From “The Xaverian” 1918, p. 39

“Horace Coates.—Poor Horace, who was serving with the 5th Battalion, Western Australia, was killed while performing as act of devotion in honour of a fallen comrade. The last-named had been killed the day previously, and Horace and a companion went to place a cross on the grave. A passing shell burst close to them, killing Horace and severely wounding his companion. May he rest in peace and heaven remember—as remember it certainly has—his kindly act.”

From Horace Coates’ Red Cross files

5th Pioneer Bttn.
A.I.F.

"Missing 19,10,17."

COATES.
H.C. 3355

I was returning with B & C Coys, to the Menin Road, from Westcoke Ridge, to catch Motor Bus Transport to the billets, on October 19th 17, about 11.0 a.m. H.C. Coates, one of our party, volunteered to assist Pte. Callerton in erecting a cross over a Pioneer's grave. Whilst thus engaged, an enemy shell came over and destroyed Coates, wounding Callerton. No remains of Coates were to be found, and death must have been absolutely instantaneous. I was an eyewitness to his death.

Eyes-witness: Yes.

Description:—Stout, red faced, slightly sandy hair, height 5'8", no nickname.