2nd Battn.
A.I.F.,

Host.
Lieut.W.J.

"Died of wounds July 24th 1916"

On July 24th he heard that Lieut.Host had been wounded very badly, as he was bringing German prisoners down from Pozieres. Lieut.Host was thought no end of by his men.

Corporal Schofield, 2nd Battalion, A.I.F., D.Company, would be able to give all particulars about Lieut.Host. Informant did not know Lieut.Host.

Wrote Schofield 11-11-16

Reference;- Pte.Harold James Johnson, 5122
2nd Battn. (Div.1.) D., XIII.
3rd Southern Gen. Hospt.
Cowley, OXFORD.
21-11-16.

Home address;-
Pyalla Street
Northbridge
Sydney, N.S.W.

London
16-11-16.
O.C.Jacks.

Informant is intelligent.

S

FRANCE.

A.I.P. 2.

HORT, Lt. W.J.

D/W. July 24. 1916.

He used to be C-S-K of D.Co., and was a very fine man. He was badly wounded in the German front line trench at Pozieres on July 23rd. He was taken out by the S.Bs. Afterwards I heard that he had died of wounds, and later I saw his grave in the cemetery at Barloy. There was a cross with his name on it. I knew him very well. He was in the Peninsule with us.

Reference: Pte. H.S. Ray, 1618. M.G.S.
26 Gen. Hosp. Staples.
17th. Nov. 1916.

SA.

2nd Battn.
A.I.F.,

Host
Lieut.W.J.

"Died of wounds July 24/16"

In the Pozieres advance, Lieut.Host arrested 9 Germans in a dug-out. His men wanted to finish them off, but the Lieut. stopped this. Thereupon a severely wounded German picked up a bayonet and ran him through the body. Lieut. Host was much missed by his Company.

Reference;- W.H.Shepherd, 4322
2nd Battn. D.Coy.
Southall Hospt.
21-11-16.

Note. Not sent on.

London
24-11-16.
P.C.

S.

France.

A.I.F. 2.

HOST Lt. WJ.

D/W. 24.7.16.

He was badly wounded by a shell at Pozieres on 24th. July. He was with a party that was bringing prisoners down when a shell burst behind him and blew him up. He died soon afterwards. Sgt. Grinlington, XIII Pl. D.Co. saw the casualty. Mr. Host's body is buried in the cemetery at Warloy. Several of our men have seen his grave there.

SA.

Reference: Pte. J.W. Dornelly. 3504. D.Co.
1 A.D.B.D.

Staples.
24.11.16.

2nd Battn.,
A.I.F.

HOST,
Lient. W.J.

D/W. July 24-16.(D&B.)

Witness states that he has seen the grave of the above at Warloy. It is marked by a cross, with the name etc. inscribed on an aluminium plate.

Reference:- Howlands, R.W. No.785. 2nd Battalion.
3rd. Aust. Aux. Hosp. Dartford,
17-11-16.

London,
27-11-16.
N.L.W.B.

S.

2nd Battalion,
D. Coy.

HOST, W.J., Lieut.

Died of Wounds. 24-7-16

I was in D.Co., of which Host was in charge, of my Platoon the 16th. I had been under him from Feb'y. 16, prior to which Host had been in C.Co., where he got his Star. He was Sgt. Major in C.Co.

I do not know his people, or where he came from; he was about 22 years old, tall and of medium build.

I was with him in the attack at Pomeroy on 23rd July. On Sunday the 24th we had reached the village. About 11 a.m. on the 24th, Host with 2 men and an M.C.O. went to the rear of the captured trench, to examine a dug-out which was occupied by the Germans previous to this attack. On arriving at the dug-out they discovered 5 Germans, including 2 officers. Host with his men took charge of these men, and on marching them away a shell exploded in their midst, severely wounding Host, and killing 2 Germans, our M.C.O. and one of our men.

I did not see him after this, though I saw the casualty. Host was taken away by stretcher bearers, and I heard in London from Lieut. Miller of the 2nd Battalion, that he died almost immediately. I was wounded later the same day.

Reference - Private A.E. Ray, No. 2869; 2nd Battalion.
George's Heights Detail Camp, Sydney.

C.H.R.M., 9/2/17.

SYDNEY BUREAU.

An excellent witness.

2nd Battalion,
D. Coy.

HOST, W.J., Lieut.

Died of Wounds.

24-7-16

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