

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

**2371 Sapper
John Robert Brockley**

3rd Tunnelling Company



0540604J

Sgt McNAMARA

19.7.17

Sgt. STAFFORD

3 Tunnell Co

A I F
B E F

See

2371 J. R. BROCKLEY

3 Tun. Co.

K 28.11.16

W. S.

26/7/17.

A.I.F. 3 Tunn.Coy.

BROCKLEY, J.R. 2371

K.Nov.28th.1916 Det: D & B Ren En.

This man was in a party working on a mine and Fritz blew up a mine there and Sapper Brockley was buried. I was the one who pulled his body out along with five others. Sapper Brockley was only smashed a little about the face. He was killed I expect by the shock, he must have been buried close there at a place called Hersin near Pettit Sain.

Informant: Sapper Marlo. 1232.
On leave,
BOULOGNE. 12.6.17.

EFH

Ans. TUNNELLING Co. 3rd.

BROCKLEY Sps.J.R. No.2371.

K. 28th November 1916. Det D/B. R/Enn.

At Lock in a sap called "Black Patch" Brockley was killed instantly by concussion from a German mine explosion. I was in the rescue party and was one of the pall bearers at his funeral, at New Le Mines (?) Cemetery. He was a personal friend of mine.

Inf:- Sapper J. Martin No.1077.
Ans. T. "Brighton",
Calais. 19.6.17. EHR.

M.

A.I.F. Tunnelling Co.

Brockley, J.R. Pte. 2371
3. Coy.

(K. Nov. 28/16)

"I worked with Brockley for 6 months. On or about 28th Nov. 1916 a German mine was exploded near Loos and Brockley who was underground sapping was killed. Death was due to shock. Twenty were killed in the same mine the same day and 15 suffered from gas. His body was brought to Noeux les Mines and buried in La Clyte Cemetery. I was a pall bearer at the funeral. I understood that he was a widower with children in Calgoolie."

Eye-witness: Not of death.

Description: About 45. yrs. Fair, ginger moustchae
sturdy build, about 5ft.9". Called.
"Bob"

Informant:- Sapper James Martin, 1077

A.I.F. Tunnelling Co. 3. Co.

1st Southern General Hospital, Dudley Rd

July 1 Home address: Birmingham.

S. Vernon 175. Church St. Sydney. N.S.W.

Tunnelling Coy.
A. I. F.

Brockley.
J. R. 2371.

"Killed 26.11.16."

At Loos, in a mine explosion, he was killed. Did not show any scratches on him. Buried at Horsin near Nouz des Minso. I saw him after he was killed, I was at the burial. Padre read the service, and a cross put up at the grave by the Coy.

Witness:-

F. W. Miles. 1428.
Ward. 35. Harefield.

D. P. Dickson.

London.
6.7.17.

M.

A.I.F. 3rd Tunn: Coy.

BROCKLEY
J.R. 2371

"K. in A. 28-11-16"

Previously reported Missing 28-11-16 -
Cert. by A.I.F. Hqrs list 12-12-16

Killed in action 27-11-16 - Buried at Hersurⁿ Communal Cemetery
extension 2½ miles S. of Houexles-Mines
Cert. by A.I.F. Hqrs 24-7-17

London
13-8-17

M

3rd Australian Tunneling Coy.
R. E.

Brookley, Sapper, J.R.
2371.

Section 1

(K. 28/11/16. Dets D/3)

" J.R. Brookley was killed by mine explosion at Loos
on the 28th Nov. 1916 "

Eye witness - Saw his dead body. Sapper E.V. Fullerton of same Coy. can give full information.

Description About 5ft. 7" fairish, medium build, elderly man.

Informant :- Sapper Chas Findlay 997,
3rd Aust. Tunneling Coy. R. E.
Norfolk War Hospt,
Norwich.

Home address :-
Rathway,
Blairgowrie,
Scotland.

27. 6. 17.
Edgar Reid.

Ed
Smith
M

3rd Tunn. Coy.
A. I. F.

Brockley.
J. R. 2371.

"Killed 28.11.16"

Killed at Loos by a German Mine explosion which killed about 25 of this Unit. I helped to dig out about 15 of them including Brockley I was at their funeral next day in the large Military Cemetery at Newlesmines (?) about 3 miles from Loos. Sgt. McNamara and Sgt. Stafford (who was in charge of this section) will confirm if necessary. They are both of this Unit.

Witness:-

C. Hitchens 4354.
3rd Tunn. Coy.

L. P. J.

London.
31.7.17.

Note Written Sgt. McNamara &
Sgt. Stafford 20.7.17.

M.

3rd Tunnl. Coy.
A.I.F.

Brockley
Sapper. J.R. 2371

& "Killed 29.11.16."

Re Sapper Brockley, was killed in action on 28th Nov. 1916. His body was removed to Coy. HdQtrs and from there to the cemetery at Hirsin where he is buried alongside other of the Coy. A neat cross has been erected over his grave. Sapper Brockley was of medium height about 5'8" and stout build, with a greyish moustache. I should say he was about 46 years of age or thereabout. He came to West Australia from Bendigo and worked at Broad Arrow and also at Mount Maquet. I know he has a daughter living in Victoria, probably Bendigo. Quite possibly I may get some fuller information from one of his mates in a day or two and if so will communicate same to you.

Letter from:- W. McNamara.
4216 France.
5.8.17.

London.
15.9.17.

M

3rd Tunnelling Coy.

BROCKLEY, J.R.
Pte. No. 2371

Killed in action 28/11/16.

"Casualty was killed on the 28th November during the Mine Explosive with 20 others. It was one of the many Land Mines. He was present at his burial. It was just outside Noeux-les-Mines two or three days afterwards. He was buried by the Padre."

Informant:- R.G. Morgan,
No. 1375, 3rd Tunn. Coy.

Private address
Kenilworth,
Devonshire Street,
Croyden, Sydney, N.S.W.

H.A.B.
5/7/17.

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS INFORMATION BUREAU-MELBOURNE.

3rd Tunn. Co.

BROCKLEY, J. R.
Pts. 2371.

Killed in action 28/11/16.

"I knew Casualty. He was a short, thick set man, fair about 28 years of age. Casualty was in a sap at Loos. The Germans fired a mine which exploded near this sap burying about eight. Sappers were dug out but Casualty was left. I was an eye-witness and I helped to dig out all these men. He was well known and liked by all his comrades."

Informant:- Burris, C.W.
No. 2473, 3rd Tunn Co.

Private address:-
New Norfolk,
Tasmania.

T.C.F.
11/1/18.

M Ca 2473

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS INFORMATION BUREAU-MELBOURNE.

France

3 Aug '17

The Secretary, A. B. Society
Inquiry Bureau
London E.C.

Dear Miss Beckett

Replying to yours of 28th
Capper Brockley was killed in
action on 28th Nov 1916. His body
was removed to Company HQ
and from there to the cemetery
at Verrières where he is buried
~~with~~ alongside others of the Co.
A neat cross has been erected
over his grave.

Capper Brockley was of
medium height (about 5' 6")
and stout build, with a grey
moustache. I should say
was about 26 years of age.

interior. He came to
West Australia from London
and worked at Road Camp
and also at Lake Magade.
~~Let~~ ^{Now} he has a daughter
living in Victoria. He is
single.

• There is a very
some kind of information
one of the men in a day
two and at some time
some to you

2371 9R

~~Sagebrush~~ ~~Co.~~

K. 28. 11. 16

3 Tunnel

M. 3

2.8.17

11.8.17.

4216 Pte. W. MACNAMARA,
3 Tunnel Co. A.I.F. B.R.F.

Dear Pte. MACNAMARA,

Thank you very much for your letter in answer to our enquiries concerning:- 2371 Sapper J.R. BROCKLEY
3 Tunnel Co. A.I.F.

Your information will be of assistance to us and of value to our enquirers.

We shall be very grateful for any fuller information should you be able to obtain it.

Yours faithfully,

V. Deakin.
Secretary
P. P. L.