

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

Private
George Tostevin

1st Machine Gun Company



2770201J

1st M.G. Coy.
Late 3rd M.G. Coy.
" 12th Bata

Tostevin
Major G.

Died of Wounds 5.5.17."

The rank should be major name George Tostevin.
Cert. by A.I.F. Headquarters. 5.8.17.

H

London.
30.9.17.

3 Machine Gun Coy.,
A.I.F.

Tostevin.
Major G.

"Died of Wounds 5.5.17."

It should be No 2 Co
He is put down as No 1 Coy., He was not much disfigured the wounds being on the lower parts of his body. Prayers were said and a cross put over his grave. He was reconitering for a gun position and a shell got him. He was one of the best, He couldnt have got a better if we had hunted the whole division. Came originally from Jersey and joined up in Australia.

Witness:- J.T. Reid. 22
3rd Mach. Gun Coy.,
Originally 10th Bata

I was the first to be sworn in, in S. Australia by Col. Bryce there.

W. Alison.
London.
28.9.17.

Note written Adj. re Unit 27.9.17.

H

1st M.G.C.
A.I.F.

TOSTEVIN
Capt. G

Died of Wounds"

It was in his Coy. which was the 3rd (not the 1st). He was gazetted, his name read out on parade as Major not Cptn.

Pte. G. Blake. 2919
2nd Schools
Southall.

London.
20.9.17.

M

Note See HdQtrs verification.

3rd M.G.C. A.I.F.

Tostevin, G. Major.

D/W. May 5th 1917. Det D.E.

He was killed instantly by a shell, this happened between Norieul and Bullecourt. He had gone ahead of the coy so as to pick positions for his gun crews, and was just returning to take us into the lines. He was buried at Norieul dressing station, we erected the cross of St George on his grave bearing full particulars. A party from the coy formed the burial party. I knew him in the coy. He was a 12th Batt man previous to joining the M.G.C. He was born at Jersey Island. He came from Tasmania. He was an engine driver there.

Description. Age. 28. Height. 5-2. Complexion. Dark. Nuggety Built.

Witness. Pte. Mounsey. J.J. NO. 4525. 3rd M.G.C.

Taken at
NO. 4. C.D. Codford.
9-10-17.
F.G.H.

S. Whitmee.
NO. 4. Command Depot
Codford.

M

Machine Guns
Aus. I. Force

Tosteving, Major G.
1st Coy.

(D/W. May 5, 1917).

" Major Tosteving was killed at Bullecourt in the big Push. He was wounded in the head and died on the way back. He was buried in the Cemetery at Fresnicourt about 5 miles from where he was wounded. "

Eye Witness - No. Major Steele (who was transferred from Machine Gun to 11th Battn A.I.F. He is still out with Battn.) told him.

Description - Short, stout, clean shaven, about 40.

Informant :- R.V. Horsefall, 21st Coy.
Machine Guns, Aus. I.F.
3rd General Hospital, Ward A 1,
Wandsworth, London, S.W.

Home address :-
Horseferry Road,
Westminster,

Sept. 7, 17. S. W.
E. Duvernet.

R.V.M.

No. 1 M/C Gun Coy,
A.I.F.

Tostevin,
Capt. G.

"Died of Wounds May 5/17"

Refer to Lieut Baker-Fynch 3rd Aust M/c Gun Coy,
who is in France, and who can give particulars. I was told
by Cpl. L. Bart, 3rd Bgde Hqts, that he was wounded in the head
with shrapnel, and that he died at the Dressing Station somewhere
near ~~Notre~~ ^{Notre} ~~Die~~ ^{Die}. This name was spelt wrongly, in the list, and should
be, Tostevin, and he belongs to the 3rd M/C Gun Coy, I believe
he was to go to the 1st Coy, and was cancelled just before going
into action.

Witness:- Kaiser,
Pte. C. 2388,
3rd M/C Gun Coy,
3rd A.A. Hosp
Dartford

Note written
Lt. Baker-Fynch, & Cpl Bart 12.10.17

F. Oman 28.8.17

London 15.10.17

M.

A.I.F.

M.G.C. I.

TOSTEVIN, Maj. G.

D/W. May 5th 1917. Det. D/B.

He belonged to the 3rd M.G.C.. He was riding when he was killed on May 3rd and had no steel helmet on. I did not see him hit, but I saw his body when it was brought down to H.Qrs 3rd Inf. Bde. Noreuil. I know that he died at a D/S. but cannot say where he was buried. Cpl. Gale 3rd M.G. Coy. made the cross for his grave. His effects were all sent to his people in Guernsey, and I believe that full details have been written to them.

Informant. L/Cpl. V. Smith 2824. H.Qrs.
End Army Rest Camp.
BOULOGNE. 17.10.17.

I corroborate the above.

L/Cpl. A.T. Orton 1774. 3.M. ~~1774~~.

M
pd
2/11

3rd McGun Coy.,
A.I.F.

FOSTER
Major. 67

"Died of Wounds 5.5.17.

Refer to Pte. E. Barbour 3rd Mc/Gun Coy., who is in France and who
buried him ^{at Bullcourt} and can give full particulars.

Witness:- Pte. C. Graham 2282

3rd Mc/Gun Coy.,

3rd A.A. Hospital,
Dartford.

W. Oman
London.
18.10.17.

II

3rd Mach.Gun Coy.
A.I.F.

Tostevin.
Major G.

"Died of Wounds."

Major Tostevin Died of Wounds 6.5.17. Location of Grave Soldiers Cemetery Noreuil. 6 miles N.W.Bapaume. Christian Burial and a cross was erected by his unit (3rd Aust.M.G.Coy). Although officially reported as Died of Wounds Major G.Tostevin was first wounded slightly in the hand and afterwards killed in action. Although reported as 1st A.M.G.Coy., Major Tostevin was Commanding the 3rd Coy. at the time of his death.

Information by:-

Cpl.L.Bart,
H.Qrs 3rd Bde.

A.I.F. B.E.F.

London.

24.10.17.

M.

1st Mach.Gun Coy.
A.I.F.

Tostevin.
Major G.

"Died of Wounds 5.5.17"

Re Major G.Tostevin. Officially the Major had been transferred to 1st M.G.Coy.at time of his death, but the transfer had not come out in orders, so he was actually with us - the 3rd A.M.G.Coy.- as our Commanding Officer at the time, and a more beloved one we shall never have. His grave is at Noreuil a small village about 6 miles N.W. of Bapaume and is marked by a cross inscribed with his name and date of death. He was killed by a piece of shell while making a reconnaissance of the line at Bullecourt.

Information by:-

Lieut.F.P.Bethune

2nd In Command 3rd A.M.G.Coy.

France 9.10.17.

London.

24.10.17.

M.

No. 1. Mc/Gun Coy
A.I.F.

Tostevin,
C. Captn,

"Died of Wounds May 5th 1917"

Refer to Lieut. Baker-Fynch 3rd Australian Mc/Gun Coy. who is in France and who can give particulars I was told by Cpl. L. Bart 3rd Bgde Headquarters he was wounded in the head with shrapnel and that he died at the dressing station somewhere near Noreuil. His name was spelt wrongly in the list and should be Tostevin and he belonged to the 3rd Mc/Gun Coy I believe he was to go to the 1st Coy. but was cancelled just before going into action.

Witness:- Pte. C. Kaisir 2368
3rd Mc/Gun Coy,
3rd A. Hosp
Dartford

W. Oman
London 12.10.17

Note Written Lieut Baker-Fynch and Cpl Bart
12.10.17.

London 12.10.17

M.

10.10.17

~~Leutnant BART~~ ~~LYNCH~~

~~3. Mach. Jun. G.~~

Cpl L. BART

HQRs

3 Brigade

A.I.F

B.E.F

abt

Captain G. TOSTEVIN

1. Mach. Jun. G.

DW. 6. 5. 17

11.10.17
a.i.f

10.10.17

Leit BAKER-FYNCH

3 Mach. Gun Co

A.I.F

BEF

Melbourne Bureau

(batter officer)

Captain G. TOSTEVIN

1 Mach Gun Co

A.I.F

D.W

6.5.17

15.10.17
A.I.B.

October 2nd, 1917.

The Adjutant,
3rd Australian Machine Gun Coy,
B. F. F.

Dear Sir,

We would be much obliged if you would tell us whether Major George Fostevin was in 3rd M.G. Coy, when he was fatally wounded in May - we are informed by Head Quarters here that he was in "1st. M.G. Coy - late 3rd M.G. Coy, - 18th Bttn". but all our unofficial reports state that he was in the 3rd M.G. Coy, at the time of his death. If you are able to give us any information as to the location of his grave we would be most grateful, as we can then forward it to our enquirer in Australia.

Yours faithfully,

SECRETARY.

Miss Bowell

ack. by
letter 10/17
15

| | | | | | |
|---|------|-------|--------|-----------------------------|----------|
| Prefix | Code | Words | Charge | This message is on file of: | Recd. at |
| Office of Origin and Service Instructions | | | | | |
| | | *Sent | | Service | Date |
| | | At | | | From |
| | | To | | | By |
| | | By | | (Signature of "Franklin") | |

D/W 5-5-17
M

TO The Secretary
Wounded & missing Enquiry Bureau

| | | | |
|------------------|---------------|---------------------|-----|
| Sender's Number. | Day of Month. | In reply to Number. | AAA |
| B 10 | 9/10/17 | of Oct. 2. | |

Re Major G. TOSTEVIN 1 M.B. Coy

Officially the Major had been transferred to 2nd M.G. Co. at time of his death, but the transfer had not come out in orders, so he was actually with us - the 3rd A.M.G. Co. - as our Commanding Officer at the time, and a more beloved one we shall never have.

His grave is at NOREVIL a small village about 6 miles N.W. of BAPAUME, and is marked by a cross inscribed with his name and date of death.

He was killed by a piece of shell while making a reconnaissance of the line at CIVILLECOURT.

| | | |
|-------|---------------------|-------------------------------|
| From | Levt. F. P. Bethune | 2nd in Command 3rd A.M.G. Co. |
| Place | France | |
| Time | | |

The above may be forwarded as more correct. (Z) F.P. Bethune Lt

* This line should be erased if not required. (1196.) Wt. W 12932/111294. 375,000 Pads. 1/17. H. W. & V., Ltd. (E. 818.)

11. 10. 17.



AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY

(WOUNDED AND MISSING INQUIRY BUREAU),

54, VICTORIA STREET,

LONDON, S.W. 1

Cpt. L. Bart
H. Q. R. 3rd Brigade
A. I. F. B. T. F.

Dear Sir,

We are making enquiries for ^{an officer} ~~a man~~ of your Unit
Major G. Tostevin 3 weeks ago by D/W. 6-5-17
and have been told that you may be able to help us by supplying
some information.

We should be most grateful for any details you can send
us concerning Captain G. Tostevin but our enquirers wish
especially to know whether he was buried, if so, whether it was
on the Field or in a Soldier's Cemetery, where the grave would
be registered. We should also be glad if you could add a short
description of his personal appearance or any points that might
help to prove his identity.

Yours faithfully,

W. F. Johnson
for Vera Beakin
SECRETARY.

Major G. Tostevin

(Died of wounds) 6 May 1917.

Location of grave - Soldiers
(NORFOLK Cemetery) 6 miles N.W. BAPAYNE
Christian Burial & a Cross was erected
by his Unit (3rd Aust. Inf. Coy.).
P.T. over

Although officially reported as D/W
Major G Lortain was first
wounded slightly in the hand
& afterwards was killed in action.

Altho reported as 1st Cavalry Co, Major
Lortain was commanding the
3rd Coy at the time of his death

Lieut. F. P. Bethune,
3rd Aust. Mach. Gun Coy.,
A. I. F.,
B. E. F.

Oct. 16th 1917.

Dear Sir,

We have to thank you for your reply in answer to our enquiry concerning -

Major G. FOSTEVIN (late 3rd) 1st M.G. Coy. A.I.F.

The information and details you have supplied will be of much assistance to us, and of value to our enquirers, who will be comforted to learn that how well the late Major was beloved by his brother officers and his men. We shall now apply to the Graves Registration and Enquiries asking them to forward a photograph of the grave to Major Fostevin's next of kin.

Please accept our sympathy in the loss of your Major.

Yours faithfully,

Secretary.