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

3036 Private
Robert Thomas
Eastabrook

5th Machine Gun Battalion



0980901R

5th M.G. Battn: Eastabrook, R.T. 3036.

K. 10/4/18.

Eastabrook was a married man and was our section cook. He was standing at the advance cookhouse door at Villers Bretonneux when a shell lobbed about 5 yards away. A piece hit him on his heart making a large hole and at the side of his head. I was hit by the same shell but saw Eastabrook fall and helped to steady him down. I went to the cellar to get my hand dressed, when I returned about 5 minutes afterwards he was breathing his last. When I left gim to go to the cellar he was calling out "Help, help" when I returned he was unconscious. I do not know where he is buried.

5th M.G. Battn: Bohen, C.A.Pte. 292.

A. 6. Dartford. 5/7/18.

R.D.B.

A.M.G.C. 5. EASTABROOK, R.T. 3036

K. April 10th 1918.

He was in the coy.15th, 5th Bttn. I was company clerk at the time and he was buried at Heilly Mil.Cem. by his comrades. I did not see burial, but know this from official information. Also that he was killed instantly by a shell at Vaire. I knew him well, he was a fine fellow. We all thought so well of him, and he his death was a great loss to us. Exact map location you could get from his company, it has I know been sent to his next of kin.

Inf: L/Sgt L.H.Dower. 325. 5.15.MGC Aust.
Billets,
BOULOGNE. 22.7.1918.

ARD

Havre

3rd August 1918.

Aust. M.G.Battn 5.

Eastabrook R.T. 3036.

K. 10th April 1918. Det D/B.

I knew Pte Bob Eastabrook in the 15th M.G.Coy. and I was just outside the Cook House that he was standing in at Vaire near Corbie about 500 yards behind our front line in April 1918 when he was hit by a shell. He was not conscious and D/Wounds in about 10 minutes. His body was sent back to Corbie in a ration limber the same night and I was told that he was buried in the Military Cemetery at Corbie.

Inf:- Pte H.C.Turner No.6225
Aust. M.G.Battn 5.15.
Australian Conv. Depot.
Rouelles.

RDM.

FP.

Havre. 6th. August. 1918.

5th. Battn. Australian M.G.C. Eastabrook, R. T. 3036.

K. April. 10/1918. Dets. D/B.

I knew Private Robert Eastabrook, 15th. Company, he was the Coy Cook & was killed at Vesir in April 1918. I saw his body lying near the Cook House. He had been killed by shell while at work in the Cook house. His body was taken away on a Limber to Coy Mxx Rear H.Q. near Bussey.

Inf:- Private. E. Foster. 240.
Australian M. G. C. 5th. Battn. 15th. Coy,
Australian Conv. Camp.
Rouelles.

RDM.

CP.

5th. M. G. C. A. I. F.

Eastabrook, R. T. Pte.No.3306. C

5th. Battalion.

Killed. April 10th. 1918. Det. D/B.

He was killed instantly by a shell near Head Quarters at Hamlet.He was buried in Hamlet by a party from the company. I knew him well, he was a cook and attached to the Machine Gun Battalion.

Description. Age. 28. Height. 5-7. Complexion. Dark. Well Built.

Witness. Cpl. Dunn, C. No. 3122. 15th. Company. 5th. M. G. Battalion.

Taken at.
No. 4. C. D. Hurdcott.
7.8. 18
C. H. B.

C. H. Brown,
No.4.Command Depot,
Hurdcott.

5

A.I.F. M.G.C. 5. EASTABROOK, R.T. 3036.

K.April 10/18. Det. D/B.

He was in 15 Co. L/Cpl.Potter, 15 Co. 4 Sec. and Eastabrook were both of them acting as cooks at Vaire on the Somme Front. It was the early part of April. Potter told me that he and Eastabrook were in the cook house in the afternoon when a shell burst through the brick wall. He said that Eastabrook was killed - his body beingbadly knocked about. Potter was not wounded. Vaire was the first place at which we held Jerry in his advance. Potter was with the M.G.C. at the front when I left on 29 July. Eastabrook had a black moustache, 35/40, had been with his section over a year.

Reference: Pte.W.H.Yeates, 2834. 5. 15.
No.8 General, Rouen. 6.8.18.

ET.

S-Ld Lt

A.I.F.
5th. M.G.Bn.
late 57th. Bn.,

EASTABROOK. 3036
Robert Thomas.

"Killed in Action 11.4.18".

No trace Germany.

Cert. by Capt. Mills. 10.10.19.

London.
22.10.19.

S.

2nd MACHINE GUN BATTALION.

A.I.F. 5th Machine Gun Coy. (late 57th Battn).

Private R.T. EASTABROOK. 3036

"KILLED. 10.4.18."

We were together in the 5th Machine Gun Company. I only knew him fairly well. He was about 5 feet 8 inches in height and of dark complexion.

On the 18th April, 1918, we were engaged in a stunt near Villers Bretonneux. I was about 50 yards away from him. I saw a shell burst near him. I ran up to him. He was on the ground, and quite unconscious. I had to go back to my gun, and I never saw him again.

INFORMANT: Lance-Corporal C. SIMONSON, 4242,
5th Machine Gun Coy,
2nd Machine Gun Battalion, A.I.F.

Home address; Laycock Street, NORTH SYDNEY. N.S.W.

W.C.W.
Anzac Buffet, SYDNEY.
5.7.19.

SYDNEY BUREAU.