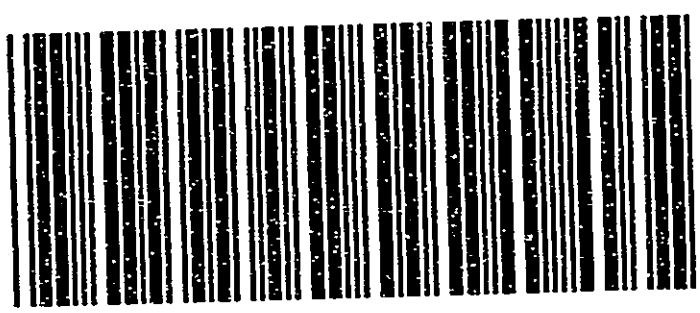
Australian Red Cross Society Wounded and Missing
Enquiry Bureau files, 1914-18 War
1DRL/0428

3023 Private
William Henry Cortis

49th Battalion



0810406J

h Battn
A.I.F.

CORTIS
W.H. 3023.

"Killed in Action 6-4-18"

3023 Pte.W.Cortis. 49th Battn. 13th Inf Brigade.A.I.F. was attached to this Unit (the 27th Company of A.A.S.C.) He was 5ft.9. tall. medium build, dark complexion, and large brown eyes. He worem ever since I have known him, a closly clipped black moustache. On the evening of the 6th day of April 1918 we were bivouced in a littl orchard on the fringe of the village of "Berlincourt". The enemy was spasmodically shelling the village and itseenvirons, at about 9.p.m. shrapnel began to burst over the orchard. The first shell killed Cortis. He was in bed when he was hit, and succumbed to his injuries a few minutes later. He was buried next day 7-4-18 in th pretty little civilian cemetery at Berlincourt with Military Honours, (I was at the funeral) . The burial service was read by an Army Chaplain, a nice cross was erected, (wood) nicely varnished, with an appropriate inscription printed thereon.

Letter from:- Harold Anderson.
A.I.F.FRANCE. 12-9-18.

London.
18-9-18.
N.T.

B.

A. I. F. 49th Bn. MORTIS, W. H. 3023.

K. April 6/18. Det.D/B.

I knew Mortis before he joined the Army; his home was, I believe, at Clayfield, Brisbane. For some time he was a packer at T.C.Burns and later worked on the Railway. His face was marked as if he had had the smallpox. On April 6th while he was asleep in a tent during the night, he was hit by a piece of shrapnel in the heart and killed instantly. I did not see him hit but saw him afterwards. We had to move forward and I did not witness the burial, but know that he was buried at a place called Beaucourt, which is about 4 miles from Corbie.

Reference: Pte J.J.McPherson, 2216.

No.12 General, Rouen, 24.7.18.

JWA.

3

J.f.a.

49th Battn.
A.I.F.

CORTIS.
W.H. 3023

"Killed 6-4-18"

Att: 27th Company. 4th Div Train. Was killed by shell outside Amiens. I have had a letter from Pte C.W.Atley No -- 4th Div Train attached to 13th Brigade, who was with him when killed and would know details death and burial.
Cortis was with me in 4th Div Train.

Informant:- Sgt.M.D.Kairwan, 1239.
4th Div Train.att 13th Brigade.
HAREFIELD.

A.D.G.
London.
9-8-18.
J.E.A.
Note:- Written Atley. 8-8-18.

B.

49th Battn.
A.I.F.

CORTIS not COURTIS
CORTIS.
W.H. 3023.

"Killed in Action 6-4-18"

Buried Bavelincourt Communal Cemetery 5½ miles N.N.W. of Corbie.
Cert: by A.I.F.Hqrs 9-8-18.

London.
9-8-18.

B.

A. I. F. 49th Bn. CORTIS, W. H. 3023.

K. April 6/18. Det.D/E.

Cortis was a tall, dark man with a small moustache. The Germans were making an attack about 5.0 a.m. and shells were coming over thick. Cortis was in a tent with some others and one shell came and burst right on the tent and killed him at once. If you wrote to Anderson (I do not know his No.) 27th A.S.C. (Australian) he might tell you some more as he was standing close by. This occurred close to Contay near Albert.

Reference: Cameron, 3722, 49 H.Q. AIF.

No.6 General, Rouen, 21.8.18.

D.M.

Written Anderson
5.9.18

49th Battn.
A.I.F.

CORTIS
W.H. 3023

"Killed 16-4-18"

Cortis and two others of 49th Battn. were attached to 27th A.A.S.C., when they were killed outright by a shell in Amiens, on that date. They were attached as loaders, and O.C., 27th A.A.S.C., could give information as to their burial

Informant. Kirwan. Sgt.M.D. 1239
27th A.A.S.C.,
Hut 9,
WESTHAM.

W.A.Rand
London
9-9-18
H.G.

B.

A.I.F. 49th Battn

CORTIS
W.H. 3023

Wounded

Rejoined Battalion 24-9-16
Cert. by A.I.F.Headquarters 11-11-16

London
15-11-16

B.

Miss Rose Raabe
Nanango
Queensland

13.1.19

Re. 3023 Pte W. H. Corbis
49th Batt.
Kin A. 6.4.18

Australian [illegible]

A.I.F. 43rd Btn

PATTERSON "H.C"
2/Lt. Cecil Norman

"K/Action 1-9-18"

Killed in action 1-9-18 - no report of burial
Cert. by A.I.F.Hqrs 13-1-19.

P.J.

London
13-1-19

3023
W. H. Cortis
49 Battn
Kia A. 6.4.18

"In The Field"
The 12th day of Sept 1918

To
The Secretary:- B (Cd)
Enquiry Bureau - Australian Red-cross Society

Dear Madam:-

your letter of enquiry in reference to Pr W. Cortis, dated 5.9.18, came to hand last night, & I regret I was unable to reply at once.

These however are the particulars:-

No 3023 Pr William Cortis: 49th Battn: 13th Inf Brigade A.I.F. was attached to this unit (The 27th Company of AASC) he was 5 ft 9 in tall, medium build, dark complexion & large brown eyes, he wore - ever since I have known him - a closely-clipped black moustache. On the evening of the 6th day of April 1918 we were bivouaced in a little orchard on the fringe of the Village of "Bevlincourt," the Enemy was spasmodically shelling the Village & its environs, at about 9 pM schrapnel began to burst over the orchard, the first shell killed Cortis, he was in bed when he was hit, & succombed to his injuries a few minutes later. He was buried next day 7.4.18 in the pretty little Civilian Cemetery at "Bevlincourt" with Military Honours, (I was at his funeral)

the "Burial Service" was read by an Army Chaplain, a nice cross was erected, (wood) nicely varnished, with an appropriate inscription printed thereon.

Trusting this is all the information you require

Respectfully yours
Harold Anderson

O R I

O

Belgium
5/2/1918

P.C.
10.1.19

To Secretary!
Australian Branch
British Red Cross
36 Grosvenor Place
London SW1

Reference attached, letter
Would You be so kind as
to supply any information
Concerning the deceased Soldier
Forward same on to
Miss Rose Raabe
Nanango
Queensland
Australia

as perhaps I will be on leave
to England then when I come
back here I expect to be on
draft to Australia? I may.

miss the reply to this letter
off course Just please Yourself
if You think it best to write
to me will do so & I will
do my best to forward same
on to the young Lady.

Yours Very Sincerely

No 2814 Corporal A Fortune
Headquarters
9th Battalion
A. I. F.

3023
Pte W. H. Cortis
49th Batt
13.1.19

Nanango Oct 22nd. 1918

Dear Corporal Fortune

No doubt you will be surprised when this letter comes along to you & I guess will wond who the writer can be as you no doubt knew Pte Will Cortis 3023 - 49 who was killed in action in April last the 6th I dont know if he told you or not that he left a fiancee behind him in Australia it was rather a big shock to me when the awful news came here that he had paid the price I thought I may hear more about it but unfortunately no further news has arrived so far a short while back I wondered if I could place anyone I knew that served in his Battalion when a sudden thought struck me about you having had your send off with him in Kingaroy not knowing you personal myself it seemed rather hard to write & therefore was a little backward about it at last I thought well it surely will not do any harm so you see I found out your address & now am asking you to kindly give me some information as to his end if possible of course I dont know if you are still in Coy a I only go by when he was put into a Coy. 49th Batt he wrote to tell me that you were still with him No doubt this awful war has caused many a sad heart its to be hoped that the end of it is near

just a few days ~~then~~ before Will was killed he wrote to me to say that he thought it would soon be all over & would soon be back again he hoped. things look much brighter there now than at that time so we people here are hoping to see it all over soon between the war on over there & the drought here it seems awful but I suppose one must only take it as it comes as the saying is I think I will draw my letter to a close in wishing you much luck also a speedy return to old Australia trusting you will oblige

Yours Sincerely
Rose Raabe

P. S.
address
Miss. Rose Raabe
Nanango
Queensland
Australia.