

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

**95 Trooper
Henry Moore Burns**

1st Light Horse



0641005G

I. A. L. E.

BURNS. Pte. H. 95.

(K)

Killed in Action 7/8/15.

Certified by :

**Australian Intermediate Base.
Cairo ,22.10.15.**

Sydney -

A.I.F.
1st L.H.

BURNS
Pte. Henry 95

Killed in Action 7.8.15.

Killed in Action 7.8.15. No burial report.
Cert. by Hqrs List 22.8.19.

London.
2.10.19.

S.

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

**458 Private
Hugh William Burns**

6th Machine Gun Company



0641006H

6th Machine Gun Co.

BURNS. H. W.
Pte. 458.

E. in act. 9/10/17.

"I knew Casualty. He was a short man, dark complexion, about 21 years of age, used to take fits. Casualty was preparing to advance on the night of 9th October, 1917, at Broodseinde Ridge. An H.F. shell exploded in the line killing Casualty instantly and Pte. Horne and four other men. I was 30 yds. away at the time the shell exploded and I saw his body immediately afterwards. He was most severely wounded all over and he was buried just where he fell and a cross was erected in Ypres to the memory of Casualty."

Informant:- Sgt. F. Wigmore,
No. 1273, 6th M.C.Co.

Private address:-
44 Booth Street,
Golden Square.

T.C.F.
28/2/19.

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS INFORMATION BUREAU-MELBOURNE.

6th Machine Gun Co.
A. I. F.

BURNS.
H.W. 458.

"Killed in Action 9.10.17."

I am in receipt of your letter dated 2nd inst in reference to Private H. W. Burns and can give you some information as to his death. He was killed in action on October 9th 1917. He was buried in a shell hole in the field along with three of his mates at Broodseinde Ridge, and a cross was erected with the following names inscribed upon it.

Pollock ---
Morris W.H.
Selcraig R.
Burns H.W.

He was about 5ft. 2in. in height and had a red complexion and dark hair and was about 19 years of age. Hoping these details will help you.

Informant:- By letter. Pte. H Cuthbert. 525.
France.

P.S. In looking through some old packs I found the enclosed letter. I am sorry that it has been delayed so long but hope it will still be useful to you. The write Pte. Cuthbert is at present away in hospital.

Informant:- By letter. E.A. Letson Signaller, 2695.
6th Machine gun Company
2nd Australian M/G Coy.
A. I. F.

London.
26.9.18.
N.T.

M

M

A.M.G.C. 6.

BURNS, H.W. 458.

K. Oct. 9th 1917. Dets.

I knew Burns who came to Grantham Park in 1917 when I was a company clerk. He joined the M.G.C. the same day as I did 23.5.1917 and he was short and of nuggety build, about 19 years old and came from C&Bfield, Victoria. On Oct 9th his company was waiting in a shell hole for the hop ever for the attack on a German position in the Ypres sector. There were six men in the hole including Burns and a shell landed and penetrated at the bottom, blowing the whole of them up, Burns and four others being killed right out. This account was given to me by a mate of mine named Cuthbert 323, 6th MGC who was the only survivor. He is now an officers' cook in the 6th Co.

Inf: J.G.Mackie. 334 6th MGC
No. 53 Gen.
BOULOGNE. 18.6.1918. HH

J.G.

Pt Cuthbert's account 20.6.18

M

Written Pt. Cuthbert 20.6.18.

A.I.F. 6th Machine Gun Company.

BURNS
H.W. 458.

"Killed 9/10/17"

I know he was in 2nd Sec. and was killed on Passchendaele Ridge, when in action with his gun, but I only saw it at a distance as I was 3rd Sec. on another gun. I know nothing as to his burial etc. He was a short stout lad, very young only about 18, and he came with 7th reinforcements of 6th Machine Gun Company - I do not know where he lived at home.

Witness:- J. A. Maloney,
3rd Sec. 6th Machine Gun Company,
No. 1 Command Depot,
Sutton Veny.

London
17/6/18

M

A.I.F. 6th Machine Gun Coy.

BURNS
H.W. 458.

"Killed in Action 9/10/17"

I saw him killed at Zonnebake and death was instantaneous. He was hit by shell that landed in the gun position and buried him and three others. We never dug them out. They were in a shell hole at the time taking cover when they were buried by shell. We placed a cross over four of them including Burns and full particulars were given. I did not know the other three men, from whom I was only 10 yards away at the time.

Witness:- G. J. Warner Pte.,
6th M.G. Coy.,
No. 3 A.A. B. Dartford.

G. CASE

London
10/6/18

M

6 M.G.C. A.I.F.

Burns H.W. Pte. 458

(K. Oct. 9/17)
Det. D.B.

I state that Burns was blown to pieces by explosion of a shell and no remains were left to bury. Broodsiende (?) Ridge night of Oct. 9/17.

Eye Witness No.

Description: Small stout man.

Informant: Pte. Ernest Burtonclay 4453
6 M.G.C.A.I.F.
Cambridge Hospital
Aldershot.

Home address:
Bendigo
Victoria.

10.6.18.
D.N.Bethune.

J.P.A.

M

6th M.G.C. A.I.F.

Burns, Pte. H.W. 458

K. Oct. 9/17
Det. D/B.

"I saw his body after he was killed was buried near Westhoete Ridge behind Passchendale.

Eyewitness Ho

Description Small dark fairly stout

Informant Cook, Pte. J.H. 4999
6th M.G.C. A.I.F.
Colchester Military Hosp.

Home address

C.J.S.
May 7th/18

M

6th.H.G.Coy.
A.I.F.

BURNS.
Pte.H.W. 458.

"Killed in Action"

No burial given nor report of promotion received.

Certified by A.I.F. H.Crs. 21-5-18.

London.
22-5-18.

H.

6th M.G.Coy.
A.I.F.

"Killed 9-10-17"

BURNS H.W. 458
Richards W.J. 427
Booth J. 164
Jephcott H. 2189

I was at Hqts. at the time, but I understand that the above were killed in the one shell hole, in the front line, at Passchendaele. I can't say anything about their burial. H. Cuthbert, 6th M.G.Coy., now with the M.G.Coy., was in the same shell hole at the time.

Informant. Bennett D.C. 322
6th M.G.Coy.,
Hut 17,
WESSHAM.

W.A.Band
London
29-5-18

*Written to Cuthbert about these 4 men. H.
24-4-18*

6th M. G. Coy.

458 Pte. H. W. Burns
2132 Cpl. H. J. Cook
336 Pte. W. J. Morris
345 Pte. R. J. Selkrig

Killed Oct. 9th 1917

These men were in No. 1 section and were just waiting for the hop-over about 5.30 a.m. at Passchendaele Ridge when the whole crew was killed instantly. Two crosses were erected with two names on each at Belgian Battery Corner. There was another Morris in the same Company and he also was named William, but I know that he is still alive. The William Morris that was killed was short and dark.

Informant: 720 Pte. W. P. Price,
6th Coy. 2nd M. G. Bn.

Address 178 Hotham Street, Elsternwick, Vic.

L. G. Burgess,

H. M. A. T. Windhuk, 25.6.1919.

3rd M. D.

6th M. G. Coy.

458 Pte. H.W. Burns
2132 Cp. H.J. Cook
336 Pte W.J. Morris
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L.G.Burgess,

H.M.A.T.Windhuk, 25.6.1919.

3rd M.D.

France
July 9th/1918

20.9.18
111
The Secretary,
Australian Red Cross Society, 458
London.

H. W. Burns
6th M B Coy
New A. 9. 1917

Dear Madam,

458. Pte Burns B.L.
6th Aust. M. G. Coy.

I am in receipt of
your enquiry dated 2nd inst. in
reference to Pte. H. W. Burns & can give
you some information as to his death.
He was killed in action in the afternoon
of October 9th/1917. He was buried in
a shell hole on the field along with
three of his mates at Broodscinde
Ridge & a cross was erected with the
following names inscribed on it:

Collock -

Harris H. H.

Leclair K.

Burns H. W.

He was about 5 ft. 7 in. in height, had
a red complexion & dark hair, stout
build & was about 19 years of age.

(2)

Hoping these details will help
you, I remain

yours truly,

323 - Ste H. Cuthbert.

J. S. D. S.

110

0

0

(2718)

323

Pt. Cuthbert

6th M. I. Coy. A. I. 7.

Abroad

F

abt.

4-5-8

Pt. H. W. Burns

6th M. I. Coy. A. I. 7.

K. 9. 10. 17.

2718
9.13.

458

H. W. Burns

6 M. S. Bay France

Rm 7-9-17 4-9-18

Dear Kalam

In looking

through some old packs I
found the enclosed letter
I'm sorry that it has been
delayed so long but hope
it will still be useful
to you. The writer Pete H.
Cuthbert is at present
away in Hokitai.

I am,

your sincerely

friend,

H. W. Burns

with machine gun

at present in Hokitai

Yours