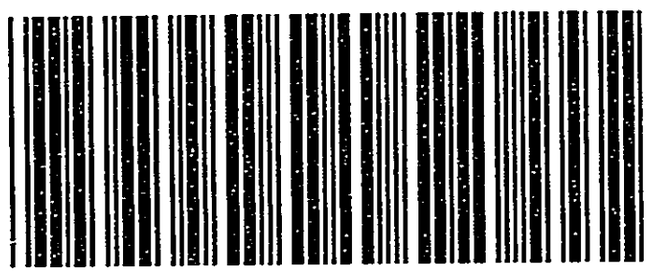
Australian Red Cross Society Wounded and Missing
Enquiry Bureau files, 1914-18 War
1DRL/0428

2893 Sapper Henry Frederick Francis

3rd Tunnelling Company



1100603B

3rd Tunnelling Coy.

FRANCIS,
Spr. H.F. 2893

K/A. 28th November 1916

He was one of twentyone men who were buried and killed by the explosion of a German mine, about midday on 27 or 28 November 1916. I helped to dig him out and he was afterwards buried in a civilian cemetery at Hersin, near Doos and a cross erected. Spr. Praed and all the others whose bodies were recovered were buried there. I do not remember the names of the others, I had only just joined the Coy. Francis came from Tasmania im the same reinforcements with me, his christian name was Harry.

Informant:- 2891
Spr. D. N. Blizzard
3rd Tunnelling Coy.

Private Address:- Forrest
Circular Head
Tasmania.

W.H. Roadknight
H.M.A.T."Indarra"
6/9/19.

3rd Tunnelling Coy.
A.I.F.

FRANCIS H.F.	2893
Kerby Sgt H.J.M.	1364
Ladd A.E.	1071
Lyons M.	1273
McLean H.	4421
Moore L/Cpl.W.J.	4402
Nightingale W.	4431
Praed W.J.	4451
Prosser T.E.	5014
Reid J.	4456
Batson W.H.	943
Christiansen P.M.	1313
Coulton D.	4304

"Killed in Action 28.11.16"

These men were working in "Black Watch Sap" at Hill 70 close to Loos; they were loading a mine when a premature explosion took place They were all killed outright at about 2 p.m. on 28.11.16 As far as I can remember 10 men were removed and buried at Hersin not far from Hœux, including Coulton D. 4304, and Francis H.F. 2893, and one large cross was erected suitably inscribed. I was on the same shift as these men, but not on that particular job. By witness to all but actual explosion. The party consisted of 13 men and all were killed.

Informant. Spr. D. McPherson
Brown Hill
Post Office
W.A.

E.W.Harvey
"CANBERRA"
5.8.19.
London.
1.10.19.

3rd Tunnelling Coy.
A.I.F.

2893	Spr.	Francis F.
1071	"	Ladd A.E.
1273	"	Lyons M.
4421	"	Mc Lean H.
4402	L/Cpl.	Moore W.J.
4451	Spr.	Prade W.J.
1313	Pte.	Christiansen E.H.
4304	Spr	Coulton D.

"Killed in Action "28.11.16.

The above mentioned were steming up a mine before blowing it. A premature explosion occured, none of the bodies being recovered Casualities were attached to Imperial Army at the Time. Hill 70. Loose.

Informant:- 2894 Spr. Tipper F.L.
270 Park St.
South Melbourne
Vic. Aust.

R.L.Bolton
H.T. Frankfurt
At Sea 4.7.19
London
1.10.19.

K.a.

3rd Tunn. Coy.
A.I.F.

"K/A 28.11.16"

"	FRANCIS H.F.	2893
"	Ladd A.E.	1071
"	Kerby Sgt. M.J.M/	1364
"	Lyons M.	1273
"	McLean H.	4421
"	Moore L/Cpl. W.J.	4402
"	Nightingale W.	4431
"	Praed W.H.	4451
"	Prosser T.E.	5014
"	Reid J.	4456
"	Watson W.H.	943
"	Christiansen	1313
"	Coulton D.	4304

They were all in my section and were killed underground by a German mine, during the morning of 28.11.16, at Loos. They were all buried together, in a civialian cemetery, at Hersin near Bethume. Crosses suitably inscribed were erected to all, by our Company, I seen them all buried and a photograph of their graves, were forwarded to their relatives in Australia. —

HOME ADDRESS.
Klamang Avenue
Kirribilli Point,
Manly, N.S.W.
G.H.B. Searcher.
"PORT LINCOLN"
London
2.10.16.

INFORMANT:- Sgt. Robertson,
3rd Tunnelling Coy.

J.F.a.