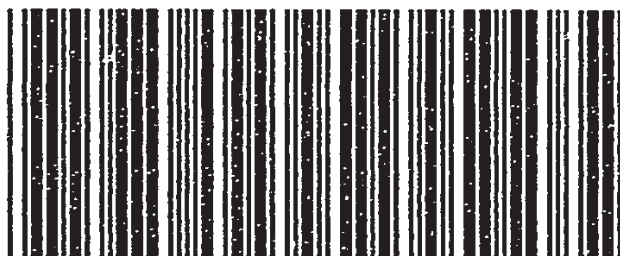


Australian Red Cross Society Wounded and Missing
Enquiry Bureau files, 1914-18 War
1DRL/0428

**2936 Private
Alexander Hughes
Huntriss**

30th Battalion



1391010F

2936

Cpt. A. H. Heentjes

30 Beta

See reader

4497

Cpt. J. M. Gilsham

2936

Sgt. A. H. Huntress

See under

26

Pvt. Gus Bouffier

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35 Bita

30th Australian Imperial Force

Huntriss, Sgt. A.H.
2936.

(K. Nov. 18, 1917. Dets
D / B).

Informant states that "on Nov. 18, 1917, in front of Messines Ridge, Huntriss was in a dug-out with several others when a Minnewerfer hit the dug-out and killed several, Huntriss among them. I was in charge of the party that brought them out, and Huntriss and Farmer were properly buried at Messines Ridge about a mile from the front line, and crosses erected over them. Captain Stephen was buried at the cross roads, not in the same place as the men. Huntriss was a private at the time of his death. He had been a sergeant formerly. "

Eye Witness - Yes.

Description - 5ft 7 ins. inclined to fair, school teacher
could talk three languages.

Informant :- Cpl. W. J. Burns, 827,
Aus. Imp Force 30th, 8th Bde.

Home address :- Hill Street,
Coombe Lodge Hospital, Great Warley
Essex.

7.2.18. Quirindi,
E. Wontner. New South Wales.

W. J. Burns

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Havre

7th February 1918.

30th A.I.F.

Huntriss Sgt A.M. No. 2936.

E. 18th November 1917. Det D/B.

I knew Sergt Huntriss since July 1917; he was medium height, medium build, medium brown hair, about 29, a schoolteacher in civil life, in Newcastle N.S.Wales.

On the 18th November we were near Messines and just taking over the front line about 8.30 p.m. A shell came over Company H.Q. where Huntriss was at the time. He was arranging with the O.C. to take a party on patrol. The shell fell right on the dugout where ~~Huntriss~~ Huntriss was and killed him instantly. He was under three feet of earth, was ~~xxx~~ dug out, and brought to the cemetery $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles back, where I saw him buried. The cemetery was about 300 yards to the right of Messines village. I could point out the place. All graves in the cemetery were marked.

Inf:- Sgo R. Arthur No.4652.
30th A.I.F. D.Co. 13th Pltn.
Australian Camp.
Rouelles.

PH.

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P.1

A.I.F. 30.

HUNTRISS, Sgt. A.H. 2936.
FARMER, A.C. 2545

K. Nov 18th 1917. Dets.

These two men with Capt Stevens and several others were killed outright by a Minnewerfer shell which hit Coy HQ on Nov 18th. It was a direct hit and the HQ was wrecked. They are buried at Bethelam Farm, West Cemetery, Messines. I have seen the graves with crosses erected. Farmer was in D.XIV. christian name Allen, age about 25, he came from Woolongong. Huntriss was a Private not a sergeant when he was killed. He spoke French well and taught it.

Allen Inf: Pte R.J.Lewis. 4272. D.IV.
No. 53 Gen Hosp.
BOULOGNE. 19.2.18.

WO

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P.1

A.I.F.30

HUNTRISS
HUNTRISS: Sgt. A.H. 2936

K. Nov. 18th 1917. Det. D/B.

I was in the front line on this date, and he was in supports. He was killed by a "minne warf" which fell on Coy. H.Q. at Messines. He was buried in the Cemetery at "Run's Walk" about 700 yards behind the front line. I believe that death was instantaneous as he was blown to smithereens, and they could not take the remains any further. He got a Christian burial by the Chaplain. I have seen the grave and there is a wooden cross up. If things continue as they are at present the grave will remain for ever. I have never seen a shell land anywhere near it yet. Sgt. Maj. F. Robinson, D. Co. 30th Battn. who was a personal friend of Huntriss' could give still further details.

Write Sgt. Robinson
Inf. G. Brookhurst 1296. 30th. D.XIV. A.I.F.
A.T. "Princess Elizabeth"
Calais. 15.2.1918.

S
PI GGP:

Hayze

21st February 1918.

30th A.I.F.

Huntriss Sgt A.H. No. 2936 & two others
(for full list see report on A.C. Farmer)

X. 18th Novr 1917. D& D/B.

Huntriss I knew slightly, he was a private. He was in D.Co. 15th Pltn. There was no other Huntriss I knew of in the Battn, his number would be about 2936.

I heard that the above three men were killed at Messines when we were holding the line on the 18th Novr. They were all buried in one grave in Bethelgher Farm Military Cemetery, near Messines, and a cross was put up with their three names on it. I saw the grave on the 20th Novr. The grave would be registered at Battn H.Q.

Inf:- Pte J. Roberts No. 4099.
30th A.I.F. D.Co. 11V Pltn.
Hayze Hospital.

HPG.

S
P. I. ok
Luff

Navre

27th February 1918.

30th A.I.F.

Hantriss Sgt A.H. No.2936.

K. 18th Novr 1917. Det D/B.

I knew Sergt Hantriss since June 1917; he was medium height, medium build, medium brown hair, about 27, a schoolteacher in civil life from N.S.Wales. On the 18th Novr the Bn was at Messines and holding the line. Hantriss and a good many others were in a dugout when a Mine-warfer fell right on it and Hantriss was killed. I was not an eyewitness but my informant was a S/B and helped to dig the bodies out. He is Pte Hoskins 'Bimby' of the 30th Bn D.Co. 13th Pltn, and can give all information. He is just now in this camp.

Inf:- Pte W. Graham No.1308.
30th A.I.F. C.Co. 11 Pltn.
Australian Camp.
Rouelles.

FM.

P1
S Col Smith

30th Australian Imperial Force

Muntriss, Sgt. A.H. 2936

(4. Nov. 18. 1917. Dets D & B)
" Sgt. A. Muntriss was killed by a shell, there were some more
with him. They were buried. I helped pull them all out. It was
at night in the Messines sector. They were buried in a cemetery
near Bethlohem Farm. "

Eye Witness - Yes.

Description - Not a very tall chap, reckon he was getting
on for 30. Not very dark. He was French in-
structor.

Informant :- Mto. R. Lewitz, 4272,
14th Pltn. D Coy. 30th Aus Imp Force,
Ward 30, 2nd London General Hospt.

Home address :- Kings Road, Chelsea, London, S.W.
William Street,
North Bagg, March 4.18.
New South Wales. L. Scote

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PI
S. Ed 2/18

30th BATTALION.

HUNTRISS A. H. Private

KILLED. 27.11.17.

-18-

2936.

I knew Huntriss, his initials were A. H., and he was formerly a School-teacher and was Company Clerk of my Company, D. He was about 35 years, he was short and fair. I was wounded and left the Battalion on 18.10.17, at Passchendaele. Whilst I was in hospital in England in December, 1917, I was told by Captain Morrison of D. Company, who knew Huntriss, that he was with Huntriss in November, 1917, at Messines, when a Mine-warrior landed right in Company Headquarters, killed the Commanding Officer, Captain Stevens, and three Runners, of whom Huntriss was one, and badly wounded Morrison and the Commanding Officer's Batman- Private Bruce. Morrison was quite sure that these four men, (the Officer in Command and three Runners), were ~~cut~~ ^{cut} ~~right~~ ^{right}. We held this position.

Morrison was returning to France at the end of January, when I left England.

Informant:- Lt. W. G. Macdonald,
30th Battalion, Headquarters, formerly D.

Private address:- Bank of New South Wales,
Head Office,
SYDNEY.

H.S.O.
19.4.18.

Co. 4 Australian General Hospital,
RANDWICK.

SYDNEY BUREAU.

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P. 1

✓

30th Battn.
A.I.F.

Hantriss,
Sgt. Alec. Hughes 2936

"Killed in Action."

Detached for duty with 5th Australian Division base depot 8.9.17.

H.Q. 6.11.17.

Central Training School 9.9.17.

Rejoined Unit from on detachment to 5th A.D.B.D. 25.8.17.

Killed in Action 18.11.17.

A.M.W.B. Searcher at H.Q.
8.1.18.

London.
17.1.18.

S.
P.I.

15th April, 1918.

1533 Pto. H. Weale,

4th Aust. Broad Gauge

Railway Operating Division.

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

Dear Sir,

With reference to your enquiry of 10th inst., concerning:

2936 Sgt. A.H. Muntriss, 30th Battn., A.I.F. We beg to inform

you that application for a photograph of his grave should be made

to the,

The Secretary,

Graves Registration Bureau,

Winchester House,

St. James Square, S.W.

With good wishes.

Yours faithfully,

(Miss)

W. H. Ryan

Barre

9th April 1918.

34th I.L.F.

Traydon F.O.No 2874.

31st May 1917. Bot 2/2.

He came from Victoria, Single. He was killed by a shell while in our trenches at Messines in the afternoon. He came over with me in the same transport. I do not know which cemetery he was buried in.

Inf: - Sgt H.A. Fisher No. 2562.

34th I.L.F. H.A.

St. Gabriel.

HBS.

December 19th, 1918.

1538 Cpl. H. Weale.
4th Inst. Broad Gauge Rail.Coy.
A.I.F., B.E.F.

Dear Sir,

In reply to your letter of 15th inst., concerning
2936 Sgt. A.H. HUMPHRISS. 30th Battalion. A.I.F. who was killed
in action on 18.11.17. We would advise you to apply *for the a photograph to*
A.I.F. Graves Department, 130 Horseferry Road. S.W.1. *at the same*
time forwarding a permanent address to which the copy may be sent
when available - as it is often a long time before the Graves can be
registered and photographed.

With good wishes.

Yours faithfully,

(Miss)

Secretary.

Miss Ryan.

1538 Pte.K.Weale,
35th Aust.Broad Gange Railway,
Oper.Div. Australian Imperial Force,
B. E. F.

9th March, 1918.

Dear Sir,

We beg to inform you that we have received two unofficial reports respecting your nephew- 2936 Sgt.A.H. HUNTRISS, 30th Battalion, A.I.F., which you may care to have, although it simply repeats the information already sent you. 1306 Pte.W.Graham, 30th Battn, A.I.F., states that a minnewerfer fell on a dugout and killed Sgt. Huntriss. He was told this by a stretcher bearer who helped to dig the bodies out.

4099 Pte.J.Roberts, 30th Btn, A.I.F., reports that he heard Sgt. Huntriss and two others were killed at Messines. Nov.18, and buried in one grave in Bethlehem Farm Military Cemetery. A cross with the 3 names was put up, and the grave would be registered. Should we obtain further details we shall at once advise you, and trust that these reports will be of assistance.

With renewed sympathy.

Yours faithfully,

F. J. Gospe
SECRETARY.

1st March 1918.

1538 Pte H. Weale,
No. 35 Aust: Broad Gauge,
Railway Operating Division,
Aust: Imperial Force,
ABROAD.

Dear Pte Weale,

With reference to your enquiry concerning - 2936
Sgt. Alex Hughes Huntriss, 30th Bn. A.I.F., we have received the
following unofficial reports from two of his comrades.

No. 4272 Pte R. J. Lewis, 30th Bn, states that your
nephew was a private, when he was killed outright by a Minnewerfer
shell, which hit and completely wrecked company headquarters. He
was buried at Bothamham Farm, West Cemetery, Messines and informant
has seen the grave with a cross erected to his memory.

The above report is confirmed by - 1296 Pte G. Brocklehurst
of the same Battalion, who adds that Sgt/Major F. Robinson, was a
great personal friend of your nephew's and can supply us with further
details.

We have written to Sgt/Major Robinson and will forward
you any information, which may come to hand.

Yours faithfully, SECRETARY.

K.C.

1538 Pte. H. Weale, February 19th, 1918.
35th Australian Broad Gauge Railway Operating
Division, Australian Imperial Force, Abroad.

Dear Pte. Weale,

With reference to your enquiry concerning - No 2936 Sgt.
Alex. HUGHES HUNTRISS, 30th Battalion, A.I.F., we have received
the following unofficial report from 4632 Pte. R. Arthur, 30th
Battalion, A.I.F., He states that he knew Sgt. Huntriss very well
and on the morning of November 18th they were taking over the
front line near Messines. Whilst Sgt. Huntriss was near Company
Headquarters, arranging with the O.C. to take a party on patrol,
a shell came over and fell on the Dugout in which he was, killing
him instantly. He was buried under 3 feet of earth, but was dug
out, and brought to a cemetery $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles back, where Pte. Arthur
saw him buried. The Cemetery is about 300 yards to the right of
Messines Village, and all the grave were marked.

We are continuing enquiries, and hope to send you further
details of his burial at a later date.

Yours faithfully,

SECRETARY.

Dist. for B.M.C.

5128, Pte. H. Weale,
25, Aust. Broad Gauge,
Railway Operating Div.
A.I.F.
B.E.F.

18th, January, 1918.

Dear Pte. Weale,

As a result of our further enquiry for :-

2936. Srt. A.H. ^{HUNTRESS} Huntress, 50th. Battalion. A.I.F.

we now find that he is officially reported killed in action
on 18. 17. 17.

His name is on our Searchers List and we will do our
utmost to obtain further particulars which we will at once
send to you.

With our most sincere sympathy to you in your loss.

Yours faithfully,

Vera Deakin
SECRETARY.
Miss McConnell

1538 Pte. H. Weale, J
35th Aust. Bd. Gage Rail. Oper. Div.
Australian Imperial Forces,
Abroad.

February 16th, 1918.

Dear Pte. Weale,

In further answer to your enquiry for details of the death
of your nephew,

2936 Sgt. A.H. HUNTRISS, 30th Battalion, A.I.F.

We regret to inform you of an unofficial report given by
No 827 Cpl. W.J. Burns, of his unit when in the Coombe Lodge Hpl.,
Great Warley, Essex on 7-2-18.

He stated that your nephew who with several others was in
a dugout in front of Messines Ridge on Nov. 13th, 1917, was killed
instantly by a Minnewerfer. Cpl. Burns was in charge of the
rescue party who recovered your nephew's body, burying him at
Messines Ridge about a mile from the front line. A cross was
erected over his grave. Informant describes your nephew, who he
says was a private at the time of his death, as 5'7" in height,
and rather fair. He had been a school teacher and could speak
three languages.

We are continuing our enquiries and as soon as further details

are received we shall advise you as we realise how anxiously
you must await particulars.

With our sincere sympathy.

Yours faithfully,

AW
SECRETARY.



Church Army Recreation Hut OR TENT.

ON ACTIVE SERVICE
WITH THE BRITISH EXPEDITIONARY FORCE

2936 Sgt. A. H. HUNTRISS *France*
30 Bath 23-2-18.
R/N 17-11-17 Sgt. 4 (20)

To the Secretary

In answer to your letter of 16th inst
the information about 2936 Sgt. A. H. Huntriss & the
information given by E. S. C. G. H. Burn is quite
correct. Prior to enlisting he was a School Teacher & ~~was~~
could speak 3 Languages well so I am now quite
certain it is him. I must thank you for this as it
must be a good lot of trouble to you people in finding
out all this ^{valuable} information for anyone who is anxiously
waiting same. Since I received your letter it has made
me quite contented also to hear how he met his death
& know his people will also be pleased when I give
them this letter I received from you. I suppose your
Society finds it a bit difficult in tracing some of our
friends who you are asked to which is not too nice of a
job seeing how many are out here. Well I must now
draw this a close again thanking you very much & how
it has eased my mind indeed trusting you still continue
on with your good work & may it not be long before you
will ^{not} again be bothered about it.

yours truly
1538 H. W. Deal

Ans 15/4/18

France 10/4/18.

To the Secretary.

Just a few lines hoping this will find you all doing your work well. I must thank you for your kindness to words me in giving me all necessary information about my nephew 2936 Sgt. A H Huntress as I was very glad to get some which eased my mind & also of his parents. but there is still a little thing I would like to ask you & that is if you could give me the necessary information as to the place where I could get a photo of his grave which I would very much like to get. So I would be very glad if you would give me that information asked for. Trusting you will be able to grant me with this request.

2936
Sgt A H Huntress
30th B.

I remain
yours sincerely Friend
1538 H. Wade
4th Aust B. G. Plympton
Aust Imp Force
France

2936 Sgt. A.H. Huntress 30th B.

Paris France

15.12.18.

To the Secretary
Red Cross Society

300
Some time ago I wrote & asked you if you would kindly oblige me by giving me the address where I could obtain some photos of my Mother's grave 2936 3rd St. St. Martin's who was killed in Nov 18th 1917 at Meosime & who I understand is buried at Bethlehem Santhelmy Cemetery. The above information you sent to me some time ago but I have not laid the papers & will only be too glad pleased if you will again give me same. The reason I ask is that when I wrote last about the photos they said at what particular time they were unable to get same. I think there might be an opportunity now & more so. I would like to have same before I return to Aust. having been asked by his parents to try & obtain same before I return.

2

Trusting you will kindly forward me
information asked for.

Yours faithfully

^{and}
1539. Cyp. H. Weale
14th Auct B. G. Pyley
Auct. Exp. Socy
France.