

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

**3393 Private  
Patrick William  
Nicolson**

**47th Battalion**



20101116

A.I.F. 47th Bata.

NICHOLSON,  
Patrick Wm. 3393.

Repatriated Prisoner of War.

Arrived Dover 2-12-18.

Cert. by List from A.I.F. H.Q., 4-12-18.

London,  
5-12-18.

Off.M.

47th Battn.  
A.I.F.

NICHOLSON,  
P.W. 3393

"Missing 5.4.18."

Prisoner of War. Wounded.

Cert. by Gen. Extract from Post card from man undated.  
Inf. from A.I.F. Hqrs 13.5.18.

London.  
14.5.18.

Off.M.

A.I.F. 47th Battn.

NICHOLSON

NICHOLSON  
3393.

"Prisoner of War Message"

"MacKay Harbour Board, on behalf of Town District offers hearty congratulations on winning coveted distinction "V.C." while much regretting he is Prisoner of War.

Cert. by Message of Cable received from Brisbane 26/6/18.

*MacKay Harbour Board - Award of V.C.*

*Sgt Nicholson*

London  
26/6/18

A.I.F. 47th Battn.

NICHOLSON  
P.W. 3393.

"PRISONER OF WAR"

In reply to your letter of 1st Inst., re 3393 Pte. P. W. Nicholson 47th Battn., we have no information as to the Award of V.C. to above named and no record as to him being recommended for same.

The information supplied must have emanated from an unofficial source and is incorrect.

Cert. by Letter from C.O. 47th Battn. A.I.F. 17/7/18.

London  
20/7/18.

B

47th Battn.  
A.I.F.

<sup>(4)</sup>  
NICOLSON  
P.W. 3393

"Missing, now P/W 5-4-18"

Re 3393 Pte. Nicholson, 47th Battn. being awarded V.C. addressed to Capt. Bremner. I have no recollection of the incident, nor do the Battn. records shew any award to him at all, so evidently the Mackay Harbor Board have been wrongly informed, and moreover, there is no foundation for the report, except probably somebody's rash statements to that end.

Letter from:-

<sup>as P. J. J. J.</sup>  
The Lt. Col.,  
47th Battn.,  
12th Training Battn.,  
CODFORD. 27-7-18

London  
2-8-18

P.I.  
B.

Surname and Christian

*Christy*  
25. 1918  
Name of Missing Man *P. W. Nicolson.*

Regt *47th Battalion A.I.F.*

Regimental No. *3393. (Plt.)*

Battalion *47th Batt. A.I.F.*

Company *I do not know.*

Platoon *I do not know.*

Date when Missing *5th April 1918.*

If Official *Yes.*

Place: *France - or*

*Flanders.*

24 JUL 1918

Name and Address of the person to whom information should be sent *Mrs. A. Woodham.*

*13. Rockstone Place.*

*The Avenue. Southampton.*

POST CARD

THE ADDRESS TO BE WRITTEN ON THIS SIDE

SOUTHAMPTON

1133174

JUL 23 18



The Secretary,

British Red Cross and Order of St. John,

Enquiry Department,

18, Carlton House Terrace,

LONDON, S.W. 1

23.7.18

3393  
P.W. Nicholson  
47 Bath  
M. now P.O. W. 54. 18



B  
17  
3 (cd)



12. T. B

Codford.

27. 7. 18

Dear Mrs Deakin

Ref your Enquiry re  
3393: Pte NICHOLSON. 47 Bn  
being awarded VC., and to  
Capt Bremner — I have no  
recollection of the incident.  
Nor do the Ptn records show  
any award to him at all.  
Evidently the Mackay  
Harbor Board have been  
wrongly informed, and  
moreover there is no foundation  
for the report. Except probably  
some body's rash statements  
to that end.

2.

Any information I can  
give on these points I will  
gladly do so...

Yours sincerely,

A. J. Incey Lt Col

47 Bon 1515

Mrs. A. Woodham -

13. Rockstone Place

The Avenue.

Southampton.

4. 8. 18.

Dear Madam -

You will think  
me both rude & ungrateful  
not writing sooner to  
thank you for your very  
kind letter of the 25<sup>th</sup> July.  
I assure you I am most  
truly grateful, & it is a  
real joy to me to know  
that dear Dad is alive,  
& apparently, well - and  
it is real stress of work  
one way & another that  
has delayed my writing.  
I have been so anxious  
about 3393. Ple. P.W. Nicholson

47<sup>th</sup> Batt<sup>n</sup>. and am so thankful to be able to write to him once more. Our dear "Aussie" Boys are just splendid, & I have the deepest love & admiration for them. I am writing to the address you so kindly give me for particulars as to parcels, and am writing to Horseferry Rd to see if I can obtain his Mackay address, I should so like to write to his people - Poor lad, he was dreading going back to France, & at the news had just come through of the tidal wave cyclone at Mackay, while he was here, he was really

3.

unhappy, & I have worried  
about him on that account  
chiefly. Should I hear from  
him I will let you know  
at once - at present I have  
quite a little "Aussie Family"  
from 2 or 3. Local Hospitals,  
& I love them to look upon  
my Rooms here as Home -  
& today a letter came from  
a reinforcement, whose job  
one of my "Old Boys" had  
taken (he was 15 months in  
Netley Hoapl.) and passed  
him on for me to look  
after when he can come  
to So'ton & see me! He has  
only been in England 3  
weeks. I meet many when  
working at the Rest Rooms,

and they are not long  
before they "spot" my little  
Australian flag safety  
brooch! - Thank you ever  
so much for your letter  
of good news - and if I  
can be of any use  
down here at any time  
I shall be only too glad,  
if I can fit in between  
my duty hours.

Yours sincerely,  
A. Woodham.

Gen. 10/1/44

A cable has come from for 3393 Nicholson P.W.  
(from Brisbane) 47th Bde A.I.F.

"McKay Harbour Board, on behalf of Town District  
"Offers hearty congratulations on winning coveted  
"distinction V.C" while much regretting he is  
"Prisoner of War"

*P wrote adj  
44 on B dt  
14.4.44*

~~Have you any record of this distinction being  
conferred on our prisoner of war?~~

~~There is no record of this soldier having  
won any distinction to date~~

*A J  
P.O. of W Dept  
28 JUL 1944 A.I.F. HQs*

HRO.

Very  
Dear Red Cross Society  
26 Grosvenor Place  
London

In reply to your letter of  
1<sup>st</sup> inst re 3393 Pte. P.W.  
Nicolson 47<sup>th</sup> Bn. we have  
no information as to award  
of V.C. to a POW and  
no record as to him  
being recommended for same.

The information  
supplied must have emanated  
from an unofficial source  
is incorrect.

47<sup>th</sup> BN  
AUSTRALIAN  
IMPERIAL FORCE  
17.7.18

*[Signature]*  
.....Captain  
Adjutant 47th Bn. A.I.F.  
9/12/18  
CODFORD

Mr. C. Woodham  
13 Rockstone Place  
The Avenue  
Southampton

25.4.18

R 3393 P/W P.W. Nicolson 44<sup>th</sup> Batt. I.F.  
m. 5.4.18

P/W - Camp unlisted.

P/W draft sent

**38th BATTALION A.I.F.**

\*Dawtry, S. G. 1159.  
\*Marlow, C. E. 2123.  
\*Wilson A.S. 2168

D/W. April 23/17. Det.D. B.  
K. April 26/18. Det.D. B.  
K. Oct 12/17 K. aug

**39th BATTALION A.I.F.**

\*Lambert, E. W. 1859.

W. Unoff. M. April 5/18.

**40th BATTALION A.I.F.**

\*Harris, A. J. 2770.  
\*Lambert, H. L. 2115.  
\*Wood, G. 2658.  
Stirling R.F. 2222

K. April 9/18. Det.D. B.  
D/W. May 8 18. Det.D. B.  
K. April 26/18. Det.D. B.  
K. Oct 17/17

**41st BATTALION A.I.F.**

\*Parkinson, W. H. 2841.  
\*Pierce, A. R. R. 3360.  
\*Swindall, J. W. 984.

M. May 2/18.  
K. Mar. 28/18. Det.D. B.  
K. Oct. 5/17. Det.D. B.

**42nd BATTALION A.I.F.**

\*Bassman, A. H. W. 2525.  
\*Johnstone, E. J. 3064.  
\*O'Shannessy, S. J. 686.

K. April 24/18. Det.D. B.  
D. April 20/18. Det.D. B.  
W. Unoff. M. Mar. 30 18.

**43rd BATTALION A.I.F.**

\*Ferrest, G. A. 5696.

D/W. April 20/18. Det.D. B.

**44th BATTALION A.I.F.**

C. \*Browne, W. 620  
\*Garnom, J. 3576.

K. Oct. 6/17. Det.D. B.  
W. and M. Mar. 28. 18.

August 2nd, 1918.

*Sm*  
Lt. Col. ~~Malay~~  
47th Infantry Battalion.  
A.I.F. 12th Training Btn.  
No 4 Command Depot.  
Codford.

Dear Sir.

We are very much obliged to you for your letter of 27-7-18 in reply to our enquiry with regard to the rumour of the award of the V.C. to

3393 Pte. R.C. ~~NICOLSON~~ OLSON. 47th Battalion. A.I.F.  
and ~~our~~ ~~apologies~~ for troubling you unnecessarily in the matter.

With many thanks.

Yours faithfully,

(Miss)

*Lord Lindsay*  
Secretary.

July 16th, 1918.

Capt. Bremner, D.S.O.  
Adj. 47th Btn, A.I.F.,  
C/o Australian Base Post Office,  
Kings Road, St. Pancras.

Dear Sir,

We have recently received the following cable through our Brisbane Office referring to -

3393 Pte. Nicholson, 47th Battalion, A.I.F.

now a Prisoner of War in Germany:- "McKay, Harbour Board on behalf of town district offers hearty congratulations on winning coveted distinction V.C. while much regretting that you are a prisoner."

There is no official record of this soldier having won any distinction up to the present and we wondered if you could tell us if there were any grounds for the circulation of this report.

With many apologies for troubling you in the matter and thanking you in anticipation.

Yours faithfully,

(MISS-)

SECRETARY.

*M.R.*

July 1st, 1918.

The Adjutant,  
47th Infantry Battalion,  
Australian Imperial Force,  
B. E. F.

Dear Sir,

We have recently been asked to convey to -

3393 Pte. P.W. NICOLSON, 47th Battalion, A.I.F.

now reported Prisoner of War, the congratulations of the  
Mackay Harbour Board on the Victoria Cross which he is reported  
to have won. There is no official confirmation of this at  
Headquarters and before writing to Pte. Nicolson in Germany we  
should be glad if you would confirm this report as to whether  
he was recommended for the V.C. or any other decoration.

With apologies for troubling you.

Yours faithfully,

(Miss)



SECRETARY.