

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

**4595 Private
William Thomas
Bloxham**

18th Battalion



0430604H

18th Battn.
A.I.F.

BLOXHAM.
W.T. 4595.

"Killed 8-10-17"

He was a signaller in A. Company. I saw him at Broodseinde Ridge; I think in the afternoon. I was the last to see him. We were advancing to take position in front line, over swampy ground that was being heavily shelled and sniped just in front of a Wood that was our objective. Bloxham and I were together in a shell hole, 50 yards from our objective. Then he went to the right, making for the wood, carrying electric torch and a Fuller 'phone, while I made for the left of the Wood.

We could find no trace of him when we reached the Wood. In my belief he was killed by a shell whilst crossing the swamp. He could not have reached the Wood without our seeing him; and he could not reach the German lines.

Bloxham was a well built chap about 5ft 8 ins in height, fresh complexion, blue eyes, a quiet, amiable fellow. He came from N.S.W. - I think with the 12th Rfts, though his people live in England somewhere.

I gave I/Cpl John Brown of my Company all information, as he knew Bloxham's people and wished to write to them.

G.F.G.
London.
18-7-18

Informant:- Cpl. J.A. Smith. 18th Battn. A. Coy. No 2004.
(a very intelligent witness). DARTFORD. Off. M.
P. I.

18th Batn
A. I. F.

BLOXHAM
W.T. 4595

"Missing" 8.10.17.

Killed in Action, prov. reported Missing
Cert: by AIF HdQtrs 14.12.17.

P. I.
Off. M.

London
20.12.17.

December 11th, 1917.

Mrs. Bloxham,
The Grounds,
Hook Norton, Bagbury.

Dear Madam,

With reference to your inquiry for

No 4595 Pte. W. T. BLOXHAM,
16th Battalion,
A. I. F.

who is officially reported Missing since 8.10.17, we very much regret that we have as yet been unable to obtain any information concerning him.

In cases of Missing men as you will readily understand news of their capture or death is necessarily slow in coming to hand. Six weeks is the shortest period that elapses between the date on which a man is posted Missing and that on which his name appears on the German Lists.

We shall be glad if you will at once advise us should you hear from Pte. Bloxham in Germany as our Prisoners of War Department supplies all Australians imprisoned in Germany with regular parcels of food.

As soon as we obtain any definite information concerning him we shall advise you.

Assuring you of our sympathy in your anxiety.

Yours faithfully,

MR

SECRETARY,

24th December, 1917.

Mrs. Bloxham,
The Grounds,
Hook Morton,
Banbury.

Dear Madam,

Re Pte. W. T. BLOXHAM #595, 18th Batt. A.I.F.
We deeply regret to inform you that the above soldier who
was previously reported wounded and missing is now reported killed
in action on the 8th October, 1917.

We are making further enquiries in the hope of learning
full details of his death and will immediately forward to you any
information that we receive.

Assuring you of our sincere sympathy in your loss,

Yours faithfully,

Secretary.

A M Jos.
Law

July 18th, 1918.

Mrs. Bloxham,
The Grounds,
Hook Norton,
Banbury.

Dear Madam,

In further answer to your enquiry for your son -
4595 Pte. W.T. BLOXHAM, 18th Battalion, A.I.F.

We regret to inform you of an unofficial report which we
have received from a man of his unit who was interviewed in
the 3rd Australian Auxiliary Hospital, Dartford on 10-7-18.

Informant - 2004 Cpl. J.A. Smith stated that they were
advancing to take their position in the front line at Brood-
seinde over swampy ground that was being heavily shelled and
sniped and he and your son were together in a shell hole about
50 yards from and just in front of a wood that was their
objective and Pte. Bloxham then went to the right - making his
way to the wood and carrying a Fuller telephone and informant
went to the left of the wood. When they reached there they
could find no ~~trace~~ of your son and it was believed that he
had been killed by a shell when crossing the swamp for he
could not have got to the German lines by mistake.

Cpl. Smith says that he was the last to see your son whom
he described as well built, 5'8" in height, with a fresh
complexion and blue eyes.

We are continuing our enquiries as we realise that you must
be anxious to obtain all possible details of your son's death
and as soon as further information is received we shall advise
you.

With our most sincere sympathy in your loss.

Yours faithfully,

(MISS)

Lyn
SECRETARY.

Aug 19th 1918

My Grounds
Good House
Banbury

Miss D. Vestin

Dear Madam

In reply to your letter of this
morning, I thank you from
my heart for your great kindness
in continuing to make enquiries
concerning my dear son. 4595
Plt W. Blosham - 18th Bn I am very
very sorry, that I have neglected
to notify you that some little
time after I received the official
report from the Q. I. F. Head Quarters
that he was reported killed in
action on Oct 7th - I had a
letter from the Chaplain of his

Better saying that the morning
to date, they had the news come
through, that his dear body had
been found, & in a letter Mr. L.
told me that my son, was identified
by his A.C. & that he was buried
in one of the Military Cemeteries, on
the Broadlands Ridge. so all doubt
as to his fate, is set at rest, I can
only again express my regret that
it never entered my mind that
you would know what had
happened to him. I much regret
to inform my ^{as I feel & understand} regret, but you will
understand I have been in great
distress of mind, & the anxiety
of 3 other sons, in France, or rather
one of whom. was at the time
born in his "leaves" when he was
taken ill with French flu
& was taken away to Hospital

(After a month at home) when he remained
for some weeks, was the cause of me overlooking
it - The information you gave me is a little fuller
than I had received of the grievous loss of my
boy - but a friend of his had sent me similar
particulars - which with the Chaplain's letter
is all I have heard. As the Headmaster gave
nothing no information as to the manner of his
death - again thanking you for your great
kindness & expression of your sympathy.

I remain

Yours faithfully

(Mrs) E. Pollock

P.S. I think you will be pleased to hear
that I may be glad to feel it is "well" with
my dear son - as I had a most gratifying
letter from his Chaplain, as to his personal ^{Christian} character, he was always one of the best of men - greatly
loved by us all - & being of a very amiable disposition
he was held in high esteem by all our friends, so his
loss has been greatly felt -

5/12/17

The Grounds
Stoke Newington
Banbury

10.12.17
The Secretary
The A.D.C. Med Corps, Presiding of
War Comm.

Dear Sir I have been advised
to apply to your Committee
under the following circumstances
On Oct 19th I received
from a Chaplain with the
forces in France letter dated 15th
wherein he said that my
son P.E.W. Pollockham
of the 18th Batt. was reported

'Missing' - he went on to say
that my son took part with
the Battalion in the offensive on
the 9th - "When last seen he
was moving forward in the
Attack" (he was a Specialist)
a "man not seen to fall -
but he apparently did not
reach the point to which
he was making" - "The suggestion
being that he was hit by a
sniper or machine gun fire"
"There was a remote possibility
that he was wounded & a
prisoner of war" -
I have heard nothing
further about it - except -

that I had the official
notice - from the Q. I. F.
Headquarters in London -

I have made what suggestion

I could - & if you can
possibly - help me to
hear news of him - I
shall be most grateful

Thanking you in

advance I remain

Yours faithfully

E. P. P. P.

My Son's Address is

4595-10th St. P. P. P.

Q. I. F. - 18th Battalion

5th Infantry Brigade

Q. I. F.

P. P. P.