

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

**4341 Sapper
Charles Sacks**

13th Field Company Engineers



24002019

A.I.F. 13th Fld. Coy. Engrs.

Chas.

SICKS
4341

"X/A. 8th June "

No trace Germany
Cert. by Capt. Mills 10-10-19.

London 24-10-19

13th Engrs
A.I.F.

SACKS
C. 4341

"Killed June 8th 1917"

Sacks was killed at Messines while helping to carry Lieut Stewart out, by a shell which exploded under the stretcher. He was killed outright and is buried up near the Blackline Trench and a cross is erected over his grave. I saw him killed and have seen his grave.

Witness:-

B.O. Balfe 94

13th Engineers.

50 Hut.

Westham

W.A. Rand.

London.

26;11.17.

7

P

13th Engineers. A.I.F.

Sacks.C. Spr. NO.434I.

Killed June 8th.1917. DET.D.E.

He was killed by a shell, He was carrying a wounded Officer out from the Ridge to the dressing station at Messines when this happened.

He was buried by a party from the coy where he fell, A cross was erected bearing full particulars. I knew him well in the coy. I could not say what state he came from. He was a Londoner by birth.

Description. Age. 27. Height. 5-9. Complexion. Dark. Medium Built.

Witness. Spr. Matheson. W. NO.5495. 13th Engineers.

Taken at
NO.4.C.D.Hurdcott.
7-12-17.
F.G.H.

S.Whitmee.
NO.4.Command Depot
Hurdcott.

13th Fld.Coy.Engrs.
A.I.F.

Sacks.
C. 4341

"Killed 8.6.17"

We got news through of hi being killed at Ypres front Sgt.Smedley was his chum, Smedley now with Coy. 1st Field.Engrs. and could give full particulars.

Witness:-

Cpl.J.Bryce 3422

14th Fld.Coy.Engrs.

Hut 53 Westham.

W.A.Rand

London.

29.12.17.

Note Written Sgt.Smedley 17.12.17. P.

13 Field Coy. Engineers.
A.I.F.

Sacks. Sapr. C. 4341.
13 Coy. 1st Sec.

K. June 8/17 Det D/B

"I knew Sacks and know that he was killed by a shell on 8th day of June 1917, whilst carrying Lieut. Stewart who had been severely wounded. I was informed by Sapper Grocott and Truby, belonging to the same company that he was buried on the 9th day of ~~June~~ June 1917, near Messines and that they placed a cross above his grave."

Eye-witness: No - told by - Sapper Grocott
and Truby, of the same company.

Description: All he knew was that he was
of Jewish Religion.

Informant: Cpl. Fredk. Sydney Waters, 5595
Field Coy. Engineers, A.I.F. 13 Coy.
Penkett Road Hosp., Wallasey.

20/12/17.
Aneurin Rees.

Home address: Park Road, Auburn, N.S.W.

With Sapper Grocott & Truby. 4 - 1 - 18

13th Engineers. A.I.F.

Sacks.C. Sr. NO.434I.

Killed June 8th 1917. Det. D.E.

I was close to him when he was killed by a shell in front of Fanny's Farm, Messines. He was helping to carry Lieut Stewart out when he was hit. He was buried where he fell, a party from the coy formed the burial party, a cross was erected bearing full particulars. I knew him in the coy. He came from Brisbane.

Description. Age.26. Height. 5-9. Complexion. Dark. Well Built.

Witness. Spr. Balfe. E.F. NO.94. 13th Engineers.

Taken at
NO.4.C.D.Hurdcott.
I-I-18.
F.G.H.

S.Whitmee.
NO.4.Command Dept.
Hurdcott.

R
P.T.

Australian Engineers.

A.I.F. 1547

SACKS

C. 4541.

Killed June 8/17.

I heard that Spr. Sacks (13 Field. Coy) was blown to pieces at Messines while carrying in a wounded officer. June 8th would be the date. Our Company was not there, but he and I were pals in England 18 months ago, but I had not seen him since we were in France. I/C. Wickens (13 Fld. Co) might know details. Ground was held.

Eyewitness: No.

Description: A Jew. from H.S.W.

Informant: Spr. Alfred Beverley, 7277,
Australian Engineers.
2 Co. 3rd. Section.
3rd. Southern General Oxford.
Cowley Section.

Homeaddress:

Thorn Street,
Ipswich. Queensland.

Janet M. Payne
4.12.17.
London.
3.1.18.

Letter written by Capt Wickens 24-12-17
Letter returned marked "Killed in Action"
London 3-4-18

P.

Havro.

15th January 1918.

13th Aust. Engineers.

Sacks C. No. 4341.

K. 8th June 1917. Det D/~~Blaxland~~

He came from West Australia. He was Jewish. His father lives in England.

He and four other men were carrying in his officer Lieut. Stewart, who was wounded and has since died, on the left of Fanny's Farm, Messines., on the night of the Stunt, in June. They were caught by a shell and Sacks was wounded. He died a few minutes after. Sapper Trubi of the 13th Engineers (now with the Unit) stayed with him till he died. He is buried close to where he fell near Fanny's Farm. There is a cross with his name &c. It is the only grave just there and you can see it standing out. The Rabbi went and altered the sign on the cross as it was not correct.

Inf:- Pte H.B. Tobin No. 4628.
13th Field Co. Aust. Eng.
Australian Camp.
Rouelles.

GIT.

P.
cd
suff

13th Fld Coy. Engrs
AIF

SACKS
Spr. C. 4341

"Killed 8.6.17"

Referring to your letter received thisday. I hasten to acknowledge receipt of same and to endeavour to supply necessary information. Sapper C. Sacks 4341 was my close friend in England and upon his departure for France. I lost sight of him until the fall of Bapaume. I again saw him then and had speech with him. His Unit went unto action in June at Bullecourt and he was then killed. Sacks was buried in the field at the rear of Battalion Headquarters. I cannot say whether a cross was erected but I do know that every soldier who gave the supreme sacrifice has a cross to identify. A description of Sacks I here give. Height about 5.10. or $\frac{1}{2}$. Religion Jew, dark complexion dark eyes, teeth excellent, handsome features, tidy in clothes. Should you desire any further particulars I would indeed be pleased to furnish same. His father I believe is in Business in England. Letter from:-

Sgt. Roy M. Smedley 1st Australian Engineers
AIF 2.1.18

London.
22.1.18

P

(4-1-18)

Saffer Grocott

D

Saffer Truby

13th Field Coy Engineers

A. J. F.

W. J. F.

alt-
4341

Saffer C. Sacks

13th Field Coy Engineers

1st Section

A. J. F.

K. 8-6-17

4-1-18
~~4-1-18~~

(17-12-17)

Sgt Smedley

1st Co. Australian Field

Engineers

A. I. F.

B. L. 4.

4341

C. Sack

13th Australian Engs.

A. I. F.

K. 8-6-17

24-12-17
87

act. 2/10/18
4341

Sp. C. Sacks
13th K. Gd Co.
K. in 2. 8th g.

3 Green bars
Solo. W1
28/10/18

Dear Sirs

I received a letter from the
Western Australian Bureau of the
Red Cross Society re my son
Lapper Sacks 4341 of the 13th Field
 Coy, Australian Engineers in which I
was stated that the following particulars
of him had been sent to Australia
by you. ~~W.C.~~ Age 26. 5' 9" high
& that he came from Brisbane. Now
each of these are radically wrong
as my son was only 23 yrs of age
when he fell, was over 5' 11" high,
and also had never been in Brisbane
in his life, having lived ever since
he left England in Perth, West
Australia.

I hope that you will clear up these
points for me.
Yours faithfully
D. Sacks

alt. by
letter of
8.2.18

4341

Spr. C. SACKS

13 Field Coy Engineers

30.1.18

The Secretary

A.R.C. Society

K/A 8-6-17

3 (CV)

3

Dear Madam.

I have before me

a copy of letter received during the
latter portion of December 1917, requesting
particulars of the death of 4341. C SACKS.

13th Field Coy. Engineers A.17. 8.6.17.

I have already forwarded reply, but
am anxious to know if my letter
has reached its destination.

I would be pleased if advice
of receipt of my letter be sent to me,
if failing same, I will immediately
write particulars again.

Yours faithfully

Son

1st D.H.Q.

France.

G. P. M. Smedley

LONDON, S.W. 1.

BUY NATIONAL
WAR BONDS
NOW

LONDON, S.W. 1.

7.15 PM

27 DEC 17

LONDON, S.W. 1.

UNDELIVERED
RETURN TO SENDER.

L. Cpl. W. R. 82

Australian Field Co Engineer

Australian Imperial Force

Abroad.



24-12-17.
AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY

(WOUNDED AND MISSING INQUIRY BUREAU).

~~54, VICTORIA STREET,~~

36, GROSVENOR PLACE, LONDON, S.W. 1.

Telephones:

VICTORIA

8576
8577
8578

Telegraphic Address:

"QUESTMAN, LONDON."

2/21. Wickens

*13th Australian Field Co. Engineers
A. 3. 4.*

Dear Sir,

We are making enquiries for a man of your unit 4341

C. Sacks 13th Co. Engineers. A.I.F. K. 8-6-17
and have been told that you may be able to help us by supplying some information.

We should be most grateful for any details you can send us concerning *C. Sacks* 4341 but our enquirers wish especially to know whether he was buried, if so, whether it was on the field or in a soldier's cemetery where the grave would be registered. We should also be glad if you could add a short description of his personal appearance or any points that might help to prove his identity.

Yours faithfully,

(Miss) *Vera Deakin.*

SECRETARY

*Returned marked
Killed in Action*

NOTE In your reply kindly quote name, initials and number of casualty enquired for, as without these particulars delay and confusion is caused in identifying the soldier about whom you are writing.

cut
letter
OS-10-1-18

4341 Spr. C. SACKS
13 7th Cy Engss
17/A 8-6-17

(ed)

P
3
Belgium
7-1-18

The Secretary
A.B. B.R.C.S.
London.

Dear Madam,

Referring to
your letter received this day, I hasten to
acknowledge receipt of same, & to endeavor
to supply necessary information.

Sapper C. Sacks R.E.S. was my close
friend in England & upon his departure
for France, I lost sight of him until
the fall of Bapaume. I again saw him
when he had speech with him.

His unit went into action in June at
Bullecourt. (BULLECOURT) & he was there
killed. Sacks was buried in the field
at the rear of Battalion Headquarters. I
cannot say whether a cross was erected
but I do know that every soldier, who
gave the supreme sacrifice has a cross
to identify. A description of Sacks
I here give. Height about 5' 10" or 11".
Belgian face, dark complexion, dark eyes.

Y

With excellent handsome features, tidy
in clothes. Should you desire any
further particulars, I would be much
pleased to furnish same. His father I
believe is an business in England.

I would be glad to hear further
from you regarding same.

Yours faithfully,

(Sgt) Roy W. Linsley
1st Australian Engineers
1717

C

Sgt. R. M. Medley,
1st Australian Field Engineers,
Australian Imperial Force, B.E.F.

January 12th, 1918.

Dear Sir,

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

Sapper C SACKS, 1st Fld Co Engrs, A.I.F. 134

The information and details you have supplied will be of much assistance to us and of value to our enquirers. It is very good of you to offer to help us with more details if we require them; we have received several reports from different soldiers concerning him, all of which tell us practically the same thing, but one fact is not made clear, that is whether Sapper Sack's grave is likely to be a registered one. If it is so, we can apply to the Graves Registration & Enquiries, asking them to forward a photograph of the grave to the next of kin. Perhaps you can find this out for us, and we shall be very grateful.

Please accept our sincere sympathy in the loss of your friend.

Yours faithfully,

SECRETARY.

5081 Sgt. R. H. Smedley,
1st Aust. Fld Coy Engineers,
1st Divisional Headquarters,
Australian Imperial Force,
Abroad.

February 8th, 1918.

Dear Sir,

We wish to thank you for your letter of 30.1.18, in answer to our enquiry concerning :-

4341 Spr. C. SACKS, 13th Fld Coy Engineers, A.I.F.

and to state that we did received your former letter of 2.1.18, to which we replied on 12.1.18. In our reply while thanking you for the information you have supplied, we also asked you whether you could tell us whether Sapper Sack's grave is likely to be registered or not, for if it is, we wish to arrange with the Graves Registration & Enquiry to forward a photograph of it to the late soldier's next of kin.

We regret that our letter has evidently gone astray and trust that this one will reach you safely.

Thanking you in anticipation for this added information.

With all good wishes.

Yours faithfully,

SECRETARY.

4th November, 1918.

D. Sack Esqre.,
3, Green's Court,
Soho, W.1.

Dear Sir,

With reference to your letter of the 23th instant, about your son -

4341, Spr. C. Sacks,
13th Field Company Engineers.

The description of your son which you state is incorrect - that he was 5'9" tall - age 26 and came from Brisbane - was sent by us to our Perth bureau, not as an actual statement of fact, but as part of unofficial statements made by comrades in the battalion about a soldier who was killed and whom they believed to be 4341 Charles Sacks - It is because informants are sometimes mistaken in the names and numbers of the men about whom they give the reports that our Searchers ask them to add a personal description of the soldier, so that the relatives may judge for themselves whether they are speaking of the right man.

If the description does not fit your son, the reports in which it occurs apparently refer to another soldier. Had our enquirer in Perth (Mrs. Charlton, 148, Bulwer Street,) mentioned this point the matter would have been explained to her at once by the Secretary there.

Should you care to see the reports we have received we would be very glad if you could call here and go through them with us.

Please accept our sincere sympathy in the loss of your son.

Yours faithfully,

(Miss)

Secretary.