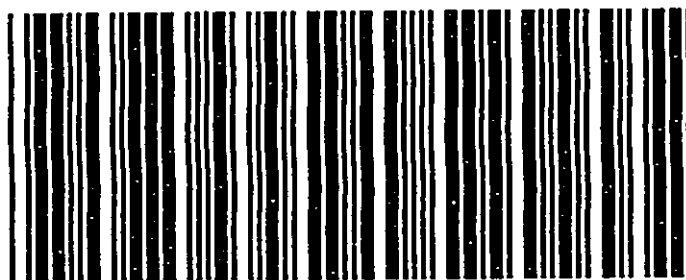


Australian Red Cross Society Wounded and Missing  
Enquiry Bureau files, 1914-18 War  
1DRL/0428

**1107 Gunner  
Harry Robbins**

**2nd Field Artillery Brigade**



2310605H

A.I.F. 2nd F.A.B.

H. ROBBINS  
1107

"M. 16-8-17"

Killed in action 16-8-17 - previously reported Missing believed  
Killed

Cert. by A.I.F. Hqrs 17-1-18.

OFF.M.

London  
19-1-18

2nd Bgde.  
A. F. A.

Robbins.  
H. 1107

"Missing 16.8.17"

I was informed by Gunner J.S.Harrison of 5th Battery.2nd F.A.B. now with Battery that Robbins had been killed that he knew for certain.

Witness:-

Driver J.Patterson 1096  
5th Battery.2nd F.A.B.  
Westham.

W.A.Rand.

London.  
13.11.17.

Off.M.

2nd.A.F.A.

Robbins, Gnr.H. 1107.

M. Aug.16/17.

" Gnr.Robbins was a linesman up forward with the infantry, with a liason officer. He was in a dugout on Aug.16th. at Westhaek Ridge, Ypres, with the remainder of the staff. The officer went out to see the C.B. of the infantry & on coming back to the dugout he found it had been blown up by a shell & no trace of Robbins' body. This statement was given me by Lieut Croft of 5th.Battery. On July 31st. I was C.B.during the attack. Gnr. Robbins accompanied me previous to the attack out onto No Man's Land. At dawn Robbins & another man were the only ones left of my staff. R.told me he was going to look after me so picked up a stick, as he couldnt find a rifle, & on 3 different occasions he stepped in front of me when I was in danger & this I would like his people to know. I recommended him for a decoration."

Eyewitness:- Yes.

Description:- Fair, slight stoop.

Informant:- Lieut.H.E.Roach,

6th Batty A.F.A.

No. 3 London Genl Hosp., W/worth.

Home address:- Miss Betty Hunter, Glebe Mount, 311 Camberwell,S.E.

15/11/17.

W. Arnold Davis

*W.H.C.B.  
2  
Bel K*

2nd Bgde.  
A.F.A.

Robbins.  
H. 1107

"Missing 16.8.17"

I was on the top steps of the dug-out at Ypres when a shell lobbed right in the bottom and blew everything up. The dug-out just buried the 6 men that were inside. I only knew Robbins and McIntyre. I was wounded at the same time and waited for the stretcher bearers to take me for 5 hours during which time they were not dug out and I don't think would be for some considerable time, if ever, as it was a hot time. He had been over in England for about 22 months and had only joined us up about 2 months when he was killed. He came from Victoria. I believe Richmond. Very lively chap fair, about 24.

Witness:-

F.C.Paske 29141

3rd Bty. Fld. Art.

No. 3 Command Depot.

Hurdcott.

G.W Griffith.

London.

21.11.17.

Off.M.

2nd Bde  
5th Battery  
A.I.F.

ROBBINS  
H. 1107

"Missing 16.8.17."

I left the Battery at Ypres for the ammunition column, being away 2 days, and when I returned I was told that Robbins had joined the Battery. I asked "Where is Robbie" and was told by I think it was Gun: Dunne that he was killed by a shell a quarter of an hour after his arrival. Sgt. M. Street of 5th Battery who is still in France could give all information.

Witness:- G. Gun. Waldoock 1122  
2nd Bde 5th Battery  
12.11.17.

London.

12.11.17.

Off. M.

<sup>594</sup>  
2nd Bty.  
F.A. B.

Robbins.  
H. 1107

Off. "Missing 16.8.17." Belk

McIntyre.  
J. 4236

"Killed 16.8.17."

Bombardier Dawson wrote me but I have destroyed the letter that McIntyre was killed by shell behind Hill 60 and that Robbins was with him at the time. He could give better particulars-with Battery.

Witness:-

Sgt. C.H. Smith.

5th Batty. F.A.B.

Ward. 30. Monte Video

W.A. Sand.

London.  
24.11.17.

Off. M.  
H.

Note Written Bdr. Dawson 24.11.17.

ORIG. IAL STATEMENT ECHERLON

C O P Y

Statement made by No. 5551 Sgt. Swan A. 2nd F.A.B.

re No. 1107 Gnr. Robbins H. 2nd F.A.B.  
Missing 16.8.17.

1107 Gnr. Robbins H. met his death owing to a shell bursting close to the German block house where he was and the concrete falling in. A cross has already been placed beside the ruins to mark the place. This man was in the company of Gnr. Mc.Intyre J. at the time of the occurrence. Gnr. Moore was also an eye witness of the affair. Gnr. Moore is also a 5th Bty man.

*Not sent in*  
Dated at Sutton Veny this 19th day of December, 1917.

(Sgd.) 551 H.L.Swan, Sgt.

Statement made and signed before me

*Official  
la  
Belk*  
(Sgd.) R. Dooley Lt. & Adjt.  
No. 1. Command Depot A.I.F.

2 - DEC. 1917

2nd Bgde.  
Field Artillery.  
A.I.F.

ROBBINS  
H. 1107.

"MISSING 16.8.17"

He was with three or four others up at a forward Observing Station at Polygon Wood near Ypres, when a shell burst right in the dug-out and buried them all. I was close by, we went the next day but there was no hope of digging them out, as it was a great cement concrete affair. We came over in the same boat the "Shropshire" left Melbourne Oct. 20<sup>th</sup>/14. He was fair headed and a very nice fellow.

Informant:- Angel M. 1010.

5th Bty Fld. Art.

No. 3 Command Depot.

Hurdcott. 13. 11. 17.

Note:- We regret the delay in typing the above report, but we have been obliged to hold it up on account of pressure of work and shortage of machines.,

London.  
11.3.18.

Off.M.

G.W. Griffiths.,

5th Battery, F.A.

ROBBINS, H.  
Driver 1107.

K. in act. 16/8/17.

"I knew Casualty. He was a man of medium build, fair, about 5 ft. 10 ins. fair complexion, about 27 years of age. Casualty was at Westhoek Ridge, Ypres, and was up in an observation post observing for the Battery. He went down into a dug-out and he had no sooner got there when an H.E. shell landed on it blowing it in. We dug him out but he was quite dead. I do not know where he was buried."

Private address:-  
81 Chestnut Street,  
Richmond.

Informant:-

Pte. T. F. Rowe,  
No. 4874, 5th Battery, F.A.

N.A.T.  
6/6/19.

P1  
ed

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS INFORMATION BUREAU-MELBOURNE.

A.I.P. AFA. 2 Bde.

R. 16.8.17.

ROBBINS H. 1107.  
McIntyre J. 4236.

Lt. C. Croft, 5/2. Bde., was up in a German pill-box with them, observing, at Clapham Junction, in the Ypres Salient, on 16th. Aug. when a shell blew the pill-box up, burying them beyond recovery. Croft reported this to us on his return to the battery. I knew both men very well; they were telephonists on the battery staff and had been with us a long time.

SA.

Reference: Lt. J.E. Staley, 5/2. Bde. AFA.  
Hotel des Anglais.

Staples.  
10.10.17.

*Written by Capt  
25-10-17*

*GFM*

2nd Batn  
A.I.F. 5<sup>th</sup> Bty  
A.P.A.

ROBBINS  
H. 1107

"Missing 16.8.17."

He was killed on an observation post by a shell, death was instantaneous. I do not know place of burial but refer to Gnr Kirkwood 2nd Bde 5th Battery who is now in Hospital in England and who was there at the time and may be able to give particulars. Place of casualty was Sanctuary Woods Ypres.

Witness:- Gnr. M. Angel 1010  
2nd Bde 5th Battery  
3rd A A Hospital.  
Dartford.

W. Oman  
London.  
25.10.17.

Note written Gnr. Kirkwood

24.10.17.

Off FM

C O P Y

Statement made by No.1463 Gnr Kirkwood H.H. 2nd F.A.Bdere No.1107 Gnr Robbins H. 2nd F.A.Bde  
Missing 26.8.17

On the 16th of August 1917 Gunner Robbins was with me in the locality of Ypres when we were both buried by a shell. To my knowledge gunner Robbins was not dug out. He could not have been taken prisoner as no advance was made by the enemy.

*not sent on*

Dated at Littlemoor Camp. this 10th day of January 1918.

(Sgd) H.H. Kirkwood

Statement made and signed before me

(Sgd) V.W. Garzair.

*Offal  
Bd.  
Kia**H*

2nd F. A. B.  
A. F. A.

Robbins.  
H. 1107

McIntyre.  
J. 4236

"Missing 16.8.17"  
Bel. Killed.

On the 16th August 1917 I was up forward as F.O. Officer and had with me several telephonists of whom Gunner Robbins and McIntyre were two of them. At about 1.p.m. I was speaking to these two men and had left the about 2 minutes after, when a shell landed on the shelter they were standing under which blew it in, and allowed two or three tons of earth to fall on them. I went back to look for them but could not find them and two of the men that escaped told me they were standing there when the shell burst and must have been buried and from what I know of the place I think there is no doubt of them being killed. This is all the information I can give.

Letter from:-

Lieut. C.W. Crop. *26.10.17*  
5th Bty. Aust. Fld. Art.  
27.10.17.

London.  
5.11.17.

Off.M.

7th Nov 1917

FIELD ARTILLERY  
A.S.I.

ROBBINS: SN 1107, 2nd Bge  
McIntyre: J. 4236, 2nd Bge

M. 16.8.17

McIntyre came from Rochester, Victoria, was a single man, and a farmer. He was killed by a shell in a German concrete dugout with 6 or 7 others, amongst them being Robbins. This was in front of Lilleboke during the 6th early morning. Their bodies were never recovered as the dugout was blown to bits. A cross was erected on the spot with the names of men on it.

Informant: Pte. O. Turner, 1119  
2nd Bge., 5th Bty., A.F.A.,  
H. St Warilda.

RBS

off ab  
1107  
102  
102 K

ORIGINAL STATEMENT ECHOLON.

C O P Y

Statement made by No. 1119 Pte Turner C. 2nd F.A.B.

re No. 1107 Gnr. Robbins H. 2nd F.A.B.  
Missing 16.8.17.

I have heard from Gnr. Kirkwood 2nd F.A.B. who was close by at the time that No. 1107 Gnr. Robbins H. 2nd F.A.B. was buried as a result of a shell exploding and killed instantly.

*Not sent over*

Dated at Sutton Veny this 21st day of December,

(Sgd.) C.A.F. Turner

Statement made and signed before me

(Sgd.) R. Dooley. Lt. & Adjt.

No. 1. Command Depot A.I.F.

Written No. 1463 Gnr Kirkwood H.H. 2.1.18. 99 DEC 1917

*Officer  
Bld  
Bel K*

Revere

31st Oct. 1917.

FIELD ARTILLERY,  
A.I.F.

ROBBINS, H. 1107  
2nd Bgo.

H. 16.8.17.

There was a Robbins in the 2nd Bgo. whose initials and number I do not know. I was in hospital about 3 weeks ago and received a letter from Pte. Gales, of the 4th battery, 2nd Bgo. - with the battery when I left - giving all the names of some men who were killed, and amongst them was that of Robbins. I cannot say if there were two of that name in the battery and Brigade.

Informant: Gnr. J. Gales, 5086  
2nd Bgo., 4th Bty., A.I.F.,  
Australian Camp, Bouclles.

L de D.

*off ab*

A.F.A. 2 Bds.

ROBBINS, H. 1107.

M. August 16th 1917.

We were at Zouave Wood, Zillebeke on August 16th. The specialist including Robbins went forward and were in a dugout which was blown in. They were all killed. The only other man whose name I remember was J. McIntyre. Robbins was about 5ft 6 or 7, fair, thin features, stooped in the shoulders. Was a very quiet man, about 22 years and came from Victoria. McIntyre was about 5ft 8 or 9, 24 years and came from Victoria.

Inf : .Cnr D.B. McNeill. 2226. 2/5 Bty  
No. 8 Stat Hosp.  
BOULOGNE. 7.11.17.

PRBL

G O P Y

Statement made by No. 2826 Gnr McNEILL D.B., 2nd F.A.B.

re No. 1107 Gnr ROBBINS H. 2nd F.A.Bde.

Missing 15.8.17

Word was brought to our Battery (5th) that Gunner Robbins was killed sometime in August (dates not certain) whilst up forward with the Forward Observing Officer. Our Battery was then in the neighbourhood of Ecuave Wood. My information is from men who were up F.O.O. with him at the time. I informed the officer of the Red Cross Enquiries Department and he wrote to the Battery for confirmation.

*Int sent on.*

Dated at Horton War Hospital this 3rd day of December 1917.

(Sgd) D.B. McNEILL

Statement made and signed before me

(Sgd) A.R. LOW.

L 6 DEC 1917

2nd  
5th A.F.A.

Robbins Pte. Henry 1107,

(N. Aug. 16/17)

"I know that Robbins was buried by shell at an advanced observation post at Zillebeke".

Eye-witness: No, told by Lt. Lord at present with Batt:

Description:

Informant: Gnr. Henry Parrott 5420,  
5th A.F.A.  
No 1 Hospt.,  
Exeter.

Home address:  
44 Ackland St.,  
St. Hilda,  
Melbourne.

Off alb  
Ba  
Bel K

Nov. 14/17,  
M.P. Barnes.

(24-10-17)

Sr KIRKWOOD

5 Battery 2 Brigade

A F A

~~Asst~~

Weymouth Hosp.

13

about

1107

H. ROBBINS.

5 Battery

A F A

M 16. 8-17

27.10.17.  
A. J. B.

H. Robbins 1107.

2 f. a. B.

see under

J. Mc. Intyre 4236

2 f. a. B.

4/11/17.

23.11.17

Bdr DAWSON

2 F.A.B.

A.F.A.

B & f.

D

Cat

1107 H. ROBBINS

2 F.A.B.

M 16.8.17

26.11.17.  
A.F.B.

Inquirer

Sgt Lane

1930 -

Harry Alphonse 105 Rous

Southwark M.H.

East Dulwich Grove. 34 A K Bly

Q<sup>o</sup> 1107

Dr Robbins

H to Bly

Hazley

2 F-A Bde

Rep. M. last Aug.

Heard unoff. W.M.

Wrote to a young lady whom

he knew. Miss Sparkeman

30 W Kensington Gardens.

W.

Inquirer at

Southwark Hill Hpl.

East Dulwich Grove

26.5.18

Miss Cranford (S.A.)

very pretty

Miss McDonald (A.S.O.)

visitors

(25-10-17)

P. C. CROFT

5th Battery

2 Brigade

A F A

B. E. F.

about

1107

H. ROBBINS

2 Brigade

A F A

14/16-8-17 A. I. F.

27.10.17.  
A. I. F.

1930 Sgt. H.A. Lane. May 29th, 1918.  
103rd How. Btty.  
3rd F.A.B., A.F.A.  
Southwark Military Hospital,  
East Dulwich Grove, S.E.

Dear Sir,

With reference to your enquiry of 26th inst., for

1107 Gnr. H. ROBBINS, 2nd F.A.B., A.I.F.

We much regret to inform you that he is now officially reported  
Killed in Action 16-8-17, having previously been reported Missing  
on that date.

We have received many unofficial reports in confirmation  
of that of his death, all of which declare him to have been killed  
instantly as the result of a shell landing on a German pill box  
from which he was observing in the Ypres salient on 16th August.

Lt. H.E. Roach of the same Brigade stated:- Gnr. Robbins  
was a linesman up forward with the Infantry with a liaison officer.  
He was in a dugout on Aug. 16th, at Westhoek Ridge, Ypres with  
the remainder of the staff. The officer went out for a moment  
and on coming back to the dugout he found it had been blown up  
by a shell; there was no trace of Pte. Robbin's body. On July 31st  
I was C.B. during the attack. Gnr. Robbins accompanied me previous  
to the attack out into No Man's Land. At dawn he and another man  
were the only ones left to me of my staff. Robbins told me he  
was going to look after ~~me~~ so picked up a stick as he could not  
find a rifle. On three different occasions he stepped in front  
of me when I was in danger. I recommended him for a decoration."

Regretting we should have to send you such sad news concerning Gnr. Robbin's and hoping these particulars may be of some value to you.

With good wishes for your recovery.

Yours faithfully,

(Miss)

*Miss G. J. ...*

SECRETARY.