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

Sub-Lieutenant Ralph Taylor

Nelson Battalion, Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve



2710207J

Nelson Battn.
R.N.D.

TAYLOR
Sub. Lt. R[redacted]

"Killed in Action"

Re Sub. Lt.R.Taylor, R.N.D., Nelson Battn. A/B Sharratt, MZ/520 Nelson Battn, C.Coy. Hqts., on a Hpl.ship, stated:- On the 22nd Dec. we were on the Cambrai Sector, in front of Villers Pluich, holding the line. We were to get relieved that day, and Lt.Taylor and two men went on to see the billets. A stray shell pitched right in the middle, killing the Lt., and one other man. His body was buried at the side of the main road about 3 kilometres north of Metz. This is chiefly of interest as definitely stating the exact place of burial.

Letter from:- The B.R.C.S.,
4-6-18

London
11-6-18

S.

Nelson Battn. Naval Reserves. TAYLOR.
A.I.F. Sub Lieut. Ralph.

"Killed in Action" 22-12-17.

We beg to foward the following reports which we have received.

A/B W.Saunders, R/3320, B,Co, R.N.D. Drake Battn in the Bermondsey Military Hospital (home address:- 66 High Street. Littlehempton) says:-

I was in the Nelson Battn till January and knew Lt Taylor. I was told by Oderburg of 21 Ford Squad,Hackney, that he was killed by a shell near Crambrai on Dec 22nd. I think Oderburg helped to bury him.

A/B.J.W.Rawstron, R/3278, C Co. X Plyn. R.N.D. Nelson, in the Engletheaite Auxiliary Military Hospital. Armathwaite (home address:- 356 Market Street. Shawbcth, Nr Rochdale Lancs) states:-

I saw Lt Taylor lying dead by the roadside near to Metz-en-Couture on Dec 22nd 1917. Lt Taylor was brought into Metz-en-Couture by an Ambulance van which came along after I had seen him lying by the road side. I expect he would be buried in Metz-en-Couture. He was my Platoon officer in my Company. Tall,thin,sharp-featured, neither dark nor fair, just as you might say "between". He was a fine young fellow.Letter from.B.R.C.S. London. 24-5-18. LONDON. S

Nelson Battn.
R.N.D.

TAYLOR
Sub/Lt. R.

"Killed in Action 22-12-17"

We have received the following information from Graves Registration, Winchester House, re Sub/Lt.R.Taylor, Nelson Battn. R.N.D., that he is buried in Metz-en-Conture German Cemetery Extension, S.E. of Bapaume. Grave registered and usual Cross erected. This information was sent on to Sub/Lt. Taylor's Mother in Australia on 30-7-18.

Letter from:- The B.R.C.S.,
18,Carlton House Terrace,
London. 14-8-18

London
16-8-18

S.

R.N.D. Nelson. Battn. TAYLOR.
Sub.Lt. R.

COPY OF LETTER.

"Killed in Action"

I am forwarding the following report which we have received since writing to you yesterday. Inf.Petty Officer J.W.Brown, TZ/1666 (now with Hawke Btn.C.Coy in France) states as follows:-

"He had been my Pltn.officer when I had the IX Pltn. At this date, Dec.22nd, I was Coy.Sgt.Major with the Nelson Btn.C.Co. and I think the date was previous to the 22nd that I saw him just in front of Trescault, on the Cambrai front, lying dead. I know he was killed when going to Metz to arrange about billeting - he being billeting officer to the Company. His runner was also killed. I had to detail a firing party, and he was buried by our Field Ambulance in a cemetery on the right of Metz, our Btn Padre officiating, but I forget his name. I know the grave was afterwards marked with a cross. He was an Australia, tall, and had not been with us long, in fact it was his first time in the line. During this short time with us he had become very popular."

London.
6-7-18. Letter from B.R.C.S.

S,

R.N.D. Nelson Taylor Lt. R.

(K. December 22nd 1917)

"He was a sub Lt. and the only one of the name so far as I know in the Nelson Battn. He was a B Coy. officer. He was out on a bombing stunt in December (cannot fix date) and he was brought into a trench by a Petty Officer, wounded. This was about 10.30 p.m. at Oppy Wood. I was a S/B and another S/B named Harwood of B. Coy. helped me to carry him to the Regimental Aid post. He had been hit in several places by shell. We left him with the doctor at the aid post. I had not heard of his death."

Reference A/B G. Summerfield TZ.5227, Hawke Bn. A Coy.
(then in Nelson, B Coy.)
In hospital in France.

S 2

R.N.D.Nelson Battn.
A.I.F. COPY OF LETTER. R. TAYLOR. Sub Lt.

"Killed in Action 22-12-17"

Since our last letter to you, we have received the following report which we are forwarding from A/B Scott, 3986, R.N.D. Anson Battn. in the Merryflatts Hospital.Glasgow.

"I saw the cross for 2nd Lt Taylor's grave being brought up. He was buried at Metz but I did not see his grave. He went out of the line going on an advance party with other two men to get billets for the battalion at Cambrai. A shell fell on the road and he was killed. One of the other men died later on from wounds received at the same time!"

Letter from B.R.C.S.

London.
5-7-18. S.

Nelson.Battn. R.N.D.

TAYLOR.
Sub.Lt. R.

"Killed in Action"

The following report seems definitely to locate the place of burial, but under present circumstances it must I fear be impossible to gather any further details.
A/B O.R.E.Houghton. A12/5214 R.N.D. , says:-

"On or about 24th December 1917, at Metz near Ypres, Lt Taylor was killed, and I was one of the carriers who saw him buried in a cemetery on a hill beyond Metz, which is situated on the road from Fins through Metz."

+ Metz-en-Couture nr. Bapaume.

We are referring the case to the Graves Registration Association and I hope that perhaps later on they may be able to have the grave identified and registered.

Letter from:- B.R.C.S.

London.
10-7-18.

S.

Sub Lieut Ralph Taylor cd
Nelson ~~Naval~~ Bett, Naval reserves
Kin A 22-12-17

Telephone No.: REGENT 6640.
Telegrams: "NATIONALLY, CHARLES."

BRITISH RED CROSS
—AND—
ORDER OF ST. JOHN.

In reply please quote Officers

ENQUIRY DEPARTMENT
FOR
WOUNDED AND MISSING,
18 Carlton House Terrace, S.W.1

18th May, 1918.

Sub. Lt. R. Taylor, R.N.D. Nelson Bn.

Dear Madam,

We beg to forward the following reports which we have received.

A/B. W.Saunders, R/3320, B.Co. R.ND. Drake Bn. in the Bermondsey Military Hospital, (home address:- 66 High Str., Littlehampton) says:-

"I was in the Nelson Bn. till January and knew Lt. Taylor. I was told by Oderburg of 21 Ford Squad, Hackney, that he was killed by a shell near Cambrai on Dec: 22nd. I think Oderburg helped to bury him."

A/B. J.W.Rawstron, R/3278, C.Co. X Pl. R.N.D. Nelson, in the Englethwaite Auxiliary Military Hospital, Armathwaite, (home address:- 356 Market Str., Shawbooth, Nr. Rochdale, Lancs.) states:-

"I saw Lt. Taylor lying dead by the roadside near to Metz-en-Couture on Dec. 22nd 1917. Lt. Taylor was brought into Metz-en-Couture by an Ambulance van which came along after I had seen him lying by the road side. I expect he would be buried in Metz-en-Couture. He was my platoon officer in my Company. Tall, thin, sharp-featured; neither dark nor fair, just as you might say "between". He was a fine young fellow."

Yours faithfully,

Lucas

The Secretary
Australian Branch B.R.C.S.

Telephone No.: REGENT 6640.
Telegrams: "NATIONALLY CHARLES."

BRITISH RED CROSS
—AND—
ORDER OF ST. JOHN.

In reply please quote Officers

ENQUIRY DEPARTMENT
FOR
WOUNDED AND MISSING,
18 Carlton House Terrace, S.W 1.

4th June, 1918.

Sub.Lt. R. Taylor, R.N.D. Nelson Bn.

Dear Madam,

We beg to forward a further report which we have received with reference to this officer.

A/B Sharratt, MZ/520, Nelson Bn. C.Co. H.Q., on a Hospital Ship, stated:-

> "On the 22nd December we were on the Cambrai Sector in front of Villers Pluich, holding the line. We were to get relieved that day and Lt. Taylor and two men went on to see the billets. A stray shell pitched right in the middle, killing the Lieut. and one other man. His body was buried at the side of the main road about 3 kilometres North of Metz."

This is chiefly of interest as definitely stating the exact place of burial.

Yours faithfully,

Lucas.

The Secretary
Australian Red Cross Society
36 Grosvenor Place
S.W. 1.

Telephone No.: REGENT 6640.
Telegrams "NATIONALLY, CHARLES."

BRITISH RED CROSS
AND
ORDER OF ST. JOHN.

In reply please quote Officers

ENQUIRY DEPARTMENT
FOR
WOUNDED AND MISSING,

18 Carlton House Terrace, S.W.1

2nd July, 1918.

Sub.Lt. R. Taylor, R.N.D. Nelson Btn.

Dear Madam,

Since our last letter to you we have received the following further report which we are forwarding from A/B Scott, 3986, R.N.D. Anson Bn., in the Merryflatts Hospital, Glasgow.

"I saw the cross for 2nd Lt. Taylor's grave being bro ught up. He was buried at Matz but I did not see his grave. He went out of the line going on an advance party with other two men to get billets for the Battalion at Cambrai. A shell fell on the road and he was killed. One of the other men died later on from wounds received at the same time."

Yours faithfully,

Lucas.

The Secretary
Australian Branch B.R.C.S.
36 Grosvenor Place.

Telephone No.: REGENT 6640.
Telegrams "NATIONALLY, CHARLES."

BRITISH RED CROSS
AND
ORDER OF ST. JOHN.

ENQUIRY DEPARTMENT
FOR
WOUNDED AND MISSING,

18 Carlton House Terrace, S.W.1

In reply please quote Officers

4th July 1918.

Sub. Lt. R. Taylor, R.N.D., Nelson Btn.

Dear Madam,

I am forwarding the following report which we have received since writing to you yesterday. Inf. Petty Officer J.W. Brown, TZ/1666 (now with Hawke Btn. C. Coy., in France) states as follows: -

> "He had been my pltn. officer when I had the IX pltn. At this date, Dec. 22nd, I was Coy. Sgt.Major with the Nelson Btn. C. Coy., and I think the date was previous to the 22nd that I saw him just in front of Trescault, on the Cambrai front, lying dead. I know he was killed when going to Metz to arrange about billeting - he being billeting officer to the Coy. His runner was also killed. I had to detail a firing party, and he was buried by our Field Ambulance in a cemetery on the right of Metz, our Btn. Padre officiating, but I forget his name. I know the grave was afterwards marked with a cross. He was an Australian, tall, and had not been with us long, infact it was his first time in the line. During this short time with us he had become very popular."

Yours faithfully,

Lucas. S.

The Secretary,
Australian Branch B.R.C.S.,
36, Grosvenor Place, S.W.1.

Telephone No.: REGENT 6640.
Telegrams "NATIONALLY, CHARLES."

BRITISH RED CROSS
AND
ORDER OF ST. JOHN.

ENQUIRY DEPARTMENT
FOR
WOUNDED AND MISSING,

18 Carlton House Terrace, S.W.1

In reply please quote Officers.

8th July 1918.

Sub. Lt. R. Taylor, R.N.D., Nelson Bn.

Dear Sir,

The following report seems definitely to locate the place of burial, but under present circumstances it must I fear be impossible to gather any further details.

A/B O.R.E. Houghton, A12/5214, R.N.D., says: -

"On or about 24th December 1917, at Metz × near Ytres, Lt. Taylor was killed, and I was one of the carriers who saw him buried in a cemetery on a hill beyond Metz, which is situated on the road from Fins through Metz."

We are referring the case to the Graves Registration Association and I hope that perhaps later on they may be able to have the grave identified and registered.

Yours faithfully,

Lucas.

× Metz-en-Couture near Bapaume

The Secretary,
Australian Branch, B.R.C.S.,
36, Grosvenor Place, S.W.1.

S

Telephone No.—REGENT 6640.
Telegrams—"NATIONALLY, CHARLES."

BRITISH RED CROSS
AND
ORDER OF ST. JOHN.

Enquiry Department for
Wounded and Missing,
18, CARLTON HOUSE TERRACE, S.W.1.

Aug: 14th 1918

R.R.C.S.
Australian Branch
Kin A 27/12/1

Dear Sir

We have received the following information from Graves Registration - Winchester House - re Sub. Ln. R. Taylor C. Nelson Batt. R.N.D. - that he is buried in Metz-en-Couture German Cemetery Extension S.E. of Bapaume - grave registered

& usual cross erected.
This information was sent on
8 Sub. Lt. Taylor's Mother in
Australia on July 30th 1918 —

For your information

Yrs faithfully
C. M. H. Hl —

for the Earl of Lucan —

S.