

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

Lieutenant
Albert Griggs

Australian Flying Corps



1220808L

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THE AMERICAN RED CROSS NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS WASHINGTON, D. C.

BUREAU OF COMMUNICATION
W. R. CASTLE, JR., DIRECTOR

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EX OFFICIO
WILLIAM HOWARD TAFT
ELIOT WADSWORTH

ack. 5.3.18

December 26, 1917.

ack. 11.18

Miss Joan Howard,
Wounded and Missing Department,
18 Carlton House Terrace, S. W.,
British Red Cross,
London, England.

My dear Miss Howard:

May I trouble you once again with the following inquiry? Miss Mary M. Griggs of 2316 22nd Street, Meridian Miss., wishes to know whether anything has been discovered concerning her brother, Albert Griggs, Jr., Lieutenant in the 68th Squadron of the Australian Flying Corps, who has been reported missing since November 23rd. For any information you can supply me in this matter, I shall be sincerely grateful.

Yours very truly,

W. R. Castle, Jr., Director.

By *R.S.R.*

LSE/VMS.

Telephone No.: REGENT 6151.
Telegrams: "NATIONALLY. CHARLES."

1 enclo.

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

ENQUIRY DEPARTMENT
FOR
WOUNDED AND MISSING,

March 2nd 1918.

18, Carlton House Terrace, S.W.

Dear Miss Deakin,

I beg to enclose a letter which we have had from Mr. Castle with regard to an Australian Officer. I notice his name is on your List of Enquiries, so possibly you may have some information; if so, will you kindly communicate direct with Mr. Castle.

Yours sincerely,

John Howard

Miss Deakin,
The Australian Red Cross,
36 Grosvenor Place,
S.W.

ALFRED BULL

3, PALMER STREET,
WESTMINSTER,
LONDON, S.W.1.

February 10th 1918.

Red Cross Society.

Prisoners of War Department.

36 Grosvenor Place. S.W.1.

Dear Sirs,

Lieut. Albert Griggs of 68th Squadron
Australian Flying Corps has been "missing"
from France since 23rd November 1917.

Is there any chance of your finding out
whether he is a prisoner of war or any
news of him?

I write on behalf of myself (an old friend
of his) and of his Father W. A. Griggs of
No 2318. 22nd Street Meridian Mississippi
U. S. A.

Yours faithfully,
Alfred Bull.

February 14th 1916.,

Alfred Bull Esq.,
5 Palmer Street.,
Westminster., S.W.1.

Dear Sir,

In answer to you enquiry about,

LIEUT ALBERT GRIGGS, 68th Squad: A.F.C.,

who is unofficially reported missing 23.11.17., we beg to inform you that up to the date we have received no further information and his name has not come through yet as a Prisoner of War.

Directly we get further information we will send it on to you.

Trusting we shall soon have definite news to forward.

Yours faithfully,

/s/ SECRETARY.,

6-75

E.G. Chadwick. Esq.
Chief of casualty Bureau.
American Red Cross
4 Place de la Concorde. PARIS.

Alfred Bull. Esq.
3 Palmer Street.
Westminster.

August 12th, 1918.

re Lt. ALBERT GRIGGS. 68th Squad. A.F.C.

Dear Sir.

We regret to inform you that the above officer who
was previously reported Missing is now reported killed in
Action on 23/11/17.

We are making further enquiries in the hope of learning
full details of his death and will send you any information that
we receive.

Regretting the distressing character of this news.

Yours faithfully,

(Miss)

L. W.
Secretary.

August 12th, 1918.

W.A. Griggs. Esq.
2318, 22nd Street.
Meridian, Mississippi.
United States. America.

re Lt. ALBERT GRIGGS. 69th Squad. A.F.C. A. .F.

Dear Sir.

We regret to inform you that the above officer who
was previously reported Missing is now reported Killed in
Action 23/11/17.

We are making further enquiries in the hope of learning
full details of his death and will send you immediately any
information that we receive.

Assuring you of our sincere sympathy in your loss.

Yours faithfully,

(Miss) *AW*

Secretary.

ISLANDS-11050311-1001

ALFRED BULL.

Middlegate.
Murray Road.
Northwood. Mddx.
~~3, PALMER STREET,~~
~~WESTMINSTER,~~
~~LONDON, S.W.~~

August 15th 1918.

The Secretary.

Wounded & Missing Enquiry Bureau.

Australian Red Cross Society.

36 Grosvenor Place. S.W.1.

Dear Madam,

re Lt. Albert Griggs. 68th Sqdn. A.F.C.

I thank you for your kind letter
of 12th inst. and am cabling the sad
news to Lt. Griggs' father at Meridian.

Miss. U.S.A. Yours faithfully,
Alfred Bull.

Kindly note change of address.

A.B.

P.C.
16.1.19
A.M. 4.3. 19

"Middlegate."
Murray Road.
Northwood. Middx.
January 16th 1919.

The Secretary.
Wounded & Missing Enquiry Bureau.
Australian Red Cross Society.
36 Grosvenor Place. S.W. 1.

Dear Madam,
re Lt. Albert Griggs. 68th Sqn. A.F.C.

With reference to your kind letter of
Aug. 12th 1918 Lt Griggs' father is very
anxious to know details of finding of
Court of Inquiry that determined that his
son was killed in action on Nov 23rd 1917
and in what part of France he was flying
when he failed to return and was first
reported missing. If you could give
me this information or tell me how I
could obtain it I should be greatly obliged

Yours faithfully,
Alfred Bull

P.S. Is it definitely known that all British
prisoners have been returned from Germany and
Switzerland?

A.B.

March 7th, 1919.

Alfred Bull, Esq.
Middlegate.
Murray Road.
Northwood.
Middlesex.

Dear Sir,

In reply to your letter of January 16th 1919, concerning Lieut. ALBERT GRIGGS. 68th Squad. A.F.C. We beg to inform you we have obtained the following report given by Captain R.C. Phillips "MC". "DFC" who stated that he was on patrol with Lieut. Griggs on 23.11.17. They were doing a low ground "strafe" over Bourlon Wood at the time and informant does not remember seeing him again.

We have also heard from Germany through the Geneva Red Cross that A"De Haveland 5" fell and was destroyed on 23.11.17 at the south corner of Bourlon Wood. A machine of this description occupied by Lieut. Griggs was reported Missing in this area on the same date. We understand all this information has been sent to Lieut. Griggs' father by A.I.F. Headquarters.

Lieut. Griggs' name has been placed on a list of missing men for personal investigation by our representative Capt. Mills who has gone to Switzerland for this purpose. Should we obtain any further particulars we would immediately advise you.

Yours faithfully,

(Miss) *Mrs Stanfield*
SECRETARY.

July.3rd.1919.

Alfred Bull Esq.
Middlegate.
Murray Road.
Northwood.
Middlesex.

Dear Sir,

With further reference to your enquiry for Lt. Albert Griggs.
68th Squad A.E.C., we beg to inform you that we have now received a report from our representative abroad, the result of whose enquiries only confirms the information sent you in our letter of March 7th. Captain Mills states that he received the following report which may refer to Lt. Griggs.

" On 23.11.17 A D.H.5 flying machine exploded at the South Corner of Bourlon Wood in the front line on the ground, but it was impossible to define anything about the machine or the occupants. "

He further informs us that the Burials Bureau is now enquiring for traces amongst the field hospitals which were near this portion of the front at the time. An endeavour is also being made by the "Inspection der Fliegertruppe" to get in touch with someone who was in the vicinity when the D.H.5 flying machine fell on 23.11.17.

An enquiry from Lieut. Griggs' father was referred to Captain Mills through the American Military Mission in Berlin, to which he supplied the above information.

We very much fear that there is little hope of our obtaining more definite information, but we will immediately advise you of any reports which may reach us.

Yours faithfully.

SL

(Miss.)

SECRETARY.

A.I.F. A.F.C.
68th Squad.

GRIGGS.
Lieut. Albert.

Searchings by the Australian Red Cross.

This Officer was according to report of 23.11.17 missed and later declared Killed in Action by a Court of Enquiry which sat to determine his fate

Now a report from Headquarters of the German Flying Corps in Charlottenburg has arrived by which it is reported that on 23.11.17 ein De Havill 5 by South Corner Bourlon Wald fell down and was destroyed.

Lieut. Griggs flew in one De Havill 5 No 9428 when he fell. We would be greatly obliged if you would cause further investigations to be made to ascertain further details with regard to the death and burial of this officer."

Cert. by Capt. C. Mills.

Britishches Rotes Kreuz.

24.3.19.

London.
1.7.19.

M & P.I.

A.P.O.
68th Squad.

GRIGGS.
Lient. Albert

Killed in Action 23.11.17.

Reference your letter R.B.B. 9982/5/1 of 5.3.19 asking that enquiries be made regarding this officer.

I attach copies of the correspondence to date.

The British Burials Buro is now enquiring for traces amongst the field hospitals which were near this portion of the Front at the time. An endeavour is also being made by the Inspektion der Fliegertruppe to get in touch with someone who was in the vicinity when this machine fell.

An enquiry from Lient. Griggs' father to the American Military Mission here has been referred to me. In reply, I have today supplied them with copies of the attached correspondence.

Cert. by Capt. C. Mills.

Australian Red Cross Society,
Berlin 12.6.19.

London.
1.7.19.

M & P.I.

A.I.P., A.P.C.
68th Squad.

GRIGGS.
Lieut. Albert.

To the enquiry of 24.3.19 the Inspection advises that, in the list here the following notice is contained which possibly might be referring to Lieut. Albert Griggs. On 23.11.17 a D.H.5. flying machine exploded ("zerschellt") at the South Corner of the Bourlon Wood in the front line on the ground. It was impossible to define anything about the machine or the occupants.

Cert. by Capt. C. Mills.
Australian Red Cross.
Prisoner of War Mission.
Berlin. 9.4.19.

London.
1.7.19.

M & P.I.

68th Squad.
A.F.C.

GRIEKS.
Lient. Albert.

"Missing 23-11-17"

I was on patrol with Lient Griggs on 23-11-17. We were doing a low ground strafe over Bourlon Wood. I last remember seeing Lient Griggs on 23-11-18 at 1,200 ft over N. end of the Wood.

Informant:- Capt. R C. Phillips. "M.C" "D.F.C".

Correspondence.
Copy.

434335./10/4.
CR/434355./10/4.

Comite International De la Croix Rouge.

Geneve.

To the Secretary.
Air Ministry.
London.

18-5-18.

Dear Sir,

We have received a communication from the Headquarters of the German Flying Corps at Charlottenberg, dated 7-5-18 to the effect that on the 23rd November 1917 a De Havilland 5 fell at the South corner of Bourlon Wood in the first line and was destroyed.

It was impossible to make any definite statement about the machine or the occupants.

68th Squad.
A.F.C.

GRIGGS.
Lient. Albert.

We do not know if you have any record of a machine of that type falling or being accounted for on that date. If so, we should be greatly obliged if you could inform us of the names of the occupants or any other particulars connected with the machine.

(Sgd) E.Long.

28088/18.
P 2 Cas.

Air Ministry, Strand.
W.C.2.
8-6-18.

Officer i/o Records.
A.F.C.

Horseferry Road.

I am directed to forward for your information and necessary action the attached copy of a letter received from the Comité International de la Croix Rouge.

I am to say that a De Havilland No 9348 was reported missing on the 23rd Nov 1917, over Bourlon Wood. The occupant of this machine was Lient. A. Griggs. A.F.C.

(Sgd) H. Atkinson, Clark Capt.

for Director of Air Personal Service.

68th Squad.
A.F.C.

GRIGGS.
Lieut. Albert.

On this evidence the Court considered the Correspondence referred to Lieut. A. Griggs. A.F.C. (Missing) and was of opinion that he was Killed in Action over Bourlon Wood 23-11-17.
Cert: by A.M.W.B. Searcher at Hqs 25-2-19.

London
6-3-19.

P I.

A.I.F. 68th Squad. A.F.C.
late 2nd Fly. Coy.

GRIGGS
Lt. Albert

"KILLED IN ACTION"

Killed in Action 23/11/17.

Previously reported Missing
Cert. by A.I.F. Hqrs 2/8/18.

London
7/8/18.

M
P.I.

28th Squad,
A. F. C.

Griggs,
Lt. Albert,

"Missing"

"Missing, any information 23.11.17."

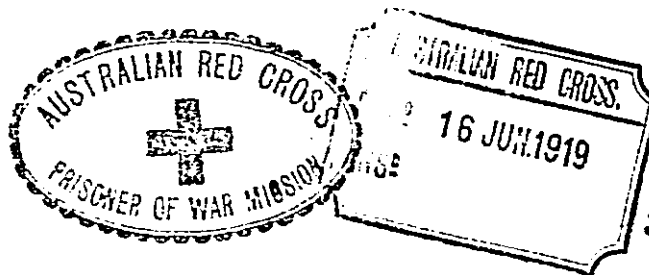
Missing 23.11.17

Cert, by A. I. F. Headquarters 30.11.17

London 30.11.17

P.I.

LW



BERLIN.

June 12th, 1919

O.I.C. RECORDS A.I.F.

LIEUT. ALBERT GRIGGS, 68th Squad. A.F.C.

Reference your letter RBB 9982/5/1 of 5.3.19 asking that enquiries be made regarding this officer.

I attach copies of the correspondence to date.

The Burials Bureau is now enquiring for traces amongst the field hospitals which were near this portion of the Front at the time.

An endeavour is also being made by the Inspection der Fliegertruppen to get in touch with someone who was in the vicinity when this machine fell.

An enquiry from Lieut. Griggs' father to the American Military Mission here has been referred to me. In reply, I have to-day supplied them with copies of the attached correspondence.

L. Mills. Captain
AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY BERLIN

Encl:



Searchings
Nachforschungen
by the Australian Red Cross
vom Australischen Roten Kreuz

Leut. Albert Griggs

68th Squad. A.F.C.

This officer was according to me of 23.11.17 missed
 Dieser Offizier war laut Bericht vom 23.11.17 vermisst
and later declared killed in action by a court of enquiry
 und später wurde von einem Ausschuss, welcher seinen Verbleib
which sat to determine the fate.
 festzustellen hatte, erklärt: "Während eines Gefechts; gefallen."
Now a report from Headquarters of the German
 Jetzt ist Nachricht von dem Hauptquartier des Deutschen
Flying Corps
 Flieger-Corps in Charlottenburg eingetroffen, wonach berichtet
reported that on 23.11.17
 wurde, dass am 23.11.17 ein De Havill 5 bei South Corner Bourlon
fell down and was destroyed
 Wald herunterfiel und vernichtet war.

flew one
 Leut. Griggs flog in einem De Havill 5 No. 9428 als er
he fell
 abstürzte.

We are greatly obliged to you and cause further
 Wir wären Ihnen zu grossem Dank verpflichtet, wenn Sie
investigations to be made to ascertain further details with
 Nachforschungen anstellen würden, um weitere Einzelheiten betr.
regarding the death and burial of this officer.
 Tod und Begräbnis des Offiziers in Erfahrung zu bringen.

C. Mills · Captain
 BRITISCHES ROTES KREUZ

24.5.19

Abschrift.

Inspektion der Fliegertruppen
No. 55/3. 19. Z.O. (Verluste)

Charlottenburg 5, den 29. März 1919

An das Kriegaministerium
Zentral-Nachweise-Büro

Berlin NW.7.
Dorotheenstr. 48

Zu dortiger Anfrage v. 24. 3. 19 teilt die Inspektion mit, dass in hiesiger Liste folgende Notiz enthalten ist, die möglicherweise für Ltn. Albert G r i g g s in Betracht kommt:
Am 23. 11. 17 zerschellte ein D.H. 5 Flugzeug an der Südostecke des Bourlon-Waldes in vorderster Linie am Boden. Es war unmöglich, über Flugzeug und Besatzung irgendwelche Feststellung zu machen.

Translation.

To the enquiry of 24. 3. 19. the Inspectbn advises that, in the list here the following notice is contained which possibly might be referring to Ltn. Albert G r i g g s .
On 23. 11. 17. a D.H. 5 flying machine exploded (zerschellte ^{*}) - at the South corner of the Bourlon-Wood in the front line on the ground. It was impossible to define anything about the machine or the occupants.

✕ zerschellte- blown to pieces
blew up
exploded.

B. Mills. Captain



Berlin. 9 4 19.