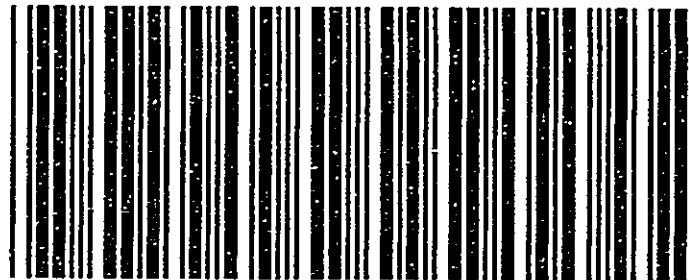


Australian Red Cross Society Wounded and Missing
Enquiry Bureau files, 1914-18 War
1DRL/0428

8736 Private
Cecil Frederick Henry
Davis

5th Field Ambulance



0890409U

A. I. F.,
5th Field Ambulance

Davis, Pte C.F.H. 8736,
(K.qMay 1/17. Det D & B)

"Davis was buried near Bullecourt, cross on grave."

Eye-witness:

Description:

Informant: Cpl Charles Lyons, 1394,
5th A. I. F., Fld Amb., C. Sect.,
V Hospital,
Exeter.

Home address:
Queen's Mansions,
Beaconsfield Parade,
S. Kilda,
Melbourne.

5th Aug. 1917.
J.H. Fraser.

Have

15th August. 1917.

AUSTRALIAN ARMY MEDICAL CORPS.
5th Field Ambulance.

DAVIS, C.F.H. 8736

K. May 1st. 1917. Det. D/B.

He was in A. Section, and attached to the Field Artillery, 5th Brigade. He came from Sydney, and was a tram driver and I had known him for about 2 years. His christian name was Cecil, and 8736 is his number. He was acting Corpl. at Liverpool Camp, Sydney. He came with the 14th reinforcement to the 1st Field Ambul., but was posted to the 5th Field Ambulance. I was told by Pt. L. O'Brien of A. Section, 5th Field Ambul., that he had seen Davis's grave. O'Brien is with the unit now.

Informant: Pt. W.A. Watts, 9004.

C. Sec. 5th Field Amb.

Australian Army Medical Corps.

Australian Camp, Nouvelles.

CMR.

Written by O'Brien 31-8-17

5

5th Fld. Amb.
A.I.F. A.A.M.C.

Davis.
C.F.A. 8736

"Killed in Action 1.5.17."

Re 8736 Pte. C.F.A. Davis of this unit and as requested give you the following details of his death. About the end of April Pte. Davis transferred from this unit to the battery as Army Medical detail whilst his Battery were in action a shell caught several of the gunners and when Pte. Davis came to their assistance a second shell fell and a cylinder entered his heart killing him instantly. The Artillery boys buried him close to the spot where he fell and beside my friend Pte. Porters (about whom I wrote you recently). We had a nice cross made and put over the grave also when we last saw the grave it was being well looked after. Of course as we are now out of the area we have not been able to see to the graves for sometime but I have no doubt that those in the vicinity will look after them. As is the case of Pte. Porters Pte. Davis was not buried in a cemetery but in the field. As you mention in yours of 17th August that you would try to get a photo of Pte. Davis Porters grave taken for his next of kin and as the graves are close together it would be convenient for the photographer to get a photo of Pte. Davis grave also. I might say that from what I heard from the gunners who were present at the time that Pte Davis died a very brave death and he practically sacrificed himself in

2

5th Fld Amb.
A.I.F. A.A.M.C.

Davis.
C.F.A. 8736

"Killed in Action 1.5.17."

an attempt to get the wounded under cover. To know this would no doubt be a great consolation to his people. Several of his friends including myself wrote to his people but of course it is hard to say whether the letter ever reached Australia.

Letter from:-

L. O'Brien.
A. Section.
5th F.A.
France. 13.9.17.

London.
21.9.17.

S

ack

F.M. 8.9.17

8736

H

C. F. A. DAVIS

H.A. 1.5.17

5th Field Ambulance

Am. C.

France

3rd Sept 1917

Dear Sir

§3

O

I am in receipt of your letter of 30th August 1917, with a view to the same of the unit & as requested give you the following details of his death:-

About the end of April, he was transferred from the unit to the 5th Field Ambulance & was detailed whilst his battery was in action & whilst caught several of the enemy & was taken to their assistance & was taken to a field where he died & was buried by the effect where he fell & buried by the effect (about where I wrote you recently). He had a wire cross made & put over the grave when we last saw the grave it was then well marked after. Of course as we were now the 5th Field Ambulance we have not been able to see to the grave but I have no doubt that there in the future will be after them. As in the case of all others, the body was not buried in a cemetery but in the field. As you mentioned in your letter of 17th August that you would try to get a photo of the grave taken for his unit & that as the graves are so close together it would be convenient for the photographer to get a photo of the other grave also.

I might say that from what I heard from the Germans
who were present at the time that Mr. Brown died
a very brave death he practically sacrificed himself
in an attempt to get the wounded under cover.

To know this would, no doubt, be a great consolation
to his people. Almost all his friends, including myself,
wrote to his people but of course it is hard to say
whether the letters ever reached Australia //

Trusting the foregoing will meet your requirements

I am,

Yours sincerely

W. B. Brown

F. B. Brown

S. T. B.

10.9.17

Pte. L.O'BRIEN

A.Section 5 Field Amb. A.A.M.C. B.E.F.

Dear Pte. O'Brien,

Very many thanks for your letter in answer to our enquiry, concerning: 8736 C.F.H.DAVIS 5 Field Ambulance

The clear and detailed information you have sent will be of much assistance to us and of value to our enquirers.

We shall now apply to the Graves Registration and Enquiries for a photograph of the grave to be sent to the next of kin.

Our enquiry was made by cable from our Sydney Bureau 1.6.17:- we presume on behalf of his people: and therefore before any of the letters written from the Unit could have reached Australia.

We trust these letters arrived safely, as we know how much the relatives are comforted by them: but in any case, we shall forward extracts from your letter in duplicate by succeeding mails to our Sydney Bureau to be sent to the enquirers: so they should not fail to receive some information. We feel sure, also, that the relatives will greatly appreciate what you have said of Pte. Davis' bravery.

With all good wishes,

Yours faithfully,

V.D

Secretary

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