

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

**16410 Private
William George
Vincent Hillcoat**

3rd Field Ambulance



1340202C

A.I.F. 3rd Flg. Amb.
A.A.M.S.

HILCOAE
H.G. 16410

"D/Hds 20-9-17" .

Died @ 2nd Canadian Cas. Clearing Stn
Cert. by A.I.F. Hqs 19-10-17.

London
20-10-17

3

3rd Field Amb,
A.I.F.

HILLCOAT
Pte. W.G. 16410

"Died of wounds"

Pte. Hillcoat died at 10.30 p.m. 20.9.17. from sh. Wds face, scalp. leg.
Left)Compound Fracture) He was buried the following day in LISSEENTHOE K
Military Cemetery by the Presbyterian chaplain.

Lieut. Col. J.E. Davey

O.C. 2nd Can. C.C. S.
30.10.17.

London.
6.11.17.

3rd F. Amb.
A.H.C.

Hillcoat.
W. G. 16410

"Died of Wounds 20.9.17"

Pte. C.C. Rogers 11862 of same unit was with him when he was hit at Polygon Wood and helped to bury him in a marked grave. He wrote to me about it as we three were pals. Hillcoat was a Presbyterian Minister and the whitest man I ever met. He was a great favourite.

Witness:-

F. R. Tuffin 11863
A.A.H.C.

L.P.J.

London.
30.11.17.

Note Written Pte. Rogers 29.11.17.

P.I.
S.

Australian A.M.C. 3rd Batt.

Hillscoat. W.C. 16410.

D/W. Sept. 20/17.

"I know that the missing man got wounded in the head and that part of it was blown away. He was carried to the advanced dressing station and was then taken on to the Canadian Casualty Clearing Station where he died two hours afterwards. He was buried at Wippenrook cemetery with 3 or 4 others. A headstone or wooden cross was erected and flowers laid on the graves. He was a clergyman before he joined, he was married and had one child. He lived at Chatswood, Sydney Australia., He was about 26 yrs old, about 5'10" of dark complexion and wore glasses."

Eyewitness: Yes.

Description:

Informant: C.F.Wiggins. 7797.

Australian A.M.C. 3rd Fld.Ambulance,
Kitchener's Hospital, Brighton.

Home address:

Schoolfield, via Riverstone, N.S.W. Australia.

8/12/17.

F.R.Harman.

Ed P.1
Suff S

Army Medical Corps
3rd Flg. Amb
AIF

HILL CO AT
W. G. 16410

"Died of wounds 20. Sep. 1917"

His name was Victr. Initials W.G.V. that his his correct number.
One of the 3rd Flg. Amb. at Park House told me that Hillcoat had been
shot in the head and died of ~~wounds~~ wounds (my own son was killed
in 3rd Flg. Amb. on 2nd inst) I have letters address to Hillcoat and
am taking them to his people.

Witness:-

W. S. Ransley 16415
AMC Detials.

Westham

Interview cut short by Med. Inspector showed letters intact in envelopes
enopened and addressed to W.G.V Hillcoat No. 1640

Ld Con. 29.12.17.

S & P. I.

3rd Field Amb
A.A.M.C.
AIF

HILLCOAT
W.G. 16410

"Died of wounds 20.9.17."

Refer to L/S1 A. Simpson 3rd Field Ambulance who is now in France and who saw him at the C.C.S. at Remy Siding near Popperinghe. I heard that he was buried at the C.C.S. cemetery

Witness:-

Pte. P.D. Wilkinson 1721
3rd Field Amb.

3rd A.A.Hpl.
Dartford

W. Oman
London.
1.1.18.

S & P.I.

3rd Flld. Amb.
A.A.M.C.

Hillcoat.
W.G. 16410

"Died of Wounds 20.9.17"

He was wounded near Clapham Junction Main Road and brought to Clearing Station at Popperinghe Belgium and died there within 48 hours. I saw him brought in and buried in the Mil. Cemetery close by. He came from Victoria and was a Minister I believe a Methodist. He joined us up about 4 months before at Buire, on the Somme. He was a single man about 30 and wore glasses. A very nice man.

Witness:-

C.W. Thatcher 14710
5th Flld. Amb. A.M.C.

No. 3 Command Depot.
Hurdcott.

E.W. Griffith.

London.
3.1.18.

P.I.
S.

3rd F. Amb.
P.I.F.

HILLCOAT,
W.G. 16410

"Died of Wounds 20.9.17."

Re Pte. W.G. Hillcoat, 16410, 3rd Aust. Fld Amb, A.A.M.C. I will be pleased to give you what little I know of him. He was wounded 10 a.m. 20.9.17, and was evacuated to 3rd Canadian Casualty Clearing Station, near Poperinghe Belgium and died at 10.30 same night 20.9.17. He is buried in the C.C.S. cemetery at that hospital. He was a tall dark man cleanshaven, dark hair, also wore glasses but perhaps you can gain more information from the photo which I am enclosing. I had been with him some months before he was killed. We came across to France together, several of the lads in this unit, including myself, have written to his wife, as I know the Military details which she would get would be very brief. We managed to have a wreath sent up for his grave, and we made a very nice cross. He was almost worshipped by the boys, every one was sorry to hear of his death. He was a Congregational Minister.

Letter from, C.C. Rogers, 11862,
3rd Aust. Fld Amb.
France 7.12.17.

London,
18.2.18.

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.

P.I.
S

15.12.17

My Brother was wounded same day as Hillcoat he is in 2/1st Southern Gen Hosp

Dudley Road
Birmingham

If it is not causing you too much trouble

inconvenience would you kindly return photo 7.12.17

Hillcoat is the man on the left with hat off

16410 W.G. HILLCOAT
D.O.B. 20.09.17 3 F. 4
To the Secretary P.P.F. 4

the wounded and missing Soldiers Bureau.

Received your letter enquiring for details of ^{the} Pte W.G. Hillcoat

AP 16410 2nd Aust Field Ambulance A.A.M.C. I will be
pleased to give you what little I know of him. He was wounded

10.9.17 and was evacuated to 3rd Canadian

Casualty Clearing station near Poperinghe Belgium and died

at 10.30 same night 20.9.17 He is buried in the A.A.M.C.

Cemetery at that Hospital. He was a tall dark man clean shaven

dark hair also wore glasses but perhaps you can gain more

information from the photo which I am enclosing. I had been

with him some months before he was killed we were across to France

together several of the lads in this unit including myself have

written to his wife as I know the military details which she

could get would be very brief He managed to have a

wreath sent up for his grave and we made a very nice cross

he was almost worshipped by the boys, every one was sorry

to hear of his death. He was a Congregational Minister

Trusting the information I am giving you will be all you

require.

I remain yours faithfully

E.C. Rogers 11862
3rd Aust Field Amb
France

11862 Pte. C. C. Rogers,
3rd Aust. Flid. Amb.,
A. A. M. C., B. E. F.

December 18th, 1917.

Dear Pte. Rogers,

Very many thanks for your letter in answer to our enquiry concerning

No 16410 Pte J. D. H. HILLCOAT, 3rd A. Flid. Amb.

The information you have sent will be of much assistance to us and of great value to our enquirers, one of whom was a friend in the A. I. F., who therefore would not have received those details which you so kindly sent to Mrs. Hillcoat,

We have been making enquiries at the request of our Melbourne Bureau, we presume on behalf of Mrs. Hillcoat, and have been able to apply to the Director of Graves Registration and Enquiries for a photograph of the grave to be sent to Mrs. Hillcoat.

We ^{are} returning the photograph you so kindly enclosed and trust it will reach you safely, as we know you must value it ~~and~~ as a memento of your friend.

With all good wishes for a cheery time as possible under the circumstances at Christmas and hopes for a happier year in 1918, including a return to Australia for all of us.

Yours faithfully,

SECRETARY.

V. D
Ali

January 18th, 1918.

16118 Pte. R. Vardill,
A.A.M.C., 3rd Australian General Hospital;
B. E. F.

Dear Pte. Vardill,

We beg to inform you of further unofficial details about the death of your brother-in-law

16410 Pte. W.G. HILICOAT, 3rd Field Ambulance, A.A.M.C.

for whom we have now closed our enquiries although we shall immediately forward to you any further news that we receive.

One man stated that Pte. Hilicoat was wounded in the head and removed to the advanced dressing station and then to the Canadian Casualty Clearing Station where he died two hours afterwards, his burial taking place in the Lijssenthock Military Cemetery. A cross was erected over the grave and flowers were laid upon it, and informant states that Pte. Hilicoat who was a clergyman and married was dark, about 5'10" in height and 26 years of age.

Another man of the unit reported that your brother-in-law was wounded near Clapham Junction on the Menin Road and died within 48 hours at the Clearing Station at Poperinghe. He had joined the Ambulance 4 Months before on the Somme and was popular.

Application has been made on behalf of his next of kin for a photograph of his grave, which will be forwarded in due course by the Graves Registration Bureau, although it may be some time before the matter can be attended to owing to pressure of work.

Yours faithfully,



SECRETARY.

16118 Pte. R. Vardill,
3rd Australian General Hospital,
B.S.F.

February 19th, 1918.

Dear Sir,

We have received an unofficial report concerning your brother - in - law.

No. 16410 W.C. HILLCOAT, 3rd Field Ambulance, A.I.F.

which we feel sure you would like to have as it shows how much he was beloved by his comrades.

No. 11862 C.C. Rogers, 3rd Fld. Amb. states "Pte. W.H. Hillcoat was wounded at 10. a.m. 20-9-17, and was evacuated to 3rd Canadian Casualty Clearing Station, near Poperinghe Belgium and died at 10-30 same night. He is buried in the C.C.S. cemetery at that hospital. He was a tall dark man, clean-shaven, dark hair, also wore glasses. I had been with him some months before he was killed. We came across to France together, several of the lads in this unit including myself, have written to his wife, as I know the military details which she would get would be very brief. We managed to have a wreath sent up for his grave, and we made a very nice cross. He was almost worshipped by the boys, every one was sorry to hear of his death. He was a Congregational Minister."

It will be a great comfort to his wife and friends to know all these details and they should feel very proud of his memory.

With a renewal of our sympathy.

Yours faithfully,

SECRETARY.

W.B. for F. K. E.



AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY

(WOUNDED AND MISSING INQUIRY BUREAU),

54, VICTORIA STREET,

LONDON, S.W. 1

22-10-17

about

No. 16410 Pte W. G. Hillcoat

~~2nd~~ Field Ambulance

Australian Army Medical Corps

To The Commanding Officer
X 2nd Canadian Cas. Clearing Station

Dear Sir,

We have been asked by the relatives in Australia to obtain the fullest details possible of the Wounds, Death and Burial of the above who died in your Hospital on 20-9-17 and would greatly appreciate any information that you may send us.

With apologies for troubling you.

I remain,

Yours faithfully,

(Miss) Vera Deakin.

SECRETARY.

NOTE. We have been informed by various C.O's and Adjutants that the receipt of notes of thanks only causes them unnecessary inconvenience. Unless you ask us to acknowledge your reply to the above, we will not do so, and trust that you will understand that we appreciate it none the less.

2nd Canadian C.S.

To 2nd Australian C.S. in error.

Passed to you, please.

Ramsey Webb

Lieut. Col

O.C. 2nd. A.C.C.S. 22/10/17



The Secretary,
Australian Red Cross Society,
54 Victoria St., London, S.W.

D/W

Pte. Hillcoat died at 10:30 pm, 28/9/17,
from Shwds. face, scalp, leg L. (comp. fract.). He
was buried the following day in Dijssendhoek Military
Cemetery, by the Presbyterian Chaplain.

J. J. Davley
Lt. Col.
O.C., I. & C. S.

30/10/17

S

France

Nov. 3 d/17

To Secretary

Wounded & Missing Inquiry Bureau

I received your letter of enquiry & Miss Murdock of the Red Cross attached to this unit has already wired that I am "quite well & with my unit."

I was in hospital for a week, ending Aug 13th I think the date was

I noticed in the "Angae Bulletin" & also the "Australasian" my brother-in-law's name among the "died of wounds". He was attached to the 3rd Field Ambulance, to which I have written for confirmation but have received no reply. X (see foot of letter)

should be greatly obliged if you could find out for certain that the report is correct & any information which would be of interest, to the people at home.

Thanking you for your enquiries on my own behalf

I beg to remain

Yours sincerely

(Pte) R. Vardill

16118.

A P M C.

W.G. Hillcoat
X Pte G.W. Hillcoat.
No 16410

16118 Pte. R. Verdill,
A.A.M.C., 3rd Aust. Gen. Hpl.,
B.E.F., France,

November 13th, 1917.

Dear Sir,

With reference to your inquiry for

16410 Pte. W. G. HILICOAT,
3rd Field Ambulance,
A.A.M.C.

we much regret having to confirm the report of his death, which occurred at 3rd Canadian Casualty Clearing Station on 20.9.17.

We are forwarding an extract from a letter from the Officer in Command of 2nd Can. S.S.C., He says "Pte. Hilicoat died at 10.30. p.m. on 20.9.17, from multiple shrapnel wounds. He was buried the following day in Lyssenthock, Military Cemetery, by the Presbyterian Chaplain".

Assuring you of our sincere sympathy in the loss of your friend.

Yours faithfully,

Miss Ryan
SECRETARY.

France
Jan 22nd/16

Waverley

Dear Miss Deakin

I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 18th Jan. for which many thanks.

May I take this opportunity of thanking you for the trouble you have taken on behalf of my late brother-in-law ¹⁶⁴¹⁰ Pte V. W. J. Hillecoat, AMC may interest you to know he was ^{38th Coy} a congregational minister & pastor of Waverley Church.

Again thanking you & with kind regards

I beg to remain

yours sincerely
Pte R. Vardill.
AMC.