

Help for reading cards in the British Army and Commonwealth main file

CGI E 15-01

In a nutshell.....

If the card you are interested in contains a reference number beginning with the letters PA or R, enter it into the search engine.

If not, your search stops here: the card directs to no other existing document.

This file contains two types of cards:

(1) Index cards:

These cards have been issued in Geneva by the International Prisoners of War Agency: a card was issued for each person registered in documents (lists of prisoners, notices of death) received by the Agency from the warring countries, in this case Germany and Turkey.

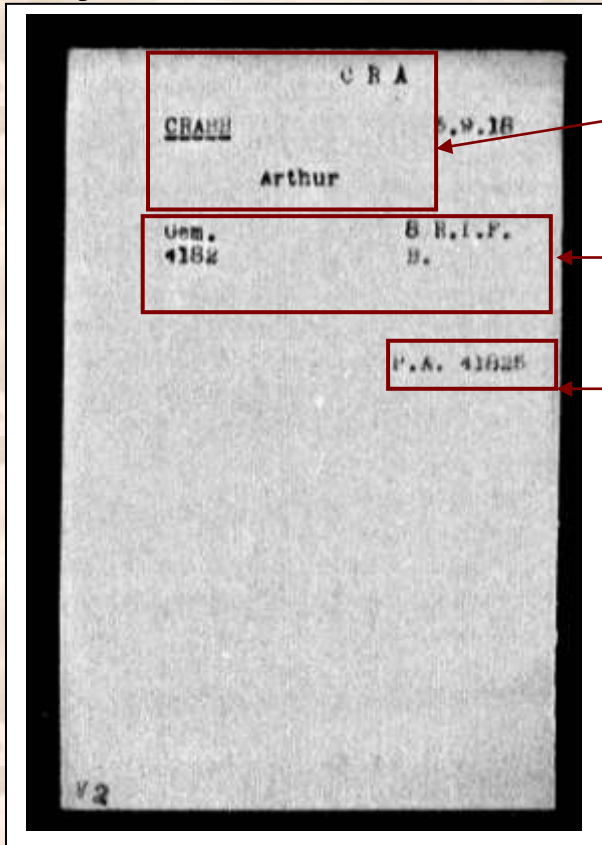
The cards direct to a reference number (in alphanumeric format): you should enter this reference number in the search engine to access another document.

Warning: reading the reference number can be difficult because of handwriting, bad quality of the stamp inking or of the microfilm.

In this file, 2 reference numbers are the most frequent :

- PA (British prisoners in the hands of Germany)
- R (British prisoners in the hands of Germany or Turkey).

Examples of index cards:



1 First Name and Last Name

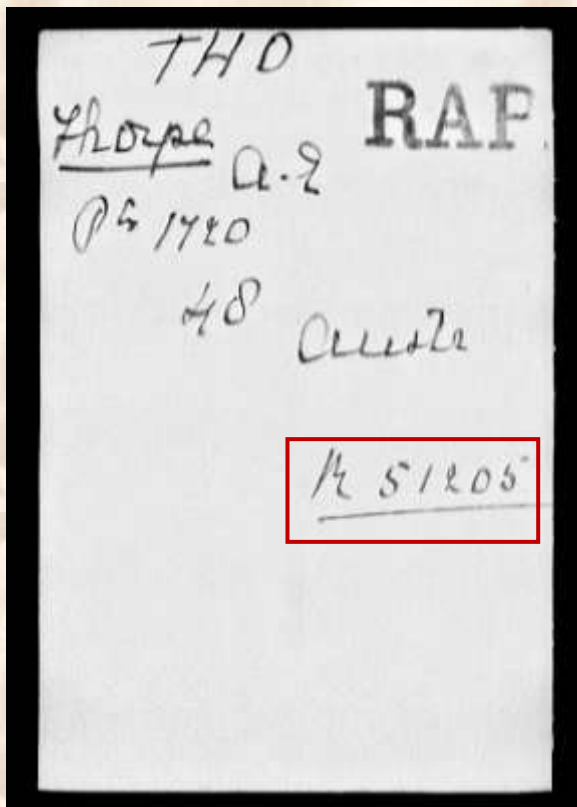
2 Rank : *Gem[eine] = soldier*

Régiment : *RIF (Royal Irish Fusiliers)*

Service number: 4182

3 Reference number of the list containing the prisoner's name:

enter in the search engine:
PA 41 825



The reference number to be entered into the search engine is:

R 21 205

T H O
Thomson
Alfred
Sole 22 inf
Cheshire Reg.
PA. 4761

The reference number to be entered into the search engine is:

PA 4761

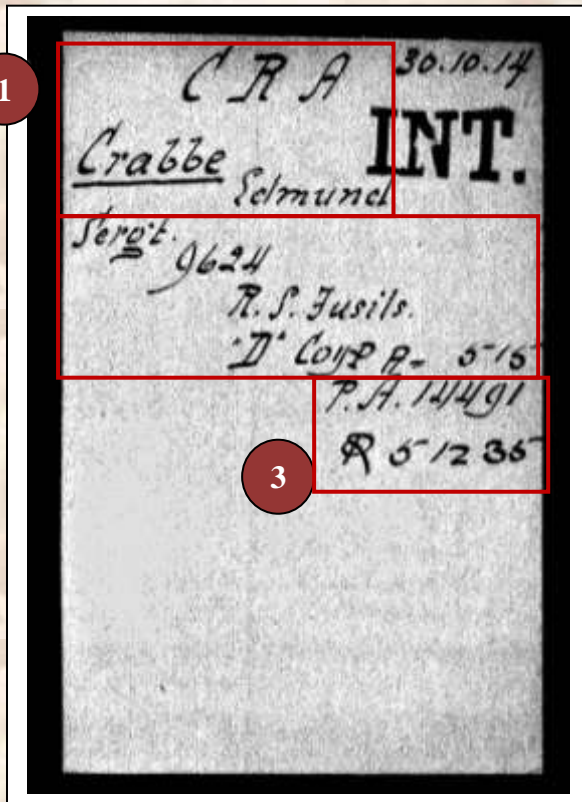
T H O
Thompson
Yorks. 7128
p. 286.
a

The reference number to be entered into the search engine is:

PA 286

Some cards may lead to several record numbers, if the prisoner has been registered in different lists, due for example of a transfer from a camp to another.

Examples :

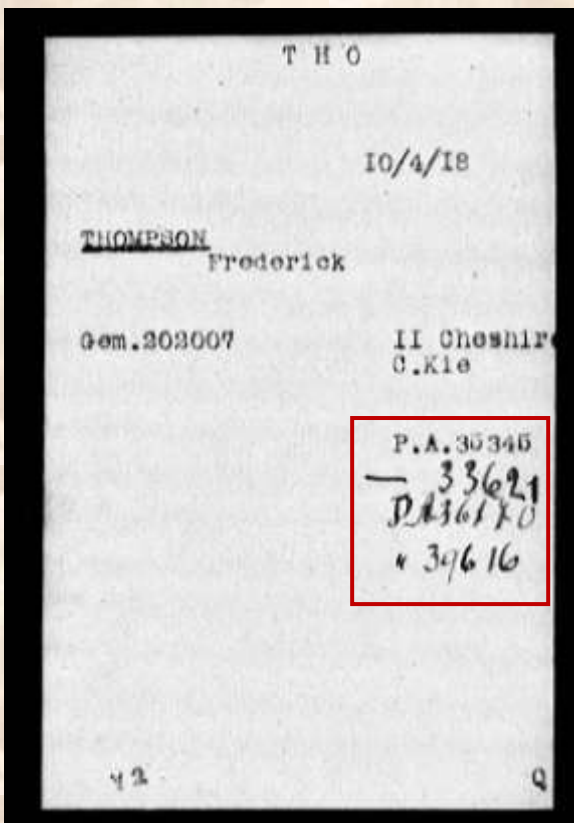


1 First Name and Last Name

2 Rank, regiment, service number

3 There are 2 reference numbers to enter into the search engine:

PA 14 491
R 51 235

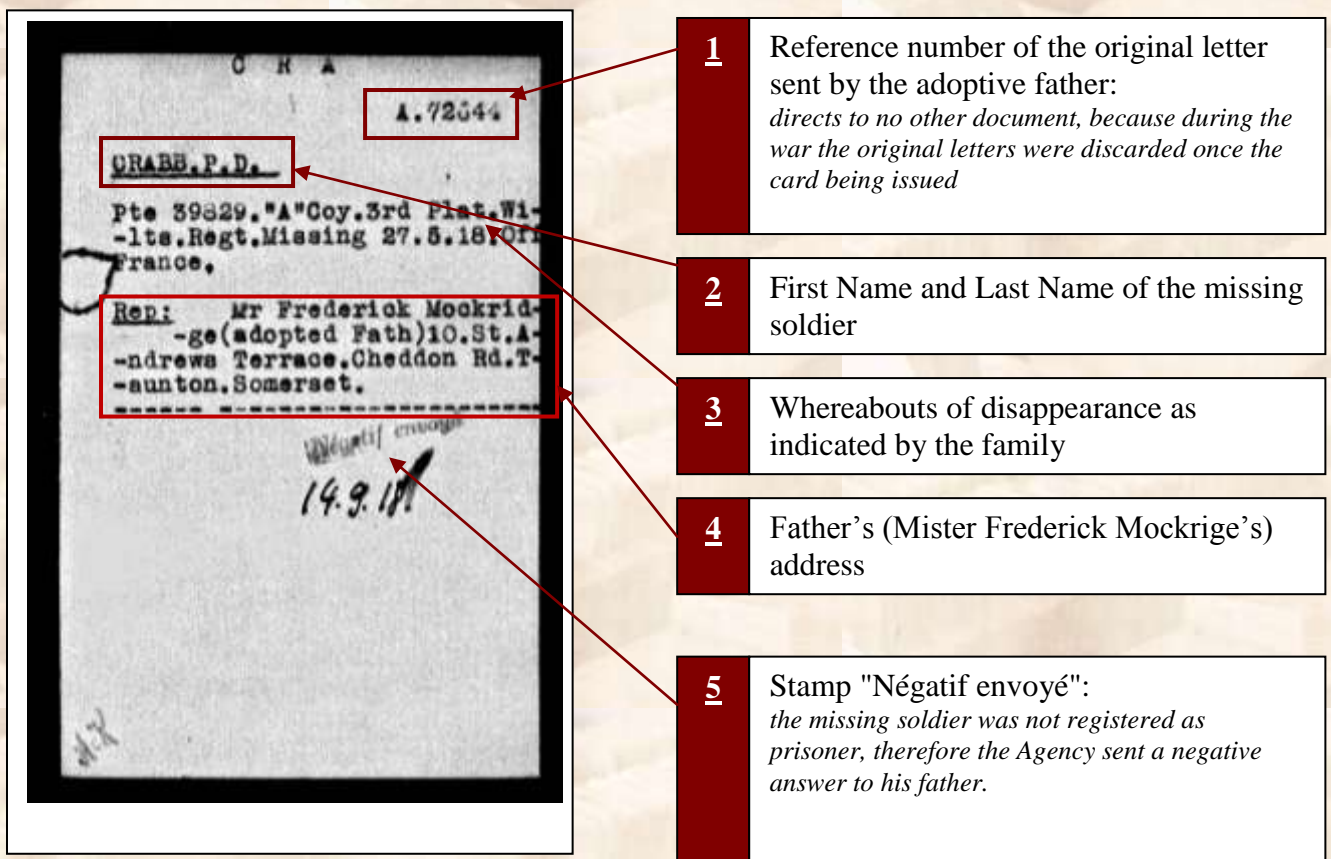


There are 4 reference numbers to enter into the search engine:

PA 35 345
PA 33 621
PA 36 170
PA 39 616

(2) Cards based on enquiries from the families of missing soldiers

These cards were drawn up in Geneva by the International Prisoners-of-War Agency on the basis of letters from the soldiers' families requesting information. Very often, the soldier being sought had in fact died in combat and thus did not appear in any list of prisoners. In that case, your search ends here.



The card contains the following text:

ORABE, P. D.

A. 72544

Pte 39829. "A" Coy. 3rd Plat. Wi-
-lts. Regt. Missing 27. 5. 18. Of
France,

Rep: Mr Frederick Mockrid-
-ge (adopted Fath) 10. St. A-
-ndrews Terrace. Cheddon Rd. T-
-aunton. Somerset.

Négatif envoyé
14. 9. 18

- 1** Reference number of the original letter sent by the adoptive father:
directs to no other document, because during the war the original letters were discarded once the card being issued
- 2** First Name and Last Name of the missing soldier
- 3** Whereabouts of disappearance as indicated by the family
- 4** Father's (Mister Frederick Mockrige's) address
- 5** Stamp "Négatif envoyé":
the missing soldier was not registered as prisoner, therefore the Agency sent a negative answer to his father.

In this example, there is no record number referring to any additional document. Your search stops here.

Abbreviations in the cards :

Mention on the cards :	In french :	In english :
Pas de dem.	Pas de demande	No request
Rap	Rapatrié	Rapatriciated
Pte	Soldat	Private
Gem. = Gemeine	Soldat	Private
Pr.	Soldat	Private
Rien	Cette personne n'est pas mentionnée dans les documents reçus par l'Agence.	nothing
Int.	interné	interned
Gefr. = Gefreite	soldat	Private, soldier
L/Cpl	Lieutenant/caporal	
Neg. Env.	Réponse négative envoyée à la famille	Negative answer