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

628 Private George Crocker

37th Battalion



0840204I

37th Battn.
A.I.F.

CROCKER
G. 628

"Died of Wounds 12-8-18"

Re Pte.Crocker. Him and I have been friends for years, you can imagine my feelings. I was with him at the time. We were sitting in a trench which was being heavily shelled when one, a gas shell came right in alongside of us, and when I picked myself up from where I had been thrown, George was rolling about the trench choking with gas. I examined and found he had been hit with a piece just under the left kidney, and after dressing him, carried him to our dressing station near by, where the doctor told me there was practically no danger, the wound being too low to do much damage. George by this time was quite cheerful. He is the second son his widowed mother has lost, and I don't know how she will bear the news, for she thought the world of him. His brother was killed at Pozieres in 1916. I just dread writing and telling her, and if I could prevail on you to write her a personal letter, I am quite sure it would help her to bear her heavy burden.

Letter from:- Fitzmorris. C.J.,
Lulby Hall,
12-9-18

M.

London
18-9-18

37th Battn.
A.I.F.

CROCKER.
George. 628.

"Died of Wounds 12.8.18."

Private G Crocker, 628, was admitted here ~~and~~ with a severe wound in the back, penetrating into the abdomen. He passed away at 6.50 a.m. on August 12th, and was buried in a British Cemetery the following day, a ~~Canadian~~ burial Service being conducted by the Roman Catholic Priest.

Informant:- Lieut. H. Jones,
53rd. Casualty Clearing Station.

London
8.10.18.

M P.I.

A.I.F. 37.

CROCKER, G. 628.

D/W. August 12th, 1918. Det.D/B.

Crocker was in XII pl. of C. Coy., same as myself. He was a single man aged from 20/25. I saw him killed on the Somme front one afternoon in mid August last by shell fire. I was alongside of him in the trench at the time and his death was absolutely instantaneous. The S/Bs, whose names I forget, shortly afterwards came along and carried him away to the D/S. I cannot say where he was buried. The ground has always remained in our possession.

Inf:- Pte. Izzard. 910.
~~2-Stat.Hosp.~~
Cyclists Base Depot.

GJS.

Rouen
15.10.18.

L.A.

Perhaps yours & another to ... not dead one

P1.
P1.

Havre

Australians. 37.

18th Octr 1918.

Crocker G. 628.

D/W 12th August 1918. Det D/B.

I knew him well. He was of medium build, about 25 years. About the 12th August we were at Proyart, and attacked in the early morning. We could not get ahead, and came back for the time being. While we were waiting to attack again, Crocker was wounded by a piece of gas shell, and also gassed. He was taken back to the D/Station, and he died there. I was close to him when he was hit. I know nothing about burial.

Inf:- Pte W.H. Izzard No. 910.
A.I.F. 37. C. XII.
Australian Camp.

CWSG.

P1.

F. a. M.

PP.

37th. Battn. Crocker, G. 628.

D/W. 12/8/18.

I saw George Crocker, (C. Coy:) wounded on the back by a piece of shell while we were resting in a trench at Proyart. He had also received a big dose of gas from the same shell. He was quite unconscious for about 1/4 hour and was taken to the R.A.P. when he regained consciousness. The stretcher bearers, Private W. Cornell, and Private G. Currant brought back word to us that Crocker was getting on very well and"wished to be remembered to all the boys" I know no other particulars.

37th. Battn. Meikle, C.S. Pte. 2862.

A. 13. Dartford. 24/10/18.

R.D.B.

A.I.F. 37th Battn. CROCKER
G. 628 Pte.

"Died of Wounds 12.8.18."

I was with the Platoon with Crocker in a trench this side of the village of Treyat on the Corbie-Bray Road on the 12th August 1918, holding a trench. The gas shells were very bad. One dropped on the side of the trench, wounded Crocker, in the back and gassed him too. We got him out of the trench straight away; he was taken to Casualty Clearing Station and died next day. I don't know where he was buried. Ground was held.

Informant:- 2368 Pte. W.C. Ray, (Good)
27th Battn. A.I.F.
C. Coy, 11th Platoon,
Tor Bay Hospital,
Torquay.

Home address:-
Conlengent Street,
Trafalgar,
Gippsland. Victoria..

G.L. Gretton.
London
23.12.18.
H.G.

H. P.J.

October 11th, 1918.

640 Pte.C.Fitzmorris.
37th Battalion. A.I.F.
Lulby Hall Auxiliary Hospital.
Welford. Ruby, Leicestershire.

Dear Sir.

In further reply to your enquiry for - 628 Pte. GEORGE CROCKER. 37th Battalion. A.I.F. - We beg to inform you of an unofficial report received from Lieut. H.Jones, attached to the 53rd Casualty Clearing Station, B.E.F. He states ;- "Pte. G. Crooker 628, was admitted here with a severe wound in the back, penetrating into the abdomen. He passed away at 6.50 a.m. on August 12th, and was buried in a British Cemetery the following day, a Christian burial service being conducted by the Roman Catholic Priest."

Should further details come to hand we will notify you immediately and trust that our evidence has been of some assistance.

With good wishes for your own recovery.

Yours faithfully,

(Miss)

Secretary.

Mrs Whitfield

10.9.18

628

George Crocker

37 Blk

See Ender

2118 a

Samuel Munro

39 Blk

Sept. 14th, 1918.

640 Pte.C.Fitzmorris.
37th Battn. A.I.F.
Tully Hall Auxiliary Hospital.
Welford. Ruby.
Leicester.

Dear Pte. Fitzmorris.

If you can send us His Mother's address we will gladly send out all the details we can about the death of -

628 C.CROCKER. 37th Battalion. A.I.F.

Unfortunately she will long ere this have been informed by the Defence Authorities of her son's death.

All we can do is to tell her all we can about it and I am sure she would value a letter from one who evidently loved her son - more than any letter from a stranger.

Hoping you yourself are making a good recovery.

Yours faithfully,

(Miss) W7Y

Asst. Secretary.

628
G. Crocker
37 Batty
Dog W 12-8-18 Pt M.

Lully. Hall.
12.9.18

Dear Miss Deakin

Your letter of the 10th inst. received this morning, & as Pte. Crocker & I have been friends for years, you can imagine my feelings. I was with him at the time, We were sitting in a trench, which was being heavily shelled, when one, a gas shell, came right in along side of us, & when I picked my self up, from where I had been thrown, I found he was rolling about the trench, choking with Gas. I examined him & found he had been hit with a piece just under the left kidney, & after dressing him, carried him to our dressing station nearly, where the doctor told me, that was practically no danger, the wound being below, to do much damage.

George by this time was quite cheerful. He is the second son, his widowed mother has lost, & I dont know how she will bear the news, for she thought the world of him, His brother was killed at Loos in 16

I just dread writing & telling her, & if I could prevail on you to write her a personal letter, I am sure it would help her, to bear her heavy burden! Any further information, that I can give, I would be only too pleased, & now Miss Lahiff may God bless you, & your work of mercy

I remain
Yours sincerely
E. J. Fitzmorris

September 10th, 1918.

640 Pte.C.Fitzmorris.
37th Bttn. A.I.F.
Tully Hall Auxiliary Hospital.
Welford, Ruby.
Leicestershire.

Dear Sir.

In answer to your letter received on 9-9-18 we deeply regret to inform you that -

628 Pte.G.CROCKER. 37th Battalion. A.I.F.

died of wounds on 12-8-18 at the 53rd Casualty Clearing Station, B.E.F. We have written to the O.C. for details of his death and burial and as soon as we receive a reply we shall let you know.

638 Pte.Roy HCKETT. 37th Battalion. A.I.F.

was admitted to the 2nd Southern General Hospital, Bristol, on 15-8-18, suffering from wounds of the legs and we advise you to write to him there.

Assuring you of our sincere sympathy in the loss of your friend and with good wishes for your own recover.

Yours faithfully,

(Miss)

Secretary.

L. A. Wes

Ack
9.9.18

Lully Hall. Aux. Hosp.
Wilford
Notts

To the secretary,

Dear Sir,

can you please give me any information, as to the whereabouts, of 628 Pte. G. Crocker & X638 Pte. Roy Pickett, of the 37th Battalion, both wounded on the morning of the 11/8/18.

+ oblige

No 640, Pte. G. Fitzmorris
37th Battalion

X slip.