

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

**234 Lance Corporal  
Alfred Cassell**

**15th Field Company Engineers**



0701206G

15th Fld. Coy. Engrs.

CASSELL, A.  
L/Cpl. No. 234

Kld. in act. 21/10/17.

"I know Casualty. He was a man about 5' 8", medium build, medium complexion about 27 years of age. Casualty was going up with the ration waggon at Passchendaele. I was with the party. An H.E. shell exploded ~~nearby~~ killing Casualty instantly. He was most severely wounded in the body. We went up the next day and recovered the body and carried it back to Dickiebusch where he was buried by Driver Lear and Cpl. Kinnough and Cpl. Davis. A cross was erected with his name, number and unit on it."

Informant:- G.H. Crump.

Private address  
14 Carroll Street,  
North Melbourne.

T.O.P.  
22.11.19.

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS INFORMATION BUREAU-MELBOURNE.

15th Fld Coy. Engineers.,  
A.I.F.

CASSELL,  
A, 234.

"KILLED IN ACTION" 21.10.17"

Re your enquiries for 234 Pte. A. Cassell. Left Australia 1914. with the artillery, transferring into the 3rd Fld Coy Engineers in Egypt as a driver, and later on when this division was formed in Egypt, he transferred into the 15th Fld Coy Engineers and was made a L/Corporal in the transport. he was 26 years of age, height about 5ft 8ins weight about 12stone, dark curly hair, very high forehead. He was out in charge of a ration limber on a very nasty part of the front and both he & his pony were killed by the same shell. The driver arrived home & reported him killed & a couple of boys went out & brought him in & was buried in the Dickebusche Huts Cemetery. Had a service & the Bugler sounded the last post, A.C. of E read the burial service. The Cemetery is regt. also his grave but we haven't it at the present time.

Letter from:- L/Cpl. Clarke. 2636.  
A.I.F. France.  
23.2.18.

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.

M.

15th Fld Coy, Engrs.  
A.I.F.

CASSELL,  
A. 234

"Killed in Action 21.10.17."

Re particulars of 234 Pte. A. Cassell., who was killed on the 21.10.17. 234 Alfred Cassell transferred from the 3rd Fld Engrs to the 15th Fld Coy Engrs, at Ferry Post Egypt in 1916 and he was a L/Cpl. in the transport. He enlisted in Victoria in 1914 in the artillery. His parents reside in Research, Victoria. He was about 26 years of age about 5ft 8ins in height, dark curly hair a high forehead, and very quiet, weight about 12 stone. He was out in charge of a ration Limber taking rations up to a forward position and was on the return when he was killed by a shell, his pony was also killed. The driver came back to camp and reported him killed. I went out and brought in his pay book and papers. handed them to the orderly room Sgt to forward to his next of kin. We brought him in and buried him in the Dickebusch Huts cemetery Church of England Chaplain read the burial service. The cemetery is registered also his grave, but I have forgotten the number of his grave, but if you want the number I will write again. If it is any of A. Cassell's relations who are enquiring please give them my address and ask them to write to me.

Letter from: L/Cpl. J. Scott, 2640

15th Fld Coy Engrs,

London. 6.3.18.

A.I.F. France 23.2.18. M.

Havre.

4th. March 1918.

15th. Engineers, A.I.F.

Cassall, A. No. 234.

K. 21st. October 1917. Dets. D/B.

I was told by Sapper Holstram on October 21st. when we were at Ypres that he was with Cassall, acting as guide to the timber that Cassall was with. A shell burst over them when they were near Chateau killing Cassall outright. He was buried either in the Belgian Chateau Cemetery or the Ypres Cemetery. I am not sure which but I saw the Cross made for his grave with his name on it. I knew Cassall fairly well, he was a tall dark chap with a moustache.

Inf:- Sapper J. Langhrim. No. 6473.  
15th. Engineers. A. I. F.  
Rouelles.

OKS.

M Cassall

A.I.F. Engineers

Cassall A. 234,  
15 Coy.

(K. Oct. 21/17)

I knew Alf. Cassall, his number was 234. He had dark hair and was not tall. He was killed on 21st Oct. I helped to carry him in from Ypres to Dickebusch and there I helped to bury him and I saw a cross put up on his grave. We made a shield to be fixed on his cross and I will be pleased to hear from his relations, who I believe, live at Bradford if they will write here to me in C. Ward, Welsh Hospt., Netley.

Eye-witness: Yes

Description: See above.

Informant: J. Byrne 3709,  
A.I.F. Engineers,  
15 Coy. H.Q. Sect.,  
Welsh Hospt.,  
Netley.

Feb. 24/19,  
G.R.B.

M<sup>ed</sup>  
Suff

Havre.

23rd. February 1918.

15th. Company. Engineers.  
Australian Imperial Forces.

Cassall A. No. 234.

Killed. 21st. October 1917. Dets. D/B.

I was told by Corporal J. Scott, about October 23rd. when we were at Ypres, that he found Cassall's body somewhere on the road near Poperinghe and brought it back for burial at the Cemetery near Poperinghe. I saw the Cross being painted in the workshop at the Australian Yard, but I never saw his grave. I know Cassall fairly well; he was a big built man, not very tall about 5' 7".

Inf:- Sapper R. C. Field No. 401.  
15th. Company. Engineers.  
A. I. F.  
Australian Camp.  
Fouelles.

CMS.

Ed  
Suff

Australian Engineers

Cassall, A. 234.

15 Coy

(K. Oct. 24th/17)

"Cassall was on <sup>one</sup> ~~our~~ limber and I on another. We started out together on Oct. 21st 1917 but his limber went farther forward than mine. I got home safely, but when his limber came in, the men on it told me that Cassall had been killed by a shell while coming through Glencose Wood. His body was brought in the next day, and buried in a cemetery near Ypres. I was present at the burial, the company erected a cross."

Eye-witness: See above

Description: Always knew the man as "Cass"

Informant: G. Brad, 5700,  
Australian Engineers, 15 Coy,  
Benton Park Hospital,  
Guildford.

Home address:  
Bellevue St,  
Thornleigh, N.S.Wales.

22.2.18.

Katherine Wood.

M. 22-18

A.I.F. Engrs 15.

CASSELL  
A., 234

"K. Oct. 21/17"

Cassell is buried at Belgian Battery Corner Cemetery - The  
15 Engrs were camped just opposite to us at the time and I  
saw his body being taken for burial on a G/S. Waggon.

Ref: → Dvr. F.J. Eddy 14880  
14th Engrs.  
Hut. 17 Westham.  
15-2-18.

W.A. Rand  
London  
21-2-18

M.



15th Battn.  
Engineers.,  
A.I.F.

CASSEL.  
A. 284.

"KILLED 21.10.17"

Ypres, Killed while coming back from taking  
Rations. Was Cpl in charge at the time killed by a shell.  
I saw his body on the LMSER being taken to Dickeybusch  
Cemetery. We were going to make a coffin, and Capt said,  
"Give him a soldier's burial in his blankets", I knew  
him well, had been with him since 1916.,

Informant;- Fielding 7159.  
W.34. Harefield..

D.P. Dickson.

London.  
19.2 18

M.

Havre

14th February 1918.

15th Australian Engineers.

CASEY  
Gassall A. No.234.

K. 21st Octr 1917. Det D/R.

He was ~~an~~ a Corporal. He was aged about 25, and tall.  
I and Corporal Scott brought him down on a limber from Chateau  
Woods where he was killed, to Dickbusch Cemetery. He was buried  
there but I did not see his grave. He was killed while on horseback.  
He and his horse were killed outright, by a shell, from what I heard.

Inf:- Driver A.L. Eske 1 No.2239.  
15th Aust. Field. Coy. Eng.  
Australian Camp.  
Rouelles.

GLT.

Harro

4th February 1918.

15th Aust. Engineers.

Cassall<sup>2</sup> A. No. 234.

K. 21st October 1917. Det D/B.

I knew Cassall for 12 months; he was tall, medium build, medium brown hair, and about 26. He was known as 'Cass' and was a driver of a transport in the 15th Field Coy.

On the 21st October on the Ypres sector he came up with rations and officers' luggage. Between Boulevard Farm and Westhoek Ridge a shell fell and Cassall was hit. I saw him hit. Death was instantaneous. He was left all next day, and then brought back and buried at Dickebusch Cemetery. I ordered the cross to be made for his grave.

Inf:- Sergt. Brooks No. 941. 15th Fd Coy.  
Australian Camp. Rouelles. FM.

I knew Cassall for 12 months; he was tall, medium build, medium brown hair, about 26, and was known as 'Cass'. He was a driver of a transport in 15th Field Coy. I saw a Battn Cross with Cassall's name ready to go up, and Sergt. Kennaugh and Driver Berriman were the men who buried him at Dickebusch cemetery.

Inf:- 1/Cpl H.E. Gallagher No. 3313. 15th Field. Coy.  
Australian Camp. Rouelles. FM.

*Written Sgt. Kennaugh & Driver Berriman 22.2.18.*

A.I.P. 15.  
ENGINEERS.

CASSALL, A. 234.

K. Oct 21st 1917. Dets.

He went up with a limber to Beaumont Farm near Polygon Wood at about 10 o'clock in the morning with officers gear and I went with him. A shell fell on the Cordaroy Road and killed him instantly and the horse that he was riding. The road was blocked at that time and I was standing on the bank. Owing to the heavy shelling his body had to be left there that day and Driver Lenny took home the limber. (he has also been killed since by a bomb from an aeroplane). Col. Clark and Cpl. Giff both drivers in the 15th Fld Co. went up the next day and brought in the body, and he was buried in the Ypres Mil. Cem. and I have seen his grave and have got a photograph of it. He was about 33, dark, clean shave, very quiet disposition and much liked.

Inf: H. Holstrom. 7428. 1 section Scott.

No. 7 C.C.

BOULOGNE 28.1.18.

FD

*Written Cpls. Clark & Scott 19.2.18.*

Havre

15th Aust. Engineers.

12th February 1918.

CASSELLA 254  
Cassall No. 254.

K. Elst Cotr 1917. Set 2/2.

I was told by Driver Reid that he was with Cassall on the Ypres front on the Elst Cotr. They were together in a transport, Cassall being in charge of the limbers. They were going up to Westhoek Ridge with rations, and a shell burst under his horse, killing Cassall outright. Driver Reid said that he saw Cassall buried the same day and I myself saw the cross they were going to put up over his grave. I did not know Cassall very well, and cannot describe his appearance.

Inf:- L/Cpl H.E. Gallagher No. 3313.  
15th Aust. Engineers. Field Co.  
Australian Camp.  
Rouelles.

675.

M. G.

Havre

12th February 1918.

15th Aust. Engineers.

CASSELL H. 234  
CASSELL A. No. 254.

K. 21st Octr 1917. Det D/B.

He was a Corporal. I knew him pretty well. I heard he was killed and I saw a cross made for him, he was brought down and buried somewhere near Poporinghe. Sergt. W. Kenough of the 15th Aust. Engineers Field Coy (who was with the Battrn when I left on the 2nd February) would know where he was buried. He took charge of the burying party.

Inf:- Sapper R.C. Field No. 401.  
15th Aust. Engineers, Field Coy.  
Havre Hospital.

HPG.

M. Ed. Saff

AUST ENGRS 15.

CASSALL, A. 234.

K. Oct 21st 1917. Dets.

He was a driver and was corporal of my section and I was told that he was killed instantly whilst carrying rations in the daytime to Anzac Ridge. He died apparently chiefly from concussion. His body was brought back by two of our drivers the next day and was buried in the Mil.Cem at Ypres and some of our boys went to his funeral, and I saw the big cross that was to mark the whole of our companies graves. Driver Denny of the same section was with Cassall when he was killed and he has since been also killed. Cassall joined the company in Egypt was about 5ft 9, fair complexion clean shaven, 28 years of age.

Inf: Spr W.H.Moston. 6749. 3 section  
No. 7 C.C.  
BOULOGNE. 5.2.18.

FD

M

*Original*

AUST ENG. 15.

CASSALL, A. 234.

K. Oct 21st 1917. Note.

Cassall was the driver of No 3 section and was a I/Opl. He was the only man called Cassall in the company. I did not know his initials or his number nor did I know anything of him before the war. He was inclined to be fair, clean shaven, about 28 and about 5ft 7 or 8. I don't know if he was married. I was told by the driver who was with Cassall (I think his name was Smith) that he had seen a shell fall close to their gun and killed Cassall. I am nearly sure Smith said Cassall had died from concussion. This occurred just before we reached Anzac Ridge and it was some time in October. I think Cassall's body was recovered and buried.

Inf: Spr W.H. Moston. 6749. 3 section  
No. 3 Can Gen Hosp.

BOULOGNE. 26.1.18. 101.



Havre.

16th January 1918.

15th Aust. Engineers.

Cassall A. No. 234.

K. 21st October 1917. Det D/B.

He was a little short dark chap, aged about 24.  
I saw him killed by a shell in Glencorse Wood about the 21st  
October. It killed him outright.  
I don't know if he was buried. He held the ground.

Inf:- Sapper S. Lees No. 6224.  
15th Field Co. Aust. E.E.  
Australian Camp.  
Revelles.

GLF.

M

Harre

15th January 1918.

15th Aust. Engineers.

Cassall A. No.234.

K. 21st Octr 1917. Det D/B.

He was a Corporal. He was from Victoria - 5 ft 6 or so - stout, built, aged about 25.

I saw him after he was killed on the main road going down to Dickebusch. Corporal Kennel of the 15th Field Coy and Driver Berryman of the 15th Field Coy (now with the unit) were two of those who buried him in Dickebusch Cemetery - I saw a photo of the grave, there was a cross over it.

Inf:- Pte E. Reid No.14999.  
15th Field Coy. A.I.F.  
Australian Camp.  
Rouelles.

GLT.

AUST ENGRS. 15.

CASS<sup>E</sup>ALL, A. 234.

K. Oct 21st 1917. Dets.

I knew a #2 man called Cassall. He was a driver, but I don't know his section, not do I know his number or initials but he was the only man called Cassall in the section. I knew nothing of him before the war. He was about 5ft 7, inclined to be fair, clean shaven and about 28. The last time I saw Cassall he was lying very badly wounded behind our lines. When I passed him he was covered up with a blanket. I never heard afterwards whether he actually D/W.

Inf: Spr R.J.Reid. 7243. 2 section.  
No. 3 Can. Gen.Hosp.  
BOULOGNE. 17.2.18. AGL

M.

15th F.C. Engrs.

CASSELL A.  
L/Cpl. 234.

K. in act. 21/10/17.

"I knew Casualty. He was fair, medium build, about 5 ft. 6 ins. in height. Casualty was in charge taking rations to the Sappers at Westhoek Ridge, when he was hit by a piece of shell killing him instantly. We brought his body back to Ypres and he was buried at Dickiebusch by Jim Scott and T. Hurst."

Informant:- Pte. W. W. Lovie,  
No. 14077, 15th F.C.E.

Private address:-  
Fairhaven P.O.  
Stony Point.

S.V.P.  
25/7/19.

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS INFORMATION BUREAU-MELBOURNE.

15th F.C. Engrs.

CASSELL. A.  
1/Cpl. 284.

K. in act. 21/10/17.

"I knew Cassell. He was well built, 5 ft. 4 ins. fair complexion, 28 years of age, known as "Cass". He was a 3rd Fld. Co. Engrs. and was transferred. Cassell was coming out of the line with wire on horseback when an H.E. shell landed, pieces hitting him in the legs, killing him instantly. I saw his body as they were taking him to bury him at Dickiebusch. I saw his grave with cross erected."

Informant:- Pte. V. A. Hobben,  
No. 5644, 15th F.C. Engrs.

Private address:-  
C/o Miss Shenery,  
Clayton Street,  
Ballarat.

S.V.P.  
8/8/19.

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS INFORMATION BUREAU-MELBOURNE.

234  
A. CASSELL  
15<sup>th</sup> Feb 1917  
K/A 21.10.17  
M 3

(cd)

France Feb 23<sup>rd</sup> 1918

To the Secretary Australian Red Cross Society  
Dear Miss Deakin

I received Your letter today enquiring for particulars of 234 Pte A. Cassell. Who was killed on the 21-10-17. 234 Alfred Cassell transferred from the 3<sup>rd</sup> Field Coy Engrs. to the 15<sup>th</sup> Field Coy Engrs at Ferry Post Egypt in 1916 and He was a Lance Cpl in the transport. He enlisted in Victoria in 1914 in the artillery. His Parents reside in Research Victoria. He was about 26 Years of age about 5ft 8<sup>in</sup> in height. Dark curly hair a high forehead. and very quiet; weight about 12 stone. He was out in charge of a ration Limber taking rations up to a forward position and was on the return when He was killed by a shell his pony was also killed. The Driver came back to camp and reported him killed I went out and brought in his Coy Book & papers handed them to the orderly room Sgt to forward to his next of kin. We Brought Him in and Buried him in the Dickelbusch Huts Cemetery Church of England Chaplain read the burial service. The Cemetery is Registered also his grave. but I have

ack. by letter  
15.2.18

forgotten the number of his grave but if you want  
the number I will write again

Yours Faithfully L. Cpl J Scott <sup>26440</sup>

15<sup>th</sup> Hd Coy A. E. C.

A. I. F.

France

P.S. If it is any of Mr Bassell's  
Relations who are enquiring Please give them  
my address and ask them to write to me

J Scott

ack. by  
Feb 28-2-18.

234

A. CASSELL  
15<sup>th</sup> Hld Co Engineers  
K/A 21-10-17 (CJ)  
m  
3

France 23<sup>rd</sup> Feb 1918

To the Secretary Aust. Red Cross Society.

Dear Miss Deakin,

Re. your enquiry

for 234. Pte A. Cassell.

Left Australia in 1914 with the Artillery, transferring into the 3<sup>rd</sup> Hld. Coy. Engrs in Egypt as a driver, & later on when this Division was formed in Egypt, he transferred into the 15<sup>th</sup> Hld Coy. & was made a Lieut. in the transport.

Was 26 years of age, height about 5<sup>ft</sup> 8 in. weight about 12 stone, dark curly hair, very high forehead.

He was out in charge of a ration limber on a very nasty part of the front & both he & his pony were killed by the same shell.

The driver arrived home & reported him killed & a couple of the boys went out & brought him in & was buried in the Dickebusch Auto Cemetery. Had a very nice burial, a Prof. C. Chaplain read the burial service & the Bugler sounded the last post.

The Cemetery is Reg. also his grave but we haven't it at the present time.

Yours faithfully,

2036

Lt. S. Black  
15<sup>th</sup> Field Coy

A. J. J.  
James



9C

5-3-18

2540 L/Cpl. J. Scott,  
15th Fld. Coy. Engineers,  
Australian Imperial Forces,  
Abroad.

Dear L/Cpl. Scott,

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

234 A. Cassell, 15th Fld. Coy. Engineers.

The information and clear details you have supplied will be of  
much assistance to us, and of value to our enquirers. We  
shall be very much obliged to you if you will ascertain and  
forward to us the number of Pte. Cassell's grave, we can then  
apply to the Graves Registration & Enquiry asking them to  
forward a photograph of it to the next of kin.

We do not know who our enquirers <sup>are</sup> ~~is~~, only that <sup>their</sup> ~~his~~ enquiry  
was forwarded to us through our Melbourne Office; therefore we  
cannot ask them to write to you, but your report, with the  
request attached will be forwarded at once, and we feel sure  
they will avail themselves of the opportunity.

Again thanking you, with all good wishes.

Yours faithfully,

SECRETARY.

*[Signature]*