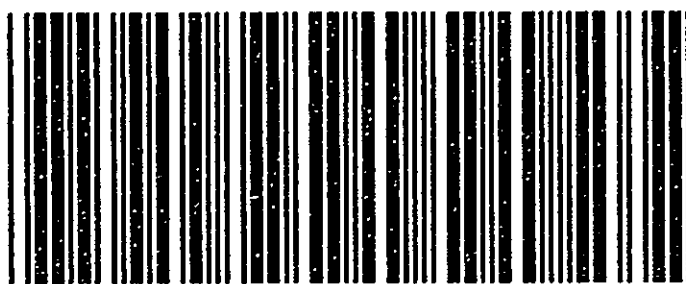


Australian Red Cross Society Wounded and Missing  
Enquiry Bureau files, 1914-18 War  
1DRL/0428

2848 Sergeant  
George William  
McRae

55th Battalion



1970606T

A.S.P.  
58th Bn.  
late 6/17th Bn.

McKAY  
Sgt. George William 2248

Killed in Action 14.9.17.

No known Company.  
Cert. by Capt. Mills 10.10.19.

London.  
20.10.19.

P.I.

55th Bn  
A.I.F.  
Capt G/17 Bn.

McRae  
Sgt. Geo. Wm. 28487

"Whereabouts"

Killed in Action 26.9.17. No further report.  
Cert. by A.I.G. Hdqtrs 5.11.17.

Att. at Holdsworth.

London  
5.11.17.

P.I.

Havre

15th Nov. 1917.

55th AUSTRALIANS

McRAE, Sergt. G.W. D Co. 2848

K/A. 29.9.17. Det. D/B.

McRae was Sergt. of our Platoon and I knew him from the time I joined 8 months ago. He was killed at dusk on the evening of the 25th Sept. when laying out tapes. He was killed by shrapnel from the German lines. He was hit in the back. Death was instantaneous. I do not know where he was buried. It occurred at Polygon Wood. I was a runner and did not see McRae hit, but Cpl. J. Pringle of the 55th Battalion, D Co., 14th Pltn. - an eye-witness - can give all information.

Informant: Pte. H.W. Mitchell, 3428  
55th Australians, D Co., 14th Pltn.,  
Australian Camp, Rouelles.

PM Boul  
P.1

Written Jpl. Pringle 18-12-17

Havre

6th Dec. 1917.

55th AUSTRALIANS

McRAE, Sergt. G.W. 2848

K. 26.9.17. Det. D/B.

I knew McRae for 6 months. He was tall, heavy, fair, about 35. On the Ypres front at Polygon Wood at 10 or 11 p.m. the night before the advance, he was laying tapes with other & other men, when he was hit by a shell and killed instantly. Sergt. Allen, 55th Bn., D Co., 15th Pltn. could give full information.

Informant: Pte. F.J. Rees, 2283  
55th Australians, C Co., 12th Pltn.

Confirmed by:-

Pte. T. Regen, 2728  
55th Australians, D Co., 15th Pltn.,  
Australian Camp, Rouelles.

Written Jpl. Allen 22.12.17

PM

A. I. F. 55.

McRAE, Sgt. G.W. 2848.

K. September 26th, 1917.

He was killed at Polygon Wood in the afternoon of September 25th while pegging out the ground for me to lay tapes for our jumping off line next day. I know this because a Sgt of the 54th Battrn. Handed his paybook to me as taken from his dead body. Capt. Giblett, C.Coy, was with him when he was pegging out and could no doubt supply further information. He belonged to XIV pl.D.Co.

Reference:- Cpl. S.Lund. 1942. D.Coy.

I saw him killed at Polygon Wood on September 25th as described. The body was buried close to the Wood. A cross was put on the grave.

Reference:- Capt. Giblett. O/O. D.Coy.

Identity cert. from Battrn records. Halenghon. Staples  
6.1.18.

*Boul  
P.1*

55th Battn.  
A.I.F.

McRae.  
Sgt.G.W. 2848

"Killed 26.9.17"

In my Pltn.14 of D.Coy. The Pltn.Officer Lieut.Green informed us of his having been killed while laying the tapes at Polygon Wood and he will know re burial if any were possible. McRae was a 16 stone man and a big favorite so Lieut.Green is sure to remember him.

Witness:-

J.Harvey 3498  
55th Battn.  
Dartford.

L.P.J.

London.  
7.1.18.

P.I.  
Boulogne.

Note Written Lieut.Green 31.12.17.

A.I.F. 55.

MORAE, Sgt G.W. 2848.

K. Sept 26th 1947. Dets.

I knew McRae well. Left Australia by the 6th Reinf of the 17th Battn. He was a very big man with moustache about 26 years of age, and came I think from McE Mackay where I think he was a farmer. A good allround sportsman. In Sept date not certain about, he was killed I know for a certainty and I know Cpl. Freeman, D.XIV. 55th Battn can give some further details.

Inf: Pte George King. 2701. D.Coy  
No. 13 Gen Hosp.  
BOULOGNE. 9.1.18. ARD

*Specimen, burial*

*Written Cpl Freeman  
18-1-18*

*Blood*

*(CD)*

*P.I.*

56th battn.  
A.I.C.

MORAN  
G.W. 2848

Killed in Action 25.9.17.

Re your enquiry of 2848 Sgt. G.W. Moran killed in action 25.9.17.  
Sorry to state that I am unable to inform you whether he was  
buried or not. All I know ~~that~~ is that he was killed by a shell  
on the night of 25.9.17.

Description:- A big man, about 15 stone of a  
country appearance.

Witness:- J. Pringle, Cpl.

London.  
14.1.18

*rs 18h*  
*D Coy.*  
*XIP 18h*

R1  
19/10/20



55th Bn.  
A.I.F.

MORAN  
G.W. 2848 Sergt

Killed 26.9.17 Est. D/B.

I knew Moran, Lt. Wilkin of 55th Bn. A.I.F. told me he saw him killed and that it was instantaneous. He was sniped when on a wiring party in front line of Polygon Woods and was buried at Hooge Crater and the grave marked. We held the ground.

Eye-witness:- No.  
Description:-

Witness:- C. Magee, Lieut.  
55th Bn. A.I.F.  
D. Co. 16th Pn.

Home address:- *Clark St. general*  
*Musgrave* N.S.W.

Note:- Written Lt. Wilkin, 9.1.18 Boulogne & P.I.

London.  
16.1.18

55th Battn.  
A.I.F.

McRAE  
Sergt. G.W. 2848  
Killed 26.9.17 Pte. D/H

He was hit by a shell just after the hop over, between 7 & 8 o'clock in the morning at Polygon Wood, was killed right out. I saw him hit. He was a fair chap, about 15 stone, tall. I believe he was buried in the Cemetery at Ypres.

Informant: Pte. J. Rodgers 2724  
55th Battn.  
A.I.F.  
8.1.18

London  
16.1.18

Boulogne and P.I.

55th Battn  
AIF

McRAE  
Sgt. G.W. 2848

"Killed in Action 26.9.17"

There is unfortunately no doubt whatever that Sgt. McRae was Killed in Action on the 26th. He was sent up from my company to lay the tapes on which the Battalion would assemble next morning to launch the attack. He completed the work and was killed by a shell. We had very heavy fighting for some days after and in the confusion I could not ascertain definitely where he was buried. My belief is that it is near the German track touching Polygon Wood (in the Ypres centre of course) I am almost sure he was buried on the field. Capt. Giblett M.C. of our Battn was in charge of the party and perhaps could say definitely. I happen to be away from my Unit for a month and so cannot get in touch with him for that time.

Letter from:-

H. Green Lieut.  
France 10.1.18

London.  
24.1.18

NOTE *See also Capt Giblett*  
19.1.18

P.I & B'logne

55th Battn.  
A.I.F.

McRae.  
Sgt. Geo. Wm. 2848

"Killed in Action 26.9.17"

Cook.  
Sgt. Maj. W.H. 2142

Sgt. McRae was actually killed on 25.9.17 by a shell fragment. The poor fellow was laying the tapes for our starting point on 26th stunt, so he and Sgt. Cook were both killed in the same region. When Sgt. Cook was killed he was carrying Sgt. G.W. McRae's paybook and belongings. Sgt. McRae was buried in the field. I do not imagine he had a registered grave, but am not certain. Perhaps the Padre had a cross erected on his grave, but a lot of graves in the field don't have the crosses long because of shells. He was in my company and I had known him for about 10 months. He was a fine big man, very powerfully built and wore a fair moustache. He must have been nearly 6ft high with splendid physique. He was on the land in Australia. A farmer I think. I hope the above will be of service to the relatives. Both men were idolised by their men and were as brave as God's best.

Letter from:- Sgt. Keith Allen 2259

London.  
30.1.18.

France 1.1.18.

Boulogne.  
P.I.

55th Battn.  
A.I.F.

MC RAE,  
Sgt. G.W. 2848

"Killed in Action 26.9.17."

Re 2848 Sgt. G.W. McRae, 55th Battn A.I.F. On Sept. 25th 1917, Sgt. McRae and myself were engaged on a Tactical Working Party near Polygon Wood, about 3 p.m. on that afternoon, the Sgt. was hit by a piece of shell, death being instantaneous. At night he was buried on the battlefield as there were no military cemeteries in that area. I cannot say whether the grave has been registered, as I have not been back to that area since.

Letter from:- H. Gibbett,  
14th Training Battn,  
Codford. 4.2.18.

London.  
7.3.18.

P.I.  
Boulogne

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.

85th Batin.  
A.I.F.

McRAE 2848.  
G.W. Sgt.

"KILLED IN ACTION" 26.9.17"

re Sgt. McRae 2848, well I am sorry to say that he was killed early in the night of the 25th of September whilst preparing for an attack. He was buried on the spot where he was killed. He was buried on the left side of the Ypres. Menin Road, facing Menin, on the outskirts of Glencourse Wood. Medium complexion, 6 feet 6 in, weight about 15 stone 6 lbs, he left Sydney Nov 2nd 1915 with 6 reinforcements 17th Batin. cross erected.

Letter from:- Pte. F.J.F. Freeman. 3510.  
France. 26.1.18.

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.  
15.3.18.

P.I.

Please insert in December issue  
Bats-

in Alpha - <sup>Ans. 11/4/41</sup>  
Australia: 55 Bth 2<sup>nd</sup> Co.

Mr. Rae, George William. 2848. Sgt.

Killed Sept. 29, Polygon Wood.

Unofficial. News should be sent to

Mr. Duncan McRae. 7803.

5 Bde. 13 Bty. Aus. Fld. Art.

Australian Base Post Office.

Mount Pleasant. London.

18 - 1 - 18

Col. FREEMAN.

~~1st~~ XIV Bn D. Company  
55 Infantry Battalion  
Ant. 2 p.m. force.  
B. E. F.

Dear Sir: We have been ~~asked~~ <sup>asked to make</sup>  
inquiries concerning the death &  
burial of 2848 Sgt. G. W. McRae  
55 Bn.

~~and~~ One of our informants has told  
us that if we applied to you, that  
you could give us some information  
about the matter, especially as to  
whether ~~he~~ <sup>known</sup> about his burial, whether  
he was buried in a registered

Cemetery or only in the field.  
We are sorry to trouble you, but  
in the face of the anxious  
inquiries we shall be most grateful  
to you for any help you can  
10.5.

# HOSPITAL 5. Southern General.

Faussett R  
7/24/18

Full in exactly as list.	INFORMATION			
	SURNAME	Christian Name.	Regtl.No.	Rank
	Capron	W. E.	1232	Plt
	Sharp	E. H.	5896	Qua

NOTE In all cases state fully what informant says he saw or heard and give DATE AND PLACE of occurrence.	STATEMENT OF
	(to be taken in)
	Capron was the Battalion commander the end of September and he fellows who was knocked out the Battalion & back. The next on an ammunition wagon instantaneously. We had 5 and know where he was buried and originally came away in 53 Aus. Field Art. in Egypt and we always called him Wal.

PLEASE ALSO ANSWER

1. Was Informant Eye-Witness?	Yes.	2. If no of
3. Was the ground held or lost?	Held	4. If In wa: the
5. Did Informant know Christian Name, Initials or No. of man enquired about?	Yes. + Name	6. Was nan
7. Give Informant's description of man enquired about—any nickname, marks, scars, etc.	about 27. Medium height. Brown hair on his head	
8. Searcher's opinion of Informant's accuracy and intelligence	Intelligent & accurate	

Give us...

Thanking you in Anticipation,  
and with all good wishes,

Yr faithfully

V. Seakie

per D.S



Sgt. Geo. Wm. MacRae 2848.  
55 Batt.

See under

Sgt./Maj. W. H. Cook 2142?

55 Batt.

30/1/18.

31-12-17

Lieut. Green

D. C. IV 8th

S-S-Balt.

A. J. 7 Abroad

alt

2548

Sgt. J. W. McRae

S-S-Balt.

A. J. 7

K 26-9-17

Wm.

1-1-18

(9-1-18)

U. Wilkin

5-5-9-9-8alt

a. j. 4

83.2.4

alt

2848

Spl- L. W. Q. e. Rae.

55 4 9-9-8alt

a. j. 4.

K. a. 6-9-17.

9-1-18  
9-1-18

CAPT. GIBLET

M.P.

55 A.I.F.

P.S.7.

about.

Sgt. G.W. M. RAE

2848

55 A.I.F.

K269.17.

Ev.

19.1.18

Sgt ALLAN D Co 15 Plt

55 Inf Btu

A. I. F  
Abroad

abt 2848 Sgt G. W. McRAE

55 Inf Btu

KA. 26.9.17

N

40  
7/20

(17-12-17)

Cpl. S Pringle

( D Coy. XIV Bn.

63<sup>rd</sup> Bn.

A. J. 4.

B. 2. 4

alt

2845

Sgt. G W. McRAE

D. Coy.

53<sup>rd</sup> Bn.

A. J. 4.

K/A. 29-9-17. 21-12-17

H.P.A. ✓  
21-7-16  
1400.

Briscoe Ward.  
3rd Stth Gen Hosp  
Oxford.  
17-12-17.

Sec. A.R.C. Secy.

Re your commun-  
cation re Sgt S.W. McKee.

(No 2848) 55th Baltn A.I.F.

And must thank you so  
much for the trouble you  
have taken to furnish  
me with the information

Thanking you so much  
for your expressions  
of sympathy.

If you have any further  
information concerning  
the above, my address  
is as above.

Sincerely yrs

Amie McKee  
(No 2803)

Alcy Verner Colwell  
Portland

Quart. Eng.  
27-4-18.

To Secretary A. R. C. Society.

Dear Madam.

I thank you most  
sincerely for all the trouble you have gone to,  
to make enquiries re my Brother, <sup>2848</sup> Sgt S. H. McRae.  
The news you have conveyed to me, although  
sad, was indeed comforting, and has  
been of great comfort and support to my people.

I would be very grateful to you if you will  
have any further communications concerning  
him to send it to me at my home address  
given below. as I expect to be leaving for Australia  
shortly.

Thanking you very much for your past  
information and also in Anticipation.

I am  
Yours Sincerely

D. M. McRae (J803)

Address:

D. M. McRae.

Berrigo  
Via Gloucester, N. S. W. Australia  
D. M. McRae

13 Battery  
H. F. P.





Pte. E. H. Keating,  
O/o Salvation Army,  
No 7 Camp, Sutton Veny,  
Wilts.

November 7th, 1917.

Dear Sir,

We deeply regret to inform you that

No 2846 Sgt. G. MORAN.  
55th Battalion,  
A.I.F.

was killed in action on 26.9.17, and we have at present no further details to give you. We have added his name to our inquiry lists and as soon as we obtain particulars of his death and burial you shall be advised.

Assuring you of our sincere sympathy.

Yours faithfully,

LAW  
SECRETARY.

November 26th, 1917.

7803 Dvr. Duncan McRae,  
13th Battery, 5th F.A.B., A.F.A.,  
Australian Base Post Office,  
Mt. Pleasant, London.

Dear Sir,

With reference to your inquiry for

2848 Sgt. G. McRae,  
55th Battalion,  
A.I.F.

We very much regret to inform you that he is officially  
reported Killed in Action on 26.9.17. We are doing our  
utmost to obtain particulars of his death and burial and  
will advise you as soon as we succeed.

Assuring you of our sincere sympathy.

Yours faithfully,

*Lawrence Ryan*  
SECRETARY.

2848  
P.C. 7  
3-1-18

2848 Sgt G. W. McRAE.

55 Belth

K/A 26-9-17

.25-12-17.

B'loque  
P.L.

3.

To Anso. Red. Cross Society,

Re your inquiry of 2848 Sgt. G. W. McRae K/A. 25-9-17. 55 Belth.

Sorry to state that I'm unable to inform you whether he was buried or not. All I know is that he was killed by a shell on the night of 25/9/12.

Yours faithfully

J. Pringle Cpl.

Description of casualty.

A big man, about 15 stone of a country appearance.

OCy  
55 Belth

L. P.

ackd  
letter 16-1-18

2848

10/1/18.

Sgt. G. W. McRAE

(Cavalry)

55 Bth

Dear Miss Deakin

K/A 26-9-17 B'ly

Re. 2848. Sgt. G. W. McRae. 55th Bn. A.I.F. P.I.

K. in. A. 26.9.17.

NOTE

3

Written Capt Eblett  
19.1.18

Your enquiry of the 1st inst.

There is unfortunately no doubt whatever that Sgt. McRae was K. in. A. on the 26th! He was sent up from my company to lay the tapes on which the Battalion would assemble next morning, to launch the attack. He completed the work & was killed by a shell.

We had heavy fighting for some days after the confusion. I could not ascertain definitely where he was buried. My belief is that it is near the Glencorse track touching Polygon Wood (in the YPRES. Sector of course). I am almost sure he was buried "on the field".

Captain Eblett<sup>Mc</sup> of our Battalion was in charge of the party & perhaps could say definitely. I happen to be away from my unit for a month & so cannot get in touch with him for that time!

There is little need to describe McRae. We know his case & regret his loss deeply!

Any further information I can gain for you I shall be pleased to send. Yr friend  
St John St.

Lt. H.Green,  
55th Infantry Battalion,  
Australian Imperial Force, B.E.F.

January 17th, 1918.

Dear Sir;

We wish to thank you for your letter in answer to our enquiry concerning :-

2848 Sgt.G.W.MoRAE, 55th Battalion, A.I.F.

The information and details you have supplied will be of much assistance to us, and of value to our enquirers.

It will be a little comfort to the relatives of this late M.C.O to learn that he died doing his duty, and is deeply missed by all. Thank you very much for supplying Capt.Giblett's name as one to whom we might refer for further information.

Yours faithfully, .

SECRETARY.

OS.

29th January 1918.

Driver Duncan Mc.Rae 7803,  
13th. Battery 5th. F.A.B.  
Aus. Base P.O.  
Mount Pleasant,

Dear Sir,

We have received further unofficial reports about Sgt. G.W. Mc. Rae 2846-55B. Capt. Giblett 55Batt. saw him killed at Polygon Wood on Sept 26th. and said he was buried close to the Wood and a cross was put on the grave. Cpl. S. Lind 1942 confirms this and adds that it happened in the afternoon while they were pegging out the ground to lay tapes for the jumping off line for the next day. Pte. Rodger 2724 gives the same account except that he said he believed it happened in the morning and that he was buried in the Ypres Cometry. But Pte. Mitchell 2428 agreed with Cpl. Lind that it happened at dusk, and added that he was hit in the back and killed instantly.

Lieut. Mc.Cee who was Sgt. Mc.Rae's Coy. Commander heard the same account of his death from Lieut. Wilkin 55 Batt. who said a sniper shot him and that he was buried at Hooze Crater and the grave marked. They all describe him as a big man of about 16 stone and a good all sportsman and he seems to have

been a great favourite. We hope these details and the knowledge that death was instantaneous will be of some comfort to Sgt. Mc.Rae's people. Will you assure them of our deep sympathy in their loss.

Yours faithfully,

Secretary.



29th January 1918.

M.H. Kenting Esq.,  
c/o Salvation Army,  
7th. Camp  
Sutton Veny, WILTS.

Dear Sir,

We have received further unofficial reports about  
Sgt. G.W. Mc.Rae 2848-55.Batt. Capt. Giblott 55.Batt. saw him  
killed at Polygon Wood on Sept 26th. and said he was buried  
close to the Wood and a cross was put on the grave. Cpl. 3.Lind  
1942 confirms this and adds that it happened in the afternoon  
while they were pegging out the ground to lay tapes for the  
jumping off line for the next day. Pte. Rodger 2724 gives the  
same account except that he said he believed it happened in the  
morning and that he was buried in the Ypres Cometry, but Pte.  
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heard the same account of his death from Lieut. Wilkin 55.Batt.  
who said a sniper shot him and that he was buried at Hooge Crater  
and the grave marked. They all describe him as a big man of  
about 15 stone and a good all sportsman and he seems to have

AR.

been a great favourite. We hope these details and the knowledge that death was instantaneous will be of some comfort to Sgt. Mc.Rae's people. Will you assure them of our deep sympathy in their loss.

Yours faithfully,

Secretary,

PR.

ack P.C. 9.2.18  
Anst. 2848

Sgt. G. W. McRAE  
55<sup>th</sup> Batta

K/A 26-9-17  
B'looms  
P.1

14<sup>th</sup> Training Battalion  
Godford

Feb. 4<sup>th</sup> 1918

3

(C)

The Secretary  
Aust. Red Cross Society.

Dear Madam.

In reply to your enquiry re.

2848 Sgt. G. W. McRae. 55<sup>th</sup> Bn A.I.F.

On Sept 25<sup>th</sup> 1917 Sgt McRae and myself  
were engaged on a Tactical Working  
Party near Polygon Wood. About 3PM.  
on that afternoon, the Sgt. was hit  
by a piece of shell. Death being  
instantaneous, at night he was  
buried on the field. as there were  
no military cemeteries in that area.  
I cannot say whether the grave  
has been registered, as I have not  
been back to that area since.  
Hoping this will give the desired  
information.

Yours. faithfully  
R. Giblett

7803 Dvr.D.McKae,  
13th Battery, 5th Field Artillery Bde,  
Australian Base Post Office,  
Mt.Pleasant, Farrington St, N.S.

&

Mr.E.H.Meating,  
C/o Salvation Army,  
No 7 Camp, No 1 Command Depot,  
Sutton Veny, Wilts.

February 8th, 1918.

Dear Sir,

In further answer to your enquiry for

2848 Sgt.G.D.McRae, 15th Battalion, A.I.F.

and regret to inform you of the following unofficial reports given by No 2259 Sgt.Keith Allen, of the same unit. He wrote "Sgt.McRae was killed on 25.9.17 by a shell fragment. The poor fellow was lying the tapes for our starting point on 26th stunt, so he and Sgt.Cook were both killed in the same region. When Sgt.Cook was killed he was carrying Sgt.G.D.McRae's paybook and belongings. Sgt.McRae was buried in the field. I do not imagine he had a registered grave, but am not certain. Perhaps the Padre had a cross erected on his grave, but a lot of graves in the field don't have the crosses long because of shells. He was in my company and I had known him for about 10 months. He was a fine big man, very powerfully built and wore a fair moustache. He must have been nearly 6ft high with a splendid physique. He was on the land in Australia. A farmer I think. I hope the above will be of service to the relatives. Both men were idolised by their men and were as brave as God's best".

Lt.H.Green, also wrote to the same effect :- "There is unfortunately no doubt whatever that Sgt.McRae was killed in action on the 26th. He was sent up from my company to lay the tapes on which the Battalion would assemble next morning to launch the attack. He completed the work and was killed by a shell. We had very heavy fighting for some days after and in the confusion I could not ascertain definitely where he was buried. My belief is that it is near the Glencorse track touching Polygon Wood (in the Xpress centre of course) I am almost sure he was buried on the field."

Trusting that these reports will be of some assistance to you.

Yours faithfully,

*Lm*

RECEIVED