

ORIGINAL FILE DESTROYED

A. A. 44876.

285810. Mrs. S. Harden. R.G.A.

Ballynakilla Churchyard, Bere Island, Co Cork.

Grave In East Part.



048148

CWGC/8/1/4/1/1/137 (AA44876)

588

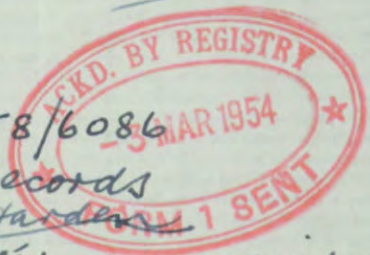
TO	A.G.4 (5)
1/3/54	
3-MAR 1954	

106 Roll Gardens  
 Ilford  
 Essex

ACK

Dear Sir

Ref R.E/W.R/41258/6086  
 R. Records



Sapper Stephen Hadden

On 11 mch 1936 after an enquiry by me re my father's death date after service in the Great War, you were kind enough to furnish me with some particulars. In your reply you stated that it was understood from the Ministry of Pensions that Stephen Hadden died on 11 mch 1918.

May I now please ask your co-operation. I want to know where he has his grave. I was a child when all this happened and my scanty knowledge of it leads me to believe it is somewhere in Co. Cork, Eire. I am visiting Eire after a long absence and want to go to the cemetery. If this is not your province will you please direct me to the correct channel.

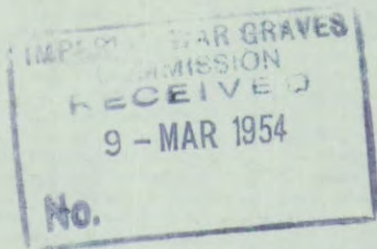
CWGC/8/1/4/1/1/137 (AA44876)

and my former maiden  
name is Bridget Harder.  
I have no relatives to gain  
this information from and  
thank you for any assistance  
in this direction.

Yours truly  
(Mrs.) B. Gentry

Here is what you told me  
in 1936

Enlisted at Gorey 26.5.17  
Discharged 'No longer fit' 1.3.18  
Served overseas with B.E.F  
Died 11/3/18



BM/69 (G4b)

6 March, 1954.

Dear Madam,

I thank you for your letter of 1st March, 1954, and am to inform you that it has been forwarded to the Secretary, Imperial War Graves Commission, Wooburn House, Wooburn Green, High Wycombe, Bucks, as the Commission will no doubt have a record of the grave of your father, Sapper Stephen Harden.

Yours faithfully,

(Sgd) W. A. BROWN.

Director of Personal Services

Mrs. B. Gentry,  
106, Roll Gardens,  
ILFORD,  
Essex.

Copy to wife ✓

d

2 - MAR 1954

NO.

285810. Ser. S. Harden. R.G.A.

13<sup>th</sup> Nov. 1918.

BALLYNAKILLA CHYD, BERE ISLAND, CO. COK.

IN EAST PART

Close to North shore of the Island which is at  
the mouth of Bantry Bay.

AA-44876

Destroyed.

CWGC/8/1/4/1/1/137 (AA44876)

AA. 44876.



10th. March, 1954.

Dear Madam,

Your letter of the 1st. March has been forwarded by the War Office to the Commission.

In reply, the grave of the late 285810. Gunner S. Harden, Royal Garrison Artillery, date of death 13th. November 1918, is in Ballynakilla Churchyard, Bere Island, County Cork, Irish Republic.

The Churchyard is close to the north shore of the island, which is at the mouth of Bantry Bay.

Yours faithfully,  
SGD. F. TYRRELL

Secretary.

Mrs. E. Gentry,  
106. Roll Gardens,  
Ilford,  
Essex.

623

106 Roll Gardens

14/3/54

A. G. 4.

15 MAR 1954

22ford  
Kensley

Ref B.M/69(A.G.4 b) 6/3/54

Dear Sir

Thank you for transmitting my letter of 1/3/54 to Imp War Graves Com at W. Wycombe.

The information given me by the Com does not seem to be as expected. They give me details of the grave of one 285810 Gnr S. Harden Royal Garrison artillery died 13 Nov 1918.

I had asked for W.R./41258 Spt. S. Harden R. Engineers who enlisted at Gosley 26.5.17 Discharged not fit 1.3.18 according to Ministry of Pensions died on 11/3/18.

are these two subjects identical as the death date does not agree nor does the unit. Perhaps there is a gap in the service history which was not known to (RE/WR/1258/6086)



Records Section who supplied the original RE Service History to me in 1936 on 11 March.

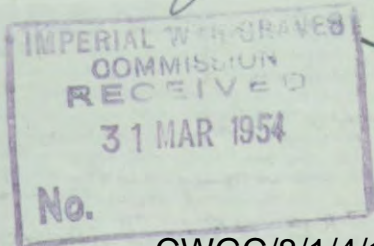
Perhaps a re-enlistment would account for change of Unit but I still can't understand the death date.

Naturally I accept the information given me as correct as doubtless it is but I was unaware that my father also served in the R.G.A!

I only write this as an observation not as a request to look further into it but of course should you be interested in doing so I would be grateful to learn of your conclusions.

Yours truly

B. Gentry (Mrs)





TEL. No. GROsvenor 8040

EXTN. ....

Further correspondence on this subject should be addressed to:  
The Under-Secretary of State (..... AG 4b .....) )

THE WAR OFFICE,  
LONDON,

Please quote in any reply:

EM/69(AG4(b))

S.W.I.

30<sup>th</sup> March, 1954.

Memorandum for: -

The Secretary,  
Imperial War Graves Commission,  
Wooburn House, Wooburn Green,  
High Wycombe,  
Bucks.

WR/41258 Sapper S. HARDEN RE - Died 11.3.18

-----  
The attached further letter from Mrs. B. Gentry is forwarded for information. It is wondered if, from the additional information now provided by Mrs. Gentry, you may be able to confirm if the above-named is buried in a war grave.

It is regretted that no documents for this man are available in this office. It is assumed that they were among the 3½ million sets which were destroyed by enemy action in 1940.

AA 44876

*W. Brown*  
for Director of Personal Services.

CWGC/8/1/4/1/1/137 (AA44876)

AA. 44876.



31st. March, 1954.

Dear Madam,

The War Office have very kindly forwarded your further letter of the 14th. March to the Commission.

From this further information there would seem to be a doubt as to whether the Gunner S. Harden to whom our letter of the 10th. March referred is the Sapper Stephen Harden about whom you are enquiring. This casualty however is the only one of the name Harden buried in Cork of whom the Commission have any details.

It is of course probable that, as Sapper Harden died after his discharge from the Forces, the Commission would receive no information as to his burial place particularly if burial was made by his relatives.

It may be difficult at this late date to obtain more information but if you would kindly forward the correspondence which you received in 1936 we would endeavour to have further enquiries made.

Unfortunately in the case of the Gunner Harden about whom we wrote we have no further details than his initial and number as quoted in our letter.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs. B. Gentry,  
106. Roll Gardens,  
Ilfr

SGD. F. TYRRELL  
Secretary.

CWGC/8/1/4/1/1/137 (AA44876)

106 Roll Gardens  
Ipswich  
Essex

15.4.54.

Dear Sir,

I enclose the only  
correspondence I possess with  
regard to my father Stephen  
Harden.

Perhaps it is as you say -  
that he was buried by somebody  
other than Army authorities.

I am extremely grateful to  
you for your kindness in  
helping me but I didn't  
anticipate you would experience  
such trouble with the matter.

If you consider no useful  
purpose will be served by  
further enquiries I will quite  
understand.

Yours truly  
B Gentry (Mrs)

IMPERIAL WAR GRAVES  
COMMISSION  
RECEIVED  
- 6 APR 1954  
No.

COPY.

The War Office,  
Arnside Street,  
Walworth, S.E.17.  
11th. March, 1936.

R.E/WR/41258/6086.  
R. Records.

Madam,

With reference to recent correspondence, I am directed to furnish from the records of the Department the following particulars of the military service of No. WR/41258, Sapper Stephen Harden, Royal Engineers, who would appear to be identical with the subject of your enquiry :-

Enlisted at Gorey..... 26.5.1917.

Discharged "No longer physically  
fit for War Service"..... 1.3.1918.

Served overseas with the British  
Expeditionary Force (France and  
Flanders) and was awarded the  
British War and Victory Medals.

It is understood from the Ministry of Pensions that this soldier died on 11th. March 1918.

I am, Madam,

Your obedient Servant,

L. V. Sumner.

Miss Bridget Harden,  
99. Odessa Road,  
Forest Gate,  
London, E.7.

CWGC/8/1/4/1/1/137 (AA44876)

AA. 44876.

6th. April, 1954.

Dear Madam,

Thank you for your letter of the 5th. April, and for enclosing the letter sent to you by the War Office in March 1936.

We will make a further enquiry in an endeavour to obtain more information and when this has been completed we will write to you again.

In the meantime, the letter from the War Office is returned.

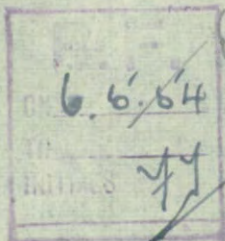
Yours faithfully,

Gen. F. T. DILL

Secretary.

Mrs. B. Gentry,  
106. Roll Gardens,  
Ilford,  
Essex.

AA. 44876.



6th. April, 1954.

Dear Sir,

The Commission have received an enquiry from the daughter of the late WR. 41258, Sapper Stephen Harden, Royal Engineers, as to his place of burial and we have been unable to trace any record of this grave.

According to information supplied by the War Office to Mrs. Gentry in 1936, Sapper Harden enlisted at Corey on the 26th. May 1917, and was discharged on the 1st. March 1918 no longer physically fit for War Service. He served overseas with the British Expeditionary Force. The War Office letter also stated that it was understood from the Ministry of Pensions that Sapper Harden died on the 11th. March 1918.

It would be appreciated if you could say from your records where the death occurred and also provide the name and address of the informant. Should you have any details as to the burial of Sapper Harden this information also would be of assistance.

Yours faithfully,

SGD. F. TIRRELL

The Secretary,  
Ministry of Pensions,  
Norcross,  
Blackpool, Lancs.

Secretary.

CWGC/8/1/4/1/1/137 (AA44876)



## MINISTRY OF PENSIONS AND NATIONAL INSURANCE

Please address any reply to  
THE SECRETARY

THAMES HOUSE SOUTH

MILLBANK, LONDON, S.W.1

Your Ref. AA. 44876

Telephone : Abbey 1200

Our Ref. 11/W/106758

15<sup>th</sup> April, 1954.

Dear Sir,

In reply to your letter of the 6th April, I have to state that according to our records the late Stephen Harden was discharged from the Royal Engineers on the 1st March, 1918. He re-enlisted, however, on the 9th April, 1918 his regimental particulars being Gunner, 285810, Royal Garrison Artillery. He died, during service, at the Military Hospital, Bere Island, Castletown, Co. Cork, the name of the informant of death being Thomas P. Blackburn, Military Hospital, Bere Island. No details of the burial are held.

Yours faithfully,

*In Reeves*

for Secretary.

The Secretary,  
Imperial War Graves Commission,  
Wooburn House,  
Wooburn Green,

GRAVES  
RECEIVED  
17 APR 1954  
No.

AA. 44876.

20th. April, 1954.

Dear Sir,

Thank you for your letter of the 15th. April, No. 11/W/106758, and for the further information you have kindly furnished regarding the re-enlistment in the Royal Garrison Artillery of the late Stephen Harden.

We have been able with this detail to trace this grave which is in the Ballynakilla Churchyard, Bere Island, County Cork. Our records show the date of death to have been 13th. November 1918 and it would be appreciated if you could confirm this date from your records.

I regret to cause you this further inconvenience but from the letter sent by the War Office to the daughter in March 1936 they referred to information supplied by the Ministry of Pensions that death occurred on the 11th. March 1918, which is evidently an error.

Yours faithfully,

SECY. F. TURRELL  
Secretary.

The Secretary,  
Ministry of Pensions and  
National Insurance,  
Thames House South,  
Millbank, London, SW.1.

## MINISTRY OF PENSIONS AND NATIONAL INSURANCE

Please address any reply to  
THE SECRETARY

Your Ref. AA.44876

Our Ref. 11/W/106758



THAMES HOUSE SOUTH

MILLBANK, LONDON, S.W.1

Telephone : Abbey 1200

29<sup>th</sup> April, 1954.

Dear Sir,

With reference to your letter of the 20th April, it is confirmed that the late Stephen Harden died on the 13th November, 1918.

Yours faithfully,

*L. Reeves*

for Secretary.

The Secretary,  
Imperial War Graves Commission,  
Wooburn House,  
Wooburn Green,  
High Wycombe,  
Bucks.

IMPERIAL W. ...  
CC ...  
RE ...  
30 APR 1954  
No.



AA. 44876.

30th. April, 1954.

Dear Madam,

With reference to the Commission's letter of the 6th. April, further enquiries have been made of the Ministry of Pensions and these have now been completed.

According to their records the late Stephen Harden was discharged from the Royal Engineers on the 1st. March 1918. He re-enlisted however on the 9th. April 1918, his regimental particulars being Gunner, Royal Garrison Artillery, No. 285810. He died, during service, at the Military Hospital, Bere Island, Castletown, County Cork, his death having been reported from that hospital. The date of death was the 13th. November 1918.

This information therefore confirms the grave location which was given you in our letter of the 10th. March.

Yours faithfully,

SGD. F. TYRRELL  
Secretary.

Mrs. B. Gentry,  
106. Roll Gardens,  
Ilford,  
Essex.