

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

3059 Gunner
George Henry Craigen

14th Field Artillery Brigade



0830110D

Hawro.

2nd January 1918.

14th A.F.A. 55 Batty.

Craigie No. 3059 A. G.H.

X. 30th September 1917. Det D/M.

I knew Craigie well for 18 months, since the Battery was formed in Egypt. He was medium height, stout, medium brown hair, about 25, a builder's in civil life. He came from Melbourne, Victoria.

On the 30th September we were 3½ miles out of Ypres. We took our guns up at night and got them in position. About 3 o'clock Fritz put up a barrage and Craigie was caught by a shell and thrown nearly 50 yards from where he was sleeping beside the guns. We looked for him straight away and found his body which seemed without mark or wound. Next night I helped to bury him, about 200 yards from the guns, and a cross went up. I could point out the place. The position was left of Polygon Wood about 3½ miles through Ypres and straight on.

Inf:- Gunner E.G. Stewart No. 1376.

14th A.F.A. 55 Bty

No. 2 Gen. Hos. (Quai). M

PK.

14th F.A.B.
A.I.F.

CRAIGEN.
3055a G.H.
7

"KILLED IN ACTION" 30.9.17

Re 3052 A s/Bdr, Craigen. G.H. of 55th Battery. A.F.A killed 30.9.17. He was killed by a shell whilst sleeping, was buried in the field, near the guns. The conditions existing at the time in that position rendered it impossible to have the body brought back for burial in a military cemetery. No doubt whatever, exists as to his identification, but as to particulars of his personal appearance. I regret the necessity of omitting same. He only reported at the guns for the last time on the day he was killed. I have already written to his "Francis" Miss E. Cole Traralgon Gippeland Victoria, at his request, "if he were killed" and I trust that the letter reached its destination, but in some instances, it is much better to omit details, as they would only add to the sorrow of those left behind.

Letter from:- Cecil B. Steel. Q.M.S.
7249. 5537.
18.2.18.

London. 19.3.18.

Note:- We regret the delay in typing of the above report, but we have been obliged to hold it up on account of pressure of work & shortage of machines. M.

14th F.A.B.
53th Batty.
A.F.A.

CRAIGEN,
G.H. 8059A

"Killed in Action NO. 9.17."

No. 8059 A Act/Bombdr Craigen Geo. H. was killed at Westhoek on 30.9.17. He was buried in the Field, therefore his grave would not be registered. His description is as follows: - Height about 5ft 9ins; medium build, dark, clean shaven and had a fine disposition. He was also a very well read, and a very good living young fellow. If it should be relatives of this soldier whose the enquirers, please convey sympathy in their sad bereavement.

my deepest

Letter from : Bombdr. A.I. Sharp,
A.I.F. 14.1.18.

NOTE We regret the delay in typing the above report but we have been obliged to hold it up on account of pressure of work and shortage of machines.

London.
28.2.18.

H.

14th. Brigade. F. Artillery.

Craigie. No. 3059a.

K. Sept. 30th 1917. Det. D. / B7

He was killed by a shell at Anzac Ridge, and buried by his mates on the Ridge, near Anzac House. He was in the battery position at the time. A temporary cross was erected with his name and particulars on. I knew him in the battery for about eighteen months and he came from Victoria.

Description. Age. 28. Height. 5-8. Comp. Fair, Well built.

Witness. North. J. Gnr. No. 15115. 54th Battery 14th Brigade.

Taken at
No. 4. C. D.
Hurdcott.
23-1-18.
P. G. H.

S. Whitmee
No. 4. C. D.
Hurdcott.

*M Ca
Suff*

55th Bty.
14th Bde.
A.F.A.

Craigen.
G.H. 3059A

CA

"Killed in Action 30.9.17"

Re 3059A A/Bdr.G.H. Craigen whom you were making enquiries of some time ago. Since my reply to you it has come to my knowledge that this soldier was also buried in a soldiers' cemetery situated on Anzac Ridge near Westhoek.

Letter from:-
Bdr.A. Sharp.
27.1.18.

London.
14.2.18.

H.

14th Bde.
55th Bty,
A.F.A.

CRAIGEN
G.H. 3059 a

"Killed 30.9.17. Det. D/B"

Quartermaster Sgt. Steels of 55th Bty, 14th Bde, A.F.A. took a party up to bury Craigen and several other men who were killed by the same shell at Ypres on Sept. 30th and will be able to give details. Craigen came from Camberwell, Victoria, and was the only man of the name in the battery.

Informant:- Gnr. Edwards, 3814,
14th Bde, 55th Bty,
A.F.A.

London.
8.2.18.

Note: Written O/L/S Steele 7.2.18.

H.

[gads. F. Artillery. A.I.F.

Craigie. G. No. 3059a.

K. Sept. 30/17. Det. D. /B.

This man was killed by the same shell that wounded me. It happened in the gun position in front of Polygon Wood. I was told afterwards by one of the ambulance men that he was buried in the Anzac cemetery. He had seen them taking him away to be buried there. I knew him in the battery for about 2 years, was a man with a good disposition, and came from Victoria.

Description. Height. 5-4. Comp. fair. Slight build.

Witness. Alison. P.R. Gnr. No. 321b. 55th Battery. A.F.A.

Taken at
No. 3. C.D.
Hurdcott
25-1-18.
S.W.

S. Whitmee
No. 4. C.D.
Hurdcott.

M
b
Suff

14th Bgde 55th Battery
AIF

CRAIGON
G.H. 3059A

Killed Sep. 30th 1917

Killed left of Polygon Wood by shell at once, never had a wound in his body. he was thrown about 20 yards by shell. He used to be storeman but got tired and changed to the guns was killed first night. I helped to bury him in a small cemetery near where a lot of Infantry were buried-small cross up name and number.

Witness:-

Stewart 1376

Ward 29

Harefield

D.P. Dickson
London.
23.1.18

M

55th Battery.
14th Bgde.
A.F.A.

Graiglen.
G.H. 3059A

"Killed 30.9.17"

I saw him killed near Ypres. He was having a sleep in a shell hole just behind the guns, when a shell landed near him, the concussion of which killed him instantly. I knew him very well, he was the only man of that name in the Battery. I saw his grave, at place of casualty just behind Anzac Hill, and it was marked with a cross bearing his number, name and battery.

Witness:-

T.V. Egerton 865
55th Battery. 14th Bgde.
3rd A.A. Hospital.
Dartford.

W. Oman.

London.
15.1.18.

M.

Evre.

14th January 1918. C

14th A.F.A. 55th Batty.

Oraigen No. 3059A. G. H

K. 30th Sept 1917. Det D/B.

He was in my Battery, small, fair, aged about 24. I saw him killed by a shell near Anzac House, Ipres, about the 30th September. He was badly hit in several places and killed at once. He was blown about 20 yards from a shell hole he was in. He was buried at Anzac House. I saw the fatigue party carrying up his body, with four others who were killed the same time. I have never seen the grave. House

Inf:- Cpl F. Holmes No. 2663.

14th A.F.A. 55th Batty.

Australian Camp. Rouelles.

GLT.

Note:- This report was confirmed by Gunner H.G. Holden No. 10573-
53th A.F.A. 14th Batty.

GLT.

15073

M

14th Bgde. 55th Batty. A.I.F.

Craigie, G. Gnr. NO. 3059A.

Killed Sept 30th 1917. Det. D.B.

I helped to bury this man on Anzac Ridge, along Anzac House, Ypres. A Padre officiated at the grave, I could not say his name. A cross was erected bearing full particulars. I knew him in the bat batty. He joined up in Egypt when the batty was formed.

Description. Height. 5-6. Complexion. Medium. Slight Built.

Witness. Bombardier Harris. A.I. NO. 910. 14th Bgde. 55th batty.

Taken at
NO. 4. C.D. Hurdcott.
9-1-18.
S.W.

S. Whitmee.
NO. 4. Command Depot.
Hurdcott.

A. F. A. 14. 85.

CRAIGEN, 3058A.
KERR, E.J. 3100.

E. September 30th, 1917.

George Craigen was a storeman and had volunteered to go up to help with the guns on the night of September 30th the time we went on beyond Westhoek Ridge and near to Anzac Ridge. Kerr was with him. I saw them that night. They were camped on top of the ground under the guns and were killed outright by a shell. The same shell killed Sgt Arnold. Their bodies were buried at Anzac Church near Anzac Ridge and about a mile from Zonnebeke Village. I saw none of these things but learnt them from men who did the same day it all happened. Bombardier A. Sharp was one of those who gave me the details. He was present both at the deaths and burial I understand. Craigen was a Melbourne man and lived somewhere about St Kilda. Kerr came from Sydney where his father is a bookmaker. He has a cousin in the battery.

Reference:- Ltr. J. Vernon. 4253.
No. 28 Gen. Hp.

Etaples
28.12.17.

William Sharp
SA. 9/18

A.F.A. 14. 35 Bty

CRAIGEN 3059A.

K. Sept 30th 1917. Dets.

I knew him. We called Him George. He was of medium height sturdy dark and about 25-30. I was told at the Base Camp by Sgt Kerr of 14.55 that he had seen Craigen killed outright by a shell at the gunpits near Menin Road at that date. Sgt Kerr is now at A.A.G.E.D.

Inf: Driver W.J.Clifford. 1951. 14/55
No. 3 Can Gen Hosp.
BOULOGNE. 14.12.17.

M.

360

Write Sgt Kerr 8-1-18

55th Btry. F.A.

CRAIGEN, G. H.
Gnr. 30892

Killed in action 30/9/17.

"I knew Casualty. He was a short man, slightly built, fair complexion, about 25 years of age, known as "George". Casualty was at battery position at Anzac Ridge, Ypres. It was his first time with the gun team. An H.F. shell exploded a direct hit on Casualty killing him instantly and Gunner B. Hodge. I was 60 yds. away at the time the shell exploded but I went over directly afterwards but he was beyond all aid. I am not sure but I think he was buried at the Dickiebusch Cemetery near Lieut. R. Bennett's grave. I was an eye-witness."

Informant:- Cpl. G. C. Read,
No. 1482, 55th Btry.

Private address:-
Mechanics Hotel,
Bourke Street,
T.C.F. Melbourne/
12/7/18.

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS INFORMATION BUREAU-MELBOURNE

M.
C. Sully

14th Artillery Brigade

CRAIGEN, G.H.
3059a

K. 30/9/17.

I knew Casualty. He was a man about 5 ft 8 ins. well built, fair complexion about 23 years of age, known as George. Casualty was at the Battery Position in action at Anzac Ridge, Ypres. An H.E. shell exploded near the gun, killing him instantly. I was forty yards away at the time the shell exploded and I saw his body almost immediately afterwards. The chief cause of death was concussion. He was buried near where he fell and I helped to bury him. A stick was placed over the grave to indicate the spot.

CIEUTCHETT, W.H.
2731

Private Address:-

73 O'Grady Street,
ALBERT PARK.

T.C.F.
6/6/19

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS INFORMATION BUREAU-MELBOURNE.

Artillery
† 55th Btry. Fld. Amb.

Gnr. CRAIGEN, G.H.
3059.4

Killed in action 30/9/17.

"I knew Casualty. He was about 5 ft. 8 ins. about 23 years of age known as George. He was Acting Bombardier. Casualty had just finished getting the gun into position and had a laid down with Cpl. Olson, Gunner Hodge and myself for a sleep in a shell hole on the battery position at Ypres. A shell exploded in the shell hole killing Casualty instantly and Gunner Hodge and wounding Cpl. Olsen and myself. The force of the explosion threw Casualty across my legs. His chief wounds were about the body. I was carried straight away and I do not know where he was buried."

Informant:- Bdr. J. L. Muirhead,
No. 2263.

Private address:-
116 Douglas Parade,
Williamstown.

T.C.F.

28/3/18

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS INFORMATION BUREAU-MELBOURNE.

M. G. Sullivan

14th Bgde,
55 Batty.
Fld. Artly.
A.I.F.

E
CRAIGIN.
G.H. 3059a.

"KILLED 30.9.17"

Craigie's name was Geo. Henry. Craigie, he was killed in front of Ypres by a shell which killed five. I did not ask my informant; Sgt Humphreys 14 Bgde, now at O.T. Corps, who did not to which he would be sent after furlough. I saw him yesterday fortnight. He told me of casualty and Craigie's burial at Anzac House. Car battery always put up crosses, but Sgt Humphreys did not say.

Informant:- Williams. H. T. 3293.
14 Bgde. 55th Batty.
Rut 11. Westham.

Note:- We regret the delay in typing the above report, but we have been obliged to hold it up on account of pressure of work, and shortage of machines.

London.
6.5.18.

M.

W. A. Rand.

55th Btry. P.A.B.

Gnr. CRAIGEN, G. H.
3059

Killed in action 30/9/17.

"I knew Casualty. He was of medium height, about 5 ft. 8" dark complexion, about 24 years of age, known as "George". Casualty was at the new battery position Anzac Ridge, when an H.E. shell exploded blowing him about 25 yds. and killing him instantly. I was 33 yds. from Casualty at the time of his death. Informant states that Casualty did not have a mark on him but the whole of his body seemed to have been twisted around, his hips being in front of him. The cause of his death was concussion. I do not know where Casualty was buried."

Private address:-

Wine Bar,
Kensington,
Sydney, N.S.W.

Informant:- Pte./G. A. Cooper,
No. 149, 55th Btry.

T.C.F.
14/6/18.

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS INFORMATION BUREAU-MELBOURNE.

55th Btry. F.A.

CRAIGEN, G. H.
Gnr. 3059.A

Killed in action 30/9/17.

"I knew Casualty. He was a man about 5 ft. 8 ins. well built, medium complexion, about 24 years of age, known as "George". Casualty was at battery position, Westhoek Ridge, Ypres. An H.E. shell exploded near Casualty a piece entering his head killing him instantly. I did not see Casualty killed but I saw his body the next morning. He was buried just near where he fell and I helped to bury him. A temporary cross was erected with his name and number on it."

Informant:- Pte. E. J. Tansey.
No. 3618, 55th Btry. F.A.

Private address:-
11 Benkins Road,
Kensington.

T.C.F.
20/9/18.

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS INFORMATION BUREAU-MELBOURNE

M
ed
Luf

18-2-18

Act. 18. The Secretary
Oct. R. C. Smith

(C)

925 Dear Madam

3059 A. C. H. CRAIGEN

14 FEB 1918
K/A 30-4-17
h. 3

For 3059 R. A/B Craigén S. H. of
C 55 Battery A.F.A. 30-4-17.

He was killed by a shell
whilst sleeping and was
buried in the field near
the guns.

The conditions existing at
the time in that position render
it impossible to have the body
brought back for burial in
a military cemetery.

No doubt whatever exists as
to his identification, but as
a particular one of his personal
appearance is required the
only way of identifying him
is by a report of the guns
for the last time on the day he
was killed.

I have already written to the
General Sir S. C. Craigén
Lyon and his request
"if he were killed" and that the
letter reached its destination.

Act. P.C. 30-1-18
Smith.

3059^a G. H. CRAIGEN

14 F.A.B.
55 Battery

K/A 30-9-17

France

14. 1. 18

Secretary
W.M. Enquiry Bureau
Australian Branches B.R.C.S.
London.

3 (cd)

Dear Miss Reakin.

Referring to your memo dated
9.1.18 re Act/Bomb Craygen.

No 3059^a Act/Bomb Craygen G.O.H. was killed
at Westhoek on 30.9.1917. He was
buried in the field therefore grave would not be
registered. His description is as follows:-

Height about 5ft 9in, medium build, dark, clean shaven,
and had a fine disposition. He was also a
very well read, and a very good living young
fellow.

If it should be relatives of this
soldier who are his enquirers please convey
my deepest sympathy in their sad bereavement.

Yours faithfully

Alfred. Sharty Bomb.

(OVER)

Miss Deakin.

I am only too pleased at any
time to forward you any information
required. As Battery Clerk information
comes to my knowledge where it
would not do so under other circumstances.

A Sharp