

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

**836 Sergeant
William Tamblyn
Crago**

20th Battalion



0821105H

20th A. I. F.

Crago, Sergt W.T. 836,
C. Company

(X. Jan 3rd/17. Det: D & B)

"I know that Sergt Crago (20 C.) was killed instantaneously by a shell about Jan 3rd on the right of Flers. Five other men were wounded at the same time. We were holding the front line. I was in a different post, but I was told about it by a stretcher bearer of the name of Hampton who has since been killed." Sergt. Major Vince, 20 C. was there at the time, and could probably give further particulars."

Eye-witness: No, told by a stretcher bearer called Hampton, who has since been killed

Description: Tall, rather thin, dark

Informant: Ste Louis Pidding, 3861,
20th A. I. F., Sig. C. Coy, XI 41st.,
3rd Southern General Hospital,
The Base, Oxford.

Home address:
65, St. Johns Rd.
Highgate, London.

2nd April 1917.

Hilda M. Pickard-Cambridge. *Sergt Major Vince*

Written 17.4.17

P.1.

20th A. I. F.

Crago, Sergt W.T. 836,
C. Company

(K. Jan 3/17. Det: D & B)

"I was away on Jan 3rd, but when I returned to the Battn I heard that Sergt Crago (20 C.) was killed instantaneously by a shell, near Fliers. There was no attack. I believe they were in the trenches when a shell came over. He had been wounded before, and been away from the Battn for months. He had recently returned and been made a Sergt. I am sorry that I do not know where he was buried. Sergt Stubbs 20 C. (who is now a Cadet in Oxford) might be able to give more particulars."

Eye-witness: No, Informant suggests referring to Sergt Stubbs,
20 C. (now in Officer's Cadet Bn, Oxford.)

Description: Blg. 6', young, well to do people from E? S. Wales

Informant: Pte Robert Ramsay, 985,
20th A. I. F., C. Coy, XII Plat.,
3rd Southern General Hospital,
The Base, Oxford.

Home address:
2nd April/17. Beamish St.
Hilda M. Pickard-Cambridge Campsey, Sydney.

written Stubbs 26th April 17

20th A.I.F.,

Crago, Sgt. W. T., 836,

K. Jan. 3rd, 1917. Det: D & B.

"Locality was on the right of Flers. I forget the date. Time of day was 3 or 4 p.m. Crago came up to relieve me at my post in the trench. I had gone from him about 50 yds. when a shell burst in the trench behind me, I turned round and saw Crago in a sitting position badly hit. About 5 others were also wounded by the same shell. The Capt. of my Coy., told me shortly afterwards that he was hit by a piece of shell case in the stomach and also in the head and that he was killed. He may have lived for a few mins. after being hit. It was impossible to carry him to the rear till night time when a stretcher party carried his body away. He was buried in the rear, I think at a place called "Rose Trench". Crago's house was a few yds. from my own in Sydney. He has a sister nursing I think at Rouen. He had been wounded and in England in July 1916 and had not returned for very long to the front when he was killed."

Eye Witness: Yes.

Description: Age about 20-21, tall, fair, clean shaven. He had not been long with the Coy. He was a relative of "Crago's four Mills" in Sydney.

Informant:-- Sgt. Robert F. Mowbray, 3830,
20th A.I.F., C. Coy.,
St. Thomas Hosp.:.

(Continued.)

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Home address:-- "Tolanthe,"
Belmore Street,
Belmore,
Sydney.

5.4.17.
H. S. Shaw.

20th.A.I.F.

Crago, Sgt.W.T., 836,

(K.Jan.3/17..Dets.D/B.)

"I knew Sgt.Crago very well. He was sniped to the right of Elers, in the front line trench on the 3rd.Jan.17. I was a runner that day. I saw him brought out of the line dead and identified him. He lies buried in a Cemetery between Longeville and Ginchy behind the Brig.H.Q. near Delville Wood."

Eye Witness:

Description:

Informant: Pte.Charles J.Bignall, 4979,
D Co. XIV Pl.

20th.A.I.F.,

Harborne Hall V.A.D.Hosp.
Birmingham.

Home Address: C/o Mrs.Bignall,

5, Mayall Road,

Herne Hill, London,S.E.

5.4.17.

Geo.Bullock.

P.1

20th A. I. F.

Crago, Sergt. W. T. 836.

(K. Jan: 3/17. Dets D & B.)

"I knew Sergt. Crago well. He was Plat.Sergt. of Plat. XII, but I was then of No. X. He told me he had a sister in a hospital in England. He was the only Crago in the Battn. They are large flour people in Australia. I remember him being killed on the morning of the 3rd Janusry last. I was next post to him, about 50 yds. off. It was at "Millers Son's" trench in front of Le Transloy. He was killed by a shell instantly and 6 others were wounded at the same time. He was a fine fellow and was coming to England to get his commission. He was very well liked by everybody, so much so, that a party of 9 carried his body about 4 miles, sometimes in the open, at great risk, of course at night. They took him to Divisional Headquarters near Delville Wood, and he was buried on the following morning in a little cemetery there containing 40 or 50 graves. I was not at the burial, but have seen his grave since. It has a nice wooden cross, and the grave is decorated by the Boys."

Informant:-- Pte. Harold Leslie Ryan, 1546.

20th A. I. F. C Coy, XII Pl.

Colmore Rd Hospital, King's Heath,
Birmingham.

April 11th.
W.F. Awdry.

Home address:-- 14, Victoria St,

West Maitland, N.S.W.

P.1

20th A.I.F.

Sgt. W. T. CRAGO, 836.

Killed 3.1.17. Details D & B.

Informant gave C Co. 9 Pl., name as Will and said Crago was killed soon after Christmas in Delville Wood region in the trench by a minnenwerfer or trench mortar. He was hit in the head and died soon after. This was told Informant by Pte. Beedham of 11 Pl. Informant added Crago was very popular and said his body was taken back to be buried properly.

Reference: Pte. Pickens, 2890, C Co. 12 Pl. late 9 Pl.
Bomber.
No.5 General, ~~8442~~. 18.4.17.

Rouen.

DLF.

Suff
H P.1
6th

20th A.I.F.

Crago, Sgt. W.T. C. Coy. 836

(K. Jan. 3rd 1917 Dets. D/B)

Informant states "I know that Sergt. Crago was shot by a sniper near the front line at Shine Trench near Flers. He was carried back on a stretcher to Rose trench and buried there. I saw his body brought down, and also the cross which was put over his grave. The stretcher bearers gave me the particulars as to how and when he was killed."

Eye witness:

Description:

Informant: Pte. McLardy O.N. 470, 20th A.I.F., A. 3
1st Southern Hospital,
King's Heath, Birmingham.

Home address: Hillview, Pittwater Rd 3,
Pymble, New South Wales.

21.4.17.
H.F.D. Alderton.

Ed - Suff
P.1

20th Batt.
C. Coy.,
A. I. F.,

CRAGO
Sgt. W. E. 836
T.

"Killed Jan. 3, 17"

Sgt. Crago was killed in the front trench between Flers and Pozieres. I did not see this being in a support trench, but I was present at the funeral which took place behind Rose trench Flers. The chaplain read the service. There are 2 or 3 other graves there but no cemetery.

Reference:- L/C C. O. G. Flemming 3794
20th Batt. A. Coy. A. I. F.,
Dartford,
20.4.17.

London
25.4.17.
P.C.

P.I.

20th A.I.F.

Crago Sgt. W.T. 836,
C. Company.

(K. Jan. 3rd 1917 Det. D/B)

"I wrote to the relatives of Sgt. Crago and told them that Sgt. Crago was killed in front of Swiss trench and was buried by Padri Stevenson. A cross was erected over his grave.

Eye-witness: Yes

Description:

Informant: Pte. J. Wade, 300,
20th A.I.F., A. Coy.,
1st London General Hospt.,
Camberwell.

Home address:
4 St. James Rd.,
Bermondsey.

May 2nd 1917,
A.F.M. Baldwin.

Apptd for Officers.
10 Palace Green
Kensington W.
8-3-17.

Capt Payne,
54 Victoria St.
Westminster.

Dear Sir,

Little did I think that I'd be
Oiled upon so soon, to impose myself
upon your kindness.

I've just heard from my Brother-in-law of the
death of ^{him} Sgt. W. J. Mayo & as one so closely
related, I'd be greatly obliged if you'd
be so kind as to make inquiries at
Horseferry Rd for full particulars & let
me have them. His unit was. C. Coy 20th Batt.

I remain your Dear Sir.

Herbagg St.

Yours
Capt Payne
- G. R. C. S.

Filed in action
3/1/17