

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

**3455 Private
Thomas Henry White**

15th Battalion



2930113J

15th Australians.

White, Pte. T.H., 3455,

M. Aug. 8th. 1916.

"I saw White's body on the 8th Aug. He was apparently killed by shock as there were no wounds on his body. The place was at Pozieres on the right on the edge of the wood. White was well liked."

Eve Witness Yes.

Informant:-- Sgt. C.S. Hobson, 3320,
15th Australians.
1st London General Hospital,
Camberwell, S.E.

Home address:-- Melville Tiel,
Wynnuma South
Brisbane.

6th. Jan.
A. Reynolds.

15th A. I. F.

T. H. WHITE, 3455

Missing 8.8.16

Informant states that he saw White wounded by shell fire, in the support trenches at Mouquet Farm. He has no further knowledge of his whereabouts, but he does not think that he could by any possibility have fallen into the enemy's hands.

Reference: Corpl. Hardstaffe, 1388

No. 10 General, Rouen, 28.2.17

GJS. J. *af/17*

15th Batt.
A.Co.
A.I.F.,

T.H. WHITE	3455
Sgt. P.E. Sherman	3924
R.R. Girdler	3753
W.I. Small	3849
J.R. Douglas	4493

M. 8. 6. 16.

"Killed in action"

Cause

Pte F.W. Page of Walsh Street Marceba Australia, 3069 A.Co. 4th Platt. 15th Batt. A.I.F. says:- On the 8th Aug. last, the 15th Batt. A.I.F. was with others ordered to attack a German Trench about 400 yards behind Pozieres. We went over the parapet about 9.20.p.m. and at about 9.50.p.m. the German Trench was reached. The 5 men as per list annexed with 8 others whose names I do not remember as they were new drafts to the 15th Batt. belonged to A.Coy. 4th Plat. to which I also was attached. Sgt. P E Sherman was in charge of this section and in the attack they came up to a part of the German Trench which had not been damaged. Immediately in front of them was a very strong m/g emplacement which it was impossible for the men to attack. I saw a German stand on the parapet and give our men a chance to surrender. Sgt. Sherman who could speak German (his father was a German) shouted to the German in German and immediately afterwards he and the 12 men disappeared in the German trench. When this happened I was about 30 yards behind as I could not keep up with the plat. being somewhat impeded by the telephone apparatus which as a signaller I carried round my waist. Although it was night at the time, the star shells made it as light as day. I am quite

15th Batt.
A.Co.,
A.I.F.,

T.H. WHITE	3455
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J.R. Douglas	4495

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positive as to the accuracy of what I have states I heard and saw. I was slightly wounded but got away. The trench soon after this event was taken and held for a short time when it was evacuated. It was again attacked on the 9th Aug. and taken and held. The Germans holding the trench were the 69th Prussian Guard. I know this because some of them were captured by our men. I have written to the sister of J.R. Douglas telling her that her brother was a prisoner with the Germans I should have written to the relatives of the others but did not know their addresses. Pte T.H. White was a married man about 25 & comes from Long Reach, Queensland.

Reference: - ~~letter from~~ Pte P.W. Page 3069
A.Co. 4th Plat. 15th Batt. A.I.F.,
Walsh St. Cairns,
Marcebo, Australia. 9.12.16.

Note: - 3753 R.R. Girdler, 15th Batt. is a P/E at Munster, wrote to him 16.2.17.

London
20.2.17

77M

A.I.F.
10th. Battn.

WHITE.
T.H. 3455

"Missing 8.8.16".

Now reported Killed in Action 8.8.16 previously reported Missing
List.
Cert. by A.I.F. Headquarters/15.3.17.

London.
17.3.17.

B.

15th Battn.
A. I. F.

White.
T. H. 3455.

"Missing 8.8.16."

I saw him wounded at Pozieres in Aug. and afterwards he was taken prisoner, this I know from Sgt. Rowe 15th Battn. who was a mate of mine. Rowe had a letter from him after he was taken prisoner. He was about 5 feet 4., and was 22 years of age. He came from Toowoomba, Darling Downs, Queensland. A jockey by profession with wife and child.

Witness:-

L. A. Carmody. 1753.
4th Fld. Ambulance
Roma, Queensland.

W. G. Dodds.

London.
18.5.17.

Note No trace P/W.

Note Written Sgt. Rowe 19.5.17. B.

Not sent on.

15th Battn.
A. I. F.

White.
T. H. 3455.

"Killed in Action 8.8.16."

I beg to state that the statement made by your informant re Pte. T. H. White was wrong. I have not had any word from him, and he is mentioned in our Coy. casualty list as missing.

Letter from:-

Sgt. E. Rowe.
15th Battn. A.I.F.
France. 19.5.17.

London.
5.6.17.

B.

30.12.18

3455-

Plt T. H. White

15 Btu

See under

3924

Sgt P. E. Sherman

15 Btu

Pls T. H. White 3455 - 15th Batt

see under

Sgt P. E. Sherman 3924 - 15th Batt

20.2.17

24.5.17.

Sgt. Rowe
15. Battn. A.I.F.
B.E.F.

Dear Sir,

We have to thank you very much for your answer to our enquiry concerning

3455. T.H. White 15th Battn. A.I.F.

We were afraid at the time our informant was confusing identities, but feel ourselves obliged to investigate these statements for the sake of the relations in order to obtain absolute confirmation or denial. A.I.F. H.Q.'s now regards Pte. T.H. White as killed in action 8.8.16.

With best wishes

Yours faithfully

VB.
Secretary. *JS*



AUSTRALIAN BRANCH, BRITISH RED CROSS SOCIETY.

Tel.: VICTORIA

ALL COMMUNICATIONS
TO BE ADDRESSED TO
"THE SECRETARY."
WOUNDED AND MISSING
— INQUIRY BUREAU —

AUSTRALIAN BRANCH B.R.C.S.

54, VICTORIA STREET,

LONDON, S.W.

12.5.17

Sgt. Rowe
15. Battn. A.I.F.
B.M.F.

Dear Sgt. Rowe

We have been requested by our Brisbane Bureau to make enquiries about 3455 T.H. White, 15 Battn. A.I.F. H. 8.8.16., and have been told that you have received a letter from him written as a Prisoner of War in Germany. We should be very grateful if you would write and tell us if our informant was correct in his statement and if so, send us the name of the Camp in Germany from which this letter was written. For Pte. T.H. White's name has never come through on any of the lists of Prisoners in Germany though we have had as prisoners 5 men of the same name, but all in Battns. other than the 15th and until we receive a definite address for him in Germany we are unable to forward the weekly parcels of food etc sent by the Prisoners of War department of the ^{Australian} Red Cross to every Australian known to be interned at a definite address in Germany. We shall therefore be glad if you will let us know the name of the Camp without delay.

Yours faithfully

Vera Deakin

Secretary

per H. L.

James
19.5.17

Dear Madam
In answer to
the letter of 12th Sept. I beg to state by your
the statement made by you
informant is not T.H. White was from
wrong. I have not had any word from
him and he is mentioned in our
casualty list as missing in air
Trust that my information
from your faithful
patrol
15 Batt AIF

3455 T.H. WHITE

15 Batt AIF

K.A.

8.8.16

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