

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

516 Company
Sergeant Major
Rees William Thomas

21st Battalion



2720810K

21st. Battn:

Thomas R.W. 516.

X. 5/10/18.

C-S-M. Thomas was killed outright by one of our own shells which fell short just as we were making our advance in front of Montbrehain, Capt: Sullivan was killed by the same shell. I know no further particulars.

21st. Battn:

Forss, F.S.A. C-S-M. 621,
D. Coy

A.l. Dartford. 7/12/18.

R.D.B.

M

A.I.F. 21st Battn.

THOMAS

R.W. 516.

"Killed 5.10.18"

Thomas was C.S.M. of C. Coy; when it was broken up he came to A. Coy. A man 5ft. 9ins., stout, dark, 29 or 30. In Mont Brehain the last stunt the Infantry did, the 21st and 24th Hcp over. Out barrage started at 6 a.m.; about 6.10 Thomas was hit. He was leading us, about 50 yards ahead waving us on - when he got into our own barrage. Our Captain was hit badly. I saw Thomas hit, went up to him. He was quite dead when I reached him. I got hit myself just then and both Thomas and Captain Sullivan were lying there when I was taken away. The Huns did not hold this ground again.

Informant: - Pte. C. Fletcher, 5596,
21st Battalion,
3rd A.A. Hpl.
Dartford.

R.P.T.
London
8.1.19.
J.E.A.

M.

A.I.F. 21st Bn

THOMAS
R.W. 516

"K. Oct: 5-18"

I saw C/S/M. (of A. Coy) Thomas killed instantly by shell, which hit him about the legs and body about 6-30/7 a.m., near a little railway line about half way between the hop-over line and the village of Montbrehain - he was within a few yards of me - he dropped dead when hit. I don't know about burial. C/S/M. Nesce Thomas - medium build, dark hair, about 24 yrs, lived at Fairfield Victoria.

Informant - Sgt. R.H. Hibsett 2406
24th Bn A.I. (was 21st A)

Belgium
21-1-19
London
J.E.A.
31-1-19.

H.

A.I.F. 21st Battn.

THOMAS
R.W. 516.

"Killed 5.10.18."

Of D. Company, on the 5th October, during our attack on Mont Behain, through the Hindenburg line, about 7 o'clock in the morning. Was killed outright by shell. I was 50 yards away at the time, but could not go over to him. Know nothing of burial. We were relieved that night, by the Americans, but some of our men were kept back for burial parties. Christian name Reece, was a fine man.

Informant:- H.J. Barker, Pte. 5546,
21st Battn.

B. Coy, 7th Platoon,
Anzac Buffet.

A.L.G.
London
12.12.18.
H.G.

M.

A.I.F. 21st Battn.
A Coy.

THOMAS
R.W. 516

"killed 5/10/18"

Height 5' 8" Fair - 24 years of age.

I was with Thomas when he was instantly killed by shell on 5/10/18 at Montebrehan. The shell burst under him and he was a good deal knocked about. He was buried in a cemetery at Montebrehan. A cross was erected

Informant:- 2857 Sgt. T.J. Allen,
21st Battn., B Coy.

O.S.W.

London
29/3/19
JEA

M

21st. Btn.

THOMAS. R. W. 516.

Killed in Action 5.10.18.

I knew Casualty, he was fair, well built, about 5'7" in height, 24 years of age, known as "Reece". He went away with the original Battalion, on the "Ulysses". Casualty was in the advance on Mont Brehain, when he was hit by a machine gun bullet, a piece entering his body. I was about 25 yards away at the time, and saw his body about two hours later. I do not know if he was buried.

Informant:- Lieut. R.H. Farrdon.

Private address:-

Sassifras,

Victoria.

S.V.P.

12.12.19.

RED CROSS INFORMATION BUREAU. MELBOURNE.

Havre

9th December 1918.

Australians. 21.

Thomas R.W. 516.

K. 5th Octr 1918. Det D/B.

He was C/M in C. Coy., single., and has a brother with the 14th
Battn. He was killed by one of our own shells on the tape at
Mont Behain. I think his body was buried, but I do not know where.

Inf:- Pte H.S. Sharpley No. 3690.

A.I.F. 21. C.

H.S. 'St Andrew'.

RBS.

J. A.

Write brother

M

Written Pte Thomas R.
at brother - PP.

Telegram from file

7.1.19

To

Pte Thomas

14 Battery

A.I.F.

about

516 Pte R.W. Thomas
(written)

21st Btlr

A.I.F.

K 5.10.18

Written 7.1.19

mls