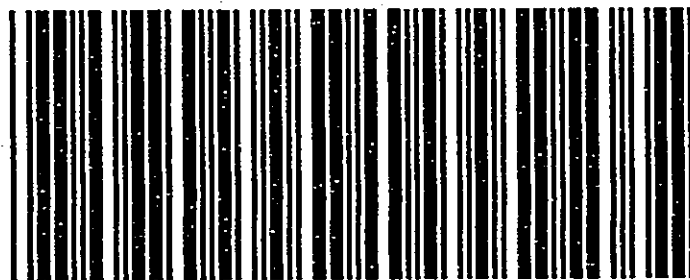


Australian Red Cross Society Wounded and Missing
Enquiry Bureau files, 1914-18 War
1DRL/0428

**5881 Private
Eric Harcourt Skarratt**

18th Battalion



2510610F

A.I.P. 19th Btn
not 18th

SKARRETT
E.H. 5881

"K/A. 31-8-18"

Suried sheet 62 C. H.W. 1/20,000 - 1.15 Central.
Cert. by A.I.P. Hqs 31-1-19.

London
10-2-19

P.I.

18th Battn.
A.I.F.

SKARRATT.
B.H. 5881.

"Killed in Action 31-8-18"

I did not see Skarratt, who was a signaller from 19th Battalion killed outright by shell at Mont St Quentin with the 19th Battalion - he had been sick in England and was sent back to the 18th Battalion as they were short of signallers, but was allowed to return to his old 19th Battalion and was with it when he was killed. Skarratt was about 5ft 8 or 9, darkish complexion, about 26 years. Came from one of the suburbs of Sydney. His uncle, Seymour, has a business in Sydney. He is in 18th Battalion. A.I.F. though I think he is in England now in Education Dept.

Informant:- Signaller. J.M.Sidlow. 6625.
18th Battn, W.Coy.
BELGIUM.

H.A.H.
London.
5-2-19.
H.G.

P I.

A.I.F. 19th Bttn,

R.R.
SKANATT.
5881. Sig. E.H.

Killed in Action. 31.8.18.

Skarratt was killed by a ^{minesweeper} shell whilst sitting in the front line trench at Mont St. Quentin, about noon on 31.8.18 and death was instantaneous. I did not actually see casualty and all the men near were killed or seriously wounded by the shell, but I was only a few yards away in the next bay, and saw Skarratt and the others lying dead just afterwards. He was buried about the 3rd Sept, in the trench on the South side of Mont St. Quentin, overlooking the Somme, burial party being in charge of Sgts. Evans and Mattix, both of 19th Bn. A cross was erected about a fortnight later. I saw it being made, it was a little larger than the crosses put up by the Graves Registration Unit, and bore Skarratt's name and No., besides those of 6 other men killed at the same time.

Skarratt was of medium height, dark, clean shaven, had not been very long with the Battalion.

Informant: Sgt. W. Kirkup.

C/O H. Stead,

Clyde House, Collins St.
Melbourne.

F.R. Stainis.
H.T. "KANOWNA". 20.9.19.
London.
30.10.19.

P.1

19th. Btn.

SKARRATT. E.H.
Sigr. 5891.

K/A. 31.8.18.

Skarratt was killed by a minenwerfer shell while sitting in the front line trench at Mont St. Quentin, about noon on the 31st. August 1918. Death was instantaneous. I did not actually see casualty, all the men near were killed or seriously wounded by the shell. I was only a few yards away in the next bay, and saw Skarratt and others lying dead just afterwards. He was buried about the 3rd. September in the trench on the South side of Mont St. Quentin, overlooking Somme. The burial party was in the charge of Sgt. Evans, and Sgt. Mattix both of the 19th. Btn. A cross was erected about a fortnight later. I saw it being made. It was a little larger than the crosses put up by the Graves Registration Unit, and bore Skarratt's name and number, besides those of six other men killed at the same time. Skarratt was of medium height, dark, clean shaven, had not been very long with the Btn.

Informant:- Sgt. W. Kirkup.
Private address, C/O H. Stead,
Clyde House,
Collins St.
Melbourne.

F.R. Harris,
H.M.A.T. Knowna.
15.9.19.

*2 sent to
Graves Commission*

SKARRATT G. C. 5-881

E H

60 Harrison

not 18

late 19 Bath

K. 31-8-18 ✓

Report from dt Hays says

no record in 18 Bath

was killed in 19 Bath

Printed Sheet 62 C. H. W.

1/20.000. 1. 13. Central

H. 2 31. 1. 19

Report

27-1-19

Final Draft 26/9/19.

Wm. H. Seymour Esq.

17 Onclive Rd.

East Dulwich. S.E.

Re.

5881. Skarratt S. H.

19th Bn. A. I. F.

Australian Red +
Wounded Missing Inquiry Bureau
Federal Government House
Melbourne
16. 4. 20.

~~Col. H. Murray~~ Mr. W^m Hy. Seymour
~~Salvation Army~~ 17 Ondine Rd
~~Queen Victoria St.~~ E. Dulwich
~~London~~ ~~F. C. 4~~ London S.E.

Dear Sir:

In reference to your
enquiry of 18. 9. 18. for
No 6881 Pte E. H. Skarratt

19 Bn. 1104. 18 Bn. Officially
referred K/A. 31. 8. 18
we beg to inform you that

one of our searchers has
received the following ^{unofficial} report
from Sgt W. Kirkup

"Skarratt was of medium
height, dark, clean shaven; he
had not been very long with
the Bn. He was killed by a

2
minenwerfer shell while sitting
in the front line trench at Mont
St Quentin, about noon on the
31st Aug 1918. Death was
instantaneous. I did not actually
see casualty, all the men near
were killed or seriously wounded
by the shell. I was only a
few yards away in the next
bay, and saw Skarrat and
others lying dead just
afterwards. He was buried
about the 3rd of September
in the trench on the S. side
of Mont St Quentin, overlooking
the Somme. The burial
party was in ^{the} charge of
Sgt Evans, and Sgt Mattay
both of the ~~1st~~ ~~19th~~ ~~19th~~ ~~19th~~
19th Div. A cross was erected
about a fortnight later. I saw

3
it being made. It was a
little larger than the crosses
put up by the Graves
Registration Unit, and bore
Skarratto's name & number,
besides those of six other
(men killed at the same
time.)

Our Office is closed and
at present we are unable
to consult our records to see
if this information has already
been sent to you, so
we send it in the hope
it may be useful to you.

Yours sincerely

Alfred Brotherton
for the Secretary.

ENQUIRY.

18.9.18

Signalles E. H. Starratt

5881 D. Company
197 1/2 1/2 1/2

Ed. Lian Henry Seymour.

Killed 31st Aug 1918 Mount St. Augustin

17. Ontario Road. Vol. 1 & 2
East. 1/2 1/2 1/2 Close to where he fell

Feb. 11th, 1919

William Henry Seymour, Esq.
71 Ondine Road,
East Dulwich. S.E.

Dear Sir,

With reference to your enquiry for 5881 Signaller
E.H. SKARRATT. 19th Bttn. A.I.F. We beg to inform you that
we have received the following unofficial report concerning
him.

6625 Sig. J.R. Sidlow, 18th Bttn, states that Skarratt
had been sick in England, and was sent to the 18th Bttn, when
they were very short of signallers. Later he was allowed to
return to the 19th Bttn, & was with them when he was killed
instantaneously by a shell at Mont St Quentin on Aug. 31st 1918.
Sidlow did not witness the casualty, and describes Skarratt as about
5'8 or 9" in height, darkish complexion, age 26 years. He came
from a suburb of Sydney and spoke of an uncle - Mr. Seymour of
Sydney, who was in England with the 17th Bttn or the Education
Depot.

The official record of signaller Eric Harcourt
Skarratt's burial is sheet 62.C.H.W.1/20.000.1.15. Central.

Hoping that this information may be of value to
you, and with sincere sympathy.

Yours faithfully,

(Miss)

Secretary. *S.H.G.*