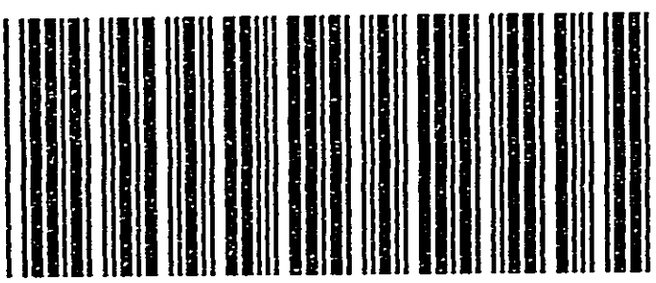
Australian Red Cross Society Wounded and Missing
Enquiry Bureau files, 1914-18 War
1DRL/0428

2575 Private
Stephen Grace

44th Battalion



12001015

Havre

11th Octr 1918.

Australians. 44.

Grace S.R No. 2575.

K. 4th July 1918. Det D/B.

I knew him well, he came from, I think, Freemantle, He was quite young, medium, fair, and was great at mobbing the ball. About the 4th July we were near Hamel, and attacked in the early morning. We had almost got to our objective when Grace was hit by a piece of shell which took off a part of his leg. I was a few yards off and saw it. The S/Bs took him to the D/Station, and I heard on enquiry that he died there. I knew nothing as to burial.

Inf:- Pte J.W.Flowers No. 3573.
A.I.F. 44. B. Vlll.
Austra. Conv. Depot.

CWSG.

PP.

44th. Battn. K. 4/7/18. Grace, S. 2575.

I saw Steve Grace(B Coy) hit by a shell while he was working his gun at Hamel. He had his right leg and left arm blown off; he was unconscious for about 20 mins and came round for about 5 minutes just before he died. I think he recognised Cpl Homewood but he did not speak. I saw his grave in a cemetary behind Hamel Church there was a cross on it.

44th. Battn. Silverlock H.N. Pte. 293.

A. 10. Dartford. 8/10/18.

R.D.B.

See letter from Cpl Homewood

44th Battn.
A.I.F.

GRACE
S. 2575

"Killed 4-7-18"

We were having a stunt in front of Hamel and had advanced 6000 yds. As we went through I stopped to dress Cpl.Lunn, and at this time I saw the dead body of Grace a yard or so away. He had been killed instantly by a shell, and had a leg blown off. Grace was in my Coy. and Pltn.

Informant. Hannay. J. 444
44th Battn. 7th. Pltn.,
SOUTHALL.

T.St.J.P.P.
London
15-10-18
J.E.A.

P.

44th Battn.
A.I.F.

GRACE.
S. 2575.

"Killed in Action 4-7-18"

Re 2575.Pte.S.R.Grace. 44th Battalion. A.I.F. On the morning of July 4th 1918. during the Battle of Hamel, Pte Grace and myself were standing in the open about 400 yards East of Hamel itself, when a shell exploded very close to me,but did not hurt me, and upon my looking around I discovered that Pte Grace and others had been hit, so I ~~xxxx~~ immediately ran over to him, and found that he had his right leg blown completely off and he was also hit in numerous other places, and I saw at once that his chance of life seemed very remote. We made him as comfortable as circumstances would permit, (he was unconscious all the while) I was then forced to leave him for the time being. About 10 or 15 minutes later I was forced to return to where he lay, to get a Lewis Gun, which he was carrying when hit. When I reached him, he was semi-conscious, but he did not recognise me. Before I returned to the trench I made what arrangements I could to have him carried down to the dressing station. That was the last I saw of him. Later in the day I enquired of one of our stretcher bearers how Pte Grace was getting on, and he said he has seen him carried out of the dressing station and placed amongst the dead. I am very sorry that I cannot give you the stretcher bearer's name. Another thing which convinces me more than ever that Pte Grace died of ~~xxxx~~ wounds was :- On coming out of the line on July 7th, I went to see

P

one of my friends, (who did not go in the line) and when I spoke to him, he got quite a shock, and he told me that I had been officially reported died of wounds. He also said that he even had the map reference of my grave near Hamel. Well, upon my making enquiries about the above report, I was told that a man had died of wounds at the dressing station, and the only identification they could find upon him, was an opened letter with my name and address upon it. I have since identified that letter, and as it is from a chum of both of us, I am almost certain that it was to Pte Grace that I gave the letter as he was a very near friend of mine. Also, upon my making enquiries at the Field Ambulance, I found th, it was a man answering Pte Grace's description, that had been mistaken for me. I will make further enquiries about the place where he was buried, but as far as I am aware, he was buried in Hamel Military Cemetery (Somme)

Letter from:- Cpl.J.McNewcod.1936.
44th Battn. A.I.F.
G.T.B.Warminster. 4-10-18.

London.
17-10-18.
J.E.A.

2.

Battn.
A.I.P.

GRACE.
S.R. 2575.

"Killed in Action 4-7-18"

He was of B.Company. On morning od 4th July beyond village of Hamel, during our attack, was hit by shell, leg blown off below the knee, and hit in back. I was about 10 yards off at the time. Was conscious up to time he died. Was taken to Dressing station where he died. Do not know if he left any message. Know nothing of burial. Christian name Stephen. Came from Western Australia - we came over in same reinforcements. 5th of 44th.

Informant:- Pte.K.D.Jones. 2593.
44th Battn. B.Coy. V Pl.
HAREFIELD.

A.D.G.
London.
8-11-18.
H.G.

P.

Havre

18th Septr 1918.

Australians. 44.

Grace S. 2575.

K. 4th July 1918. Det D/B.

A Coy. from Western Australian single. He was hit by a shell and he had both legs broken at Hamel in a trench about midday. He died on the way down to the D/Station, and was buried somewhere near the C.C.S. close to Hamel.

Inf:- Pte C.J Mottfen No. 2581.
5.I.F. 44. D.
H.S. 'Carrisbrooke Castle'.

RBS.

PP.

44th Bttn. A.I.F.

GRACE.
S. 2575

"Killed 4-7-18."

At Hamel Ridge, in front of it I saw his grave, With S. Grace" date on a board, 4th July, just a board up. It was near a Sunken Road S. Grace was in my Coy (B)

Informant - 272 Hart.
Ward 37. 1st Aust. Aux. Hpl.
Harefield.

D.P. Dickson.
London.
21-9-18.
HG.

P.

[illegible] Battn.
A. I. F.

G. C.
S. ~~2675~~ 2575

"Killed 4.7.17."

I was taking part in the attack on Hammel on July 4th. Grace was one of the party of Louis Gunners, and was in the first wave. A shell killed two of his companions and mortally wounded Grace, who died on arrival at the Dressing Station. He was buried close to the village of Hammel. I saw him taken away. The ground was held.

Eye Witness:- Yes.

Informant:- C.S.M. Quayle, W.H. 367.
44th Battn. B. Co. A.I.F.
Southwark Military.

C.T. Fowler.
London.
23.9.18.
H.G.

P.

44th Battn.
A.I.F.

GRACE.
S 2575

"Killed 4.7.18."

For information of Private S Grace refer to Captain W Lewis . Co. B Company, 44th Battalion A.I.F. France.
Note Written Captain Lewis. 19.9.18.

Informant:- Lieut. J.S.Everitt.
44th Battalion. A.I.F.
3rd. London General.

Home address.
Perth.
Australia.

Maud Hammond.
London.
24.9.18.
H.G.

P

GRACE.

44th Battn.
A.I.F.

S. 2575.

"Killed in Action 4?-7-18"

Grace was killed on left of Hamel-on-the-Somme. I saw him fall hit by shell and ~~they~~ very badly wounded. He was killed outright early in the morning of 4th July. The ground was held and he would be buried. This happened in our advance. He was from Guralia, West Australia. The ground was held.

Eye-Witness :- Yes.

Description:- About 26, Short, not married.

Home address:-

Interment:- Broxton.R.W.2052.Cpl.
44th Battn.B.Co. A.I.F.
(Welsh) HETLEY WAR HOSPITAL.

C.R.B.
London.
30-9-2 8
H.G.

P.

44th Battn.
A.I.F.

GRACE
S. 2575

"Killed 4-7-18"

He was in B.Coy. We were together in front of Hamel when a shell landed between us wounding him severely in the right leg and arm, while I was hit on the left side. We were in action at the time of casualty, which happened in the early morning of 4-7-18. He was taken to a dressing station by German prisoners S/Bs, and was semi-conscious. He spoke to Cpl. J.Homewood, 44th Battn., (now in Training Battn. in England,) so he may be able to give further information. I knew him well, and we were great friends. He came from Gwalia, W.Australia, and was a contractor. I cannot give any further information.

Informant. Lunt. Cpl.N. 906
B.Coy. 44th Battn.,
3rd A.A.H.,
DARTFORD.

W.Oman
London
7-10-18
J.E.A.

Note:- Written Cpl. Homewood. 1-10-18. P.

Ack. P.C. 7.10.18 [illegible]

2575
S. Grace
44th Bn
M in A. 4.7.18
P 2.

No 1936.
Cpl. J. Homewood.
44th Battn. A.I.F.
D.T.B. Warminster
Oct 4th 1918

Dear Madam.

In reference to your inquiry concerning.

No 2575. Pte S.R. Grace. B. Coy. 44th Battn. A.I.F.

On the morning of July 4th, 1918, during the Battle of Hamel, Pte Grace and myself were standing in the open about 400 yds east of Hamel itself, when a shell exploded very close to me, but did not hurt me, and upon my turning around I discovered that Pte Grace and others had been hit, so I immediately ran over to him, and found that he had ~~had~~ his right leg blown completely off, and he was also hit in numerous other places, and I saw at once the his chance of life seemed very remote, but ~~we~~ made his as comfortable as circumstances would permit, (he was unconcious all the while.) I was then forced to leave him for the time being. About 10 or 15 mins later I was forced to return to where he lay, to get a Lewis Gun, which he was carrying when hit, when I reached him he was semi-concious, but he did not recognise me, before I returned to the trench I made what arrangements I could to have him carried down to the dressing station, that was the last that I saw of him. Later in the day I inquired of one

of our Stretcher Bearers how Pte Grace was getting on, and he said that he had seen him carried out of the dressing station and placed amongst the dead, I am very sorry that I cannot give you the stretcher bearer's name. Another thing which convinces me more than ever that Pte Grace died of wounds was, On coming out of the line on July 4th I went to see one of my friends, (who did not go in the line.) and when I spoke to him he got quite a shock, and he told me that I had been officially reported died of wounds, he also said that he even had the map reference of my grave near Hamel, well upon my making inquiries about the above report, I was told that a man had died of wounds at the dressing station, and the only identification they could find upon him, was an opened letter with my name and address upon it, I have since identified that letter, and as it is from a chum of both of us, I am almost certain that it was to Pte Grace that I gave the letter, as he was a very near friend of mine. Also upon my making inquiries at the Field Ambulance. I found that it was a man answering Pte Grace's description, that had been mistaken for me. I will make further

inquiries about the place where he was buried, but as far as I am aware, he was buried in Hamel Military Cemetery (Somme). That is a much information as I am capable of giving at present, should I obtain any more, I will communicate at once.

I remain

yours truly,

Cpl. J. Homewood

P.T.O.