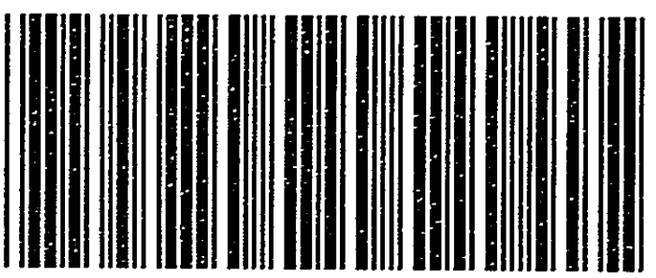
Australian Red Cross Society Wounded and Missing
Enquiry Bureau files, 1914-18 War
1DRL/0428

2554A Sergeant Henry Alexander Charles Mead

51st Battalion



1750505N

Wistaria House, St Mary's Rd
Ealing, W
Nov. 6th - 1916

To the Secretary, Australian
Branch, British Red Cross Society

Dear Madam

Please accept my best
thanks, for your very kind letter,
& the trouble you Society are taking
to try & trace my Brother in law
No. 2334 Lce/Cpl H. A. Cread, 5th Battn,
A.I.F. I heard from another Australian
at the front that knew him, that
he thought, he was in either 1st,
or 2nd, General Field Hospital, I thought
I had better let you know this at once
as possibly this might be some
help in tracing him, which I
sincerely hope it may. Allow me
to again thank you.

Yours Faithfully
Jessie A. Frood

30th November

Miss Grove
Wistaria House
St. Mary's Road,
Ealing, W.

Dear Madam,

An unofficial report has been received about 2554 Sgt. H.A.C. Meade, 51st Battalion, A.I.F., No.2784 Pte S.R. T.Richards, 51st Battalion, A.I.F., states that on August 14th about 9 in the evening he was in the advance on the Somme, but the ground was not held. On the retirement next day, Sgt. Mead came to where Informant was dug in, in "No Man's Land", and he helped to carry him in about 8 orn9. o'clock on the morning of the 15th to the Battalion, First Aid Station at the front line. He was very badly wounded. The First Aid Dresser told him afterwards that Sgt. Mead got away safely on a Stretcher, and the Dresser added that he showed improvement and he thought that he would get over it,

We are sorry to say that we have been unable to trace his admission to any Hospital. These reports we send you are all unofficial, and therefore, not wholly reliable, and we very

much fear that the worst has happened.

We are still making inquiries, and shall let you know if we hear anything further.

Yours faithfully,

V-D.

Secretary
m.d.a.

51st Btn.
A.Coy.

MEAD
Sgt. Harry Alexander Charles. 2554

"Killed in Action 14/16.8.16"

No trace Germany
Cert.by Capt. Mills.10.10.19.

London.
25.10.19.

Off.H.&.P.I.

France.

A. I. F. 51.

HEAD, Sgt. H.A.C. 2554.

M/August 14th. 1916.

I saw him shot through the back and badly wounded at Pozieres on Aug.14th. the day we went in. He was carried away to the D/S at Pozieres. I do not know how he got on. He seemed very bad indeed. He belonged to III pl. A.Coy., and had charge of No.10 section. He was a L/Sgt. We knew him as Harry.

Reference: Cpl. F.B.Deane, 3761, A.Coy.,
No. 4 A.D.B.D.

Staples.
31.10.16.
SA.

51st A.I.F.

Mead Sgt. H.A.C. 2554,
A. Company.

(M. Aug. 14th 1916)

Informant states that "on Aug. 14th nr. Pozieres, Mead was wounded and lying in the same shell hole as myself and was still there when I crawled away".

Reference: Pte. Jolly 3752,
51st A.I.F.,
Edmonton Hospt.

P.1 -

Home address:
Wongan Hutts,
W. Australia.

Nov. 2nd 1916,
R. Still.

1 Record

A.I.F. 51st Battn

MEAD
Sgt. E.A.C. 2554

Wounded 14-15-8-16 - Missing

"I knew Mead personally. He was hit on the night 13th - 14th Was wounded in Kidneys by shrapnel, and he was 3 days in a Dug-out before they moved him to Etaples Hospital. It was a very dangerous case.

Ref. A.D. Elliot 2642
51st Battn.

London
2-11-16

P.I.

France.

A.I.F. 51. MEAD Sgt.H.A.C. 2554.

W. M. 14.8.16.

In a charge at Bouquet Farm, he was shot in the stomach. He was put in a deep gun pit and carried in later. After being taken to a D.S. we saw no more of him.

PJE.

Reference: Pte.W.C. Kearns. 2574 A.
4 A.D.B.D.

Staples.
14.11.16.

51st Australian Imperial Force. Mead, Sergt. H.A.C. 2554,

M Aug. 14-16/16.

Informant states that"on 14th August/16 about 9 in the evening at the Somme I was in the advance. The ground was not held. On the retirement next morning Sergt. Mead came in to where I was dug in in No Mans Land and I helped to carry him in about 8 or 9 on the morning of the 15th. We carried him to the First Aid Station for our Battalion at our front line. He was shot somewhere near the kidneys and seemed very badly wounded. The First Aid dresser told me afterwards that Sergt. Mead got away safely. He was carried away on a stretcher and the dresser also said he showed improvement and he thought he would get over it."

Reference:-- Stephen Eddy Thomas Richards, 2784,
51st Australian Imperial Force. M.G.S. C Coy.
Colemore Road, Kings Heath,
Birmingham.

Home address:-- Reserve Street, Claremont, West Australia.

Nov. 18th.
Awdry.

51st Battn.
A.I.F.,

Mead
Sgt.H.A.C. 2554

"Missing 14-8-1916"

I knew him personally - he was seriously wounded on the Somme, and was taken to the 3rd General Hospital Etaples. He was hit on August 14th and was in the Hospital in October.

Reference;- Sgt.J.Stewart, 2210
51st Battn. A.I.F.,
Southall Hospt.

London
29-11-16.
W.C.J.

Off. M.
P.I.

1 Bond

A.I.F. 51st Battn
"A.Coy"

HEAD
Sgt. Harry Alex.Chas.2554

W. 14/16-Aug

No casualty reported
Cert. by A.I.F.Headquarters 23-9-16.

No further report.
Cert. by letter from Rouen 30-9-16.

Wounded 14-16-8-16 - No further report
Cert. by letter from Rouen 10-11-16

No record of this man admitted - 16th General Hospital Le Treport 16-11-16

Wounded & Missing 14-16-8-16 - previously reported Wounded
Cert. by A.I.F.Headqarters I.B. 96.

OFF.M.
&.P.I. 1 Bnd

London
5-12-16.

A.I.F. 51st Batln

.EAD
Sgt.H.A.C. 2304

"Wounded & Missing 1-16-8-16

In reply to your letter of Dec. 13th asking us to trace No.2[illegible], Sgt. H.A.C., [illegible], 51st Battalion, A.I.F., we have made all enquiries and cannot find any record of his ever having been admitted to No. 3 Gen. Hospital.

Cert. by letter from J.N. Allison
B.R.C.S.
Enquiry office for Wounded & Missing
No. 8 Branch
16-12-16.

H.M.
P.I.

Received.
27-12-16

51st Australian Imperial Force. Headd. Sgt. H.A.C., 33-3-4

W Gnoff. M. Aug. 14th. 1915.

Informant states that on or about 15th Aug. 1916 at Ronquet Farm Sgt. Mead was shot. I saw him on a stretcher and spoke to him. He was in agony and could not talk much and would not be moved till after dark. I afterwards saw Sgt. O'Meara of A. Coy., and he told me that they moved Sgt. Mead all right after dark."

Informant:-- Roy Peterson, 338,
51st Australian Imperial Force,
Colmore Road Hospital,
King's Heath, Birmingham.

Home address:-- 20, Brigaton, Ladyville,
Perth, Australia.

Dec.29th.
F.F.Awdry.

Havre Jan. 27th 1917

AUSTRALIANS 51 MEADE Sgt.H.A.C. 2554

W.unoff.1.Aug.14-16/16

Sgt. Meade was hit by shrapnel at Bouquet Farm about 14th Aug. I believe it was in the back where he got it. I saw Sgt. Meade lying on the ground and he was just about done then. He lost the ground. He was lying about 300 yds. in front of our trenches. I spoke to him but he was unable to answer. His brother joined us two weeks ago and has been told this.

Informant Cpl. A.S.Blenkinsop 3472
51st Battn. A Co. A.I.F.
Dock Rest Camp
H.M.D.H.

O4M
P1

France.

A. I. F. 51. MEADE, Sgt.H.A.C. 2554.

W. ~~sheff.~~M/Aug.14-16th.1916.

He was wounded at Pozieres on Aug.14th. Next morning I helped to carry him to the aid post. We got him there safely and left him. That is the last I know of him. He belonged to III pl. A.Coy.
Reference: Pte. S.S.T.Richards, 2784, C.Coy.

I was speaking to Major Christie of A.Coy. 51st.Bn. He asked Capt.Mitchell, A.M.C. how Meade was getting on. The doctor replied that he was doing well. Meade must therefore have safely reached No. 4 Fld.Amb., to which Capt.Mitchell is attached.
Reference: Pte. W.Riley, 3926, A.Coy.

Written Capt Mitchell

No. 4 A.D.B.D.
153.17

Staples.
30.1.17.
SA.

Havre

Feb. 2nd 1917

AUSTRALIANS 51

MEADE Sgt. H.A.C. 2554

W, ~~sheff.~~M. Aug.14/16/16

I know Sgt. Meade well; he came from Perth W.Australia. He was shot through the back at Pozieres and was carried to the back of our lines and put in a dug out to have a rest. This is the last heard or seen of him. He could not have been taken P/W and there was heavy shelling going on all the time. We always retained the ground where Sgt.Meade was last seen
Informant J.A. Walsh 3135
51st A.I.F.
No.2 Gen.Hosp. (Aust)
H.B.S.

I the only wounded

51st Batt.
A.I.F.,

MEAD
Sgt.H.A.C. 2554

"Missing"

In reply to your letter of 1st February, concerning 2554 Sgt.H.A.C. Mead, 51st Batt. A.I.F., I am directed to inform you that this soldier cannot be traced as having crossed from France to Southampton on H.H.S."Western Australia" on 24th October, 1916, nor is there any trace of any soldier with a name or number resembling his having done so.
I am to add that the following soldiers named McKay are reported to have crossed on that occasion:-

400115 Pte W McKay 10th Batt. Scottish Rifles,
20043 L/Cpl T.B.McKay 7th Cameron Highlanders,
5847 Gunner L K McKay R.G.A. (111th Siege Battery)
1306 Pte McKay 4th Batt. Northumberland Fusiliers.

Cert. by letter from R.S.Fowler,
War Office,
London. S.W.
8.2.17.

Off.H.
D.T.

London
12.2.17

51st A. I. F.

Meade, Sergt H.A.C. 2554,

(W & P Aug. 14-61/16)

"I was told three days before I left the Battn (about 23rd Jan) that Sergt Harry Meade (51 A) was a prisoner of war in Germany, according to the British Australasian Paper. His brother Jack Meade 91 (16 A.) told me this. I do not know whether he had heard from his brother. He had asked me to make all enquiries for his brother before, but I was not able to get any news for him at all, as no one knew what had happened to him".

Eye-witness: No, told by the brother Jack Meade 91 (16 A.)

Description: Fairly tall, curly hair, darkish, 24, as far as I remember but I am not good at description

Informant: Pte Bert McClellan, 3667, 51st A.I.F. A. IVpl
3rd Southern General Hosp. Oxford.

Home address:
294, Wellington St,
Perth, W. Australia.

14th Feb/17.
Hilda M. Pickard-Cambridge.

Mr Secretary.

A. I. F. 51. HEAD, Sgt. H.A.C. 2554.

W. & H. August 14th, 1916.

Cpl. Barrett (A.M.C. Cpl. 13th. Fld. Ambulance) told me that he found Head between the lines between Pozieres and Mouquet Farm, that either he or his men (I forget which) dressed his wounds and that he had him brought in two days later. Another S/B told me he got him safely to D/S. I forget this man's name but Cpl. Barrett might know. Head and I were mates before the war.

FEP.

Reference:- Sgt. Hopkins. 2150.
51 Sig. Sec.
No. 4 A.D.B.D.

P.S. He knew initials and that his No. was above 2000.

Etaples
2.5.17.

A.I.F. 51st Btn A.Coy.

HEAD
Sgt Harry Alex. Chas 2554

"W & Missing" 14/16-8-16

Killed in Action 14-16-8-16 - previously reported Missing Cert. by A.I.F Headquarters 5-5-17.

OHF.H. &P.I.
& Boulogne

London
9-5-17

51st Batt. A. I. F.

MEAD Sgt H.A.C. 2554.

"W & M. Aug. 14th'16 "

" I helped to carry Mead to a dug-out which was being used as a dressing station, on the morning of the 15th Aug.'16. Next day I was told he had left the dug-out to go to Pozieres, but cannot say if he reached there. That was the last I heard of him, but he was well beh hind our lines, and something should be known about what happened to him. He was badly wounded in the back." I knew him well."

Description. Sgt 5ft9. Fair complexion. Age 25.

Witness. Mack Cpl C. 2892.
51st Batt.

May 16th.,'17.
S. W.

Worgret Camp,
WAREHAM.

51st Batt. A.I.F.

MEAD, Sgt H.A.C. No.2554
51st Batt.

W. & M. Aug. 14-16/16.

Witness says that he helped to carry soldier to a dugout which they were using as a dressing station on the morning of the 15th Aug.,1916. Witness says that he was told that soldier left the dressing station to go to Pozieres, but cannot say if the soldier reached there.

Description. Age about 25, fair complexion, height 5'9".

Witness. Cpl Mack. C. No. 2892 orig. 51st Batt., now 70th Bat

23rd May, 1917.
S.W.

Worgret Camp,
WAREHAM.

Previous report by Mack

Havre

2nd July 1917

51st AUSTRALIANS.

Mead, Sgt. H. W. C. A. Co. 2554

(The following is copy of a letter from the front dated 20.6.1917, and probably refers to Sergeant H.A.C. Mead, 2554 of the 51st Btn. entered in our List as K. 14/16th August, 1916.)

"Re Sergt. H. W. C. Mead of A. Company, 51st Battalion, A.I.F. reported "Missing" about Sept. 4th, 1916 (Pozieres). I have just had word from Australia that an old friend of his named Robertson, at one time Sergeant with Mead in 6th Reinforcements to 28th Btn., and later of the 11th Btn, saw him about last Christmas in No. 3 Hospital, Wandsworth. He states that although Mead failed to recognise him and seemed inclined to deny his identity he is in no doubt whatever that it was Mead he saw. These two were school mates and left Australia together. Personally I do not know Robertson and have no idea of his present whereabouts, but about the beginning of May a sick soldier returned to Australia (possibly the same) was endeavouring to find Mead's mother to tell her he had seen Mead in Hospital. As Mead's people had changed their address he failed to find them and this soldier (who apparently did not know Mead to have been reported "missing") they had not, up till the time of writing

Havre

2nd July 1917

51st AUSTRALIANS

Mead, Sgt H.W.C. 2554

(continued)

writing to me, been able to find again. As your records may show I have certain knowledge that Mead was brought in from the front of our lines and passed through the advanced dressing station from when all trace of him seems to have been lost. As his wounds were very serious it was presumed here that he had died en route to the Hospital. If this information is of any use to you in proving his fate I would be extremely pleased as he and I were particular friends. Mead was thin and of medium build but could be readily identified by a somewhat conspicuous scar about 3" or an inch long in the centre of his forehead.

(Sgd.) Sergt. H. C. Hopkins 2150
51st Btn. Australians Signal Section
B.E.F.

BOULOGNE.

51st Battn.
A.I.F.

HEAD.
Sgt. H.A.C. 2554

"Killed 14.8.16."

He was my Sgt of Section 9 Pl, 3A. Co. He was wounded badly same time as myself in the attack about 1 mile beyond Pozieres. I saw him lying wounded and taken to a gun pit where I spoke to him. Sec. Lieut. O'Rusa (?) and L/Cpl. McShirming will tell you that Head and several other wounded were put in a dugout for protection and that tthe German barrage caught and killed them. Lieut. O'Rusa was the only one who got out. Lieut. McDairmid now in C. Coy., but then Pl. Sgt. of No, 3 Pl. A. Co. (a mate of Heads) can also give all available information. Head has a brother in this Battn. who will also probably know.

Witness:- G. Mair. 3895,
51th Battn.

A.I.F.,
London.
21.8.17.

Off. H. P.I.

Bond.

Sgt. H. A. C. Meads 2554

See under

Plt Jack Meads 91

20/10/17

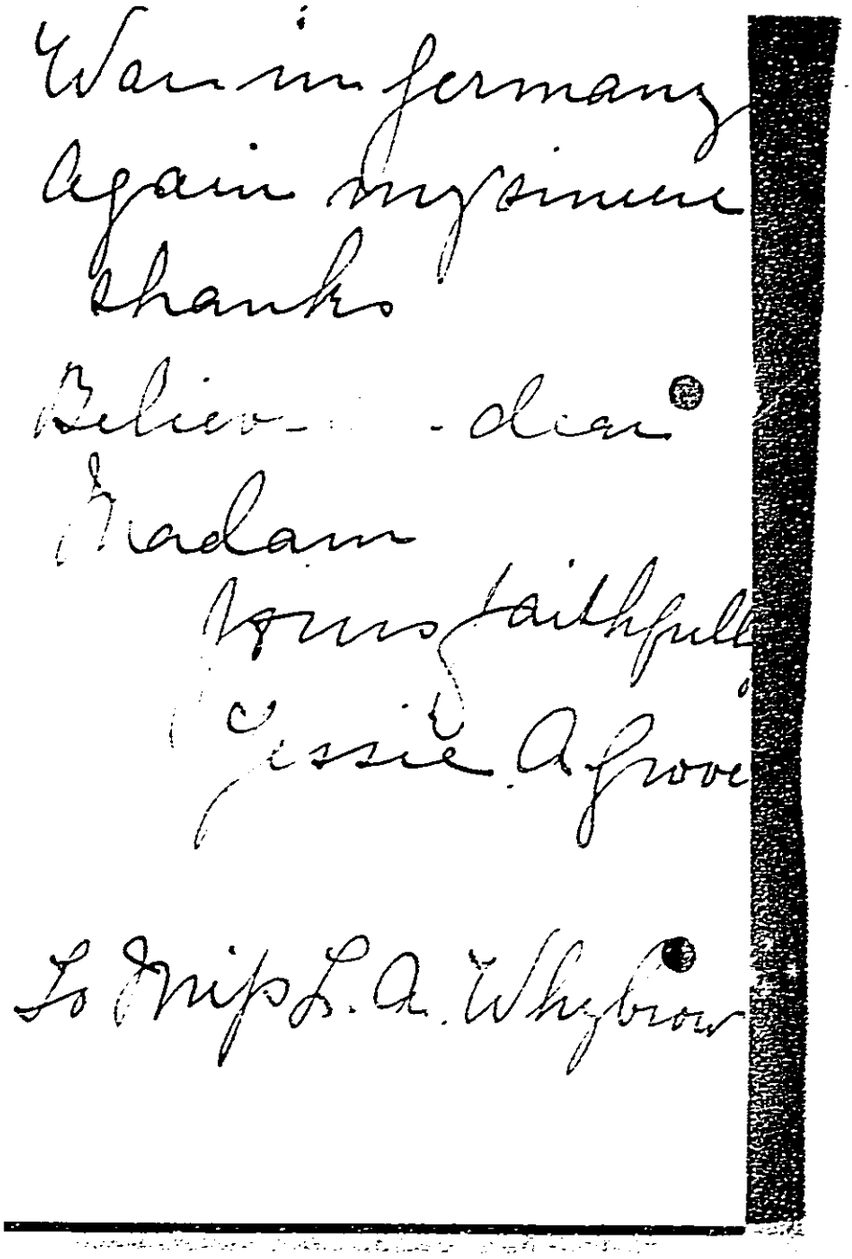
Victoria House
St Mary's Road
Ealing W.5.

Oct. 9th 1919

Dear Madam

I am sorry not to have replied to your letter before this but have been from home hence delay. I enclose to 2/5-4 Sgt. of A.C. Head 5th Co. I have given

up spoke of ever hearing
any news of him
after so long, but should
anything come to light
I should be most
grateful if you would
let me know.
I must now ask you
to please accept my
best thanks for all
you have done in
trying to find out
tidings of him, also
his Brother, who
was a Prisoner of


Warm in fermany
Again my sincere
thanks
Believe - dear
Madam
Yours faithfully
Jessie A Grove
To Miss L. A. Whybrow

Wistaria House
act. St Mary's Road
Ealing W.
Sept 17th/16

RECEIVED
20 SEP 1916
CARLTON HOUSE TERRACE.

Gentlemen
I am writing
to ask if you could
assist me in tracing
the Hospital, where
they have taken
No 2554. Sgt H. A. C.
Mead

5-1 Battalion,
Australian Infantry
who was wounded
in France between
the 14th and 16th of last
month (August). I am
his Sister-in-law,
his Brother also of
the Australian Infantry
is in camp at Salisbury
Plain, we are both
most anxious for
news & would be most
grateful if you could

help us in any way.

Thanking you in anticipation

I am yours faithfully

Jessie A. Groom

Victoria House
Ealing Road
Ealing. W.

To the Secretary

Dear Madam

Please accept
our best thanks for
the trouble you have
taken on behalf of
Sgt H.A. Mead, also
your kind sympathy
which I can assure

you is much
appreciated, we
still hope, to hear
some tidings of the
poor Boy yet.
again thanking
you.

Believe me
to remain
Yours faithfully
Jessie A. Grover

Victoria House
St Mary's Road
Ealing W
Nov 24th 16

RECEIVED
15 NOV 1916

To
The Secretary
Dear Madam
We really do not
know how to be
grateful enough,
to your Good Society,
for the trouble, they
are taking in trying
to trace our Barber
in-law No 25-3-4 Sgt -

H. A. C. Dead 5-1st Battalion, it is quite correct, he is known by the name of "Harry" Again thanking you.

Remain,

Yours faithfully

C. Jessie A. Snow

Final Draft. 29/9/19.

C.

Miss Grover
Wisteria House
39. St. Mary's Rd.
Ealing. W

Re. Sgt. Mead. H. A. C.
5th Bn.

Name.	Number and Unit.	Inquiry and Remarks.
Caldwell Pte.R.R.	6957 - 15th Btn.	K in A 13/6/18 J.Kay " Egerton C'Keefe St. S.BRISBANE

September21st, 1917.

Miss Glover.
Wisteria House,
St.Mary's Rd, Ealing,W.

Dear Madam,

It is with deep regret we write to inform you of an unofficial report received about No 2[illegible] Sgt.H.A.C.Mead, 51st Battalion, A.I.F.

which we fear only confirms the official report of his death in action.

No 3893 Pte.G.Mair of the same unit stated that Sgt Mead was wounded at the same time as himself in the attack about a mile from Pozieres on 4.8.16 and he saw him lying wounded and taken to a gun pit where he spoke to him. He was told that your brother-in-law and several other wounded men were put in a dugout for protection and that they were killed in the German barrage, one officer only escaping.

We greatly fear that Sgt.Mead must have met his death in this way and we regret that we have no more definite account of his casualty.

Assuring you of our great sympathy.

Yours faithfully, V. D.

8959

22nd Septr., 1916.

Miss Grover,
Wisteria House,
St. Mary's Road,
Ealing, W.

Dear Madam,

We are in receipt of your letter enquiring for your brother-in-law, No. 2554 Sgt. H.A.C. Neal, 51st Batn. A.I.F., and regret to say that his name has not appeared on any of our hospital lists to date. We are making enquiries, and shall, at once, communicate with you, as we quite realise your anxiety to get into touch with him.

Yours faithfully,

Secretary.

November 3rd.

Miss Grover.
Historic House
St.Mary's Rd.
Ealing W.

Dear Madam,

We regret very much that we have received no definit information about 2554.Serg.F.A. G. Read,21st.Battn.A.I.F.his name not yet having appeared on the Hospital Index. But we have justreceived an unofficial report from a man of his battn. 2642.Pte. A.D.Elliott 21st.Battn.who stated that he knew Read personally. He was hit on the night 18-19th.August was wounded byyShrapnel and was taken to Hospital in Etaples.

We are now making in uiries at the Hospitals, and immediately we receive any information, we shall at once acquain you. Assuring you of our best offorts to do all we can to relieve your anxioty.

Yours faithfully,

Y. M.

Secretary.

November 9th.

Miss Grover,
Wistaria House,
St. Mary's Road,
EALING W.

Dear Madam,

We have received another unofficial report from No. about 2554 Sgt H.A.C. MEAD. 51st BATT. A.I.F 3761, Cpl. F. B. Beane, A. Coy., 51st Battalion, A.I.F. Informant states that he saw him shot through the back and badly wounded at Pozieres on August 14th. He was carried away to the dressing station at Pozieres and seemed very bad. He did not know what happened to him. He says that he belonged to 3rd. Platoon A. Coy., and was a Lance Sergeant and known as Harry.

We have wired to Rouen and Le Treport in reference to the information you gave us that he was admitted either to No. 6 or No. 16 ~~Sucrre~~ General Hospital and we shall send you their reply.

Yours faithfully,

V.B.

Secretary.
L.A.M.

9th November

Mrs. Grover,
Wistaria House,
St. Mary's Road,
Ealing, W.

Dear Madam,

We are much obliged to you for your letter concerning 2554 Sgt H.A.C. Mead, 51st Battalion. We have written to the No. 6 and No. 16 General Field Hospitals, and hope that we shall be able to trace him by this means. If we are successful we will communicate with you at once.

Yours faithfully,

Secretary

9/11/15.

November 16th.

Miss Grover,
Wisteria House,
St. Mary's Road,
EALING.

Dear Madam,

We are exceedingly sorry to have to tell you that we cannot trace your brother in any hospital and therefore much fear that he may turn out to be missing. As soon as we hear anything more ~~more~~ definite we will write to you at once.

Yours faithfully,

pro G.H.

Secretary.

16th November

Miss Grover,
Wistaria House,
St. Marys' Road,
Ealing, W.

Dear Madam,

In answer to our letter to No. 16 General Hospital, we learn to-day that there is no record of 2554 Sgt. H.A.C. Mead, 51st Battalion, ever having been admitted there. We have still to hear from No. 6 General Hospital, and shall send you their reply.

Yours faithfully,

V.C

Secretary
L.A.W.

7th December

Miss Grover,
Wistaria House,
St. Mary's Road,
Ealing, W.

Dear Madam,

We very much regret to inform you that 2554 Sgt Harry Alex Charles Mead, 51st Battalion A.I.F, is now posted officially as Wounded and Missing since August 14th - 16th. We are making continuous and exhaustive inquiries, but so far we have not been able to elicit any further information. Should any reports come to hand, we should at once communicate with you.

With sincere sympathy,

Yours faithfully,

V.B.

Secretary
A.A.W.

2nd January 17

Miss Grover,
Wisteria House,
St Mary's Rd.
Ealing.
W.

Dear Madam,

We regret to inform you that we have heard from Le Treport to the effect that there is no record of No. 2554. Sgt. A.A.C.Mead, 51st Battalion, A.I.F. ever having been admitted to No. 3. General Hospital. We had asked our representatives there to make all possible inquiries but their efforts were fruitless.

We are still continuing inquiries in the hope of hearing further information and we shall communicate with you should any such reports be received.

With sincere sympathy.

Yours faithfully,

J.D

Secretary.

K.A.W.

9th January /7

Miss Grover,
Wistaria House,
St Mary's Road,
Ealing. W.

Dear Madam,

Another unofficial report has been received about No.2564 Sgt.H.A.C.Heade, 31st Batt. A.I.F. from No.338 Pte Roy Peterson, 31st Batt. who on Dec.31st was in Colmore Road Hospital, King's Heath Birmingham.

He says that, on or about August 16th at Mouquet Farm, Sgt.Heade was shot. Informant saw him on a stretcher and spoke to him but Sgt.Heade could not talk much. He was afterwards told by Sgt.O'Meara, A.Coy, that Sgt.Heade had been moved after dark.

We have failed to trace him in any hospital or dressing station in France and we fear that he could not have lived to reach one.

We shall send you any further reports that come to hand as we are still making every possible effort to get definite information for you.

With sincere sympathy,

Yours faithfully,
V.D

Secretary.
per F.J.D

Victoria House St Mary's Road
Ealing W. Jany 29th 1916

To the Secretary

Dear Madam

I have just received a letter from Private Mc Kay saying he crossed from France to Southampton, in H.M.S. Western Australia on the 24th of October 1915. Thank you so much for all the trouble you have taking, I do sincerely hope it is soon over Boys we really do not know how to be grateful enough to you for the great effort you have made to find them

I remain yours faithfully
Jessie. M. Frost

2554 Sgt. H.A.C. Mead
57th Bn.

C. E. Sutherston Esq.,
Alexandra House
Kingsway.

Dear Sir,

For some time past we have made efforts on behalf of his relatives to trace No. 2554. Sgt. H.A.C. Mead, 51st Battn. A.I.F. who is officially reported wounded and missing since August 14th. 16th.1916.

In the course of our inquiries we have received an unofficial report from a Pte. McKay who says that he crossed from France to Southampton on H.M.S. "Western Australia" on Oct. 24th. 1916. and that he saw Sgt. Mead on board.

We should be most grateful if you will make inquiries from your lists as to whether Sgt. Mead crossed on that ship or if some other man of the name of Mead or ~~Emmm~~ name like it, was a passenger and could therefore have been confused with the Sgt. H.A.C. Mead inquired for.

Thanking you in anticipation.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

V.D

Secretary.LAW

2nd February -7.

Miss J. M. Grover,
Wisteria House.
St Mary's Rd.
Ealing W.

Dear Madam,

In answer to your letter of 29th ulto. we beg to inform you that we have written to the War Office asking them to consult ~~them~~ their shipping records for October 24th. to learn whether No. 2554. Sgt. H.A.C. Mead, 31st Battn. A.I.F. is registered as having embarked on the H.M.S. "Western Australia"

We await their reply on the subject and shall at once advise you of same.

Yours faithfully,

Secretary. PM for L.A.W.

7th February -7.

Miss Grover,
Wisteria House.
St Mary's Road.
Ealing.
W.

Dear Madam,

We regret to inform you that we have received a further unofficial report about 2554. Sgt. H. A. C. Head, 51st Battn.A.I.F. this time from No. 3472. Cpl. A.S. Blenkinsop, 51st Battn. who writes from a rest camp in France.

He says that Sgt. Head was hit in the back by shrapnel at Bouquet Farm about August 14th. He saw him lying on the ground about 300 yards in front of our trenches. Informant spoke to Sgt. Head who was very badly wounded and was unable to answer. He says that Sgt. Head's brother joined him two weeks ago and was given this information.

We have written to the War Office for confirmation of Sgt. Head's rumoured crossing on the "Western Australia " to Southampton but have received no reply from them. As soon as we hear we shall advise you.

With sympathy in your anxiety.

Yours faithfully,

Secretary.

Any further letter on this subject should be addressed to—
The Secretary,
War Office,
Alexandra House,
Kingsway, London, W.C.,
and the number below quoted.

WAR OFFICE,

LONDON, S.W.

C.2.Casualties. S/2729.

8 February, 1917.

Madam,

In reply to your letter of 1st February, concerning 2554 Serjeant H.A.C.Mead, 51st Battalion, Australian Imperial Force, I am directed to inform you that this soldier cannot be traced as having crossed from France to Southampton, on H.M.S."Western Australia" on 24th October, 1916, nor is there any trace of any soldier with a name or number resembling his having done so.

I am to add that the following soldiers named McKay are reported to have crossed on that occasion :-

400115	Private W. McKay,	10th Battalion, Scottish Rifles
200443	L/Corpl.T.B.McKay,	7th Cameron Highlanders.
5847	Gunner L.K.McKay,	R.G.A.(111th Siege Battery).
1308	Private McKay,	4th Battalion, Northumberland Fusiliers.

I am,

Madam,

Your obedient Servant,

R C Fowler

Miss V. Deakin,
Australian Branch,
British Red Cross Society,
54, Victoria Street,
S.W.

13th February -7

Miss Grover,
Victoria House,
St Mary's Rd.
Ealing. W.

Dear Madam,

We regret to inform you that we have received a reply from the War Office to the effect that there is no record of No. 2654. Sergeant H.A.C. Mead. 51st Batn. A.I.F. having crossed from France to Southampton on the ~~Hospital ship~~ H.M.S. "Western Australia" on Oct. 24th. The records have been searched and there is no soldier with a name or number resembling Sgt. Mead's having been a passenger on that date.

This was in answer to our letter to them asking for verification of Pte. McKay's statement that he had seen Sgt. Mead on the ship on that day.

We deeply regret that your hopes have not been realised and we are continuing our efforts to obtain definite news of Sergeant Mead.

With sincere sympathy.

Yours faithfully,

Secretary. P.M. for A.W.

Wistaria House St Mary's Road
Ealing W. February 14th 1917

To the Secretary of the British
Australian Red Cross

Dear Madam

In answer to your letter of the 13th. I am sorry the War Office have not the name of Lt Mead on their list for the 24th of October, I am wondering if the Hospital Authorities may have made a mistake in the date that Lieut Mc Shay was received there (the date of crossing) I thought I would like to see him personally & talk it over, so asked him to come for the week end, which he did & directly he saw my Brother in laws Photo, "a large one," he exclaimed, "that is the Boy" I feel sure

that crossed with me from France, to Southampton; he was quite conscious & looked as if he wanted to speak, but could not do so, he tried to see if he could hold a paper & write down, but he found he was Paralyzed all over & quite powerless, that is just what one might expect from the nature of Sgt Mead's wounds. Summer

Mr. Hay was taken to Shrewsbury he is a man, I should think about 50 years of age & by your keen perception & tact, would think hardly likely to make a mistake, especially as he had full view of him the whole night, his Bunk, being above Sgt Mead's, & in full view of his face, he also attended to him several times, he knew he was an Australian

Again allow me to thank you sincerely on behalf of our dear Boy's family & myself

Believe me yours faithfully

Jessie A. Foster

19th February -7.

Miss Grover,
Wisteria House.
St Mary's Rd.
Ealing. W.

Dear Madam,

We regret to inform you that another unpfficial report has come to hand about No. 2554. Sgt. H.A.C.Heade, 51st. Battn. A.I.F. this time from No. 3155. Pte. J.A. Walsh.

Informant - who when he gave this evidence was in No. 2. General Hospital, B.E.F. - states that he knew your brother-in-law well and that he came from Western Australia. He says that Sgt. Heade was shot through the back at Pozieres and was carried to the back of the lines and put in a dug-out. He was not seen or heard of again. Informant states that it was impossible for Sgt. Heade to have been taken prisoner as there was very heavy shelling going on at the time. The ground where Sgt. Heade was last seen was always held by our men.

We are continuing our inquiries and hope soon to have further reports to send you.

Yours faithfully,

V.B.

Secretary.
A.A.W.

2554 Sgt. H.A.C Mead 5th Bn.

Victoria House, Mary's Road
Ealing. W. July 23rd 1919

To the Secretary of the A. B. Red Cross Society

Dear Madam

Thank you very much for your letter. I have just heard from my Brother-in-law, the one that called upon you a few weeks ago, from the front, telling me they had met a friend but there who told him he read in the British Australasian paper, the name of Sgt. H.A.C Mead, to wounded & a prisoner of War in Germany, he has not given me the date of the paper, but I believe it comes but once a week, so I thought I would write you at once. Again many thanks

From yours faithfully
Jessie A Groom

28th February, /7.

Dear Madam,

We are in receipt of your letter about -

No.2554 Sgt. H.A.C. MEAD 51st. Battn. A.I.F.

and we regret to say that his name has never been sent to us on any Prisoners of War Lists from Germany. We fear that it is not likely now to do so as we have been in communication with men captured months after August 14-16th - the day on which Sgt. Mead was missing. We have received many lists of prisoners from Germany since then, and we believe that we now have the names of all the men captured about that time; we therefore cannot account for the statement made by the man who says that Sgt. Mead's name was published in the British-Australasian as a prisoner of war, as we get all the official lists from Germany.

With sincere sympathy.

Yours faithfully,

P.M. for L. A.W.

SECRETARY.

Miss Jessie A.Grover,
Victoria House,
St.Mary's Rd.,
EALING.

20th March 1917.

Capt. Mitchell,
4th Field Ambulance,
A.A.M.C.
B.E.F.

Dear Sir,

We have been making enquiries for -

2554 Sgt H.A.C. Mead, 51st Battalion, A.I.F.,

reported Wounded & Missing 14/16-8-16, and have received a report from a soldier who states he carried Mead to the Aid Post and another from a man who states he overheard you telling Major Christie that Mead "was doing well"

Have you, at this late date, any recollection of Mead's case, and do you remember whether it was at an Aid Post or a Field Ambulance at which Mead was treated?

With apologies for troubling you and thanking you in anticipation,

Yours faithfully,

Vera L Deakin per alc.

Secretary

May 25th, 1917.

Miss Grover,
Victoria House,
St. Mary's Road,
Ealing, W.

Dear Madam,

No. 2554 Sgt. Harry Alex. Chas. Reed, 51st Btr. A.I.F.

We very much regret to inform you that the above soldier who was previously reported "Wounded & Missing, 14/15-3-16", is now officially reported Killed in Action on that date.

We are making every possible enquiry for details of his death, and will advise you immediately on receipt of such information as we fully realise your great anxiety.

Assuring you of our sincere sympathy in your sorrow.

Yours faithfully,

V.O

Secretary.

L.D.W.

May 30th, 1917.

Miss Grover,
Wisteria House,
St. Mary's Road,
Ealing, W.

Dear Madam,

We have received from No. 2892 Cpl.C.Mack,51st Battn., now at No. 4 Command Depot, Worgret Camp, Wareham, the following unofficial report about your brother-in-law, No.2554 Sgt.H.A.C. Head, 51st Battn., and we deeply regret that it contains no definite account of his casualty.

He says that on the morning of August 15th, he helped to carry Sgt. Head, who was badly wounded in the back, to a dug-out which was being used as a dressing station. This was well behind our lines.

Next day he heard that Sgt. Head had left the dug-out to go to Pozieres, but he knows nothing as to whether he arrived there, and cannot say what became of him afterwards. He describes him as 5 ft. 9 ins. in height, and 25 years of age - with a fair complexion.

We are very sorry that our efforts to trace him further have met with so little success, although exhaustive enquiries have been made. We are still continuing our efforts, and will advise you immediately on receipt of any information, as we fully realise how hard it is to bear this uncertainty and suspense.

With a further expression of our sincere sympathy -

Yours faithfully,

L.D

Secretary.

L/Aw

Wistaria House St Mary's Road
Ealing. W.5. May 31st 1919

To the Secretary of the British
& Australian Red Cross Society

Dear Madam

Thank you very much
letter
for your just received, re Sergt H.A.
C. Rheed, 3-1st Battn, it is indeed
good of you to take so much
trouble, I can assure you we
are most grateful, also for your
kind sympathy which is much
appreciated. I am now going
to ask you, to still further
help me, for I am in great
distress, another dear Boy is
missing, a Brother of the above
No 91 Lance Corpl Jack Reed
15th Battn. 4th Brigade, A. Corps
Australian Infantry, he has not

been seen, or heard of since about the 13th of April, the only thing I can find out from Frank, is that he was cut off entirely from the rest of his Company & nothing further known. I am quite sure you will do all you possibly can for one. Thanking you in anticipation

I remain yours faithfully
Jessie A. Brown

II

Wistaria House, Drayton Road
Ealing. W.5. July 10th 1916

To the Secretary, Australian
Branch British Red Cross Soc.

Dear Madam

Very many thanks, for your most welcome letter, I really cannot thank you enough, neither can I tell you our joy to know one of our dear Boys again, so far safe, if only we could hear the same good news of the other one, Ped. H. A. C. Medal how thankful we should be, I am still hoping we may find him I cannot think he is (dead)
What splendid work your Society is doing, I had no idea you were by food, to all Prisoners of War, Thank you so much for the information, I am writing to

fuller particulars as you suggested suggested. I am hoping shortly to send a small donation, as a slight return for all you have done on our behalf, at the present moment my means are very limited, hence the delay

Again allow me to express my deep gratitude & thanks to you, on behalf of my family & myself

I am dear Madam
yours faithfully
Jessie A. Groom