

Help for reading cards in the File on British soldiers at the Macedonian front

CG1 E 15-07

In a nutshell.....

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

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

In the top left-hand corner these cards have a stamped letter B, indicating that they relate to the Balkan front.

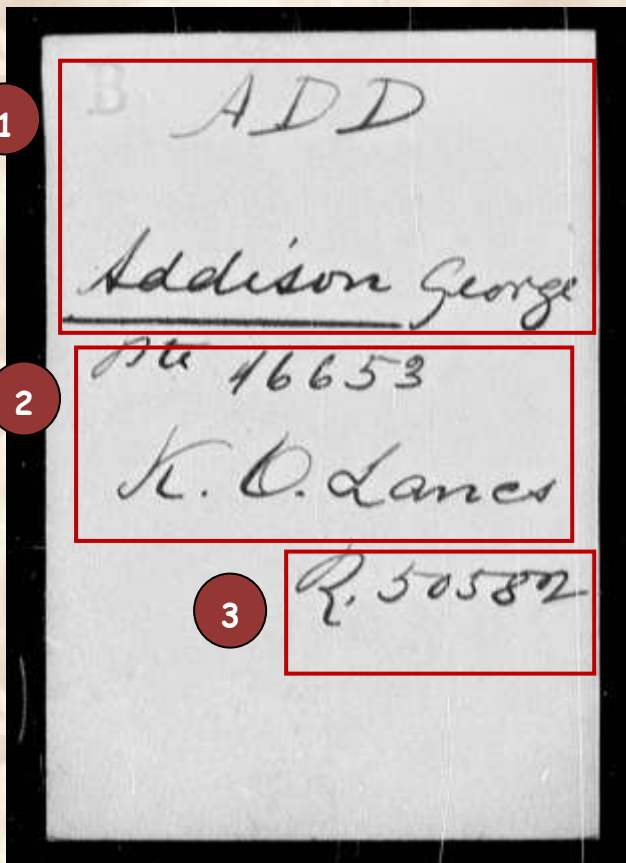
This file contains two types of cards:

(1) Index cards:

These are the cards drawn up in Geneva by the International Prisoners-of-War Agency from the lists it received from the authorities detaining the prisoners (in the case of this file, **Bulgaria**). For each name mentioned in these lists, the Agency prepared a personal card for that prisoner giving the reference number for the list (in alphanumeric format). In this file, this reference almost always starts with the letter R.

Warning: reading the reference number can be difficult because of handwriting, badly inked stamps or poor-quality microfilm. The prisoner's rank or regiment can also be hard to make out because of the many abbreviations used.

Examples of index cards:

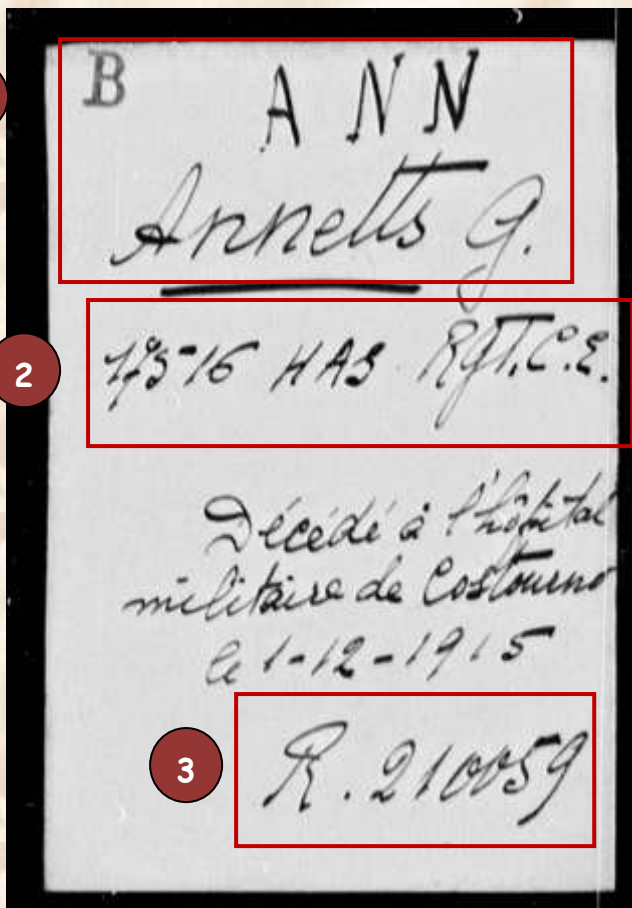


1 Surname and first name

2 Rank: Pte (Private)
Service no.: 16 653
Regiment: King's Own Lancaster
Regiment

3 The reference number to enter into the
search engine is:

R 50 582

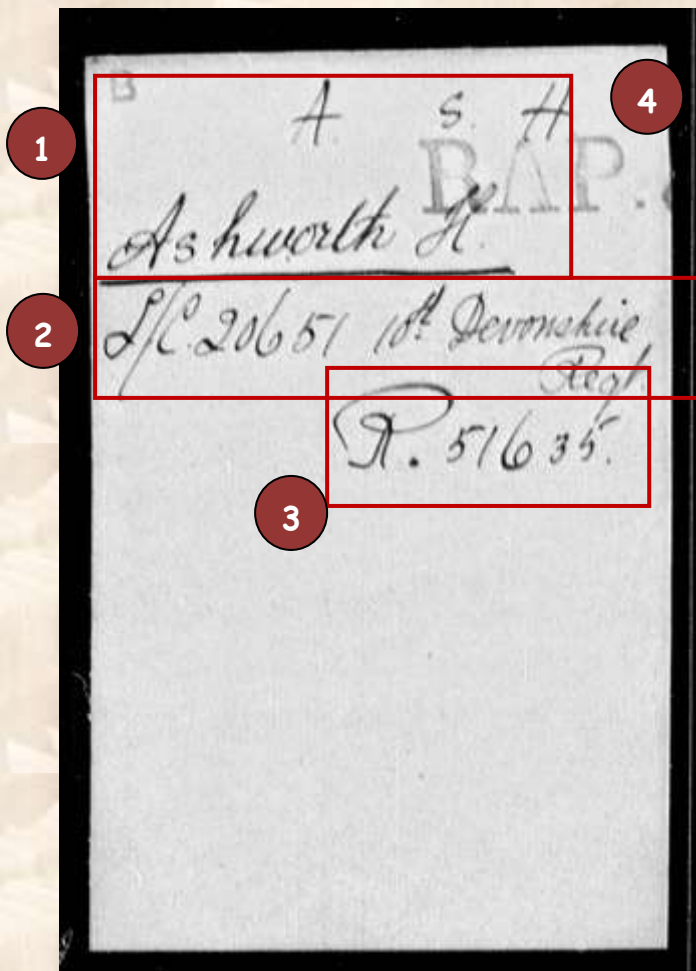


1 Surname

2 Regiment

3 The reference number to enter into the
search engine is:

R 210 059



1 Surname

2 Regiment

3 The reference number to enter into the search engine is:

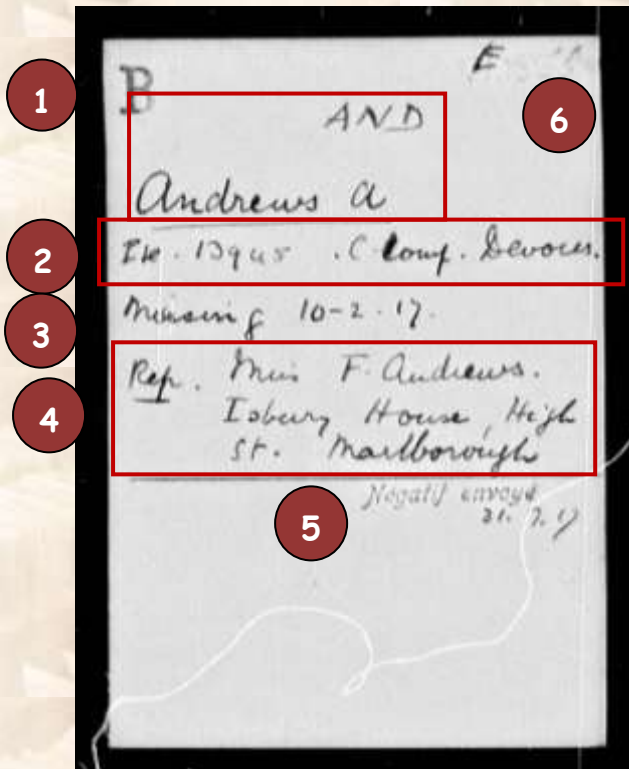
R 51 635

4 The RAP stamp means that this prisoner was repatriated (*rapatrié*) during the war.

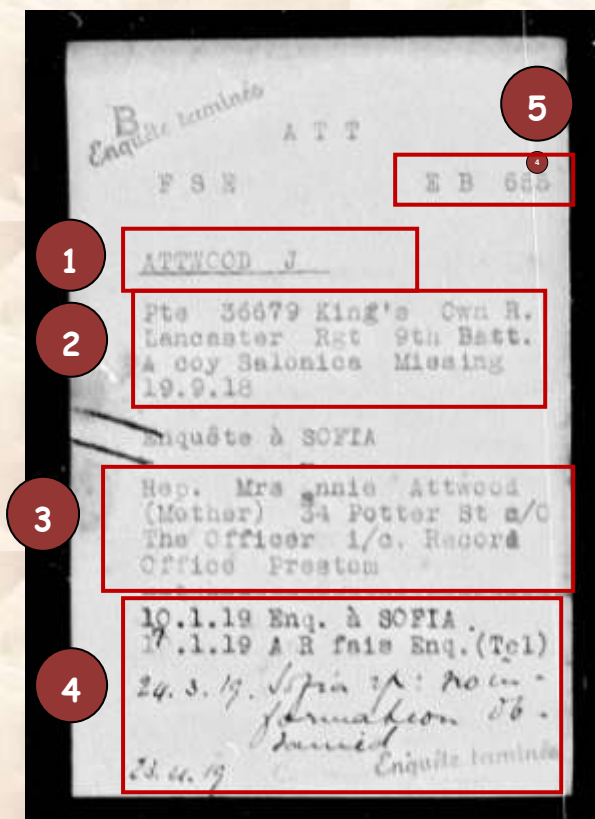
(2) Cards based on enquiries from the families of missing soldiers

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.

Examples of cards based on enquiries:



- 1 Surname
- 2 Rank, service number, regiment
- 3 Date of disappearance
- 4 Address of the family making the request
- 5 Stamp bearing the words "Négatif envoyé", indicating that the Agency had no documents relating to the person sought and had replied in the negative to their family.
- 6 The request reference numbers in the top right-hand corner relate to documents that were not kept. Your search stops here.



- 1 Surname
- 2 Rank, regiment, circumstances surrounding the person's disappearance
- 3 Address of the family who sent the request
- 4 Enquiry opened by the Agency (by correspondence)
- 5 The request reference numbers in the top right-hand corner of the cards relate to documents that were not kept. Your search stops here.