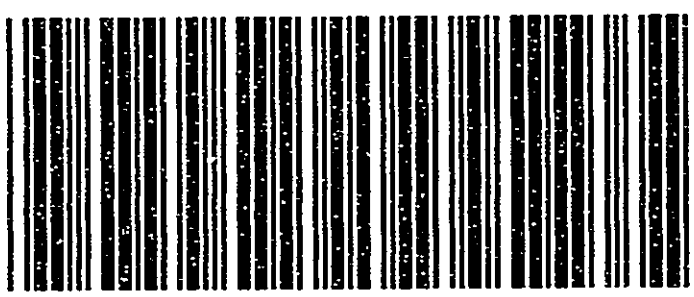
Australian Red Cross Society Wounded and Missing
Enquiry Bureau files, 1914-18 War
1DRL/0428

4090 Private Sydney Arthur Cormack

17th Battalion



0801210C

A.I.F. 17th Btn 10th Rfts

CORMACK
Sydney Arthur. 4090 (HQ)
not 49

K. in A. 2-3-17

Killed in Action 2-3-17
Cert. by A.I.F.Headquarters 16-4-17.

S.

London
19-4-17

17th A.I.F. Cormack, S.A. 4090.

(K. Mar. 2 1917 Dets. D/B)

Informant states "I remember Cormack being killed. It was by a shell in the beginning of March last at Le Sars to the right of the Bapaume Road. It was about 5.30 in the evening when I saw the body which was almost blown to pieces. He was of course killed instantly. It happened on the Light Railway. I do not know where he was buried.
He was the only Cormack I knew, and we called him "Sid".
Medium height, medium colour, clean-shaven. He came from Manley, N.S.W. and was originally a shipping clerk and married.

Eye witness: See above.

Description: do.

Informant: Pte. Wm. Peara 4197, 17th A.I.F., C Coy. IX, Colmore Rd. Hos: King's Heath, Birmingham.

Home address: C/o G.P.O.,
Pinonee, N.S.W.

7/5.17.
W.F. Audry.

17th Batt.
A.I.F.,

CORMACK
S.A. 4090

"Killed March 2/17"

I saw him killed by a shell (instantly) at a place called the Barrier. Died almost ~~immediately.~~ just time enough to call out "Goodbye Jimmy" He was the cook for D.Coy and was just unloading rations, 23 men from different battalions were killed at the same time. 2 shells came the first was a dud and the second killed the lot. I know nothing further. He came from Sydney. Did'nt know him very well.

Reference:- C.L.Bishop 1661
17th Batt. A.I.F.,
Ward 24
Harefield Hospital.
6.5.17.

London
10.5.17.
W.Alison

S.

17th Battn.
A. I. F.

Cormack.
S. A. 4090.

"Killed 2.3.17."

Refer to Pte. Attwood of same Coy.C. who was with him when he was killed outright by shell in front line. They enlisted together and were mates.

Witness:-
E. Lowrie. 4155.
17th Battn.

Note Written Pte. John Attwood 9.5.17.
L. P. J.

London.
17.5.17.

S.

A. I. F. 17. GORMACK, S.A.4070.

E. March 2nd, 1917.

He was killed by shell going into the line. I have seen his grave at Le Sars with cross and details. He came from Manly, Sydney, N.S.W. He was about 5'8", muggetty build, fair, clean shaven, 23-26.

FJE.

References:- Scahlan, J. 4316 A.II.
No. 1 Can. Gen. Hosp.

Etaples
18.6.17.

17th Battn.
D.Coy.
A. I. F.

Cormack.
Pte. S. A. 4090.

"Killed 2.3.17."

Refer to Cpl. T. A. Corbett 4389, 17th Battn. D.Coy. 15th Pltn. who saw Cormack killed.

Witness:-
Pte. H. O. Bennett 4363.
5th Aus.Lt.Trench M. Batty.
Southall.

P.C.

London.
5.6.17.

Note Written Cpl. Corbett 30.5.17. S.

17th A. I. F.

Cormack, Pte S.A. 4090,
C. Company

(K. March 2nd/17. Det D & B)

"I knew Cormack well. He was in D. XV and was acting as cook to our officers when he was killed at night about March 2nd by a shell nr Martinpuich at "Deadmule" corner. I saw him buried afterwards close by where he was killed along with some others of the 20th A.I.F. and the Pioneers of the latter Battalion put up a wooden cross at his grave." Searcher's Note: Notwithstanding the discrepancy in the deceased's Coy, the Informant appeared certain of what he was saying.

Eye-witness:

Description:

Informant: Cpl T.H. Gardiner, 4588,
17th A.I.F., D.Coy, XV Plat.,
No. 1 City of London Hospital,
Clapton.

Home address:
Lucknow,
The Avenue,
Manwick, N.S.W.

10th June 1917.
C.E. Dyer.

17th Battn. D. Coy.
A. I. F.

Cormack.
S. A. 4090.

"Killed 2.3.17." D. & B.

This man was killed carrying rations up. at Martinpuich He was cook at the time and a shell killed several at the same time. Sgt. Heddle of D.Coy. was with him at the time and got wounded, he knows about it.

Informant: Pte. J. Roberts.4823. at front from Sept 1916 to May 3/17
17th Battn. D. Coy. A. I. F.
Ward St.John 13.
St John Hpl, Cheltenham.

Home address:
4a, Milsoms Lane, Milsom's Point,
Sydney.

Ed. E. Holt Evans.
7.5.17.
London.
11.6.17. Note Written Sgt. Heddle.8.6.17. S.

Havre 15th June. 1917.

17th AUSTRALIANS COBMACK, S.A. 4090

K. March 2nd. 1917. Det. D/B.

He was in D. Co. I know him fairly well. He was an Officer's Cook. I was told by Q.S.M. Edie (?spelling) of the 17th Batt., D. Co., and Pt. T (?) Sloan of the 17th Batt., D. Co., both up with the Battalion when I left the end of March, that they saw Cormack killed by shell explosion at Martinpuich on the 2nd March. 1917.

Informant: Pt. F. Smith 1582
17th Batt., B. Co., XV. Pltn.
Australians.
Havre Hospital.

Heddle?

HPG.

17th Battn.
C. Coy.
A. I. F.

Cormack.
Pte. S. A. 4090.

"Killed in Action 2.3.17."

This is an answer to a letter you wrote to Pte. John Attwood of the 17th Battn. enquiring about 4090 Pte. S. A. Cormack. C.Coy. I am sorry to inform you that Pte. Attwood was killed in our last stunt and your letter was amongst a bundle which I examined before destroying. I am not a C. Coy. Officer (there was only one left) but am making enquiries and will do my best to gain the information you seek and let you know as soon as I can get anything authentic.

Letter from:-
E. R. Raine. 2nd Lieut.
France.
21.5.17.

London.
15.6.17.

S.

17th Battn.
A. I. F.

Cormack.
S. A. 4090.

"Killed 2.3.17."

I helped to put the cross over his grave. He enlisted with me and we came over in the Star of England. He was carrying ammunition at Le Sars and a shell blew his head off. He came from New South Wales and used to work in the State Timber Yard.

Witness:-
L. Dunham. 4103.
17th Battn. D. Coy.
Harefield. W.29.

W. Alsson.

London.
25.6.17.

S

17th Battn.
A. I. F.

Cormack.
S. A. 4090.

"Killed in Action 2.6.17."

Re 4090 S. A. Cormack. I am able to give you a little information respecting the place of burial. He is buried in the vicinity of the Butte de Warlencourt the map reference is Map 57c S.W. M 22 B.5.8. The grave is just alongside the light railway running from Martinpuich and the spot is marked by two large white crosses, the one on the right being over his grave. It is not in a soldier's cemetery.

Letter from:-
Cpl. T. H. Corbett.
15.6.17.

London.
19.7.17.

S.

R
EM 29.6.17

4090 Pte S. A. CORMACK
C. Co
KA. 2.3.17 14 Batt A.I.F

France
21 May 16

S2

Dear Miss Deakin

This is in answer to a letter you wrote to Pte John Attwood of the 17th Batt^n enquiring about 4090 Pte S. A. Cormack C Coy.

I am sorry to inform you that Pte Attwood was killed in our last stunt and your letter was amongst a bundle which I examined before destroying.

I am not a C. Company officer (there was only one left) but am making enquiries and will do my best to gain the information you seek and let you know as soon as I can get anything authentic

Yours faithfully

E. H. Paine
8/Lt

P.T.O

P. S. By your letter I gather that you desire a map reference of the place where Pte Cormack was buried. No doubt if you are aware that names of towns etc, are barred by the censor but I will be on leave shortly & could then give you roughly the spot where the grave would most likely be as I know the village as what is left of it too well.

EWP

May 31st, 1917.

2nd-Lieut.E.R. Raine,
17th Battalion, A.I.F.,
B. E. F.

Dear Sir,

We have to thank you very much for your letter of May 21st in answer to our enquiry made to Pte Attwood concerning

4090 S.A.CORMACK, 17th Battalion, A.I.F.

though we regret the cause of your writing, i.e. Pte Attwood's death.

We shall be very grateful - for the sake of the relatives - for any information you could send us regarding the death and burial of Pte Cormack.

Our object in asking for the location - as definitely as it is possible to give it - of the graves is to assist the Graves Registration Units however slightly, in the enormous amount of work they have to deal with, by supplying as closely as possible the grave location when applying for a photograph for the next of kin, and we should be very glad if you would supply us with the location of Pte Cormack's grave, when you are over on leave.

Yours faithfully, V.D

Secretary. Hu.

Ack 5-M.2.7.17

Y.M.C.A.
WITH THE
AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

4090 June 15th 1917.

S. A. CORMACK

Secretary. KA. 2.3.17 1st Battn A.I.F.

No. 4 Auxiliary Hospital
Ave Franche Ry Camp

Re 1140 Cormack S.A. KA. 2/3/17

Your communication re the above received. I am able to give you a little information respecting the place of burial. He is buried in the vicinity of the Bait. de Morlancourt the map reference is Map 57c S.W. 1/20 B.5.8. The grave is just alongside the light railway running from Morlancourt the grave is marked by two large white crosses, the one on the right bearing over his grave. This notice is a soldiers Cemetery. Trusting this information will be of some use to you

I remain
Yours sincerely
Lt. D. McCulloch

3rd July, 1917.

Cpl. D.A. Corbett,
17th Batt. A.I.F.
B.E.F.

Dear Cpl Corbett,

Very many thanks for your letter, in answer to our ehquiry, concerning:-

4090. S.A. Cormack, 17th Batt. A.I.F.

The information you have sent will be of great assistance and we shall now be able to apply to the Graves Registration Units, for a photograph of the place and burial for the next of kin.

With best wishes,

Yours faithfully,

V.D

Secretary.