

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

1074 Private  
Herbert Burdett  
Sanders

2nd Battalion



2410905L

A.I.F. 2nd Btt.

SAUNDERS.  
Herbert Berrett. 1074.

Killed in Action. 23.7.16.

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

London.  
20.10.19.

S & P.I.

France.

A. I. F. 2.

SAUNDERS, H.B. 1074.

K/23rd. July 1916.

I knew Saunders; his initials were "H.B." and he was in C.XI. and was in the original Battn. and was a pal of mine. I was told up at Pozieres by L/Cpl. Bowden of C.XI. that he, Saunders and 3-4 others were buried by a shell on Monday 24.7.16, and he Bowden was the only one to get out. He was buried for 2 hours, but just survived. There was only one Saunders in C; he was tallish, darkish, well built, and only young. He was wounded on the Peninsula and had been a good while in England.

Reference: G. Firth, 2601, 2nd.Bn.Bomb.,  
(a careful reliable witness),  
1. A.D.B.D.

*Wrote to L/C Bowden  
1.11.16.*

*SP1*

Staples.  
27.10.16.  
H.S.O.

2nd A. I. F. C Co.

E. B. SAUNDERS, 1074.

Killed 23.7.16. Details D & B.

We went over the top at Pozieres early on the morning of Sunday, the 23rd July, and when we got to the 1st German line, Saunders was killed by a shell, which at the same time killed Sgt. McCarthy. I know nothing about his burial.

Reference: L/Cpl. S. W. Edwards, 2545, C Co. 13 Pl.

Convalescent Camp, Bouen. 6.12.16.

2301.

S  
P-1

France.

A. I. F. 2.

SAUNDERS, E.B. 1074.

E/ July 23rd. 1916.

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We were being shelled in trench we had recently taken at Pozieres, when a shell burst and buried him. He was dead when we dug him out and was buried in the vicinity.

Reference: Edwards, L/Opl. S.W. 2542, 2.C.XII.  
No. 1 A.D.B.D.

N.B. This is the same report as given for Sgt. McCarthy, C.D. 2nd. A.I.F. C.Coy, but note should be taken that Enquiry List gives McCarthy as being killed on July 24th. 1916. FJG.

Staples.  
15.12.16.  
FJG.

2nd Battalion  
C. Company

SAUNDERS H.B. Pte. 1074

Kia 23-7-16

I met Saunders first at Boisgrenieres. He was a big, tall, dark man, about 29 years-- a Sydney man.

On 23rd July, in the second line of German trenches at Pozieres, the Germans were shelling from an end of their trench to the other. We were in this trench. A shell burst amidst 3 men, of whom Saunders was one. I was in a bay of the trench three or four bays away from him. I did not see the shell burst, but about half an hour afterwards, Captain Vernon gave us the order to move, and we moved near to the front line. In advancing along the trench, we saw Saunders and two other men all dead.

Sergeant MacCarthy of the 2nd Battalion C. Company got Saunders' disc but he was himself killed later. I do not know whether he gave in this disc.

Reference:-- THOROGOOD H.W. Pte. 4597  
2nd Battalion C. Company  
No. 4 Australian General Hospital, RANDWICK.

Note:-- An excellent witness.

SYDNEY BUREAU.

C.H.R.M.  
15/2/17.

RI  
6a 9  
Hoz PI-

2nd Battalion. A.I.F.  
C.Co.

SAUNDERS, H.B.  
1074 Pte

Killed in Action 23/7/16.

I only knew one man called Saunders in C.Co. of 2nd Battalion at Pozieres. He was killed outright with Sgt. McCarthy and another man by a shell in a new trench at Pozieres, a day or two after the attack on 23/7/16. I did not see it but was told about it by men who saw it happen. Sgt. Grace and his brother Pte Grace both of C.Co. of 2nd Battalion (both in this hospital) can I think give fuller details. (Sgt. Grace No. 6 Hut) Saunders was tall dark and medium build. The boys who told me seemed quite sure of what they said.

Informant: Todd, F.D. Pte,  
1st Machine Gun Company.  
formerly 2nd Battalion. C.Co. A.I.F.  
No. 4 Australian General Hospital,  
RANDWICK.

Acareful witness.

H.S.O.  
18/10/17.

1074 SYDNEY BUREAU. ✓ S.

France  
Jan 9<sup>th</sup> 1917

Dear Madam

I received your kind letter in reference to what happened to my friend No 1074 PTE. H. B. Saunders 2<sup>nd</sup> Batt A.I.F., & I wish to thank you very much for the trouble you have gone to to find everything about him.

I had the good fortune to meet one of his friends out of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Batt & he told me all he knew. I was very sorry to hear that he met with such a death as he did but it is the fortune of war.

Thanking you for what you have done once again

I am

Yours faithfully

Edw. R. S. M. Leary



Ans.  
31.10.16

France  
October 27<sup>th</sup> 1916

Sir

I would be very much obliged to you if you could tell me anything of № 1674 Private H B Sanders C. Company 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, A. I. F. He has been reported wounded & I can't hear anything of him since I heard of him being wounded waiting your reply

Yours faithfully

№ 1977

Sig R. S. McLeay  
3<sup>rd</sup> D. A. C.

Headquarters

A. I. F

France

10/11/16  
A. I. F.

11/11/16

1st November

No.1977 Signaller R. S. McLeary,  
5th D. A. C.,  
Headquarters, A.I.F.  
B. E.F.

Dear Sir, .

In answer to your enquiry on 27th October about No.1074  
Pte H. B. ~~Sanders~~<sup>\*</sup>, C. Coy, 2nd Battalion, A.I.F., we are very sorry  
to have to tell you that he was Killed in Action on 23-7-16.

We are making further inquiries at our Sydney Office,  
and will be glad to send you details we may obtain.

Assuring you of our sympathy,

Yours faithfully,

*V.D.*

Secretary  
*J. F. J.*

November 3rd.

Signaller R. S. McLeay,  
5th. D.A.C.,  
Headquarters A.I.F.,  
British Expeditionary Force.

Dear Signaller McLeay,

We have received the following unofficial report about  
1074 Private H. B. Saunders, 2nd. Battalion A.I.F., from a man of his  
Battalion, 2601 Private G. Firth,  
2nd. Battalion Bomb, A.I.F.,  
1 A.D.B.D.,  
British Expeditionary Force.

who says:-

"I knew Saunders; his initials were "H.B.", and he was  
in C.XI. and was in the original Battalion and was a pal of mine. I was  
told up at Pozieres by I/Cpl. Bowden of C.XI that he, Saunders and  
3-4 others were buried by a shell on Monday 24-7-16 and he Bowden was  
the only one to get out. He was buried for 2 hours, but just survived.  
There was only one Saunders in C., he was tallish, darkish, well  
built, and only young. He was wounded on the Peninsular and had been  
a good while in England".

You will probably be able to identify your friend by this  
description, if it correct, and perhaps may care to communicate with  
Private Firth. We have written to Lcpl. Bowden asking him to send  
us all details, and will forward these to you immediately we receive

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them.

With best wishes,

Yours faithfully,

*Miss Miller*

Secretary.

19th December,

Dear Sir,

We regret to inform you that an unofficial report has been received about -

No.1074 Pte. H. B. SAUNDERS 2nd Battalion. A.I.F.  
in which informant states that he - Pte. Saunders - was killed by a shell near the 1st. German line at Pozieres during an attack early on the morning of Sunday, July 23rd.

We regret that this report is so indefinite, and should any further reports be received we shall at once communicate with you.

Yours faithfully,

Signaller, R.S. McLoay,  
5th Div. Ammun. Column, H.Qs.,  
Aust. Field Art.  
B.E.F.

SECRETARY.

3rd January

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Signaller R. S. McLeay,  
5th D. A. C. Head Quarters,  
A. I. F.  
D. A. F.

Dear Sir,

Another unofficial report has been received about  
No. 1074. Pte. H. B. Saunders, 2nd Battalion, A.I.F. from a  
man in his battalion. He says that they were being shelled  
in a trench they had recently taken at Pozieres, and a shell  
burst and buried him. When they dug him out he was dead and  
he was buried in the vicinity.

Should any further reports come to hand we shall  
communicate with you.

With best wishes.

Yours faithfully,

Secretary,

V B  
L. A. H.