

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

**2594A Corporal
Ernest Charles Cross**

7th Battalion



08407050

7th A.I.F.

Gross. Pte. ~~2544~~ H.C. 2594A.

(K. Esc. 28/27.)

"There were 2 Ernest Gross's in 7th A.I.F. cousins. The one whose number is 2594A was in B Coy. and a Cpl. although put as a Pte. in the May "Inquiry List" the other was a Pte. and belonged to C Coy. I know which was which without a doubt, for the Ernie Gross who was a Cpl. had been transferred from another Batin. and the A after his No. denotes a transfer whereas the Pte. Ernie Gross was in the same reinforcement as myself and would therefore have a No. between 1700 and 1800. Well, we were in the right supports in the "Bavins" at Wytschate, last Nov. On Boxing day morning, somewhere about 4 o'clock, Fritz threw a few shells over and one of them, landed on the dugout where Cpl. Gross and Cpl. Howstead (7. A.I.F. B Coy.) were sleeping, going through the top of it and exploding between the heads of the two men. As they were missing at "Stand-down" about 7 o'clock, I and some mates were sent to look for them, but when we came to their dugout we found it blown in. We dug both the men out, but they were quite dead. Gross's face and head being so smashed up that you couldn't recognise him. We took Cpl. Gross's body from there back to "Estaminet corner" and buried him there, and I was present at the burial."

M. P.T.O.

Eyewitness: Yes, practically.

Description: All Cpl. Cross's papers etc. were handed over to his cousin Pte. Cross.

Informant: Pte. W.E. Tracey. 1830.
7th A.I.F. B Coy. VIII Pl.
Napsbury Hospital,
St. Albans.

Home address:
c/o Miss Tracey,
Rheanstown,
Co. Westmeath,
Ireland..

16/8/18.
J.E.Horman.

A.I.F. 7.

K. 26.12.17.

CROSS E.O. 2594A.

There was a Cpl. Cross (I believe in A.Co.) killed about Xmas time when we were holding the line near Wytschaete. I did not know him personally but I remember the name and date well and the circumstances of the casualty. A shell fell on the dugout where he was sleeping at night time and killed him outright. So I was told. I have seen his grave. It is close to what we call Estaminet Corner, near Wytschaete and it was at that time (about Jan.) marked with a wooden cross bearing his name etc. There are about a dozen soldiers' graves at that spot and I believe all Australians.

DWH.

Reference: L/O. Leworthy. 5812. C.Co.
4 Gen.Hpl.

Etaples.
18.4.18.

M

A.I.F. 7.

CROSS, E.C. 8594A.

K. Dec 26th 1917. Dets.

There was a Cpl. Cross killed at this time at Rosewood Ravine when we were in supports at Zonnebeke. He was with Cpl. Steve Newstead in a dugout, a shell came over and killed both instantly. I was told by Cpl. W. Stevenson, orderly opl. still with them six days ago, who went to wake them up and found both dead. His body was brought down to Batta Hqrs. "Estamiert Corner", and buried there. I think it is a Mil. Cem. but I have not seen the grave. He was with them when I joined Sept 1916. In Blighty for a long time sick ? in 1917, and rejoined four days before he was killed. Short, well built, dark, clean shaven, B Coy.

Inf: Pte J.M. Elvins. 4180. 7.B.VII.
No. 1 C.C.
BOULOGNE. 27.4.18. WG

William Stevenson
7-5-18

M

7th Battn
A.I.F.

CROSS.
R.O.

2594a.

"Killed in Action" 26-12-17.

He was a Cpl. He and his mate were asleep in a dug-out at Rose Wood and a shell came and killed them both. They were taken back and buried near Estaminer Corners near Nuytschaete. They were both buried in the same grave. About 5ft. 6 or 7 ins. and I think, dark. I am quite sure it is the same party because of the date of his death.

Informant, A.T. White, 1445.

7th Battn.

ANZAC BUNNET.

W. Allison.
London.
17-5-18.

H.

7th Btn.

Cpl. CROSS, E. C.
2594.

Killed in action 26/12/17.

"I knew Casualty. He was a man about 5 ft. 6 ins. medium build, medium complexion, about 25 years of age, known as "Ernie". Casualty was in support lines, Kemmel Hill. He was asleep in his dug-out. A 5.9 shell exploded on top of the dug-out killing Casualty instantly and Cpl. Howstead. I was 20 yds. away at the time of his death and he was most severely wounded all over. He was buried about three miles from where he fell and a cross was erected with his name and number on it. I was an eye-witness.

Informant:- Pte. C. A. Wardle,
No. 2470, 7th Btn.

Private address:-
Brim, Vic.

T.C.F.
H/10/18.

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS INFORMATION BUREAU-MELBOURNE.

7th Btn.

CROSS. E. C.
Cpl. 2594.

X. in act. 26/12/17.

"I knew Casualty. He was a man about 5 ft. 6 ins. medium build, medium complexion about 23 years of age, known as "Ernie". Casualty was in his dug-out support lines, Rose Wood, Wysochaete. An H.E. shell exploded on top of the dug-out killing Casualty instantly and another man. I did not see Casualty killed but I saw his body shortly afterwards. He was most severely wounded about the head but I do not know where he was buried."

Informant:- C.S.M. R. Robertson,
No. 629, 7th Btn.

Private address:-
Lancefield, P.O.

T.C.F.
24/1/19.

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS INFORMATION BUREAU-MELBOURNE.

7th Battn. B.Coy.
A.I.F.

CROSS A
E.O. 2594A

"Killed 26-12-17"

I saw him killed at Rosewood, near Wyteschatta. He was caught by a shell that landed in his dug-out, death being instantaneous. He was in supports at the time. Casualty happened at night time. There was a man named Cp. Newstead, killed at the same time. I did not know him very well, but he was the only man of this name in the Coy. He was taken away for burial, by the stretcher bearers, but I cannot give any details, and I cannot refer to anyone.

Informant. Burns Pte. P. 7205
7th Battn. B.Coy. 7th Pltn.,
3rd A.A.H.,
DARTFORD.

W. Oman
London
29-4-18

M.

A.I.F. 7.

CROSS E.C. 2594A.

K. Dec. 26th 1917. Det D/B.

Ernie Cross was in B. V. an acting corporal, and was killed on the night of Boxing day at Rose Wood near Hollebeke. He and Newstead were in a dugout, and a shell got the two of them. I saw Cross carried out and buried at Somier Farm, Estaminet Corner, Wyttschaete. There were only about 25 graves there then. I believe Cross came from Melbourne. He was a well built young fellow of 23 or so, dark complexion.

Inf. L/Cpl. J. Lynch 6629. D. HQ.
No 32 Stat. Hosp.
BOULOGNE. 30.4.18.

JT.

M Cd
sub.

7th Battn.
A.I.F.

CROSS,
E.C. 2594a.

"Killed in Action" 26-12-17.

Re 2594a Cpl. C.E. Cross 7th Battn. A.I.F. Cpl Cross was in my company, and as reported was killed on Dec 26th 1917. He was buried in a small soldiers' cemetery and his grave would be registered. He is buried near some cross roads, known as "Estaminet Corner" near Wyschaete a village taken during the battle of Messines. All this ground, I may add had been retaken by the Germans, during the fighting. As to his identity there is not the slightest doubt for he joined the Battn in Egypt with me and we were in the same pln and company.

Letter from: Wm. R. Stevenson.
A.I.F.
FRANCE.

London.
18-5-18.

M.

7th Bn.

CROSS, E. C.
Cpl. 2594.

K. in act. 26/12/17.

"I knew Casualty. He was a man about 5 ft. 7 ins. slightly built, fair complexion, about 24 years of age, known as "Ernie". Casualty was in his dug-out at reserve line Wysschaete. An H.E. shell exploded in the dug-out killing Casualty instantly and another man. I did not see Casualty killed but I saw his body two hours later. He was most severely wounded all over. He was buried just near where he fell behind the line and a nice cross was erected over the grave with his name, number and unit on and I saw his grave."

Informant:- Pte. H. S. Duggan,
No. 2160, 7th Bn.

Private address:-
Campbell Street,
Castlemaine.

T.C.F.
20/12/18

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS INFORMATION BUREAU-MELBOURNE.

Int col sup

tw/12

7th Btn.

CROSS, E. C.
Cpl. 2594.

Kld. in act. 26/12/17.

"I knew Casualty. He was a man about 5 ft. 5 ins. well built, red face, brown hair, about 23 years of age, known as "Ernie". Casualty was in support lines, Rose Wood. He was asleep in his dug-out with Cpl. Newstead. An H.E. shell passed through the dug-out killing Casualty instantly and Cpl. Newstead. I found Casualty's body the next morning and took him about two miles back to Estaminet Corner where I buried him and Cpl. Newstead. A cross was erected over the grave with his name, number and unit on it."

Private address:-
11 Napier Street,
Ballarat East.

Informant:- Pte. J. Charville,
No. 2334, 7th Btn.

T.C.F.
21/2/19.

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS INFORMATION BUREAU-MELBOURNE.

Actual Re
18.6.18
927

2594th France.
E. C. Cross
7th Battalion. 9/5/1918

To the Secretary
The Red Cross Society,
M

Regarding your enquiries
regarding 2594th Cpl E. C. Cross 7th B. 1st F.
E. C. Cross was in my company, and
as reported, was killed on Dec 16th 17.
He was buried in a small soldiers
Cemetery and his grave would be
registered.

He is buried near some
cross roads, known as 'Examinet
Corner' near Wischaete, a village
taken during the battle of Messines.
All this ground, I may add, has
been retaken by the Germans
during the recent fighting.
As to his identity, there is not the
slightest doubt for he joined the battⁿ
in Egypt with me & we were
in the same platoon & company.

Yours faithfully,
Wm Stevenson