

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

**5458 Private
James Greig**

20th Battalion



1220106C

20th Battn.
A.I.F.

Killed in Action

"Missing 7-4-18"	GREIG.J.5458.
"Killed in Action 7-4-18"	Heywood.G.4147.
"Missing 7-4-18"	Horton.R.N.6913.
"Killed in Action 7-4-18"	Innes. .G.4705.
"Missing 7-4-18"	Justice.R.V.6358.
"Killed in Action 7-4-18"	Lee.H.6920.
"Missing 7-4-18"	Linsley.Sgt.G.31.
"Died of Wounds 8-4-18"	Mackander.S.R.4188.
"Killed in Action 7-4-18"	McKinnon.F.N.6208.
"Missing 7-4-18"	Neary.A.J.6395.
"Missing 7-4-18"	Scott.Cpl.N.R.996.
"Died of Wounds 8-4-18"	Smith.C.J.4771.
"Missing 7-4-18"	Waters.E.R.693A.
"Missing 7-4-18"	Watson.F.T.5659.
"Died of Wounds 8-4-18"	Wells.J.H.4786.
"Missing 7-4-18"	Wood.C/S/M.W.1371.
"Killed in Action 7-4-18"	Young.H.A.6694.
"Missing 7-4-17"	Craggs.J.T.712A.
"Missing 7-4-18"	Doyle.T. "M.M" 57A.
"Killed in Action 8-4-18"	Drew.G.4395.

I went over with C.Company. and one platoon of A.Company. No.I. at Hangard Wood on the morning of April 7th.1918. about 3.a.m. dark. Captain Portman.C.Company. was in Command. Lient Treatcher was in charge of No I Platoon.A.Company. The French were immediately on our right but did not participate in this attack. We took our objective, a Copse, about 5.30.a.m. and held it for about half an hour but had to retire back to our lines. We went over again almost immediately, reinforced by D.Company. and again

20th Battn.
A.I.F.

GREIG.J.5458.

took the Copse, about 7.a.m. but could not hold it. The Germans were in the Wood with strong Machine Gun Posts. We retired almost immediately to about half way back and dug in and held that position. We lost very heavily. I should say 80% of our strength. Numbers of our men were taken prisoners of War. The second time we went over, we were in Command of Lieut Burdus."D.S.O" D.Company. He got back with us all right. Captain Portman was wounded in the first attack and did not come over the second time. Lieut Treacher was in both attacks and got back all right. Several of our wounded were brought in under the White Flag, but most of them were taken prisoners of War. The Germans would bury our dead.

Informant:- Pte.A.McDonald.5443.

20th Australians.C.12.

Australian Convalescent Depot.
ROUELLES.

R.D.M.
London.
17-1-19.
H.G.

J.L. Notroci P/W & P I. S.
Written Lt Treacher
24.1.19

20th Batt.
A.I.F.

GREIG
Pte. J. 5458.

"Killed in Action 7.4.18."

On the morning of the attack on Hangard Wood 7.4.18 this man was seen by informant about 9 a.m. to stagger into a machine gun ~~in~~ emplacement just as he himself was leaving it to retire, as the enemy was too strong for them- retired $\frac{1}{2}$ mile. He recognised Jim Greig, Old Jim as they called him. and he appeared to be wounded in the body. It was raining like at the time and all was confusion, the enemy retook the ground so no doubt Greig fell into enemy hands.

Ground not retaken by us for some days afterwards.
Age about 30, height 5ft, 9" light moustache, D.Coy, 16th Platoon.
Quite certain of identity.

INFORMANT.

Pte. 6782. T.S. Etrington
D.Coy. 16th Platoon.
20 Batt.

Similar.

Hcw 20th A.S.C. D.Coy.

Informant given by this man previously at Sutton Veney.

S. P.I.

S. Ryan
S.S. ULYSSES Searcher,
London
3.10.19.

20th Battalion. A.I.F.

GREIG
Pte. J.M. No. 5458.

MISSING 7.4.18.

Informant described Greig as about 5'7 or 8" high, medium build, dark complexion, aged about 25. He also recognised him by his photo posted on the Enquiry Board at Randwick Hospital. Informant states that they both belonged to "D" Company, No.13 Platoon. On 7.4.18 the Battalion was in action on the Somme not far from Armentieres. They hopped over at about 5.25.a.m. The attack was not successful and they had to retire after going about 400 to 500 yards. Of over 300 men in "B" and "D" Companies that went over only 108 came back. Informant and Greig went over the top together and Informant then lost sight of him. Greig did not come back and was posted as missing, but it is Informant's opinion, having regard to the large number of casualties sustained, the Greig was killed.

Informant:- Private W.J. Smith, No. 4280,
D. Company, 20th Battalion,

Home Address:- 56, Taylor Street,
Annandale.

W.E.G.

14.8.18.

No. 4, Australian General Hospital,
RANDWICK.

P.I.
S.

20th Batn.,
A.I.F.

GREIG,
J.M., 5458.

"Killed in action - 7-4-18."

"Greig was with us on April, 7th at Handguard Wood. About 7 a.m. he crawled into the same shell hole I was in. He was badly wounded by shell fire in the back. He was just about finished when he got in. We could do nothing for him and had to advance and leave him. I have little doubt he died where we left him. He was never seen again. He was buried in Paramatta Asylum."

Home address:-

Mrs. A. Menzies,
13, Campbell Street,
Balmain,
N.S.W.

Informant:- Russell, John George, 4263 Pta.
20th Batn., A.Coy., A.I.F.,
Southmead Hospital.

A.M. Fry,
London,
15-11-18.
H.G.

P.1.

S.

20th Batta.
A.I.F.

GRIG.
J.M. 5458.

"Killed in Action 7-4-18"

Missing - as further evidence - declared Killed in Action in Hangard Wood stunt. R.J.C.

We wrote to Lieut. A.R. Treacher, about this soldier. The enquiry was passed by him; to the Adjutant 20th Battalion, who forwarded the following report from the Rev. R.J.W.G. Crawford, Chaplain, of the 20th Battalion.

After the Amiens battle of August 8th, the part of the field, around Hangard Wood was cleared by the Canadians. They were relieved shortly afterwards and a burial party of English Troops were sent to finish the work. Several of our officers and men were over, but before they arrived, 12 unidentified 20th Battalion and 8 identified had been buried. I was not able to see the officer to, know if they kept a record of where they found the bodies, but it would appear that they were from all parts of the field. From that it looks as if the Boche had buried those that were within close reach of his trenches, but in the short time that was at our disposal, we were not able to locate any graves. We have received no reports from others. The place, however, was fought over several times.

Letter from:- Rev. R.J.W.G. Crawford.

London,
20-2-19.
I.E.D.

Chaplain, to 20th Battalion, A.I.F.

J.E.H.

S & P I.

20th BATTALION.

GREIG, J.H. Private.
No. 5458.

"KILLED 7.4.18"

Informant described Greig as about 5 ft 10 inches high, medium build, dark complexion, wore a moustache, aged about 35. His people live in England.

Informant states that they both belonged to D. Company, 16th Platoon. On 7.4.18 the Battalion was near Hangaard Wood. At night time 7 or 8 men including Greig and Informant were on a post. Informant and another occupant of the post went away for rations and when they came back about 2 hours later the other men had disappeared. There was no sign of a struggle and it was assumed that they had been taken prisoners by the enemy. The post was about 1,000 yards from the enemy lines.

Informant added that he and Greig were personal friends.

Informant:- Private A. E. Meyers, No. 6141.
D. Company 20th Battalion.

Private address:-

70 Abercrombie Street,
SYDNEY.

V.E.G.

Victoria Barracks, SYDNEY.

5.4.19.

SYDNEY BUREAU.

J.E.d. Filing Copy.

S
P.1

1 mml

A.I.F.
20th Battalion.

Greig- GRIEG.
J.M. 5458.

Killed 7.4.18.

Informant described Greig as about 5'10" in height, medium build, dark complexion, wore a moustache, aged about 35. His people live in England.

Informant states that they both belonged to D. Company, 16th platoon. On 7.4.18., the Battalion was near Hangard Wood. At night time 7 or 8 men including Greig and Informant were on a post. Informant and another occupant of the post went away for rations and when they came back about 2 hours later the other men had disappeared. There was no sign of a struggle and it was assumed that they had been taken prisoner by the enemy. The post was about 1,000 yards from the enemy lines.

Informant added that he and Greig were personal friends.

Informant: Pte A.E. Meyers. 6141.
D. Company. 20th Battalion.

Home Address: 70 Abercrombie Street.
Sydney.

E.G.
Victoria Barracks. Sydney.
25.4.19.
London.
10.7.19.
J.E.A.

Not Sent
S. 21.

A.I.F.
20th. Battalion.

GREIG. 6458.
James.

"Killed in Action 7.4.18".

No trace Germany.

Cert. by Capt. Mills. 10.10.19

London.
17.10.19.

S. P.I

A.I.F. 20th Btn

GREIM(S.C)

GREIG

James M.

5458

"MISSING"

Killed in action 7-4-18 - (by C.of Enq:) previously reported
Missing.

Cert. by A.I.F.Hqrs 28-10-18.

London
30-10-18

S & P.I.

20th Battn.

A.I.F.

GRIEG Pte. J. 5458

Craggs Pte. J.T. 712

"Missing 7-4-18"

On the early morning of April 3th about 5 a.m., we went over at Hangard Wood. We gained our objective and had to retire, but both Craggs and Grieg were left lying wounded in "No Man's Land". I saw them myself as we went back. Later on we regained the ground, but both of them had then disappeared.

Home address:-

Glen Alyn,

50, Gosford Road,

Hamilton West,

Newcastle. N.S.W.

Informant. Carruthers Pte. J.T. 6776

20th Battn. D2Coy. 16th Pltm..

No.1 City of London Mil.Hpl.

Clapton.

C.E.Dyer

2-9-18

London

6-6-18

S.

20th Battn.
A.I.F.

GRIEG
J.M. 5458

"Missing 7-4-18"

Near a village within a few miles of Amiens, I don't know name, we were retiring when I saw Jim Grieg, who had been shot through the back and seemed in great agony, fall into a M. gun pit, and I don't think he would ever get out again. Cpl. Hudson, 20th Battn. D.Coy. 16th Pltn., was also there at the time, and we both spoke to him. He answered, but I don't remember what he said. Fritz was close behind us at the time, and may have taken him P/W. He was in my D.Coy. 16th Pltn. Grieg was a man of about 40, with a rather big moustache, fairly tall, 5'9" or 5'10". He was a Lewis Gnr. I don't know his number, but know he was knocked on the 7th.

Informant. Elrington. Pte.T.S. 6768
20th Battn. D.Coy. 16th Pltn.,
SUTTON VENY.

Note:-
Written Cpl. Hudson 5-7-18

H.E.H.
London
8-7-18
J. S. Q

S.

28th Battn.
A.I.F.

GREIG
J.45458

"Missing 7-4-18"

He was wounded in the leg and unable to walk when I saw him left behind wounded in a "Fritz funk-hole", (a small pit about a foot square), in Hangard Wood, at about 5 a.m. on 7-4-18. The Germans occupied the ground and we recovered it 4 days later. He was not then to be found. He was my "number two". He was a Scotchman and belonged to D.Coy. 16th Pltn. M.G. I have already signed a statement to the above effect in the Orderly Room at this hospital.

Informant. Carruthers. Pte. J.J. 6776
20th Battn. D.Coy. 16th Pltn.,
DARTFORD.

A.G. Campbell
London
10-7-18
H.G.

S.

Statement made by No. 5775 Pte Carruthers J. J. 20th Bn.

re No. 5428 Pte Grieg J. 20th Bn.

Missing 7.4.18.

On 7th April, 1918 at Bangard Wood, I saw No. 5428 Pte Grieg J. of 20th Battalion, lying wounded in a funk hole, having been hit in leg by H.C. Bullet. He could not walk and was left there.

The Germans came over same ground later, so that he could be easily taken prisoner.

Dated at Dartford, Kent. *Red X*

Statement made and signed before me

S. P. 1
at Dartford on 7.4.18
(SGD). J. J. Carruthers.

(SGD). L. E. Bond.

C O P Y .

Statement made by No 6783 Pte ELDRINGTON T.S. 20th Bn.,
re No 5458 Pte GRIEG J, 20th Bn.,

Missing 7.4.18.

K-A

No 5458 Pte Grieg J, 20th Battalion was very seriously wounded - shot through the back on the 7.4.18. I last saw him lying in a machine gun replacement where ground was shortly afterwards taken by the enemy. It is therefore certain that he was either taken prisoner or died at the above mentioned place. I believe he was mortally wounded.

Dated at, Sutton Veny.

[Signature]
(Sgd) T.S. ELDRINGTON.

Statement made and signed before me.

[Signature]
(Sgd) R. DOOLEY Lieut
& Adjt No 1 Command
Depot A.I.F.
[Signature]

20th Battn.
A.I.F.

GRIEG
J.H. 5458

"KILLED 7-4-18"

He was in D.Coy. I did not see the casualty, but I was told by several boys who saw him wounded at Hangard Wood, when he was hit by a Machine Gun bullet in the stomach. He was left behind as they had to retire that day. They told me that he was dying when they were forced to retire. I did not know the boys but it was general talk among them that he was dying when they left him. He was a Machine Gunner and I knew him fairly well, but do not know the State from which he came. He was unconscious when we left him that day and the ground was lost.

Informant - Robinson.Pte.G.J. 5633
20th Battn. C.Coy.,
3rd A.A.H.
DARTFORD.

W.Oman
26-11-18
London
29-11-18
J.E.A.

S.
P.I.

3 5 AUG 1918
acknowledged.
19.8.18.

Wigram Street
Cranville
Australia

June. 25/16.

Miss M. E. Cromley

Dear Madam.

I received news from
the Defence Department of the Australian
Imperial Forces. That my Husband No 5458
Private James Greig in Company 20th Battalion
was missing from the 4th April Since then I
have received no further news.

A friend of mine advised me to write and
ask you to try to discover where he is
as I feel certain he is not killed
so will you please do your best for me as
I feel very anxious about him.

I Remain Yours
in anticipation

Elsie Greig
As Mrs G. Keen
Wigram St
Cranville
Australia

Australian Draft.

Aug. 19th

Mrs Elsie Greig.

of Mrs Speer.

Wigram Street.

Prairiewille. N.S.Wales.

5458. Pte J. M. GREIG.

20th Bn. A.I.F.

"Missing - 7. 4. 18.

29th BATTALION A.I.F.

- *Balfour, A. 1364.
- *Faulks, T. 3231.
- *Rankin, Lieut. W. E. D.
- *Robertson, M.C., Capt. A. M.

30th BATTALION A.I.F.

- *Brooks, F. E. 3912.
- *Cather, A. E. 860.
- *Davies, Lieut. B. O.
- *Fordham, L. O. 3804.
- *Lancaster, V. L. 2085.
- *Mills, R. 3854.

31st BATTALION A.I.F.

- *Farrell, R. L. 5014.
- *Laidlaw, E. L. 3581.

32nd BATTALION A.I.F.

- *Anderson, L. 4008.
- *Bull, W. S. 4030.
- *Cameron, A. W. 1231.
- *Cooper, E. W. 4514.
- *Cuttis, Lieut. E. L. S.

ackd
26.5.18.

Aug 22nd 1918

AUSTRALIAN



RED CROSS.

6548

Pte. M. Scott

25th Batt A. I. F.

Lord Derby's War Hospital

Wood 2 D W.

Warrington

Sir

Would you kindly let
me know if I am doing right
in writing to you for informat
of a fellow Pte called J.
Greig No 5455 D Coy 20th
Batt A. I. F. His Mother has
been making inquiries from my
sister in Scotland in the town
of Dumfries & she tells me

that she has had no word
for a few months so that
the poor old lady is nearly
out of her mind. As I happen
to be in the 4th. I F. regt.
no doubt his mother might
think I may know something
of him. You will no doubt
know that I am placed
in such a position that
it is hardly likely that I
could hear anything of
him unless I was lucky
enough to drop across one
of his Batt. or Coy in here.
His Mother will be very
gratefull if you could get
any information so if you
can get in communication
with any of the Officers
of Coy 1st or 2nd or any
thing I will be

very thankfull for it
I would forward on to
my sister who would
do likewise to his people.
As they never sent his
& others address in letter
I would write for it
if usefull to you so
trusting to hear some
news of him or if you
would let me know
any better way of hearing
something I remain
Yours sincerely
W. Scott

24th August 1918.

Mr. James Greig,
Drummuir,
Ruthwell,
Dumfries, N.B.

Dear Sir,

In reply to your letter we regret that as yet, we have failed to obtain any news of -

5458 J.M. Greig, 20th Btn,
who was reported Missing 7-4-18. As soon as any news comes in, we will at once communicate with you.

Assuring you of our sympathy in your great anxiety,

Yours faithfully,

(Miss) *Miss Russell*
Secretary.

9th November 1918.

James Greig, Esq.,
Drummuir,
Ruthwell,
Dumfries,
Scotland.

Dear Sir,

In further reference to your enquiry for details as to the death and burial of 5458, Pte. J.M. Greig, 20th Battalion A.I.F., we beg to inform you that we have received an unofficial report from 4280 Pte. W.J. Smith of the same Unit, interviewed at No.4. Australian General Hospital, Radwick. He stated that on the 7th April 1918 they both were in an attack near Armentieres about 5.30 A.M., the attack not being successful, they had to retire; the Informant and Greig went over the top together then he missed him. He did not return and was polled "Missing". In view of the large number of Casualties he fears that there is little doubt of his having been killed. Pte. Smith describes him as about 6ft.7ins. high, medium build, with a dark complexion, aged about 25.

We are continuing our enquiries and will advise you as soon as we obtain further details.

With sincere sympathy,

Yours faithfully,

(Miss)

Secretary.

November 13th, 1918.

James Greig, Esq.,
Drummins, Ruthwell,
Dumfries. N.B.

re 5458 James M. GREIG. 20th Bttn. A.I.F.

Dear Sir.

We deeply regret to inform you that the above soldier who was previously reported Missing is now reported Killed in Action 7-4-18.

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)

SECRETARY.

Miss

James Greig, Esq.,
Drammair,
Ruthwell,
Drumfries,
Scotland.

3rd December 1918.

Dear Sir,

In further reply to your enquiry regarding 5458, Pte. J.M. Greig, 20th Battalion, A.I.F., who is officially reported as "~~Killed in Action~~" on the 7th April 1918, we beg to inform you of the following unofficial report received from 4263 Pte. J.G. Russel of the same Battalion, who states:-

"Greig was with us on April 7th at Handgaard Wood. About 7 a.m., he crawled into the same shell hole I was in. He was badly wounded by shell fire in the back. He was just about finished when he got in. We could do nothing for him and had to advance and leave him. I have little doubt he died where we left him. He was never seen again. He was Warder in Paramatta Asylum."

We deeply regret that the above evidence is of such a distressing nature, but we are continuing our enquiries, and will advise you as soon as any further particulars come to hand. Once more assuring you of our sincere sympathy.

Yours faithfully,

(Miss)

MR.

Secretary.

James Greig Esq.
Dunmuir.
Ruthwell.
Dumfries. N.B.

March 1st 1919.

Dear Sir,

With further reference to your enquiry for 5458, Lte James M. Greig, 20th Battn. A.I.F. we beg to inform you that we have received the following report concerning him from the Regimental Chaplain, Capt. R. J. W. G. Crawford.

"After the Amiens battle of August 8th, the part of the field, around Hangard Wood was cleared by the Canadians. They were relieved shortly afterwards and a burial party of English Troops were sent to finish the work. Several of our officers and men went over, but before they arrived, 12 unidentified 20th Battalion and 8 identified had been buried. I was not able to see the officer to know if they kept a record of where they found the bodies, but it would appear that they were from all parts of the field. From that it looks as if the Germans had buried those that were within close reach of their trenches, but in the short time that was at our disposal, we were not able to locate any graves. We have received no reports from others. The place, however, was fought over several times."

Should we at any time receive specific particulars of Lte Greig's death and burial, we will again advise you.

With most sincere sympathy,

Yours faithfully,

(Miss)

G. H. G.
Secretary.

5458 Pte James Greig
20 Bn

out.
24.3.19.

Drummeir

Ruthwell

14-3-19

Miss Heaker

Dear Madam,

I enclose letter which I received from Pte Jas. Greig's wife. you will see by it that a lady has lost her husband and he resembles James very much. We will enclose Photo and it may enable you to identify him. If you think there is any one like him some one will come through and identify him

Yours Respectfully
James Greig

5458 Pte James Greig 20 Bn

James Greig, Esq.
Drummuir.
Ruthwell.
Drumfries.
H.B.

March 25th, 1919.

Dear Sir,

In reply to your letter of 17.3.19 concerning
5458 Pte. J.M. GREIG. 20th Battalion. A.I.F. We very
~~much~~ regret that the photograph you sent us, (which
as well as Mrs. Greig's letter, we return herewith)
will not be of any use to us in our work. From the
nature of the unofficial reports already sent you,
we fear there is little or no hope of Pte. Greig's
being alive, but we are continuing our enquiries and
will immediately advise you should we receive any
further information about him from returned prisoners
or others.

With renewed sympathy.

Yours faithfully,

(Miss) *M. Stansfeld*

SECRETARY. —

NOTE TO SYDNEY

A.I.F.
28th Bttn.

GREIG.
Pte. James H.

We have received a letter from the wife of this soldier for whom we are still enquiring - Mrs. Elsie Greig. C/o Mrs. Skeen, Wigram St. Granville. N.S.W. says "Having seen a report in our daily papers to the effects that 50 Australian Prisoners of War had been found but their names could not be ascertained I thought it would be no harm in my writing you." She enclosed a portrait of her husband in the hope that he may prove to be one of these alleged cases. This we return. This Office has no knowledge of any such report. The foundation for it may be found in two cases of imposition attempted at A.I.F. Hqs. One a British P/W from Turkey named Perry who later committed the Forest Gate murders, and the other who gave his name as James Green and whose portrait appeared in a copy of the Anzac Bulletin during January or early February 1919. Green confessed to being a South African deserter. Both men tried to get accepted as repatriated Australian P/W and Green pretended to loss of memory.

With this we forward a complete list of genuine cases of men repatriated from Germany not previously reported as P/W.

No 7693 Pte. Blinco had not been reported as Missing but tried to rejoin the A.I.F. as a repatriated man.

London.
22.5.19.

S.

Note sent to
Sydney 22.5.19

Ans. Draft
24.5.19.

Wigram St
Granville
Feb/5/19

Miss Cromley.

Dear Madam.

Having seen a
report in our daily papers to the
effect that 50 Australian Prisoners
of War had been found, but their
names could not be ascertained.
I thought it would be no harm
in my writing you and sending
a photo of my Husband, Private
James Greig 5453, 20th Battalion
who has been missing since April
4th, in the hope of your finding out
something to my advantage.

Thanking you in anticipation
Believe me,

Yours Gratefully
Elsie Greig
c/o Mrs Green
Wigram St
Granville

24.5.19

Australian Draft.

Mrs Elsie Greig

C/o Mrs Skeen

Ligam Street

Granville

N. S. W.

re 5458

P^E James M. Greig

20th Batt

A. I. F.

74/A

7.4.18.

Name

HUMMERSTON

Christian Name Leslie Freeman

Rank

No. 5601

Unit

24th Battalion

Year of birth

Birthplace

Place of casualty

Daisy Wood

Date of casualty

9-10-17

Identity of German Army Corps opposite - 223 Division

449 I.R.

450 I.R.

Next of Kin

Sister, Miss A. Hummerston,
795 Drummond Street,
North Carlton, Victoria.

Next of Kin.

Father, Mr. John William Hummerston,
795 Drummond Street,
North Carlton, Victoria.