

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

4351 Sergeant  
Perrin Hamilton  
Blackham

27th Battalion



0410105B

and intelligence  
information  
of character of person

BLACKWOOD.

B. Co.

1. Name of person  
2. Date of birth  
3. Place of birth

24th Batt. A.I.F.

4. Date of entry into service  
5. Date of discharge

7

6. Date of last  
7. Date of return

8. Name of person  
9. Name of person

PLEASE ALSO ANSWER

10. Name of person  
11. Name of person  
12. Name of person  
13. Name of person  
14. Name of person  
15. Name of person  
16. Name of person  
17. Name of person  
18. Name of person  
19. Name of person  
20. Name of person

Sgt. T. H. BLACKHAM. 4351

B. Co.

24th Batt. A.I.F.

D/W. 7.11.16.

QW.  
7.5.17.

3

STATEMENT OF

NAME	SURNAMES	Christian Name	Rank	Regt

INFORMATION

HOSPITAL

# HOSPITAL 4 London General Denmark

Fill in exactly as List	SURNAME.	Christian Name.	Regt.No.	Ran
	Chilton	J. R.	2619A.	Cp
	SURNAME	Christian Name.	Regt.No.	Ran
	Casey	J. A.	25-93	2 E

**NOTE.** In all cases fully what informant says he saw or heard and give DATE AND PLACE of occurrence.

3 saw Cpl Chilton killed at an advance trench, when the greens, and some of our men to bury them, had to leave next-day at daylight. Cpl Chilton heart and died immediately.

**PLEASE ALSO ANSWER**

1. Was Informant Eye-Witness? } yes	2. If not, of the
3. Was the ground held or lost? }	4. If Informant was de the bo
5. Did Informant know Christian Name, Initials or No. of man enquired about? }	6. Was the name
7. Give Informant's description of man enquired about—any nickname, marks, scars, etc. }	
8. Searcher's opinion of Informant's accuracy and intelligence }	Intelligent

27th Battn.,  
B. Section  
A.I.F.

Sgt. P.H. BLACKHAM, 4351.

Died of wounds on 7-11-16 at the 1st. Anzac Dressing Station,  
France.

Cert. by - Records, Horseferry Road.

"How long before he died".

London,  
18-1-17.

A.  
P.I.

27th Batt.  
A.I.F.,

BLACKHAM  
Sgt. P.H. 4351

"Died of Wounds 7.11.16"

Refer to Cpl. Green of the Batt. now in Ward B 28 Southall who carried  
him to the dressing station and can give further details.

Reference:- W.R. Hansford, 4441  
27th Batt. A.I.F.,  
Dartford,  
28.2.17.

Note: Written Cpl Green 15.3.17.

London  
16.3.17.  
L.F.J.

No Cpl Green of 27th Batt. known at Southall. 1 Green  
2nd Pioneers 1943 is the only one on records.

P.C.  
12.3.17.

A.  
P.I.

A. I. F. 27.

BLACKHAM, Sgt. P.H. 4351.

D/S. Novr. 7th. 1916.

After the engagement at Flers,  
my coppers (chums) Kinahan and Bartle, carried  
him in very badly wounded, and tried to bandage  
him. I heard later he had died.

Reference: Billington, J. 4379. O.XII, LOS,  
St. John's Hospital.

Staples.  
13.3.17.  
FJS.

Written by Bartle 20.3.17  
Kinahan

Havre

31st March, 1917.

27th AUSTRALIANS

BLACKHAM, Sgt. P.H. 4351

D/W. 7.11.16. Det. D/B.

He was in B Co., 7th or 8th platoon. He was hit by a  
bullet and died at the Dressing Station near Flers.  
He is buried at Beaumont.

Informant: Corpl. W.G. Buck, 5055  
27th Australians, B Co., 6th Pltn.  
H. S. Grantully Castle.

POP

A  
P.1

27th Batt.  
A.I.F.,

BLACKHAM  
Sgt. P.H. 4351

"Died of Wounds 7.11.16"

I happen to know the person of whom particulars are required, and I can say that I have personally seen his grave which is situated in a Soldier's cemetery called Dartmoor Cemetery alongside a village called Becordel. Description is hardly necessary as he was a chum of mine. Anything further you require about him I will be only too glad to let you know.

Cert. by letter from J.R. Bartle, Lieut.  
27th Batt. A.I.F.,  
France.  
8.4.17.

London  
23.4.17.

A.  
P.I.

27th A.I. F.

Blackham, Sgt. P. H. 4351.  
B. Coy.

(D/W Nov. 7th 1916.)

"I was in the advance with Sgt. Blackham. He was killed by machine gun bullet about 9 o'clock in the morning. He was buried in the Cemetery near Becourt about 10 miles from Pozieres, November 7th, 1916."

Eye-Witness: No; did not see him fall, told by  
Sgt. Lockwood, B. Coy. VIII Pl. 27th  
A.I.F.

Description? Very deep voice, fairly tall, dark, clean  
shaven.

Reference: Cpl. W. G. Buck, 5055,  
27th A.I.F. B. Coy. C Pl.  
3rd London General Hospital,  
Wandsworth.

22nd April, 1917.  
E. Duverniet.

*Written Sgt. Lockwood*  
7.5.17.

A  
P.I.

A.I.F.

BLACKHAM.  
Sgt. P.H. 4551.

27th. Battn.

Died of Wounds 7. 11.16.

I saw him taken wounded to a D/S along with Sgt. J. Galway  
Heard no more of him until a letter came to the Bn. (I think  
from Galway) in Jan. stating that Blackham had died in an  
English Hospital. I am quite certain of this. We were all  
in B. Co., I knew B. well.

Reference :-

Cpl. A.E. Wilkins, 481,  
26.4.17.  
(A good witness.)

London.  
4.5.17.  
L.P. J.

A. P. I.

A. I. F.  
27th Battn.

Blackham.  
Sgt. H. P. 4351.

"Died of Wounds 7.11.16."

Sgt. H. P. Blackham of 27th Battn. He was about 5 feet 9 inch in  
height, rather dark coloured hair, was a well developed and  
athletic looking man. I do not think his people would know my  
name as I only made the deceased acquaintance on the A.I.F. although  
I saw so much of him. I cannot state when he died for certain  
as I was in the trenches at the time but the particulars I gave  
you in my other letter re location of grave are correct. I am  
sending your letter to the Battn. to another officer who I knew  
to get any information such as you require and will forward same  
to you as soon as it is to hand,

*+ has I had  
heard he died  
at the dressing  
station*

Cert. by letter from :-  
O.C.

7th Training Battn. A.I.F.  
Rollestone Camp,  
Salisbury Plain.  
9.5.17.

London.  
14th.5.17.

A. P.I.

27th Battn.  
A. I. F.

Blackham.  
Sgt. P. H. 4351.  
4351

"Died of Wounds 7.11.16."

I was with this Sgt. Blackham on Nov. 5th 1916 when he went over the "Top" with his men at Butte de Warlencourt, just opposite Bapaume. At 9.30 a.m. he was slightly wounded in the legs by a shell but he still pushed on and got right up to German trenches. He was then wounded very badly, a bullet having passed through his neck. Pte. J. Keenahan 27th Battn. carried him on his back to the rear, after field treatment he was taken to the Hospital where he died on Nov 7th 1916. I saw him wounded and carried out of firing line, and know of his death from official reports, but do not know where he was buried. He spoke lightly of his own wounds, but showed great concern for his men in front line. He was about 5 feet 10 ins. well built, dark, 26-27 years. Was a Railway employee (a clerk I think) Came from Semaphore, S.A.

Witness:-

F. D. Wilson. 4355.  
27th Battn.

Perham Downs Camp.

A. R. McPhee.

London.  
23.5.17.

*Written for Semaphore 23.5.17*

*Written for Semaphore 15.5.17*

A.  
P.I.



27th Battn.  
A. I. F.

Blackham.  
Sgt. P.H. 4351.

"Died of Wounds 6.11.16."

re Sgt. P.H. Blackham, 8th Platoon, B.Coy. 27th Battn. I can say that I knew Sgt. Blackham fairly well during his tour of duty in my Coy. We attacked the enemy at 9.a.m. on the 5th of Nov. 1916 at - Sgt. Blackham left the "jumping off" trench at "Lero" (?) with the 2nd Wave. I saw no more of him, but afterwards ascertained that he had been wounded soon after he started. I gathered from some of the boys that he had been cleared by the bearers and had been evacuated to Hospital wounded, but to my regret afterwards learned that he died of wounds. Luckily when I received your letter I was within a few miles of the Station where he died and got permission to make inquiries and found that his grave is well kept among others by a special staff detailed for the purpose for which you have to thank the Administration of the Army generally. I enclose a rough sketch of the grave herein, but I can arrange with our Chaplain to have a photograph taken and sent on to you. The Grave is in a cemetery situated in a pretty little wooded valley near Becaudel.

Letter from:-

Sgt. J. Lockwood.  
France. 30.5.17.

27th Battn.  
A. I. F.

Blackham.  
Sgt. P. H. 4351.

"Died of Wounds 7.11.16."

This man was wounded by a fragment of shell in the attack at Fiers on Nov. 5th 1916. He was badly wounded in the spine, back and shoulders. He was lying out wounded all day and died shortly after he was brought in at night. I knew him well in S. Australia. I saw and spoke to him before he died. He was quite conscious. I do not know where he was buried, as I was taken away to a rest house the day he died. He was about 5'9" stout build, medium complexion 28 to 30 years. He came from Port Adelaide, S. Australia where he was a Railway Clerk.

Witness:-

A. Smylie 4519.  
27th Battn. (I.M.G.S.)  
Perham Downs Camp.

A. R. McPhee.

London.  
29.6.17.

A.  
P.I.

27th Battn.  
A. I. F.

Blackham. 3  
Sgt. P. H. 4251.

"Died of Wounds 6.11.16."

Sgt. P. H. Blackham was wounded on August 5th 1916 and was taken to Becourt Hospital where he died. He was buried in the soldier's cemetery in Becourt Wood which is about two miles from Albert.

Letter from:-  
Pte. M.M. Kinnane.  
France. 24.5.17.

London.  
29.6.17.

A.  
P.I.

27th Battn.  
A. I. F.

Blackham.  
Sgt. P. H. 4351.

"Died of Wounds 7.11.16."

This man and I were together during the attack at Flers Front on November 5th 1916. He was badly wounded in the arms and legs by shell fire. I assisted to bring him in. He died at dressing station two days after (7th Nov, 1916) I saw the body leaving Dressing Post for burial, but was relieved soon after and so cannot say where he was buried. He was about 5'8" dark, thick set, 26 - 28 years. From Semaphore, South Australia. Was formerly in Railway Dept. Head office.

Witness:-  
Sgt. J. Gallway. 3116.  
27th Battn.  
Perham Downs Camp.

A. R. McPhee.

London.  
29.6.17.

A.  
P.I.

27th Battn.  
A. I. F.

-2-

Blackham.  
Sgt. P.H. 4351.

With reference to the description of Sgt. Blackham, I only knew him for about 2 months and it is some time since I saw him, but I remember the most outstanding nature of his character generally more than his personal appearance. I should say he was about 5'8 $\frac{1}{2}$  high middling dark, good teeth, frank open expression, nicely spoken and of fair education. I recall his friendly manner to all and his ready smile above all.

Sgt. J. Lockwood

London.  
3.7.17.

A.  
P.I.

27th Battn  
AIF

"Note to Adelaide"

BLACKHAM  
Sgt. P.H. 4351

"Died of wounds 7.11.16"

Re our slip 16.3.17

We regret that we have never let you know that we received a message to the effect that "1943 Cpl. Green knows nothing of 4351 Sgt. P.H. Blackham 27th Battn"

A

London.  
12.1.18

ack  
FM 12/17

4357. Sgt P. H. BLACKHAM

27th Bn  
A.I.F.

France  
April 8th 1917.

DW 7.11.16

A.P. 3

The Secretary

Warred Missing Inquiry Dept

Australian Branch R.R.C.A.

London SW. 1.

Dear Miss Peakin,

In reply to your letter  
of 28th March // re late 4351 Sgt P. H. Blackham of 27th Bn.

I happen to know the person of whom  
particulars are required, and I can  
say that I have personally seen  
his grave which is situated in a  
soldiers cemetery, called Dartmoor Cemetery  
alongside a village called Beccordel.

Description is hardly necessary as  
he was a chum of mine.

Anything further you require about him  
I will be only too glad to let you know.

Yours faithfully,

J. R. Partridge

Lieut. 27th Bn.  
A.I.F.

1943 Cpl Green

2<sup>nd</sup> Pioneer, A.Y. 7

B. 2. 7

for 4351 Sgt P. H. Blackham

2<sup>nd</sup> Bn A.Y. 7

8/10. 7. 11. 16

X. 7

22. 3. 17

Pte Bartle

27th Bty A. 7.7

B. E. 7

for 4357 Sgt. P. M. Blackman

27th Bty A. 7.7

D/W. 7.11-16

Pto Hinahan

27th Btu. A.Y. 7

B.S. 7

for

4357 Spt. P. H. Blackham

27th Btu. A.Y. 7

D/W. 7. 11-16

Y. H.

21-3-7

Tel.: TIDWORTH 54.



J. H. M. A.F.  
HEADQUARTERS.

A. I. F. DEPOTS IN U.K.

BHURTPORE BARRACKS.

TIDWORTH.

4. 7. 17

Australian Red Cross Society  
54 Victoria St.

I am very grateful  
of your letter of 10<sup>th</sup> inst for which I  
am duly grateful.

Sgt Lockwood, in his report, mentions  
that he enclosed a sketch of my  
brother's grave (No 4351 - Sgt P. J. Blackham  
27<sup>th</sup> Bn.)

If you have this in your possession,  
I should be glad if you would forward  
it to me.

I should also be grateful if arrange-  
ments could be made through the



chaplain of the Regiment, for a  
photo, if possible. Of course I  
am ready & willing to defray any  
expense that may arise.

Referring to your previous memo -  
I was successful in getting a  
personal interview with the ~~the~~  
people mentioned in your letter &  
got some very valuable information  
thereby. I am indeed deeply  
indebted for the services you  
have rendered me in obtaining  
information that perhaps would  
never have been obtained had I  
not your assistance.

Again thanking you  
I am etc

Henry St. Lockhart

Staff Sergeant

Check  
5/13/77

4351. Sgt P. H. BLACKHAM  
27 Batt<sup>AF</sup>

DW 7.11.16

A. P. 1. 4

ack / m.

ADMS Office  
Shurtgore Bldg  
Lidworth  
Nills

RECEIVED  
9 JAN 1917

7. 1. 17

The Q. Branch

BRC Secy

Dear Sirs.

I am anxious to obtain particulars regarding the death of 4357 Sgt J. H. Blackham "B" Section 27 Lw H.I.F. who died of wounds on 1/11/16 at the 1st Arzac N.D.S. in France. "Records" at Horseferry Road can not give me any more information than this - in fact, they omit this. I would like to know, if possible, the nature of the wound & how long after receiving it that the death took place, & where it

burial took place. I trust  
that I am not asking you  
impossibilities, but the Serpents  
was my only brother & naturally,  
I am very anxious to get every  
scrap of information available.  
I would be very much obliged  
therefore if your inquiries  
could assist me in any way.  
Thanking you in anticipation

I am etc

Henry St L Blackham  
No 7117 Corporal

ack.  
19.1.17.



16th January 1917

The Secretary,  
Wounded and Missing  
Inquiry Bureau,  
L O N D O N.

Dear Madam,

Yesterday I received a letter from you addressed to the "Adjutant, 1st Anzac M. Dressing Station, B.E.F. inquiring for particulars concerning the death of No 4351 Sergeant P.H. Blackham, B. Section, 27th Battalion, A.I.F. on the 7th November 1916.

I am very sorry that I am unable to assist you in getting particulars concerning the death of this N.C.O but on looking through our books we find that he was not admitted to this station on or about that date.

Yours faithfully,

Major,

for O/C 1st A. C. C. S.

11th January

-7.

The Adjutant,  
1st Anzac H. Dressing Station.  
D. E. F.

Dear Sir,

We should be so grateful if you would give us any particulars in your power of the death and burial of No. 4351. Sgt. F. H. Blackham, B. Section 27th Battalion A.I.F. who died of wounds in your hospital 7.11.16. Could you tell us the nature of his wound, and how long it was before he died? We are so anxious to get all possible particulars for his only brother.

Apologising for troubling you.

Yours faithfully,

For Secretary.

EJ.W

19th January

-7.

Major V. V. Stacy.  
1st Australian Casualty.  
Clearing Station.  
France.

Dear Sir,

We are in receipt of your letter concerning 4351. Sgt.  
P. H. Blackham, 27th Battn. A.I.F. and thank you for your  
courteous reply.

Yours faithfully,

V. D.

Secretary.

27th March 1917.

No. 1117. Wpl. Henry H. Blackham,  
A.D.M.S. Office.  
Bhurtpore Barracks.  
Tidworth.

Dear Sir,

Referring to your inquiry for your brother No. 4351. Sgt. P.H. Blackham, 27th Battalion A.I.F. we regret to inform you that we have failed to trace his admission to the 1st Anzac H. Dressing Station, which is attached to the 1st Australian Casualty Clearing Station.

In the meantime our searchers have obtained <sup>an</sup> unofficial report about him from No. 4579. Pte. J. Billinton, 'St John's Hospital, France, who says that two of his friends carried in your brother after the engagement at Flers. He was very badly wounded and they tried to bandage him. Informant heard later that he had died.

We are pursuing our inquiries further in the hope of learning some details of his death and as soon as we receive information we shall advise you.

With sincere sympathy in your loss.

V. D. Yours faithfully,  
(MR.) Secretary



12th April 1917.

No. 1117. Cpl. Henry H. Blackham.  
A.D.H.S. Office.  
Bhurtpore Barracks.  
Tidworth.  
Salisbury Plains.

Dear Sir,

We are in receipt of a further unofficial report about your brother No. 4351. Sgt. P.H. Blackham, 27th Battn. A.I.F. which however, contains very little information.

Our informant says that he was hit by a bullet and died later at a dressing station near Flers, his burial taking place at Beaucourt.

We are still endeavouring to trace his admission to hospital and will advise you immediately this information is received.

Assuring you of our sincere sympathy.

Yours faithfully,

I.O.  
Secretary.  
L.A.W.

18th April 1917.

Lieut. J.E. Bartle,  
27th Austn. Inf. Bttn.  
B.E.F.

Dear Sir,

We have received your letter in answer to our enquiry for  
No. 4351. Sgt. P.H. Blackham, 27th Bttn.  
and would like to point out that the Society in asking specially for  
a description of each soldier enquired for, does so on behalf of the  
relatives in order that when the accounts gathered from various  
sources are sent to them each should have embodied in it sufficient  
descriptive points to enable them to be sure that the man about  
whom the informants are speaking is indeed the man about whom they  
are enquiring. Are you quite certain that Sgt. Blackham's people  
know he had a friend called Bartle?

We also specially wished to be able to send to our enquirers  
both in Adelaide and in England details of Sgt. Blackham's death  
and burial. It would seem from your description that the grave  
would be registered.

We have been informed that he died at a Dressing Station near  
Flers and would be glad if you could tell us definitely the name  
of the Dressing Station, or procure for us the necessary information  
concerning the nature of his wounds, how long after his admission  
it was before he died & what details of his burial you could gather

Yours faithfully,

Secretary.

V.P.

*John*

1st May 1917.

No. 1117. Cpl. H. H. Blackham,  
A.D.M.S. Office.  
Bhurtpore Barracks.  
Tidworth.  
Wilts.

Dear Sir,

We beg to inform you of a further unofficial report about  
No. 4351. Sgt. P. H. Blackham, 27th Battn. A.I.F. given in a  
letter from Lt. J.R. Bartle, 27th Battn.

Informant who on April 8th was in France, writes that  
he has seen Sgt. Blackham's grave in the soldier's Cemetery at  
Dartmoor near Becordel. He knew the soldier very well as they  
were friends. Unfortunately he gives no personal description and  
no details of Sgt. Blackham's death and we have written to him for  
fuller details.

On hearing from him we shall again communicate with you  
and in the meantime we are pursuing our inquiries in the hope of  
xx learning the place of Sgt. Blackham's death.

Assuring you of our sincere sympathy.

Yours faithfully,

V.S.  
Secretary.  
K.A.V.

May 9<sup>th</sup>

No. 1117 Cpl. Henry H. Blackham.  
A.D.M.S. Office  
Bhurtpore Barracks  
Tidworth, Hants. *Chick*

Dear Sir,

Another unofficial report is to hand about the death of ~~your~~ brother No. 4551 Sgt. P.H. Blackham 27th Btn. A.I.F. this time from No. 5055 Cpl. W.G. Buck who was a patient in the 3rd London General Hospital, Wandsworth. He says that he was killed by a machine gun bullet about 9 a.m. on Nov. 7th during the advance. His burial took place in the Cemetery near Bécoult about 10 miles from Pozieres. He describes your brother as fairly well built, dark and clean shaven with a very deep voice.

Trusting that these further details will be of use,

Yours faithfully,

V.D.

Secretary.

A.A.W

ack  
FM. 11. 617



7th Training Battalion  
A. I. F.  
Roxton Camp  
Salisbury, South Australia  
May 9th 1917.

The Secretary,  
Headquarters, Shipping Bureau  
Australian Red Cross Society.

Dear Madam,  
I received your letter of 18th April which I regret to say was delayed in France, and I write what you say. As far as description of the late Sgt H P Blackham of 27th Bn. He was about 5 feet 7 inches in height, rather dark colored hair, had a well developed and athletic looking man. I do not think his people would know his name as I only made the deceased acquaintance in the A.I.F. although I saw so much of him. I cannot state where he died for certain as I was in the trenches at the time but I had heard he died at the field.



discrepancy. I gave you the  
particulars. I gave you the  
other letter re location of grave  
are correct.

am sending your letter  
to the Director, to another officer  
who I know, to get any information  
such as you require and will  
forward same to you as soon  
as it is to hand.

Yours faithfully  
J. R. Blackham  
Capt.

4351

P.H.  
Sgt H. P. BLACKHAM

DW. 7.11.16

27 Batt AIF

A.P. 3

14.5.17

Lieut. J.R. Bartle  
27 Battn. A.I.F.  
7th Training Battn.  
Rollestone Camp  
Salisbury Plain.

Dear Sir,

We have to thank you very much for your letter of the 9th in answer to ours concerning 4351 Sgt. <sup>P.H.</sup> H.P. Blackham 27 Battn. A.I.F.

The description you have sent will be of much assistance, and we thank you for forwarding our letter to a brother officer of the unit to obtain, if possible, further information. We shall be very pleased to receive this, as Sgt. Blackham's brother recently called upon us to enquire if anything further had come to light concerning his brother's death and burial, and we shall be very pleased to transmit further details if possible.

Yours faithfully

V.D.

Secretary

*Sh.*





ACK 4.6.17  
FM

but no card

May - 30. 17

4351. Sg P. H. BLACKHAM

DW. 6.11.16 27 BATT

Madam,

In reply to yours dated 7-5-17. inquiring for information  
re, Sg P. H. Blackham & platoon B Coy 27th Batt.

I can say that I knew Sg Blackham fairly well  
during his tour of duty in my Coy.

We attacked the Enemy at 9 am on the 5th of Nov 1916  
at ——— Sg Blackham left the "jumping off" trench at "zero"  
with the 2nd Wave. I saw no more of him, but afterwards  
ascertained that he had been wounded soon after he started.  
I gathered from some of the Boys that he had been cleared by  
the "Bearers" & had been evacuated to Hospital wounded, but  
to my regret afterwards learned that he died of wounds.

● Luckily when I received your letter I was within a few miles  
of the "Station" where he died & got permission to make inquiries  
& found that his grave is well kept among others by a special  
Staff detailed for the purpose for which you have to thank  
the Administration of the Army generally

I inclose a rough sketch of the Grave herein, but I can  
arrange with our Chaplain to have a photograph taken &  
send on to you. The Grave lies in a Cemetery situated in a  
pretty little wooded valley near "Beaumont"

In reference to the description  
of Sergt Blackham I only knew him  
about 2 months & it is some  
time since I saw him but I  
remember the most outstanding  
nature of his character generally  
more than his personal appearance.  
I should say he was about 5'8" high,  
middle aged, good teeth, frank  
open expression, nicely spoken  
& of fair education. I recall his  
friendly manner to all, & his  
ready smile above all.

I hope you get this letter but  
never? I come to England I  
shall call & give any further info  
in my power.

Yours Sincerely  
Hockwood Sergt

3204 Sergt. J. Lockwood

B. Comy. 27<sup>th</sup> Batt.

Australian Imperial Forces.

France

May 30th, 1917.

No. 1117 Col. H.E. Blackman,  
A.D.M.S. Office,  
Bhurstpore Barracks,  
Tidworth, Wilts.

Dear Sir,

We have received from No. 4365 Pte F.D. Wilson, 27th Bn., A.I.F., an unofficial account of the death of No. 4351 Sgt. H.E. Blackman, 27th Bn. A.I.F., and we beg to advise you of the same.

He says that on Nov. 5th, 1916, he was with the Sgt. when he went over the parapet with his men at the Butte de Warlencourt opposite Bapaume. Although slightly wounded he pushed on to the German trenches, where he was again wounded very badly in the neck. He was carried to the rear where he received field treatment, and from there he went on to hospital, where he died on Nov. 7th. Informant saw him being carried off the field, and he knows nothing as to where he was sent to hospital. He says that he spoke lightly of his own wounds, and showed great concern for his men in the front line. He was 5 ft. 10 ins. in height, well built, dark and 26 or 27 years of age. He came from Semaphore, South Australia, and before the war was a railway clerk.

We are making further enquiries at Head Quarters, who may be able to give us the hospital in which he died, and as soon as we hear this, or any other information we shall immediately communicate with you.

Assuring you of our sincere sympathy -  
Yours faithfully,

V.D. L.H.W.

A.I.F

7th June 1917.

Sgt J. Lockwood,  
27th Aust: Inf: Btn:  
B.E.F.

Dear Sir,

We have to thank you very much for your letter of May 30th in answer to our enquiry concerning - 4351 Sgt P.H. Blackham, 27th Battn, A.I.F.. The clear and detailed information you have sent will be of great assistance and we thank you very much for the sketch of his grave, which you enclosed. This we will forward to his people with the details you have sent and we know they will be succeedingly grateful for this memento.

There is no need to trouble you in the matter of the photograph, which we imagine you would find very difficult to obtain. We merely enquire for the grave location as exactly as possible in order to save the Graves Registration Units something of the enormous amount of work they have to deal with and we can lighten their work if when applying for the photograph of the grave, which the Graves Registration Units send to the Next of Kin, we can give them the location so nearly that there is no necessity

A.I.F

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for them to make a special search.

We trust your leave will not be long deferred and that you will be able to enjoy it in the lovely weather England is now experiencing.

With best wishes,

Yours faithfully,

Secretary

16th June 1917.

Pte M.M. Kinnance;  
27th Aust: Inf: Btn:  
B.E.F.

Dear Pte Kinnance,

Many thanks for your letter of May 28th in reply to our enquiries concerning - 4315 Sgt P.H. Blackham, 27th Btn. We are much obliged to you for the description you gave us, as to the location of his grave, which enables us to apply to the Graves Registration units for a photograph of his resting place to be sent to his Next of Kin.

With best wishes,

Yours faithfully,

Secretary.

V.D.  
Jlu.

July 6th. 1917.

1117 Cpl. H.H. Blackham,  
A.D.M.S. Offices  
Bhurtpore Barracks,  
TIDWORTH, WILTS.

Dear Cpl. Blackham,

We have received three more unofficial reports concerning your brother :-

4351 Sgt. P.H. BLACKHAM, 27th, Battn., A.I.F.  
from three men in his Unit. Pte. Kinnane writes that your brother was wounded on August 5th. 1916 and was taken to Becourt Hospital where he died. He was buried in the Soldier's Cemetery in Becourt Wood which is about 2 miles from Albert.

3116 Sgt. J. Halway. certifies he was with your brother during the attack at Fiers Fronts on Nov. 5th. when he was badly wounded in the arms and legs by shell fire. Informant helped to bring him in and says he died at the Dressing Station two days after, he himself saw the body leaving the Dressing Post for burial but was relieved soon after so cannot say where he was buried. He adds that Sgt. Blackham was about 5ft. 8" in height, dark tick set 26 or 28 yrs. and came from Semaphore, South Australia.



4519 Pte. A, Smylie states Sgt. Blackham was wounded by a fragment of shell in the attack at Fiers on Nov. 3rd. He was badly wounded in the spine, back and shoulders. Informant knew him well in South Australia and saw him and spoke to him before he died and says he was quite conscious. These reports are we fear of a very distressing nature but we feel you will nevertheless be glad to have them.

With our sincere sympathy,

Yours faithfully,

Secretary.

*Blue.*

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send you any other information that we receive.

Trusting that these details will be of some assistance  
to you.

Yours faithfully,

V. S.

Secretary.

L. A.

July 10th, 1917.

No 1117 Cpl. Henry H. Blackham,  
A.D.S.M. Office,  
Bhurt pore Barracks,  
Tidworth, Wilts.

Dear Sir,

We have received a letter from Sgt. Lockwood, of the  
same unit, about your brother,

No 4351 Sgt. P. H. BLACKHAM, 27th Battalion, A.I.F.

and we quote it verbatim. He wrote - "I knew Sgt. Blackham fairly well during his term of duty in my Coy. We attacked the enemy at 9 a.m. on the 5th of Nov. 1916 at -- Sgt. Blackham left the "jumping off" trench at "Lero" (?) with the 2nd Wave. I saw no more of him but afterwards ascertained that he had been wounded soon after he started. I gathered from some of the boys that he had been cleared by the bearers and had been evacuated to Hospital wounded, but to my regret afterwards learned that he died of wounds. Luckily when I received your letter I was within a few miles of the Station where he died and got permission to make inquiries and found that his grave is well kept among others by a special staff detailed for the purpose for which you have to thank the Administration of the Army generally. I enclose a rough sketch of the grave herein, but I can arrange with our Chaplain to have a photograph taken and sent on to you. The Grave is in a cemetery situated in a pretty little wooded valley near Becaudel. I only knew him for about 2 months and it is some time since I saw him, but I remember the most outstanding nature of his character generally more than his personal appearance. I should say he was about 5'8½" high, middling dark, good teeth, frank open expression, nicely spoken and of fair education. I recall his friendly manner to all and his ready smile above all."

We are making further inquiries about him and will

July 16th. 1917.

Staff Sgt. H.H. Blackham,  
A.D.H.S. Headquarters, A.I.F.,  
Bhurtpore Barracks,  
TIDWORTH.

Dear Sgt. Blackham,

We have to thank you for your letter of  
11th. in answer to ours concerning your brother:-

4351 Sgt. P.H. BLACKHAM, 27th. Batta., A.I.F.  
and very much regret that the sketch of your brother's grave  
was forwarded last <sup>mail</sup> ~~sent~~ to our Adelaide Bureau who first sent  
us a cabled enquiry for him, we presumed on behalf of the re-  
latives.

As regards the photograph of the graves  
of our men, the Graves Registration and Enquiries Dept. attached  
to the War Office provided for the taking of photographs in every  
case where it is possible to do so and a copy is sent to the  
Next-of-Kin only. We are in constant communication with this  
Dept. and our usual course is to send in an application with grave  
location and with the address if the Next-of-Kin attached and the  
Graves Registration Dept. forward this in due course to the Next-  
of -kin.

We are at present obtaining from A.I.F. Headquarters the address of the Next-of-Kin of your brother to be forwarded with our application and if you haven been registered as his Next-of-Kin, the photograph will be sent to yourself. If another relative in Adelaide is registered the photograph will be sent to Adelaide.

By Army regulations, the Graves Registration Society is the only one authorised to take photographs of the graves and private individuals are not permitted to take photographs.

Again regretting that we <sup>can</sup> not forward the pencil sketch to yourself.

With best wishes,

Yours faithfully,

Secretary.

V.D

Shu.