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COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

No. 31516

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE.  
BASE RECORDS OFFICE, A. I. F.  
MELBOURNE. 26th October, 1917.

Dear Madam,

I have much pleasure in forwarding hereunder copy of extract from Second Supplement No. 30122 to the London Gazette dated 8th June, 1917, relating to the conspicuous services rendered by your husband, the late Lieutenant C. Pope, 11th Battalion.

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AWARDED THE VICTORIA CROSS

" HIS MAJESTY THE KING has been graciously pleased to approve of the award of the Victoria Cross to the under-mentioned officer :-

Lieutenant CHARLES POPE.

For most conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty, when in command of a very important picquet post in the sector held by his battalion, his orders being to hold this post at all costs.

After the picquet post had been heavily attacked, the enemy, in greatly superior numbers, surrounded the post. Lieutenant Pope, finding that he was running short of ammunition, sent back for further supplies. But the situation culminated before it could arrive, and in the hope of saving the position, this very gallant officer was seen to charge with his picquet into a superior force, by which it was overpowered.

By his sacrifice Lieutenant Pope not only inflicted heavy loss on the enemy, but obeyed his order to hold the position to the last. His body, together with those of most of his men, was found in close proximity to eighty enemy dead - a sure proof of the gallant resistance which had been made.

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The above has been promulgated in Commonwealth of Australia Gazette, No. 169 of 4th October, 1917.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs. E. M. Pope,  
1093 Hay Street,  
West Perth, W. A.

*R. W. Osborne* Major,  
Officer i/c Base Records.