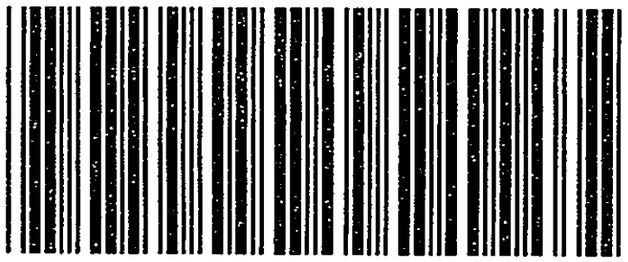
Australian Red Cross Society Wounded and Missing
Enquiry Bureau files, 1914-18 War
1DRL/0428

2542 Private George Henry Crossingham

33rd Battalion



0840906R

33rd Battn. C.Coy.,
9th Pltn.
A.I.F.

CROSSINGHAM
Pte. G.H. 2542

"Died of Wounds 5-4-18"

S/B., hit at Villers-Brettonaux, whilst carrying wounded man to dressing station. L/Cpl.B.A.John, 1847A gave me this information. John now in Hurdcott, No.3 Command Hpl. Not sure of date, think 4th April.

Informant. Croft Cpl.T. 1472
33rd Battn. C.Coy. 9th Pltn.,
WEYMOUTH.

Note:-
Written L/Cpl. ~~Baton~~ B.A.John 13-6-18

A.D.G.
London
17-5-18

P.I.

33rd Battn.
A.I.F.

CROSSINGHAM
G.H. 2542

"Died of Wounds 5-4-18"

All details concerning the death of the above mentioned ~~was~~ communicated by me to the parents on April 9th.

Letter from:- The Chaplain,
46th C.C.S.,
B.E.F. 16-5-18

London
23-5-18

P.C.

33rd A.I.F. Crossingham. G.H. 2542.

(D/W. Apr. 5/18.)
Dets. D/B.

"I was beside Pte. Geo. Crossingham (33.C.XII?) S/B.) when he was hit by a bullet one day in April, while we were holding the front line at Villers Brettoneux. We had made a counter attack that afternoon, and this happened while we were consolidating. His brother Len Crossingham (33.C.XII?) also a S/B was with him and would know all about it. I think he was taken back to the dressing station."

Eyewitness: Yes.

Description: Both brothers very tall, with dark complexion.

Informant: Pte. S.R. Cross. 1807.
33rd A.I.F. C XI.
3rd Southern General Hospital,
Tent, New College Gdns.
Oxford.

Home address:
Walcha, N.S.W.

4/6/18.
H.M.Pickard-Cambridge. Brother in the P.I.

P.1

33rs A.I.F. Crossingham. Pte. G.H. 2542.

(D/W. Apr. 5/18.)

"We were just outside Villers Brettoneux on Apr. 4th and had been holding the line. Fritz broke through on the right, and we had to swing back, and counter attack. We were holding the line till the Cavalry came up, I got hit in the chest and Crossingham came over to me, just as he got to me he got hit, and I saw 2 bullet holes, 1 at top of a leg, and one in Lower part of stomach. I afterwards saw him at the Fld.Ambulance and had a few moments talk. A short time ago I heard from Pte.L. Hodge C Coy. IX Pl. telling me that Crossingham died next day. Crossingham was a stretcher bearer C Coy, IX Pl.-On April 5th."

Eyewitness: Of wound. Of death, Pte.Leslie Hodge C.IX.

Description: Description to follow.

Informant: Pte. Alan Walker. 3259.
23rd A.I.F. C Coy. IX pl.

Home address: 5th Southern General Hospital,
Cameron Ave, Milton Section, Portsmouth.
Artarmon, Sydney.N.S.W.

7/6/18.

E.C.Hughes.

Written Pte Hodge 17.6.18.

P1

33rd Battn.
A.I.F.

CROSSINGHAM
G.H. 2542

"Died of Wounds 5-4-18"

At Front, Villers-Bretoneux, shot with bullet through the stomach. I saw him out in the open. He was being brought back same time as I was. I knew him well. Taken to Dressing Station.

Informant. Bath 2525
Ward 38,
HAREFIELD.

D.P.Dickson
London
7-6-18

P.I.

33rd Battn.C.Cc.
A.I.F.

CROSSINGHAM.
C.H. 2542.

"Died of Wounds" 5-4-18.

I saw him wounded at Hangard near Villers Brettoneux where he was hit by a bullet in the thigh. He was a S/B at the time and was assisting to carry out a wounded soldier. This happened about 2.a.m. I knewhim fairly well, his brother is in same company. I cannot give you any further details nor can I refer you to anyone.

Informant:- Pte Watson.898.
C.Coy.33rd Battn.
No 3 A.A.H.DARTFORD.

W.Oman.
London.
13-6-18.

P I.
(brother)

33rd Battn. (~~C.IX.~~)
A.I.F.

CROSSINGHAM
G.H. 2542.

"Died of Wounds 5-~~5~~4-18"

~~J. C. Coy 7th Plat.~~ S/B to C.Company. In morning about noon on 5th April we were counter attacking after Enemey's attack, in front of Villers Bretonneux. I saw him stooping down bandaging up German officer, when he was shot by sniper. Hit in Buttock and bullet went up to his side. S/Bs of whom Crossingham's brother was one took him to D/S. I was not 200 yards away at time, but too many M/G bullets flying to go over to him. His brother told me he was badly wounded. Don't know brother's initials or number but he was S/B also to C.Company IX Platoon. Know nothing of burial.

Informant:- Pte.L.J.Blake. 4986.
33rd Battn. C.IX
HAREFIELD.

A.D.C.
London.
27-6-18.
H.C.

P I.

33rd Battn.

A.I.F.

CROSSINGHAM.
G.H. 2542.

"Died of Wounds 5-4-18"

He was in No 9 Platoon C.Co and was a S/B. I saw him wounded at Villers Bretonneux when he was hit by a bullet in the buttock and walked out to D/S. Casualty happened about 4.p.m. on April 4th 1918. He was bandaging a wounded man at the time.- a L/Cpl Morley.E, who enlisted from Western Australia and who was hit in the leg by a bullet. I knew him well, he came from Clarence River North Coast, New South Wales. He was a farmer in civilian life. I cannot give any details of burial. Refer to L/Cpl Morley.E.C, Co. 33rd Battalion, who is at present in England for he may know something further since they were able to walk, and both went back to D/S together.

Informant:- Pte J.M. Dwyer.3045.
C. Co. 33rd Battn.
No 3 A.A.H.DARTFORD.

W.Oman.
London.
29-6-18.
J.E.A.

P I.

Note:- Written L/Cpl Morley.27-6-18.

33rd Battn.
A.I.F.

CROSSINGHAM
G.H. 2542

"Died of Wounds 5-4-18"

Re Pte.Crossingham. He was admitted to this C.C.S.on the 5th of April, with G.S. wound of the *pericardium* and died at 12-50 p.m. the same day. He was buried in the Military Cemetery at Picquigny, on the western side of Amiens. He was attended to by the Rev.J.H.Peskett at the last, and buried by him. This Officer has however, recently narrowly escaped death, when his Hol. was bombed. It is regretted that all his carefully saved records as well as all his clothing were burnt, as a result of the action of the incendiary bomb, otherwise further information would probably be forthcoming.

Letter from:- The O.C.,
46th C.C.S.,

London
4-7-18
H.M.

P.I.

33rd Battn.
A.I.F.

CROSSINGHAM
G.H. 2542

"Died of Wounds 4-4-18"

Re 2542 Pte.G.H.Crossingham, C.Coy. 33rd Battn., who died of wounds on 5-4-18. Both Pte.Crossingham and myself were wounded on the 4th April, at Villers-Bretonneux, in a counter attack about 4 o'clock in the evening. I left the battle field with him and was with him until early on the morning of the 5th, then I left the C.C.S. at Amiens where he died and as far as I know he was buried there in the British Military Cemetery. Pte.G.H.Crossingham was not dead when I was sent on, but very serious, it seemed as if the end was near although he was conscious all the time.

Letter from:- Morley. L/Cpl.Edward
C.Coy. 33rd Battn.,
No.3 Command Depot,
HURDCOTT.

London
15-7-18
A.M.H.

P.I.

33rd Battn. A.I.F.

CROSSINGHAM.
G.H. 2542.

"Died of Wounds 5.4.18."

Re Pte. Crossingham. I was quite close to him on the day he received his fatal wound, and was sorry to learn later that he had died and I think he was buried in a Military Cemetery at Amiens, he was killed at Villers-Bretteneux.
I saw his brother in the camp a few days ago.
Pte. Crossinghgm was about 21 years of age, tall and dark.

Letter from:-

London,
12.8.18.
H.T.

Pte. L.W. Hodge, 3313,
C. Coy. 33rd Battn.
Sandhill Camp.

F.I.

2639, Pte L. S. Crossingham,
33rd Batt., A.I.F.,
Ward 3 A,
1st Southern General Hospital,
Birmingham.

9th May 1918.

Dear Sir,

With reference to your enquiry for 2642 Pte G.H.CROSSINGHAM 33rd Batt., A.I.F., we very much regret to inform you that he is officially reported to have died of wounds on 5th April 1918 at 46th Casualty Clearing Station B.E.F.

We are doing our utmost to obtain particulars of his death and burial and will advise you as soon as we succeed. We deeply regret having to forward such sad news and would like to assure you of our sincere sympathy.

With good wishes for your recovery.

Yours faithfully,

Miss Ryan
Secretary.

2542
G.H. Crossingham
33rd Batt.
D of W 5.4.18
P1
2

3165
K.R. Godbee
35 Batt.
D of W 4.4.18
5
3

46 C.C.S., B.E.F.
16th. May, 1918.

re.:- 2542 Pte.G.H.Crossingham, 33rd. Batt.~~A/D/~~ A.I.F.
3165 Pte.K.R.Godbee, 35th. Batt. A.I.F.

Dear Madam,

All details concerning the deaths of the above mentioned were communicated by me to the respective Parents on April 9th.

Yours Sincerely,

George H Peskett

Chaplain.

Slip.

19th June, 1918.

No. 2542, Pte. L. S. Crossingham,
33rd Infantry Battalion, A.I.F.
No. 1 Command Depot,
Hurdcott,
Wilts.

Dear Pte. Crossingham,

With reference to your enquiry concerning your brother No. 2542 Pte. C.H. Crossingham, 33rd Infantry Battalion, A.I.F. we beg to inform you that we have received the following unofficial reports from two men of the same unit No. 896 Pte. G.F. Watson, 33rd Battalion, No. 3 Australian Aux. Hospital, Dartford stated that he saw Pte. Crossingham wounded by a bullet in the thigh at Hangard, Near Villers Bretteneux. He was a stretcher bearer at the time, and was assisting to carry out a wounded soldier in the early morning. Informant adds that he knew Pte. Crossingham, who had a brother in the same company, fairly well. No. 1472 Cpl. T. Croft, confirms this report, but adds that he received the information from L/Cpl. F.A. John of the same unit, and we have now written to L/Cpl. John

and will advise you immediately on receipt of his reply.

Yours faithfully,

(Miss) Mrs Craven

Secretary.

20th June, 1918.

2539 Pte. L.S. Crossingham,
33rd Infantry Battalion,
Australian Imperial Forces,
3rd Command Depot,
Hurdcott.

Dear Sir,

We regret to inform you that we have received an unofficial report about your brother 2542 Pte. G.H. Crossingham, 33rd Infantry Battalion, A.I.F. which confirms the report that he died of wounds. 2539 Pte. Alan Walker of the same unit, lately at the 5th Southern General Hospital, Milton Section, Portsmouth, stated that while holding the line outside Villers-Bretteneux, on April 4th he was wounded in the chest and your brother who was a stretcher bearer came over to him. Just as he reached him we was wounded himself, in the leg and stomach, Pte. Walker saw him at the Field Ambulance, and had a few minutes talk with him. He only heard quite recently from Pte. Leslie Lodge of the same unit, that your brother died next day.

We are continuing enquiries, and will advise you of any particulars we receive.

With sincere sympathy.

Yours faithfully,

(Miss)

Secretary.

F. S. G.

No 2539 Pte L. S. Crossingham

33rd Bn.

A.I.F.

No 3 Command Depot

Hurdcott

June 25

Sitting copy

Dear Sir,

In further answer to your enquiry for your brother No 2542 Pte G. H. Crossingham 33rd Bn. A.I.F. We regret to inform you of an unofficial report given by ~~one of his~~ No 1807 Pte S. R. Cross. who was interviewed in the 3rd Southern General Hospital Oxford. He stated that he was beside your brother when he was wounded by a bullet

12th M/G Compy K Mar 28/18 L/Cpl E. T. Stevens 346

In front of Albert my Compy was hold the line - Enemy had broken through & taken some prisoners - Some of our men attacked cut these Germans off & recovered prisoners - This was in morning abt 27th or 28th March - Stevens was hit through both legs whilst firing his M/G - He was being carried out by Pvt M/G unner Fred Allen and another, when shell fell right beside them killing all with stretcher - Corpl J F Coyle 2355 - 12th M/G Compy, in France 10 days ago, would know fuller particulars, as he told me he picked up Pvt F Allen, who was hit in the neck & only lived a few minutes. Know nothing of burial.

Pvt F Morgan 468
48th Battln B Compy & plata
transferred from 12th M/G Coy.

ADG 14/6/18 Weymouth

P.1
M

when they were holding the front line at Villers Brettoneux. A counter attack had been made during an afternoon and this had occurred while they were consolidating their positions ~~[illegible]~~ (. He was taken to the dressing station but Pte Cross says that his brother "Lea Crossingham" was with him at the time. The presume that he refers to you.

We are writing again to the O.C of the 46th Casualty Clearing Station for details of your brother's death and burial as soon as we receive his reply we shall advise you.

With our sincere sympathy in your loss

Telephones:
~~Tel:~~ VICTORIA ~~0850.~~ (8576
)77
)78

ALL COMMUNICATIONS
TO BE ADDRESSED TO
"THE SECRETARY."
WOUNDED AND MISSING
— ENQUIRY BUREAU —

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY.

TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS:
"QUESTMAN, LONDON."

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY.

36, GROSVENOR PLACE.
~~54, VICTORIA STREET~~,
LONDON, S.W. 1.

Dear

We deeply regret to inform you that the above soldier who was previously is now reported

We are making further enquiries in the hope of learning

2 2542 G.H. Crossingham 33 Battn D of W 5-4-18 P1 2 6/18

Dear Madam,

Pte Crossingham was admitted to this C.C.S. on the 5th of April with Gun Shot wound of the Perinaeum & died at 12.50 P.M. the same day. He was buried in the Military cemetery at Picquigny on the western side of AMIENS. He was attended to by the Rev J.H. Peckett at the last & buried by him.

This officer has, however, recently narrowly escaped death, when his Hospital was bombed. It is regretted that all his carefully-saved records as well as all his clothing were burnt as a result of the action of the incendiary bombs, otherwise further information would probably be forthcoming.

Yours sincerely
C.I. Ellis. LIEUT. COLONEL
O.C. 116 CASUALTY CLEARING STATION.

NT

admitted 5. 4. 18.
Died 12.50 P.M. 5/4/18.

Tel.: VICTORIA 8576 8577 8578

ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO BE ADDRESSED TO "THE SECRETARY."
WOUNDED AND MISSING — ENQUIRY BUREAU —
AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY.

G.S.W. Perineum

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY.

C. of C.

36, GROSVENOR PLACE.
LONDON S.W. 1.

2542 Pte. G.H. Crossingham
33rd Battalion
Australian Imperial Force

25.6.18

Dear Sir,

We have been asked by the relatives in Australia to obtain the fullest details possible of the wounds, death and burial of the above, who died in your Hospital on 5.4.18 and would greatly appreciate any information that you may send us.

As we have been informed by various C.O.'s and Adjutants that the receipt of notes of thanks only causes them unnecessary inconvenience, unless you ask us to acknowledge your reply to the above we will not do so, and trust that you will understand that we appreciate it none the less.

With apologies for troubling you,

Yours faithfully,

(Miss) Vera Deakin

(per MR.)

Secretary.

2539 Pte.L.S.Crossingham,
33rd Battalion, A.I.F.,
3rd Command Depot,
HURDCOTT. W I L T S.

July 2nd, 1918.

Dear Sir,

We beg to inform you that we have received two further unofficial reports about your brother -

2542 Pte. G.H. CROSSINGHAM. 33rd Battalion, A.I.F.

which do not agree in all details but you may have received enough information from your stretcher bearer brother to be able to decide as to which is correct.

3045 Pte. J.M. Dwyer of the same unit, interviewed at the 3rd Australian Auxiliary Hospital, Dartford, stated that he saw Pte. Crossingham wounded at Villers Brettoneaux about 4 p.m. on April 4th, while he was bandaging L/Cpl. E.Horley of the same unit, who was wounded in the leg. Pte. Dwyer adds that your brother and L/Cpl. Horley were able to walk, and both went back to the dressing station together, so that the latter may be able to give some information.

4980 Pte. L.R. Blake, also of the same unit, recently at the 1st Auxiliary Australian Hospital, Harefield, states that when they were counter attacking about noon April 5th, at Villers Brettoneaux. he saw your brother

stooping down bandaging a German Office when he was shot by a sniper in the buttock, the bullet penetrating to his side. Stretcher bearers of whom your brother was one, took him to the dressing station.

Pte. Blake was not 200 yards away at the time and he was told by your second brother that Pte. Crossingham was badly wounded.

We have written to Cpl. Morley, and will at once advise you of any information we obtain from him or from the O.C. of the 46th Casualty Clearing Station in which your brother died.

With sincere sympathy in your loss.

Yours faithfully,

(MISS)

SECRETARY.

2539 Pte.L.S.Crossingham,
33rd Battalion, A.I.F.,
No 4 Command Depot,
Hurdcott, Wilts.

July 10th, 1918.

Dear Pte. Crossingham,

With reference to your enquiry concerning your brother-

2542 Pte. G.H. CROSSINGHAM, 33rd Bttn, A.I.F.

We beg to inform you that we have received the following report from the O.C. of the 46th Casualty Clearing Station B.E.F., who states:- "Pte. Crossingham was admitted to this C.C.S. on the 5th April, with G.S. wound of the perinaeum and died at 12-50 p.m. the same day. He was buried in the Military Cemetery at Picquigny, on the Western side of Amiens. He was attended to by the Rev. J.H. Peskett at the last, and buried by him. This officer has however, recently narrowly escaped death, when his Hospital was bombed. It is regretted that all his carefully saved records as well as all his clothing were burnt, as a result of the action of the incendiary bomb, otherwise further information would probably

Assuring you of our sympathy and with best wishes to yourself.

Yours faithfully,
(MISS) Sara Deakin.
SECRETARY.

A.B.H.

Ack. P.C. 15/7/18
Amitt

3. Command Depot
Hurdcott
Nr Salisbury

To Secretary
Australian Red Cross Society

2542.
G.H Crossingham
33rd Bttn
D/W 4-4-18 pt. (11)

Dear Madam.

In answer to your inquiries about 2542 Pte G.H. Crossingham. C. Coy 33 Battn. who died of wound on 5.4.19. Both Pte Crossingham and myself were wounded on the 4th April at Villers Bretonneux in a counter attack about 4 o'clock in the evening I left the battle field with him and was with him until early on the morning of the 5th then I left at the C.C.S. at Armiens where he died and as far as I know he was buried there in the British Military Cemetary. Pte G.H. Crossingham was not dead when I was sent on but very serious it seemed as if the end was near although he was conscious all the time. If I can give you any further information I will only be to pleased to do so.

I Remain Yours Faithfully
Edward Morley L.Cpl.
C. Coy 33 Battalion.

Amitt

July 22nd, 1918.

2539 Pte. L.S.Crossingham,
33rd Battalion, A.I.F.,
No 3 Command Depot,
Hurdcott.

Dear Sir,

In further answer to your enquiry for -

2542 Pte. G.H. CROSSINGHAM, 33rd Battalion, A.I.F.

We beg to inform you of an unofficial report which we have received from L/Cpl.Edward Morley of the same unit who wrote from No 3 Command Depot, Hurdcott to this effect.

"Both Pte. Crossingham and myself were wounded on the 4th April, at Villers Bretonneux, in a counter attack about 4 O'Clock in the evening. I left the battle field with him abd was with him until early on the morning of 5th, then I left the C.C.S. at Amiens where he died and as far as I knew ge was buried there in the British Military Cemetery. Pte. G.H. Crossingham was not dead when I was sent on, but very serious, it seemed as if the end was near although he was conscious all the time."

With a further assurance of our sincere sympathy.

Yours faithfully,

(Miss) M

Secretary.

Brother
2542. Pte G.H. Crossingham.
33rd Bltn. A.I.F.
(died of W. 5.4.18.)

Hurdcott
July 24.7.18.
England.

Dear Miss. Deakin,

I have received quite a number of letters from you in reference to me about my late Brother Well I thank you for you kindest you have shown to me in the way you have) For I might say you have gone to alot of trouble trying to find out all what you could for me about my dear Brother wich I lost on the fifth of April & you have succeeded in finding out for me I would like to ask you not to bother about making any moor inquiry about him iff you dont mind because I dont think you can do any moor than what you have already don for me, you have stated to me the date he was wounded & also time when he passed away & where he was buried & I am quite satisfied with the information you have sent to me) & I might say iff you hapen to get a Snapshot of his grave I would ask you to send it home to my people iff you have Know objection in doing So. I thank you once again & thanking you in anticipation

acknowledged.
26.7.18

I am dear Miss
yours Respectfully
L. S. Crossingham.

July 26th, 1918.

2539 L.S.Crossingham,
33rd Battalion, A.I.F.,
No 3 Command Dppot,
Hurdcott. Wilts.

Dear Sir,

In reply to your letter dated 24-7-18 we beg to inform you that we have written to the Graves Registration Bureau asking for a photograph of the grave of your late brother -

2542 Pte.G.H. CROSSINGHAM, 33rd Battalion, A.I.F.

and we hope it will be forwarded to you in due course. Could you please let us have some permanent address to which it could be sent as a regimental address is so unreliable and liable to be changed at any time, and the photograph will probably take some little time to be finished.

With all good wishes.

Yours faithfully,

(Miss)

Secretary.

E Bluett.

Cek. Pe 12.8.18
N.J.

AUSTRALIAN COMMONWEALTH MILITARY FORCES

2542
G.H. Crossingham
33 Batta
D.J.W. 5-4-18 9.1
2

Sandhill Camp (Cd)

Dear Miss Deakin

9.8.18

Your letter inquiring of about 2542 G.H. Crossingham 33rd Batty reached me safely.

I was quite close to him on the day he received his fatal wound, and was sorry to learn later that he had died and I think he was buried in a military cemetry at Amiens, he was killed at Villers-Brettoneux.

I saw his brother in this camp a few days

Pte Crossingham was about 27 yrs of age tall & dark.

Hoping this information may be useful

I am

faithfully yours

Pte S. W. Hodge 3813

C. Coy 33rd Battalion

N.J.