

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

1109 Trooper
Herbert John Vigors

14th Light Horse



2820405L

E.R.F.

(K/A. 30/9/18.)

14th Light Horse Regt.

H.J. VIGORS
1109

OFFICIAL REPORT:-

Killed in Action:- 30.9.1918.

Date of Burial:- 1.10.1918.

Site of Grave:- Damascus West Military Cemetery. Grave No.77

Off. Chaplain:-

This man was first buried by Lieut. G. Day 100 yards North of Kilo. 111 Beyrout - Damascus Road on 1.10.18. Was later reburied in Damascus West Military Cemetery. Grave No.77. No record of whom conducted second burial. -----

Informant:- 3rd Echelon A.I.F. Cairo, EGYPT.

Cairo 27/11/18.

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Cairo

A.I.F.
14th LIGHT HORSE.

VIGORS, Private
H.J. No. 1109

"Killed 30-9-1918"

I knew Vigors who was in "C" Squadron. I heard he was killed in Damascus and saw his grave with a cross and all particulars on it in the Australian Cemetery, 1½ miles south of Damascus. He was first of all buried in Damascus and subsequently buried as above.

Informant:- No. 1206, L/Cpl. W.A. Stephens,
14th Light Horse,
High Street,
WILLOUGHBY.

B.M.
No. 4 Australian General Hospital,
RANDWICK.

5/2/19.

SYDNEY BUREAU.

14th Light Horse.

VIGORS, H. J.
Private No. 1109

"Killed 30. 9. 18".

I only knew Vigors slightly, I met him in Egypt. He stood about 5'10", medium complexion, clean shaved, well built.

^{30 September} 31st October, 1918, to reconnoitre. The Turks fired on them with a Machine Gun, and he was killed outright. I did not see him killed. There were only three casualties, and Vigors was one of them. Everyone knew of it. He was buried alongside the Road, but his body was afterwards removed to the Cemetery at Damascus.

He was a good soldier.

Informant:- Trooper J. McDarra, 1773,
14th Light Horse.

Home address:- 7 Shepherd Street,
Sydney.

F.B.W.
No. 4, Australian General Hospital,
RANDWICK.

10. 3. 19.

SYDNEY BUREAU.

14th. LIGHT HORSE A.I.F.

VIGORS H. J. Private
No. 1109.

Killed in Action 30/9/18.

On the 30/9/18 we were advancing on Damascus - Lieutenant Love late 14th. Light Horse, C. Squadron accompanied by Pte. Vigors and Sergt. Hoyer went on in advance of the main body and when within a mile of the town were fired on by Germans. Later Lieutenant Love galloped back to the main body, he was lying on his horse unconscious. After some time when he recovered he told us of the death of Vigors and Hoyer and said that if they had lived he would have done his best to get them the V.C. They were buried on the spot, but afterwards the bodies were exhumed and reinterred in Damascus Cemetery. These three were the first to enter Habelus I knew Vigors pretty well.

Lieutenant Love returned to Australia about two months ago, and if he can be got into touch with, could give more particulars.

Informant:- Private C. Q. Craig, 3154,
14th. Light Horse, C. Squadron.
Home address:- Lalality, Barrigan, N.S.W.

G.S.A.
Victoria Barracks.
3/4/19.

SYDNEY BUREAU.

Clarence Craig
1

14th LIGHT HORSE, A.I.F.

VIGORS, Private
Herbert John - 1109

"Killed in Action 30-9-18"

Re No. 1109, Pte. H.J. Vigors, 14th L.H. the following are the facts as I remember them:-

Afternoon On the morning of September 30th 1918, the 5th Brigade Light Horse were entering the suburbs of Damascus from the West. Coming under fire from the outskirts of the town, the French Chasseurs occupied a hill overlooking the City, while the 14th L.H. Regiment pushed on into the suburb of Salhieh. Lt. Mesely and I, of the 14th L.H. with our two Troops, were in the advance Guard. At first we were under machine gun fire. This ceased suddenly and the enemy retreated into the City. Lt. Mesely, working his way along the edge of a garden entered the city at one point, while I, with my Troop, reached the buildings from another. On receiving an order from Lt. Col. Langley, C.O. of 14th L.H. to join Lt. Mesely, I took my Troop by a cross road and found Lt. Mesely with his Troop, engaged in stopping and turning back a large number of the enemy, who were surrendering freely. The narrow road was packed with a confused mass of men, wagons, horses, mules, guns and motors. We proceeded to work along the road, disarming the enemy and turning them back, sending them back towards our main body. In this way we became strung out along the road, with our men at intervals, busily engaged in taking the rifles from the Turks, and either breaking them on the ground or throwing them into the river. I was at the head of my

Troop with Sgt. Aughey and Trooper Vigers, and was joined by two of the French Cavalrymen, the rest of my Troop being engaged in working along the roadway behind me. With the four men above mentioned I rounded a bend of the road and came upon a large number of the enemy in an open plot of ground. Riding up, accompanied by Sgt. Aughey, Tpr. Vigers, and the two French Chasseurs, I called on them to surrender, which they were preparing to do, when the Frenchmen excitedly fired their revolvers. The crowd of the enemy immediately opened fire on us, killed my four companions instantaneously, and wounded me and my horse. My horse carried me back to the bend of the road, where she collapsed and I was rescued by the remainder of our own men, and carried back. It was now dark. On seeing Col. Langley I told him what had occurred, and he promised to send a strong party back in the morning to find the men. This was done, and Sgt. Aughey and Tpr. Vigers were buried where they fell, close to the Salhiyah Railway Station, where the narrow gauge line leaves Damascus for Beyroust. Some short time later, when an area was set apart in Damascus for a Military Cemetery, the bodies of Sgt. Aughey and Tpr. Vigers were removed from the place where they fell, and buried with full honors in the Damascus Military Cemetery, by their comrades of the 14th L.H. Regiment. Being in Hospital I was not present at their first burial, nor subsequent funeral, but received the above account from several men of the 14th Regiment whom I since met.

Letter from - Lieut. J.R.B. Love, 14th L.H. Regiment.
Ormond College, Parkville, Victoria.
May 8th, 1919.

*Carroll
C. J. 1109*

A.I.F.
14th L.Horse

VIGORS, H.J.
1109

K. Sept. 30/18

Was disarming Turkish Prisoners with a Sergt. Hoyt when a French Officer thinking it was an enemy Raiding Party charged them. Before they could be stopped the Turks shot them both. The bodies were buried at Tulkeran.

Informant:- Wolsliy, W.C.B. 2989
15th L.H.

Home address:- 25 Pitt St.,
Womiral, Sydney.

R.T. Stinton
H.T. Khyber
14/5/19

*Cairo
C. Swift
2*

Kld. in act. 30.9.18.

As a "B" Class man at Ghinerah Kit Stores, he volunteered to rejoin his unit, and was killed outright in his first stunt at Ramascus on 30th September with Sgt. Hoey. Always respected by both Officers and men, he was most popular, and deserved a decoration for his work during the stunt.

Informant:- Tpr. H.C. Titterton,
14th L.H.

E. Iacini,
H.M.A.T. "Dorset".

1 JUN 1919

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LH
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Killed in action 30-9-18

The last I saw of Vigors was in the evening about 5p.m. on 11-8-18. a couple of miles outside Damascus. when he rode off with Lt. Love and Sgt, Hoy to round up some Turks who were surrounding. About an hour afterwards Lt Love galloped back to the Regiment wounded and before he was taken away told us that two or three French cavalry had charged up to the Turks who then opened fire again and shot Vigors and Hoy, and wounded himself. Vigors was 5'9-10, 11 stone, dark, usually called Herb.

Inf. 1722 T.W.Steel
14 L.H.Reg
Address; Walter M.S.W

WA..Berry
H.M.A.T.Dongola
14-8-19