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

6332 Private
Alfred Isaac Totten

13th Battalion



2770203L

A.I.F. 13th Btn

TOFTEN
Alfred J. 6332

"M" .11-4-17"

Killed in action 11-4-17 - previously reported Missing
Cert. by A.I.F.Hqrs 19-10-17.

London
23-10-17

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15th Batn
A.I.F.

TOTTEN
A. J. 6352

"Killed 11.4.17."

The Batt have it on the records that she was taken P of W at Baullecourt.

Witness:- Pte. J. Porter 5162
Dartford. 27th Batn
6.11.17.

London,
15.11.17.

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Note No trace P/W to date.

15th Batn
A.I.F. 10/Rfts

TOTTEN
Pte, Alfred I. 6332

"Missing"

Officially reported Missing between the 9th and 11th April 1917 and mentioned in our cable of the 16th May 1917 and in our letter of 21st May 1917. No 6164 Pte. H.K. Wheatley of the 15th Batn now a prisoner of War who was Missing at the same time, was a great friend of Pte. Totten. Possibly Pte. Wheatley may be able to give some information.

Extract from letter from:-
A.R.C, Dalton House.
115 Pitt Street.
Sydney. 14.8.17

London.
15.10.17.

A. I. F. 13.

TOTTEN, A.I. 6332.
WHITE, Sgt. H.J. 6581.

M. April 11th, 1917.

There is very little doubt Sgt. White was last seen with Totten in a German dugout (Sgt. White was A/T Sgt. of B. and Totten was a Sgt's orderly). Sgt. White was wounded. I am almost sure he had been hit in the neck. This was just before the battn. tried to evacuate the position they were in at Bullecourt in the Hindenburg line. Only 8 of our Coy. got out and one of these men told me about the sgt. This was on April 11th.

NC.

Reference:- Huggett, E.H. 6530.
A.I.F.
No. 11 Gen. Hosp.

13th Battn.
A.I.F.

TOTTEN.A.J.6332. K/A 11-4-17.
Try.L/Cpl.E.C.6364.K/A 11-4-17.
Blake.D.6217. "M. 11-4-17.
K/A 4-2-17.
Hqrs 8-6-17.

These men were killed in action. I did not see them killed, but they were all known to me. They were in the same section and same camp. I have Pte Blake 's cap. Pte Jardine informed me that they were all killed. He has returned to Australia by the Aescanius.

Informant:- Cpl.W.S.Champion. 6276.
13th Battalion.
RED CROSS. 5-3-19.

London.
8-3-19.
J.E.A.

S.

A.I.F.
13th BATTALION - 20th Rfts.

TOTTEN, Private
A.I.F. No. 6332

"Killd 11/4/1917".

Informant described Totten as about 5ft.4" high, heavy build, very fair complexion, aged about 23. They left Australia together per the "Euripides" in October 1916. Informant states that they both belonged to "A" Company.

On 11/4/17 the Battalion was in action at Bullecourt. They hopped over at 4.30 a.m. Just after dinner after they had got to the second line of enemy trenches Totten was killed outright by a bullet in the head when they were in a trench. Informant was nearby and saw Totten fall. The advance was continued for about 12 or 13 kilos, Totten being left where he fell. Informant was afterwards taken Prisoner, together with a large number of members of the Battalion and never heard anything further of Totten.

Informant;- No. 6255, Pte. C.C. Graham,
"A" Company - 13th Battalion.
Private address;- CAMDEN N.S.Wales.

W.E.G.
Victoria Barracks,
SYDNEY. 25/4/19.

SYDNEY BUREAU.

A.I.F.

Time ed

Bowk St
Tamworth
May. 13/ 1918

Dear Miss Chomley -

I am just writing to you ~~for~~ to ask a favour, I want you to try if you could find out if my son is alive any where he was reported missing on April 11th 1917 over twelve months ago & then a few months back I received word he was killed on that date but I allways have a feeling he is alive & I think he might be a prisoner of war. God knows best I suppose we received word once ~~that~~ the last time he was seen he was with Sig. Major White of B. Copy. & White was severely wounded in the neck. & Totten his orderly was left with him

this is my son'

Private ~~A. I.~~ Alfred Isaac Gottlieb

No. 6332.) 13th Battalion

20th Reinforcements.

trusting you will try & do all you can for me. & I also hope I am not asking too much of you trusting to hear from you in the near future.

I am yours sincerely

Mrs ~~Alf~~ Alf. Gottlieb.

Bourke Sto.

Tamworth.

N. S. W.

Australia

July 3rd, 1918.

Mrs A. Totten,
Bourke Street,
Tamworth, New South Wales,
AUSTRALIA.

Dear Madam,

We beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of 13-5-18 which has been passed to us by Miss Chenley for our attention.

With reference to your enquiry for -

6332 Pte. A. J. TOTTEN, 13th Battalion, A.I.F.

(who is now officially reported Killed in Action on 11-4-17, having previously been reported Missing on that date) We much regret to state that there has never been any trace of him as a Prisoner of War.

In spite of our efforts to do so we have never been able to obtain definite news of his fate and we fear there is little hope of reliable information being received now so long since the date on which he was first reported Missing. It happens unfortunately in only too many cases of men eventually reported Killed after a big engagement, that no definite news of their fate is ever obtained It can only be assumed that they fell unnoticed in the turmoil and confusion of the moment and that their bodies were buried either

by the earth thrown up through subsequent shelling or later [illegible] by the enemy.

Men who fail to report after an attack are first recorded as Missing; later a board of enquiry is held - which may result in their being declared "Killed in Action" This decision is not necessarily based on definite evidence of their death but on the general circumstances of the engagement in which they were last seen, the unofficial reports of men of the same unit, and the non-appearance of the Missing men in Hospital or as prisoners of War.

Should we ever receive any information concerning Pte. Totten we shall at once advise you through our office in

Dalton Buildings,
115, Pitt Street,
Sydney.

We are herewith returning the photograph you enclosed as we are afraid it will not be needed for purposes of identification.

Regretting that we are unable to send you more satisfactory news and assuring you of our deepest sympathy in your loss.

Yours faithfully,

(MISS) M. R.

SECRETARY.