

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

894 Sergeant
Frank Gordon Grange

17th Battalion



1200512B

17th Bn
A.I.F.

GRANGE
Sgt. Gordon Frank 894

"Wounded 9.10.17."

Wounded and Missing 9.10.17. prev. reported woundee.

Cert. by A.I.F. HdQtrs 3.12.17.

P.I

London.
7.12.17.

17th Batn
A.I.F.

GRANGE
Sgt. Gordon Frank 894

"Wounded"-Whereabouts"

Wounded 9.10.17.

Cert. by A.I.F. HdQtrs 2.11.17.

No further report probably missing.

Cert. by Rouen letter 6.11.17.

London.
9.11.17.

P.I.

17th Battrn.
A.I.F.

Grange.
Sgt. G.B. 896
F

"Wounded & Missing 9.10.17"

I am afraid that I can do little towards determining the fate of Sgt. Grange although I am probably better informed about it than anyone else. Let me say at once that I did not see Sgt. Grange after the attack started and as all the other officers and all Sgts. except one were either killed or wounded early in the fight I had to found my report as best I could from the stories of the men who stated that they saw him. We attacked just before dawn on 9th October near Passchendaele and received rather a strenuous opposition from the enemy. Sgt. Grange was reported to be in a shell hole about 300 yards out in No Man's Land badly wounded in the leg but later crawled towards our lines where he was brought in, put on a stretcher and sent to the Regimental Aid Post about 1000 yards in rear. The Aid Post (dressing station) was under considerable shell fire being just in the fringe of the enemy's barrage and casualties are known to have occurred to already wounded men waiting there to be attended. Owing to difficulty in getting the

17th Battn.
A.I.F.

-2-

Grange.
Sgt. G.B. 894

stretchers away through the barrage the conditions became rather congested round the Aid Post especially as we ~~left~~ were receiving wounded men from the Manchesters and East Lances on left (66th Div. I fancy they were). Two of our Battalion runners saw and spoke with Sgt. Grange whilst he was lying on a stretcher near the Aid Post, one of them giving him a field dressing. The Aid Post has no record of having attended him and from here all trace of him seems to have disappeared. Several things may have happened to him. He may have been blown to pieces by a shell where he lay on the stretcher, he may have been picked up for carriage further to the rear and the whole party engulfed or he may have died or been killed on the way down and been just covered over in a shell hole by strange stretcher bearers without them obtaining his identity. These of course are only conjectures as we have nothing very substantial to go on but I should say that if within the next month the Red Cross people have no word that he is a prisoner, you must accept him as being dead. I at first had him posted as wounded because one generally considers a man safe who has got as far as a dressing station, in fact so satisfied was I that he was only wounded that I recommended him for, and he obtained, a military medal for some very gallant work which it was reported to me he had done early in the attack. I hope you will assure Sgt. Grange's people that no efforts have been spared by the 17th Battn in their efforts to clear up his fate, the slightest clues being

17th Battn.
A.I.F.

-3-

Grange
Sgt.G.E. 894

followed up in the hopes that they may tell us something. I personally felt the loss of Sgt.Grange very much as he was a fine type of man and being one of the older hands in the Battn. had a splendid effect in giving confidence in the newer arrivals. Regretting that I cannot give you a more hopeful outlook.

Letter from:- Lieut. Maynard to
17th Messrs Joyce Bros., Ltd.,
Manchester.
(One of our enquirers)

London.
5.4.18.

Off.M.
P.I.
Boulogne.

17th A.I.F.

Grange, Sgt.G.F. 894
E. Co.

(W. unoff. M. Oct. 9/17)

"I bound up Grange's wounds. He was missing between the Battalion and Brigade Dressing Stations. He was no doubt blown up by a shell."

Eye-witness:

Description:

Informant:- Lieut. A.S.Brown.

17th A.I.F.

3rd London General Hospital, Wandsworth

Jan /18
C.V.L

2 4/18

Evre.

10th. March. 1918.

17th. Australians.

Grange, Sergeant, G. F. 894.

W. S. M. 9th. October. 1917.

He was in C. Company, 9th. Platoon. I ^{Saw} ~~shall~~ Grange have both his legs broken by a shell at Ypres on October 9th. We had not time to look after him. I heard after that he crawled back two hundred yards and died; he was picked up and buried there. Grange was of medium build, about 5 feet 7, black hair; we called him "Granger".

Inf:- Sergeant. McClear. No. 1591.

17th. Australians.

C. Company. 10th. Pltn.

H. S. "Garrisbrooke Castle".

075.

1 copy.

P. I.
off M. Boul.

A.I.F. 17.

GRANGE, Sgt. G.F. 894.

W & M. Oct. 9th 1917.

Sgt. G.F. Grange was in C. Coy. and was acting Sergt. Maj. His number was about 894. He was fair clean shaven about 5 ft 8 and about 25 or 26 and single. I was told by Pte Hiddrie of C. Coy. IX Platoon that he had seen Sergt Grange crawling in to the Regimental Aid Post just behind our lines at Passchendaele about the 9th Oct. Hiddrie said that Sergt. Grange appeared to have a broken thigh. He spoke to him and Grange said he could get along all right. Enquiries were made if Grange ever reached the R.A.P. but no one heard whether he ever got there. We were being heavily shelled at the time and it is quite possible that he might have been killed.

Inf. L/Cpl. Thomas 1009 C. IX. Platoon
No 3, Can Gen Hosp.
BOULOGNE. 13. 3 18.

Of-M - AGL.

Boulogne

21. 12. 18.

with Pte. Hiddrie 20. 3. 18.

Havra.

5th. April. 1916.

17th. Australians.

Grange. Sergeant. M. O. F. 894.

W. & M. 9th. October. 1917.

He was in C. Company.
We were retiring at Langecourt on October 5th. when I saw Grange wounded - he fell. Soon after I saw some Germans come and take him off as a Prisoner of War. He was of medium height, fairly dark, clean-shaven.

Inf:- Private. F. J. Shalland. No. 2024.
17th. Australians.

C. Coy. 12th. Platoon.

No. 2. General Hospital. (Quail).

No trace p/w

CSS.

Off Missing P.I. B. 14th

17th Battn.
A.I.F.

Grange.
Sgt. Gordon Frank 894

"Wounded & Missing 9.10.17"

re Sgt. G.F. Grange. The last I saw of Sgt. Grange was in the attack on Passchendaele Ridge (Ypres) on the morning of the 10th Oct. 1917. He was in No. Man's Land with a bullet wound in the knee. We had to evacuate the position and were unable to get him out. It is my belief that he is a prisoner of war. He was a man of medium build, and height, sharp features, fair complexion and hair, and if I remember rightly he also had a gold tooth.

Letter from:- Pte. R.C. Widdrie,
France 7.4.18.

London.
16.4.18.

Note No trace P/W.

Off. M.
Boulogne-
P.I.

Hayze

17th A.I.F.

22th April 1918.

Grange Sargt. G.F. 874.

W/M 9th Octr 1917.

He was in C. Coy. He was badly wounded in both legs at Passchendaele and we brought him into the trench where I detailed four men to carry him down to the D/station. None of them were ever seen again alive. It is certain they were blown to pieces. This happened at 3 p.m.

Inf:- R.S.M. J.W. Raitt No. 1276.
17th A.I.F. H.Q.
H.S. 'St. David'.

RBS.

Recd
Pl. Co. 1918

A.I.F. 17th Btn

GORANGE
Sgt. Gordon Frank 894

"Wded & Missing"

Killed in action 9-10-17 - previously reported Wded & Missing
Cert. by A.I.F. Hqrs 8-5-18.

London
10-5-18

OFF. M. &
Boul: & P.I.

A.I.F.
17th Btn.

G.F.

GRANGE. Sgt.
894

K/A 9.10.17.

O of E 6312 held Barstieux 25.4.18.
6345 Pts. A. McNulty states- I know 894 Sgt. Grange. In the afternoon of 9.10.17 Sgt. Wheeler and myself went into a shell hole near Ypres Roulers Railway cutting and found Sgt. Grange. He was badly wounded in the leg - I saw him taken away in a stretcher and that is the last I saw of him.

(Sgd) A. McNulty.

Finding. The Court having considered all the evidence at its disposal proceeded to find as follows.

The mentioned Officers and men were killed in action on dates set opposite their names. Grange and 9 others.

I.T. Wright. 17th Btn. Capt.
President.

London.
5.5.19.

Off.M. & P.I.

A.I.F. 17th Battn.

GRANGE
Sgt Gordon Frank 894

Killed in action 19.10.17

Enlisted 26.2.15 - age 20 years 7 months.

From Hawthorn, Sydney.

Next of kin - Mother - Mrs M.E. Grange,

Tunbridge,

Balfour St,

Woolstoncroft,

N.S.W.

Court of Enquiry List 26.4.19

London
5.5.19

OFF.M.
P.I.

A.I.F. 17th Battn.

GRANGE
Sgt. Gordon
Frank 894

K/A 9/10/17

No trace in Germany
cert. by Capt. Mills 10/10/19

London
18/10/19

OFF.H.
P.I.

Statement made by Lieutenant Maynard C.R. 17th Batta.

G.F.

re No. 894 Sgt Grange F.C. 17th Batta.
and, and Missing 9.10.17.

On the morning of October 17th, No. 894 Sergeant Grange F.C. attacked with the 17th Batta near Combeke just before dawn. During the day he was observed crawling back to our lines and he was picked up put on a stretcher and sent to the R.A. Post, some 15000 yards in rear. He was then badly wounded in the leg. He was seen and spoken to by two of our Batta runners whilst he was lying on the stretcher outside the R.A.P. and one of the runners gave him half his field dressing. From then on he was not heard of and the Aid Post had no record of having attended him. The Aid Post was very congested that morning and was under heavy shell fire, with a result that casualties are known to have occurred to men already wounded and awaiting treatment. In making up my casualty return after the stunt I marked Grange "wounded", in view of his having been seen on a stretcher as far to the rear as the Aid P. Post, and I expected every day to hear that he was in Hospital somewhere. I can only conclude that he was killed (or died of his wounds) either at the dressing station or whilst being carried further to the rear, and that either his identifications papers were never taken from him or else whoever took them, himself became a casualty and so lost all record of Sgt Grange. I may say that I myself did not see Sgt Grange after the attack started and had to rely on the evidence of the men in the company.

Dated at Fovant this 16th day of April 1918. (SGD) C.R. Maynard

Statement made and signed before me

23 APR 1918 (SGD) P.J. Sullivan LT.

6370 L/Cpl. S.G. Grange,

C/o Mrs. Verralls, 32, Courtland
Avenue, Ilford, Essex.

13th May

8

Re 894 SGT. GORDON FRANK GRANGE, 17th Bttn. A.I.F.

Dear Sir,

We deeply regret to inform you that the above soldier who was previously reported Wounded & Missing is now reported Killed in Action 9-10-17.

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

Assuring you of our sincere sympathy in your loss.

Yours faithfully,

(Miss)

Law

SECRETARY.

23rd A.I.F.

Priestley. A. 2200.
C Coy.

(M22)

(D/F.) 6-1-18

"On Jan. 1st 1918 at Ploegsteert Pte. A. Priestley was on a machine gun, when a piece of high explosive shell hit him in the side, and made a large wound, he died as he got to the dressing station. He was buried at Prowse Point in a burial ground, a cross was put up with his name and number. Priestley's home address was: Finnatham, Gippsland, Victoria."

To witness: Yes, and went with him to dressing station.

Description: 22 or 23, tall and dark.

Informant: Pte. John Brown. 6462.
23rd A.I.F. C Coy.
West Suffolk General Hospital,
Bury St. Edmunds.

Home address:
Casterton,
Victoria, Australia.

29/4/18.

B. Hanson.

Sister M.E. Matthews,
3rd Australian Cas. Ctr. Stn,
B.P.F.

Messrs. Joyce Bros Ltd,
44, Sackville Street
Manchester

Miss Jones,

49, Plough Road, Clapham Junction
S.W.11.

13th May.
Re 894 Sgt. GORDON FRANK GRANGE, 17th Battalion, A.I.F.

8

Dear Madam,

We regret to inform you that the above soldier who was previously reported Wounded & Missing is now reported Killed in Action on 9-10-17.

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

Regretting the distressing character of this news.

Yours faithfully,

(Miss) LAW
SECRETARY.

Hayes.

1st. May. 1926.

49th. Australians.

(1926) Thompson. S. 3515.

2. September. 26th. 1927. Note. D.D.

He was in B. Company, and the 7th. Platoon. We were in the front line at Polygon Wood. Just after the attack on September 26th I was with him and we were both sniped. Thompson was hit in the head and killed. Myself in the shoulder. I saw him buried. I think it was this Thompson. He called him "Parkie". He had been a Jockey. He was dark, very small, slim, very popular, came from Victoria.

Infantry Private: S. Dodge. 3062.
49th. Australians. D. H. A.
H. B. "Parker".

072.

6370. L/cpl S. G. Grange
AUSTRALIAN
90 M^{rs} Verrall

32 Constance Ave
RED CROSS.

Ilford, Essex,
Nov 8th. 17.

Ans. 9.11.17

Dear Miss Deakin
May I ask you, through
the channel at your
disposal, to locate
or gain information
of 894 Sgt. J. C. GRANGE
17th Battalion
A. I. F.

As you will notice
Sgt. J. C. Grange is my
brother, and I am at

loss to gain his whereabouts
 the only information I
 have gained is that
 he was wounded on
 the 9th act, and being
 in hospital myself
 cannot ^{get report} I am extremely
 desirous of gaining
 if possible this
 information. Will
 You please address
 any words you may
 be successful
 in procuring to
 the address as

Shown at the head
of this note, as I am
nearly fit for our
hospital at Weymouth

Trusting you
will help me in
the matter

I am
Yours truly

6370 Lefe. S. G. Grange

Inst. 1000
Solic. M. H.

Unit

~~2/9/18~~

A. A. Inc.

Was 3rd. Aust. C. C. S.
but letter returned marked.
Dr A. S. H.

CC

Rel. in Gen. Comsp. under /
Inquiry for - 894 Sgt. G. F. Grange 17th Bn.

To no 2 A. G. H.

2.2.18

HP 376.18

Lawr.

Thomas

5190

L. R.

4th M. G. Co.



1.10.19.

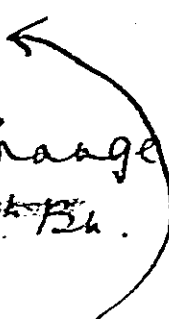
Final Draft to

Thos Joyce Bros. Ltd
44 Sackville St.
Manchester

O

about

894 Sgt J. F. Snange
~~17th Bn.~~



Miss Jones

48 Plough Rd

Chapman Junction
Sto II

The Australian Red Cross Society

(B.R.C.S.)

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

WOUNDED AND MISSING ENQUIRY BUREAU.

Enquiry No.

7331

Date

June 29-1918.

Regimental Details of
Soldier enquired about.

No. 2414,
Cpl. H. A. McCahon
12th Bn. Battalion.

Details of Casualty.

{ Wounded.

Information wanted.

{ Location / Condition



Information

Collected by P.O.
14-10-17



AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

894
Sgt Gordon Frank Grange
17th Battalion

W.M. 9.10.17 off M
Boul & P1

6

Col. Sec. 1090th Signaling Bureau

Dear Sirs

inquiring for information
concerning Sgt F. Grange
to hand

The last known of Sgt Grange
was in the attack on Passchendaele
Ridge (Flanders) on the morning of
the 10th October 1917. He was
in no-man's-land with a
bullet wound in the back.
We had to evacuate the position
& were unable to get him out.
It is my belief that he was
a prisoner of war. He was
a man of medium build.
Height, short features. P.T.O.



AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

fair complexion & hair & if
remember my little be also

had a gold tooth 1st

Hope that this information

may be of some value to you

Yours

P. L. M. 1/10/42

P. L. M. 1/10/42

Note No trace P/W.

P.T.O.

Inquiring for

~~Sgt~~ Sef Gordon Frank GRANGE
Grange.

W. 9.10.17¹⁷

(HQRs.)

Cancel
Card.

— Location + Condition wanted —

Inquirer

Miss Jones

48 Rye Road

Clapham Jc.

S.W.1

F.M.

31.10.17

THIS REFERENCE FILE BE

INQUIRY BUREAU, 39 BROAD STREET, BRISTOL.

2nd. SOUTHERN GENERAL

Cross Index No. 22793

NAME Upjohn George W. No. 2009 Rank Pte

(Surname first) 3rd A.I.F. Coy. B Plat. 8

Regiment Hospital Southmead Bristol Ward 9

Arrived 25.10.17 At Front from 11.16 To 10.17

Home Address c/o Mrs Upjohn Corsham Albert Road Strathfield Sidney N.S.W.

Depot

GIVES INFORMATION REGARDING:—

Missing man Glover G. Casualty? 11.7.17.

Regiment A.I.F. Battln. 34 Coy. B No. 440

Red Cross List dated October 1917 page 38a

Glover was in the same platoon as myself. He was killed going over the top in the attack on Messines. I saw him dead and we advanced to the attack and left him there in front of our trenches. On coming back after the capture of Messines we found that the place where Glover's body had been left had had a H.E. shell dropped on it believe blown to pieces.

November 13th, 1917.

Miss Jones,
48, Plough Rd,
Clapham Junction, S.W.11.

Dear Madam,

In further answer to your inquiry for

No 894 Sgt. G.F. GRANGE,
17th Battalion,
I.I.F.

we regret very much to inform you that he was wounded on
9.10.17, and there is no further report about him. It is
feared that he may prove to be missing.

We are making further inquiries in hopes of learning
definite news of his whereabouts and as soon as these are
received we shall advise you.

Yours faithfully,

LAW
SECRETARY.

6370. L/Cpl. S. G. Grange,
C/o. Mrs. Verralls,
32. Courtland Avenue,
Ilford, Essex,

13.11.17

Dear Sir,

With reference to your enquiry, for:-

894. Sgt. (Frank) Gordon^F Grange, 17th Battalion A.I.F.

We beg to inform you that the latest official record states him to have been wounded 9.10.17. There is no further report of his admittance to hospital and we learn from Rouen that there is some reason to believe that he is missing as well as wounded, though it is not yet officially reported. We have recently received an inquiry, from Sister M.H. Matthews, 3rd Aust Casualty Clearing Station, and she states in her letter that she was informed, Sgt Grange had been ~~Medand~~ taken prisoner on the Ypres front on 9th October. We have as yet received no word of him as a Prisoner of War in Germany, but there would hardly have been time for this information to come through, as six weeks is usually the least time that elapses between the date on which a man is posted missing and when his name appears on the German lists. We are doing our utmost to obtain news of your brother, and will advise you as soon as we succeed, if you will keep us posted in any change of your address.

Yours faithfully

SECRETARY

Wm Ryan



Miss Jones,
48, Plough Rd,
Clapham Junction,
S.W.14.

April 2nd, 1918.

Sister M.H. Matthews,
3rd Aust. Inf. Bn. Stn.,
B. H. F.

Dear Madam,

We regret to inform you that we have received another unofficial report respecting - 894 Sgt. F. GRANGE, 17th Batta, A.I.F., - which coincides with those already sent you and which confirms our fears as to his fate.

1009 L/Cpl. A. THOMAS, C. Coy, states that he was told by Pte. Hiddrie, of the same Coy that at Passchendaele on Oct. 9th 1917, he had seen Sgt. Grange making his way with difficulty to the Regimental Aid Post behind our lines, with a fractured thigh. He spoke to him and Sgt. Grange said he could get on all right. No one ever heard if he reached it, and as the shell fire was heavy at the time, it is very much feared that he was killed on the way.

We have written to Pte. Hiddrie and will advise you when we receive his reply as we realise how anxious you must be.

Regretting that we have only such sad news to send you.

Yours faithfully,

F. J. Geary SECRETARY.

Dec.12th.1917.

Miss Jones,
48 Plough Rd.,
Clapham Junction, S.W.1.

Re - 894 Sgt. Gordon Frank GRANGE - 17th Battn. A.I.F.

Dear Madam,

With reference to your inquiry for the above soldier who was previously reported Wounded we regret to inform you that he is now reported Wounded & Missing since 9.10.17.

Further inquiries are being made and we hope soon to send you detailed information.

Yours faithfully,

LW

Secretary.

Dec. 12th. 1917.

No. 6870 1/Cpl. E. G. Grange,
c/o Mrs. Verralls,
32 Court and Av.,
Ilford.

Re - Sgt. Gordon Brank GRANGE RMA - 17th Bn. A.I.F.

Dear Sir,

We regret to inform you that the above soldier who was previously reported Wounded is now officially reported Wounded & Missing since 8.10.17.

We are making further inquiries in the hope of obtaining more definite information as we fully realise your anxiety about him.

Assuring you of our sympathy,

Yours faithfully,

LAW

Secretary.

Letter from

Letter

Letter from direct Hayward

to Messrs Joyce Bros. Ltd.

Manchester

(One of our customers)

COPY.

TRIPPLICATE

5th Training Battalion,

Fovant, Wilts. 27/2/18.

Messrs. Joyce Bros. Ltd.,
MANCHESTER.

Dear Sirs,

SGT. GRANGE. G.F. 974

10/11/18.

14 Bally

off
P.L.
Boul.

I am afraid that I can do little towards determining the fate of Sgt. Grange although I am probably better informed about it than anyone else. Let me say at once that I did not see Sgt. Grange after the attack started and as all the other officers and all Sgts except one were either killed or wounded early in the fight, I had to found my report as best I could from the stories of the men who stated that they saw him.

We attacked just before dawn on 9th October near Passchendaele and received rather a strenuous opposition from the enemy. Sgt. Grange was reported to be in a shell hole about 300 yards out in no man's land badly wounded in the leg but later crawled towards our lines where he was brought in, put on a stretcher and sent to the Regimental Aid Post about 1500 yards in rear. The Aid Post (dressing station) was under considerable shell fire being just in the fringe of the enemy's barrage and casualties are known to have occurred to already wounded men waiting there to be attended. Owing to difficulty in getting the stretchers away through the barrage the conditions became rather congested round the Aid Post especially as we were receiving wounded men from the Manchester and East Lancs on left (66th Division I fancy they were). Two of our Battalion runners saw and spoke with Sgt. Grange whilst he was lying on a stretcher near the Aid Post, one of them giving him a field dressing. The Aid Post has no record of having attended him and from here all trace of him seems to have disappeared. Several things may have happened to him. He may have been blown to pieces by a shell where he lay on the stretcher, he may have been picked up for carriage further to the rear and the whole party engulfed or he may have died or been killed on the way down and been just covered over in a shell hole by strange stretcher bearers without then obtaining his identity. These of course are only conjectures as we have nothing very substantial to go on but I should say that if within the next month the Red Cross people have had no word that he is a prisoner, you must accept him as being dead. I at first had him posted wounded because one generally considers a man safe who has got as far as a dressing station, in fact so satisfied was I that he was only wounded that I recommended him for, and he obtained, a military medal for some very gallant work which it was reported to me he had done early in the attack.

- 2 -

I hope you will assure Sgt. Grange's people that no efforts have been spared by the 17th Battalion in their efforts to clear up his fate, the slightest clues being followed up in the hopes that they may tell us something.

I personally felt the loss of Sgt. Grange very much as he was a fine type of man and being one of the older hands in the Battalion had a splendid effect in giving confidence in the newer arrivals.

Regretting that I cannot give you a more hopeful outlook,

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) C. R. Maynard Lieutenant,

17th. Batt. A.I.F.

Attached 5th Training Batt. Fovant.

==

November 13th, 1917.

Sister M.H. Matthews,
3rd Australian Casualty Clearing Station,
B.E.F.

Dear Madam,

In further answer to your inquiry for

No 694 Sgt. G.F. GRANGE,
17th Battalion,
A.I.F.

We regret very much to inform you that he was wounded on
9.10.17, and there is no further report about him. It is
feared that he may prove to be missing.

We are making further inquiries in hopes of learning
definite news of his whereabouts and as soon as these are
received we shall advise you.

Yours faithfully,

LAW
SECRETARY.

6370 L/Cpl. S.G. Grange,
C/o Mrs. Verralls,
32, Courtland Avenue,
Ilford, Essex.

Messrs. Joyce Bros, Ltd,
44, Sackville St,
MANCHESTER.

28th March, 1918.

Dear Sir,

We regret to inform you that we have received another unofficial report respecting - 894 Sgt. G.F. GRANGE, 17th Battalion, A.I.F. - which coincides with those already sent you and which only confirms our fears as to his fate,

1909 L/Cpl. A. THOMAS, C.Coy, states that he was told by Pte. Hiddrie of the same Coy that at Passchendaele on Oct 9th 1917, he had seen Sgt. Grange making his way with difficulty to the Regimental Aid Post behind our lines, with a fractured thigh. He spoke to him and Sgt. Grange said he could get on all right. No one ever heard if he reached it, and as the shell fire was heavy at the time, it is very much feared that he was killed on the way."

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Regretting that we have only such sad news to send you.

Yours faithfully,

F. S. G.

SECRETARY.

JOYCE BROS. LTD.

Head Office:—SYDNEY, N.S.W.

BRISBANE.
MELBOURNE.
ADELAIDE.
FREMANTLE.
CHRISTCHURCH.
DUNEDIN.
AUCKLAND.

44, SACKVILLE STREET,

MANCHESTER, 3rd April 1918

PSP/HS

TELEPHONE No. 3923 CITY.

TELEGRAMS: "JOYCILLO, MANCHESTER."

CODES { BENTLEY'S.
WESTERN UNION.
A B C, 5TH EDITION.
A1.
LIEBES'S 5-LETTER.
PRIVATE.

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

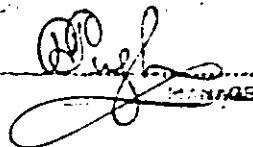
Dear Madam,

We beg to acknowledge and thank you for your kind letter of 28th ulto., regarding No. 894 Sgt. F. G. Grange, 17th Battalion A.I.F. and this corresponds with a report which we have also received from Lieut. Maynard, a copy of which we beg to enclose herewith. Having already cabled our fears to the friends of Sgt. Grange in Australia, we think it will be best now for us to do nothing further until they get this communication, which we have already posted. We shall also send a copy of your present remarks.

Thanking you for your courteous consideration,

We are,

Yours faithfully,

per pro JOYCE BROS. LTD.

MANAGER

JOYCE BROS. LTD.

Head Office:—SYDNEY, N.S.W.

BRISBANE.
MELBOURNE.
ADELAIDE.
FREMANTLE.
CHRISTCHURCH,
DUNEDIN.
AUCKLAND.

TELEPHONE No. 8929 CITY.

TELEGRAMS: "JOYCILLO, MANCHESTER."

CODES { BENTLEY'S.
WESTERN UNION.
A.S.C. 5TH EDITION.
A1.
LIEBER'S 5-LETTER.
PRIVATE.

44, SACKVILLE STREET,

PSP/HS

MANCHESTER, 31st January 1918

The Secretary,
Australian Red Cross Society,
38, Grosvenor Place,
LONDON, S. W. 1.

Dear Madam,

I beg to acknowledge and thank you for your favour of yesterday and regret to note the bad news regarding Sgt. R. G. Grange. I have made enquiries through a friend, who also confirms the report in another way. He says that Sgt. Grange had a fractured leg and he reached the Aid Post after much difficulty, but after that all trace of him is lost. Rumour has it that the dug out or shelter he was in was blown up.

Should you happen to get any further news, I shall esteem it a favour if you will kindly let me have the same.

I fear that it will be a great blow to his friends if our fears are finally confirmed. Meanwhile I beg to thank you for your sympathetic report.

Yours faithfully,

30th January 1918.

Messrs. Joyce Brothers,
44 Backville Street,
Manchester.

Dear Sirs,

We have received an unofficial report about Sgt. G.F. Grange 894-17th. Batt. which contains bad news, but we cannot vouch for its accuracy.

Lieut. A.S. Brown 17th. Batt. said "I bound up Grange's wounds. He was missing between the Batt. and Brigade D/Station. He was no doubt blown up by a shell."

We are sorry to send you such an unsatisfactory report, and are continuing our enquiries and hope to get more news.

Assuring you of our sympathy,

Yours faithfully

Secretary.

ARR

Written to M. S.

C. Company
North Command Depot
Hurdcoth.
Dec 10th

Dear Miss Deakin M. S.

At your convenience will you give me any information you have of 894 Sgt. S. G. GRANGE 17th Battr please. Unfortunately I have received the distressing news that my Brother has been reported missing and I have made enquiries from all the 17th bays in this depot but cannot get any news and my poor old folk will be craving for some news, So I am desirous for their sake especially our Mother that any news that you may obtain, will not reach her directly, but through our eldest brother who will make it as easy as he can for them all.

I quite realize you have only too many cases similar to ours but in my turn you will do what is within your power I know.

Yours Very Sincerely,
6370 L CPL Stewart Grange.

JOYCE BROS. LTD.

Head Office:—SYDNEY, N.S.W.

BRISBANE.
MELBOURNE.
ADELAIDE.
FREMANTLE.
CHRISTCHURCH.
DUNEDIN.
AUCKLAND.

TELEPHONE No. 3923 CITY.

TELEGRAMS: "JOYCILLO, MANCHESTER."

CODES { BENTLEY'S.
WESTERN UNION.
A B C, 5TH EDITION.
AT.
LIBER'S 5-LETTER.
PRIVATE.

44, SACKVILLE STREET,

PSP/HS

MANCHESTER, 22nd December 1917

The Secretary,
Australian Red Cross Society,
54, Victoria Street,
LONDON. S. W.

Dear Sir,

We have received a cablegram from Sydney, Australia
to the effect that

Sgt. N. Grange^F, No. 894,
17th C Company, A.I.F.

has been reported wounded and missing, and we shall esteem it
a favour if you can put us on the right track for enquiry with
regard to his whereabouts or any details as to his case, as our
Australian friends are anxious to receive information and we
should like to be able to communicate something to them.

Thanking you in anticipation,

We are,

Yours faithfully,

per pro JOYCE BROS. LTD.

[Signature]
MANAGER

Colonel Murdoch,
A.R.C.S.

10th April, 1918.

6370 L/Cpl. S.G. Grange,
C/o Mrs. Verralls,
32, Courtland Avenue,
Ilford, Essex.

Dear Sir,

We regret to inform you that we have received another
unofficial report respecting -

894 Sgt. GORDON P. GRANGE, 17th Battalion, A.I.F.
from Lt. Maynard of his Battalion, which we regret to say leaves
little hope of his being alive.

Lt. Maynard states :- "I am afraid that I can do little
towards determining the fate of Sgt. Grange although I am probably
better informed about it than anyone else. Let me say at once that
I did not see Sgt. Grange after the attack started and as all the
other officers and all Sgts except one were either killed or wounded
early in the fight, I had to found my report as best I could from
the stories of the men who stated that they saw him. He attacked
just before dawn on 9th October near Passchendaele and received
rather a strenuous opposition from the enemy. Sgt. Grange was
reported to be in a shell hole about 300 yards out in No Man's
Land badly wounded in the leg but later crawled towards our lines
where he was brought in, put on a stretcher and sent to the
Regimental Aid Post about 1000 yards in rear. The Aid Post (dressing
station) was under considerable shell fire being just in the fringe
of the enemy's barrage and casualties are known to have occurred to
already wounded men waiting there to be attended. Owing to
difficulty in getting the stretchers away through the barrage the
conditions became rather congested round the Aid Post especially
as we were receiving wounded men from the Lancasters and West Lancs
on left (66th Div. I fancy they were) Two of our Battalion runners
saw and spoke with Sgt. Grange whilst he was lying on a stretcher
near the Aid Post, one of them giving him a field dressing. The Aid
Post has no record of having attended him and from here all trace

"of him seems to have disappeared. Several things may have happened to him. He may have been killed instantaneously by a shell where he lay on the stretcher, he may have been picked up for carriage further to the rear and the whole party engulfed or he may have died or been killed on the way down and been just covered over in a shell hole by strange stretcher bearers without them obtaining his identity. These of course are only conjectures as we have nothing very substantial to go on but I should say that if within the next month the Red Cross people have no word that he is a prisoner, you must accept him as being dead. I at first had him posted as wounded because one generally considers a man safe who has got as far as a dressing station, in fact so satisfied was I that he was only wounded that I recommended him for, and he obtained, a military medal for some very gallant work which it was reported to me he had done early in the attack. I hope you will assure Sgt. Grange's people that no efforts have been spared by the 17th Battalion in their efforts to clear up his fate, the slightest clues being followed up in the hopes that they may tell us something. I personally felt the loss of Sgt. Grange very much as he was a fine type of man and being one of the older hands in the Battalion had a splendid effect in giving confidence in the newer arrivals.

Regretting that I cannot give you a more hopeful outlook."

With sincere regret that we have no better news to send and assuring you that as soon as further details are obtained we shall advise you.

Yours faithfully,

F. J. Geary
SECRETARY.

Miss Jones,
48, Flough Rd.,
Clapham Junction,
S.W.11.

10th April, 1918.

Sister M.E. Matthews,
3rd Aust. Cas. Clr. Stn.,
B.M.F.

Dear Madam,

We regret to inform you that we have received another
unofficial report respecting:-

~~2nd Sgt. GRANGE F. GRANGE~~, 12th Battalion, A.I.F.

from Lt. Maynard of his Battalion, which we regret to say leaves
little hope of his being alive.

Lt. Maynard states:- "I am afraid that I can do little
towards determining the fate of Sgt. Grange although I am probably
better informed about it than anyone else. Let me say at once
that I did not see Sgt. Grange after the attack started and as
all the other officers and all sgt. except one were either killed
or wounded early in the fight, I had to found my report as best
I could from the stories of the men who states that they saw him.
We attacked just before dawn on 9th October near Passchendaele
and received rather a strenuous opposition from the enemy.
Sgt. Grange was reported to be in a shell hole about 300 yards
out in No Man's Land badly wounded in the leg but later crawled
towards our lines where he was brought in, put on a stretcher and
sent to the Regimental Aid Post about 1000 yards in rear. The Aid
post (dressin. station) was under considerable shell fire being
just in the fringe of the enemy's barrage and casualties are known
to have occurred to already wounded men waiting there to be attended.
Owing to difficulty in getting the stretchers away through the
barrage the conditions became rather congested round the Aid Post
especially as we were receiving wounded men from the Manchester
and East Lancs on left (66th Div. I fancy they were) Two of our
Battalion runners saw and spoke with Sgt. Grange whilst he was
lying on a stretcher near the Aid post, one of them giving him a
field dressing. The Aid post has no record of having attended
him and from here all trace of him seems to have disappeared. Several
things may have happened to him. He may have been killed instantaneously
by a shell where he lay on the stretcher, he may have been picked

"up for carriage further to the rear and the whole party engulfed or he may have died or been killed on the way down and been just covered over in a shell hole by strange stretcher bearers without them obtaining his identity. These of course are only conjectures as we have nothing very substantial to go on but I should say that if within the next month the Red Cross people have no word that he is a prisoner you must accept him as being dead. I at first had him posted as wounded because one generally considers a man safe who has got as far as a dressing station, in fact so satisfied was I that he was only wounded that I recommended him for, and he obtained a Military Medal for some very gallant work which it was reported to me he had done early in the attack. I hope you will assure Sgt. Grange's people that no efforts have been spared by the 17th Battalion in their efforts to clear up his fate, the slightest clues being followed up in the hopes that they may tell us something. I personally felt the loss of Sgt. Grange very much as he was a fine type of man and being one of the older hands in the Battalion had a splendid effect in giving confidence in the newer arrivals. Regretting that I cannot give you a more hopeful outlook."

With sincere regret that we have no better news to send and assuring you that as soon as further details are obtained we shall advise you.

Yours faithfully,

F. J. George

SECRET.

6370 L/Cpl. S.G. Grange,
C/o Mrs. Verralls, 32, Courtland Avenue,
Ilford, Essex.

Sister M.H. Mathews,
3rd Australian Casualty Clearing Stn,
B.M.F.

Miss Jones,
48, Plough Road,
Clapham Junction,
S.W.11.

Messrs. Joyce Bros. Ltd,
44, Sackville St,
Manchester.

9th May, 1918.

With further reference to your enquiry for -

894 Sgt. G.P. GRANGE, 17th Battalion, A.I.F.

who is officially reported wounded and missing on 9-10-17. We regret to inform you of an unofficial report we have received about him which unfortunately only confirms those already sent you.

1276 J.S. Hutt of the 17th Bn. A.I.F. writes that Sgt. Grange was badly wounded in both legs at Passchendaele and was brought into the trench. He detailed 4 men to carry him to the dressing station, but as unfortunately none of the men were seen again it must be presumed that they were killed instantaneously by a shell before reaching the Hospital.

This supposition ^{was} confirmed by Lt. C.H. Hayward when at Pevant Camp - 11th on 16-4-18. He stated "on the morning of Oct 17th, 894 Sgt. G.P. Grange, attacked with the 17th Bn, near Combeke, just before dawn. During the day he was observed making his way back to our lines and he was picked up, put on a stretcher and sent to the ^{aid post} ~~Regimental Aid Post~~ ^{where he was} ~~aid post~~ ^{he was seen and} spoken to by 2 of our Bn runners whilst he was lying on the stretcher outside the A.I.F. and one of the runners gave him half his field dressing. From then on he was not heard of, and the Aid Post had no record of having attended him. The Aid Post was very congested that morning and was under heavy shell fire, with a result that casualties are known to have occurred to men already wounded and awaiting treatment. In making up my casualty return after the stunt I marked Grange wounded, in view of his having been seen on a stretcher as far to the rear as the Aid Post, and I expected every day to hear he was in Hospital somewhere. I can only conclude that he was killed or died of his wounds, either at the dressing

He was wounded in the leg.

"station or whilst being carried further to the rear, and that either his identification papers were taken from him or were never taken from him or else whoever took them, himself became a casualty and so lost all record of Sgt. Grange. I may say that I myself did not see Sgt. Grange after the attack started, and had to rely on the evidence of the men in the Coy."

Regretting the sad nature of this information which we fear leaves little hope of his being alive.

Yours faithfully,

(Miss) *VB*.

SPENCER.

W.S.

Sister M.H. Matthews,
3rd Australian Casualty Clearing Station,
Australian Imperial Force,
B.E.F.

6370 L/Cpl. S.G. Grange,
c/o Mrs Verralls,
32, Courtland Avenue,
Ilford, Essex.

Miss Jones,
48, Plough Road,
Clapham Junction,
S.W.11.

18th April, 1918.

Joyce Bros. Ltd.,
44, Sackville Street,
Manchester.

Dear Sirs,

With reference to your enquiry concerning:

891 Sgt. Gordon Frank Grange, 17th Battn. A.I.F.

we have received the following unofficial reports, which, we regret are somewhat conflicting in evidence, and for which we can accept no responsibility.

2024 Pte. W.J. Shalland, of the same unit, states that he knew;

"Sgt. Grange, who was in C. Coy., and when our troops were retiring at Lagnicourt on Oct. 9th, he saw him fall wounded, and soon afterwards some Germans came, and removed him, so informant thinks that he must have been taken as a Prisoner of War".

Pte. R.C. Hiddrie, of the same Battn. states;

"That the last he saw of Sgt. Grange was in the attack on Passchendaele Ridge, Ypres, in Oct. 1917. He was then in "No Man's Land", with a bullet wound in the knee. Our troops were forced to evacuate the position, and they were unable to remove him. Informant describes Sgt. Grange as being a man of medium build and height, with sharp features, and a fair complexion".

1591 Sgt. McCleer, 17th Battn. A.I.F. states that;

"He saw Sgt. Grange after he had been wounded in the legs at Ypres on Oct. 9th. There was no time to look after him, and informant heard afterwards that he crawled back about 200 yards, and then died, and that he was picked up and buried there".

As so long a time has elapsed since the casualty occurred,
we are afraid that there is no possibility of Sgt. Grango being
a Prisoner of War in Germany, but we shall inform you immediately
we receive
should any further details concerning his ultimate fate, although
there seems little hope of his being alive.

Yours faithfully,

(Miss)

(K)
SECRETARY.

29th June, 1918.

Sister A. H. Mathews,
2nd Australian General Hospital,
France.

Dear Madam,

With further reference to your enquiry for
894 Sgt. G. E. Grange, 17th Infantry Batt. A. I. F. who is
officially reported wounded and missing on 9.10.17, we
regret to inform you of an unofficial report we have
received about him which unfortunately only confirms those
already sent you.

1276 J. W. Reitt of the 17th Infantry Batt. A. I. F.
writes that Sgt. Grange was badly wounded in both legs at
Passchendaele and was brought into the trench. He detailed
4 men to carry him to the Dressing Station, but as
unfortunately none of the men were seen again, it must be
presumed that they were killed instantaneously by a shell
reaching the hospital.

This supposition was confirmed by Lt. C. E. Maynard
when at Forward Camp Mills on 10.10.18. He states "On the
morning of Oct. 17th. 89. Sgt. G. E. Grange, attached with the
17th Infantry Batt. near Sonnebeke, just before dawn.
During the day he was observed making his way back to our
lines and he was picked up, put on a stretcher and sent to the

Regimental Aid Post some 1500 yds. in the rear he was then badly wounded in the leg. He was seen and spoken to by 2 of our Batt. runners whilst he was lying on the stretcher outside the R.A.P. and one of the runners gave him half his field dressing. From then on he was not heard of, and the Aid Post had no record of having attended him. The Aid Post was very congested that morning and was under heavy shell fire, with a result that casualties are known to have occurred to men already wounded and awaiting treatment. In making up my casualty return after the stunt I marked Grange wounded, in view of his having been seen on a stretcher as far to the rear as the Aid Post, and I expected every day to hear he was in hospital somewhere. I can only conclude that he was killed or died of wounds, either at the dressing station or whilst being carried further to the rear, and that either his identification papers were never taken from him or else whoever took them, himself became a casualty and so lost all record of Sgt. Grange. I may say that I myself did not see Sgt. Grange after the attack started, and had to rely on the evidence of the men in the Coy."

Regretting the sad nature of this information which we fear leaves little hope of his being alive.

Yours faithfully,

(Miss)

Secretary.

D.S.

P.S. This letter was sent to you on 9.6.18. to the 3rd Australian Casualty Clearing Station, has been returned to us and we have only just learned your present address.

JOYCE BROS. LTD.

Head Office:—SYDNEY, N.S.W.

BRISBANE.
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AUCKLAND.

PSP/ES

44, SACKVILLE STREET,

MANCHESTER, 20th April 1918

TELEPHONE No. 3923 CITY.

TELEGRAMS: "JOYCILLO, MANCHESTER."

CODES { BENTLEY'S.
WESTERN UNION.
A B C. 5TH EDITION.
AT.
LIEBEN'S 5-LETTER.
PRIVATE.

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

Dear Madam,

We beg to acknowledge and thank you for your
favour of 18th inst, giving the latest unofficial reports
which you have concerning Sgt. Grange. ^{Sgt} It appears to us,
from information already received and coupled with this,
that there is very little hope indeed of every seeing him
again. His brother, who is also in the Army, has been of
that impression for some time and has already written to
his friends accordingly. Meanwhile we beg to thank you
on their behalf for all the trouble you have gone to in
connection with the matter.

Yours faithfully,

per pro JOYCE BROS. LTD.

[Signature]
MANAGER

2nd General Hospital

T.S.E.F.

1. 5. 18.

Dear Miss Weakie,

For some time

past I have wished to write & thank

you for all you have done in
connection with ^{Sgt Gordon Hawk} Gordon. ^{Sgt. Grange}

17th Battalion, we appreciate
your good work very much indeed.

It is such a comfort to the
anxious ones at home to know
the good work the Red Cross
is doing over here amongst

the missing & wounded.

Your letter re #3449 Private Fitzgerald
47th Battalion was handed on
to me to answer - being an
Australian. He was in my
ward and it was my privilege
to care for him, I have already
written to his mother, both
before his death and after
telling all I could, do you
think that will be sufficient
or would you rather I set
an account to you. Only of
course it is not near so
4 GHP

fresh in my mind as before
unfortunately we have had
rather a bad time in the
hospital as at other places in
France and England too.

Wishing you every success in
your good work.

Yours sincerely

Nabel Matthews.

P.S.

The padre who attended the
faddie has also written to his
mother.

JOYCE BROS. LTD.

Head Office:—SYDNEY, N.S.W.

BRISBANE.
MELBOURNE.
ADELAIDE.
FREMANTLE.
CHRISTCHURCH.
DUNEDIN.
AUCKLAND.

TELEPHONE No. 2923 CITY.

TELEGRAMS: "JOYCILLO, MANCHESTER."

CODES { BENTLEY'S.
WESTERN UNION,
A B C, 5TH EDITION.
AT.
LIEBOW'S 5-LETTER.
PRIVATE.

44, SACKVILLE STREET,

PSP/ES

MANCHESTER, 15th May 1918

The Secretary,
Wounded & Missing Enquiry Bureau,
Australian Red Cross Society,
36, Grosvenor Place,
L O N D O N. S.W.1.

Dear Madam,

We have to acknowledge with sincere regret your
communications of 9th and 13th inst., regarding Sgt. Gordon
Frank Grange, who we now note is reported killed in action
on 9th October.

With many thanks for your continued attention and
consideration with regard to this lamentable casualty,

We are,

Yours faithfully,

per pro JOYCE BROS. LTD.

[Signature]
MANAGER

30th January 1918.

Miss Jones,
48 Plough Road,
Clapham Junction, S.W.1.

Dear Madam,

We have received an unofficial report about Sgt. G.F. Grange 894-17th. Batt. which contains bad news, but we cannot vouch for its accuracy.

Lieut. A.S. Brown 17th. Batt. said "I bound up Grange's wounds. He was missing between the Batt. and Brigade D/Station. He was no doubt blown up by a shell".

We are sorry to send you such an unsatisfactory report, and are continuing our enquiries and hope to get more news.

Assuring you of our sympathy.

Yours faithfully,

Secretary.

AR

30th January 1918.

I/Cpl. S.G. Grange 6370.
C/o Mrs. Verralls,
82 Courtland Avenue,
Ilford, Essex.

Dear Sir,

We have received an unofficial report about your brother
Sgt. ^FG. Grange 894-17th Batt. which we fear is very unsatisfactory,
though we cannot vouch for its accuracy.

Lieut. A.S. Brown 17th. Batt. 3rd. London General Hospital
said "I bound up Grange's wounds. He was missing between the Batt.
and Brigade D/Station. He was no doubt blown up by a shell".

We are very sorry to send you such bad news and are
continuing our enquiries and hope to get more news.

Assuring you of our sympathy,

Yours faithfully,

Secretary.

AK

30th January 1918.

Sister M.H. Mathews,
3rd Aus. C.C.S.
A.I.F. B.E.F. Abroad,

Dear Madam,

We have received an unofficial report about Sgt. G.F. Grange 894-17th Batt. which contains bad news, but we cannot vouch for its accuracy.

Lieut. A.E. Brown 17th. Batt. said "I bound up Grange's wounds. He was missing between the Batt. and Brigade D/Station. He was no doubt blown up by a shell."

We are sorry to send you such an unsatisfactory report, and are continuing our enquiries and hope to get more news.

Assuring you of our sympathy.

Yours faithfully,

Secretary.

718

Dec. 12th. 1917.

Sister F.N. Withers,
31st: Dis. Cl. Station,
B.P.F.

Re ⁸⁹⁴ 1894 Gordon Frank GRANGE (Ret) - 17th Bn. A.I.F.

Dear Madam,

We regret to inform you that the above soldier who was previously reported 'Wounded' is now officially reported 'Wounded & Missing' since 9.10.17.

We are making further inquiries in the hope of obtaining more definite information as we fully realise your anxiety about him.

Assuring you of our sympathy,

Yours faithfully,



Secretary.