

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

2nd Lieutenant
James Thomas
Gordon Proctor

15th Battalion



2210306E

15th Bn late 5th Fld. Amb
A.I.F.

PROCTOR
2nd Lieut J.T.C.
222 2956

"Missing 11.4.17."

Killed in Action 11.4.17. previously reported Missing

Cert. by A.I.F. Hdqtrs 11.4.17.

London.
16.11.17.

B. S
P.

15th Batn
AIF

PROCTOR
2nd Lieut. J.T.C.

"Killed 11.4.17."

The last time I saw him was about 15 minutes after the advance when it was still dark near the British side of the German wire. He was wounded lying on his side I think wounded about head or face because he had blood on his face. He was quite still and may have been dead then. After I was captured a friend ~~xxxx~~ I forget who it was) said he had seen Mr. Proctor killed. He was my platoon commander and we went over close together but the smoke was very dense. The Germans made us bury about 200 of our own dead in the afternoon without removing discs but I don't know if Lieut Proctor was buried or not.

Witness:-

L/Cpl. F.W.C.A. Peachey 940
15th Batn
Escaped P/W

S & B P.I.

London.
28.12.17.

Havre

16th January 1918.

15th A.I.F.

Proctor 2nd Lieut. J.T.G.

K. 11th April 1917. Det D/B.

He was my platoon officer, was about 5 ft 8, fair complexion, a new officer in the Battn.

I saw him killed at Bullecourt on the morning of the 11th April. He was caught by M.G. Fire or Rifle Fire. Only about three of the platoon got by it.

He was killed at once - He had to go and leave him there. We gained our objective but had to retire after about 8 hours and did not hold the ground where he fell.

He was walking alongside me when he was shot.

Inf:- Opl R. Purchase No.832.
15th Battn B.Co. Vlll Pltn (then V Pl
Australian Camp.
None los.

GLT.

15th BATTALION A.I.F.
late 5th Field Ambulance.

PROCTOR J.T.G. 2nd Lieut.

"KILLED 11-4-17"

Informant who was a brother officer of the Lieutenant described him as about 6 ft high, well built, dark complexion, aged about 23-24

Informant states that they were both attached to B. Company, the Lieutenant having charge of one of the platoons. On 11-4-17 the Battalion was at Bullecourt in Action. They hopped over at 5.30 a.m. By 8 a.m. they had got passed the second wire and were going into the first German trench. There he saw the Lieutenant and was speaking to him. Just afterwards he went over to the Lieutenant's platoon and was told that the Lieutenant has just been killed. Informant did not see the Lieutenant after speaking to him as indicated above. He (Informant) was wounded the same day but later on.

Informant added that the Lieutenant had only joined the Battalion a month before he was killed and was regarded by the men as a popular officer.

Informant:- Captain W. D. Kenyon
B. Company 15th Battalion
Home address:- Toowoomba Queensland.

W.E.G.
Sydney Railway Station
4-9-18

Time cancelled
B.
S.

15th Battn.
A.I.F.

^R
PROCTOR.
2/Lieut. W.T.C.

"Killed in Action 11-4-17"

He was of B. Company. He was in charge of No 1. Lewis Gun Section. V Platoon. I was in his Section. At Bullicourt on 11th April 1917 we had got through enemy's first wire but had not reached his 2nd wire. We were in a shell hole at the time, when I heard Lieut Proctor call out "I'm hit" I could not see him as it was dark. What were left of us were all in this shell hole. We could not stop to see what was the matter with Lieut Proctor. He was not taken prisoner of war and I have since heard from some of our other officers that he never got back.

Informant:- Pte. T. Riley. 2358A.
15th Battn. B. Coy. P/W.
RED CROSS.

A.D.G.
London.
1-2-19.
J.E.A.

S & B.

Havre

4th August. 1917.

15th AUSTRALIANS

PROCTOR, 2nd Lt. J.T.O.

M. April 11th. 1917.

He was in A. Co. I had been about 2 months in the Company with him. He was the only Officer of this name in the Battalion. I did not see him go over at Bullecourt, but I heard it read out in Battalion Orders outside Estaires near Messines, about the beginning of May, 1917 that 2nd Lieut. Proctor had been taken prisoner of war.

Informant: Pt. J.H. Collins 4817
15th Australians, A.Co., IV.Pln.
Australian Camp, Ronelles.

QMR.

S.
P.I.

Written Adv. 29.8.17

15th. Batn.
A.I.F.

2nd Lt. J.T.C.

M. 11.4.17.

I regret very much that we have no further information regarding
2 Lieut. J.T.C. Proctor beyond the fact that he is reported missing
11.4.17.

Ref. letter from Capt. D.S. Atkinson.
Adjutant 15th. Batn. A.I.F.
3.9.17.

London.
20.9.17.

P.I.
S. B.

15th Batn
A.I.F.

PROCTOR
2nd Lieut. J.T.C.

"Killed in Action 11.4.17."

I was wounded on 28th Sep. 1st Lieut. Proctor of 32nd Batn was with
the company then. I don't know his initials. Dick Shields B. Coy.,
32nd Batn new about to return to France told me on the 13th Nov. that
when he left about 10 days ago that Lieut Proctor was then with the
Coy.,

Witness:-- E.H.C. Bonnett 2888
32nd Batn B. Coy.,
Hut 12
Westham

W.A. Rand
London.
7.12.17.

NOTE Written Ph. Shields 17.11.17

S. B.

Note There may be two Lieut. Proctor's one in 15th Batn
and one in 32nd but at a previous interview one said
he was 32.

This is correct
ARCO.

2. Regret very much that we have
no further information regarding
2nd Lt. J. T. C. Proctor beyond the fact that
he is reported missing 11/4/17

2) J. T. C. Proctor

15th BATTAL A.I.F.



J. S. [illegible] CAPTAIN,
ADJUTANT, 15th BATTALION A. I. F.

6

(27-11-17)

Plt. Dick Shields 9C

(B Coy.

32nd Batta. A.I.F.

H

13.8.7.

abt.

2nd Lt. J.T.C. Proctor

15th Batta. A.I.F.

K/A. 11-4-17.

Sw.
28.11.17

ackd at 18. C. H. Terrace

19.5.17 adl.

Call

P.C. 5.17

"C" Ward
Military Hospital
Colchester Essex

Dear Sir

Could you kindly give me any
information regarding Lieutenant J.T.G. PROCTOR
15th Australian Battalion

who is reported missing.

I left Australia's Troops & have been back
for the past two years. The last time I heard
from him he said he was with the 15th Batt.
A.I.F. & expected to go into action very soon.

I am addressed to me

15 The Avenue

Thames

London N.7

will be forwarded on wherever I may be.

Thanking you in anticipation

Yours sincerely

Austin H. Pauls

15 Australian Field Ambulance

RECEIVED

19 MAY. 1917

CARLTON HOUSE TERRACE.



AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY

(WOUNDED AND MISSING INQUIRY BUREAU).

54, VICTORIA STREET,

LONDON, S.W. 1.

The Adjutant

15 Battⁿ A I F

B E F

29.8.17

Dear Sir,

We have been requested by our *Sydney* Bureau to make enquiries concerning :- *2 Lt J.T.C. Proctor 15 Battⁿ A I F*

Ciphtd M. 11.4.17

and have been told *that it was rept^d in the Battⁿ about the beginning of May 1917 that this officer was taken Prisoner. So far we have never rec^d his name as any of our lists of Prisoners of War.*

We have repeatedly applied to A.I.F. Headquarters, Horseferry Road for information concerning this soldier, but met with no report other than *Missing 11.4.17*

We hesitate to trouble you in the matter, but feel ourselves obliged to do so, the Unit records being the only remaining source of information.

We should be most grateful, for the sake of our enquirers, if you would kindly inform us whether you *have any information in the* ~~still have on your~~ Battalion *concerning Lt. Proctor as a Prisoner of War* or if our informants have confused 2 men with similar names and particulars.

With apologies for troubling you and thanking you in anticipation.

Yours faithfully,

Rea 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.

Pte. Austin H. Davies,
15th Australian Field Ambulance,
18, The Avenue, Hornsey, N.8.

January 30th, 1918.

Dear Pte. Davis,

We regret to inform you of an unofficial report given
by 946 L/Cpl. R.W. Peachey, escaped prisoner of war, about

2/Lt. J.T.C. PROCTOR, 15th Battalion, A.I.F.

which we fear leaves no hope that the report of his being a
prisoner is correct.

L/Cpl. Peachey, reported "The last time I saw Lt. Proctor
was about 15 minutes after the advance when it was still dark
near the British side of the German wire. He was wounded lying
on his side I think wounded about head or face. He was quite
still and may have been dead then. After I was captured a
friend I forget who is was, said he had seen Mr. Proctor
killed. He was my platoon commander and we went over close together
but the smoke was very dense. The Germans made us bury about 200
of our own dead in the afternoon without removing discs but I
don't know if Lieut. Proctor was buried or not."

Further enquiries are being made for details of his death
and burial and when we obtain particulars we shall advise you.

Yours faithfully,

SECRETARY.

Bera Peakin:

EMB for LALC.

24th, December, 1917.

Pte. Austin H. Davis.
18th, Australian Field Ambulance.
10 18 The Avenue.
Hornsey, N.S.

Dear Sir, K/4 G.T.C. Proctor 15th Btn A.I.F.

We regret to inform you that the above named soldier who was previously reported wounded and missing is now reported killed in action on 11.4.17.

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

Regretting the distressing character of this news.

Yours faithfully.

LW

SECRETARY.

The above name was omitted from this letter after mistake
was rectified by an explanatory postcard dated
Dec 18th.