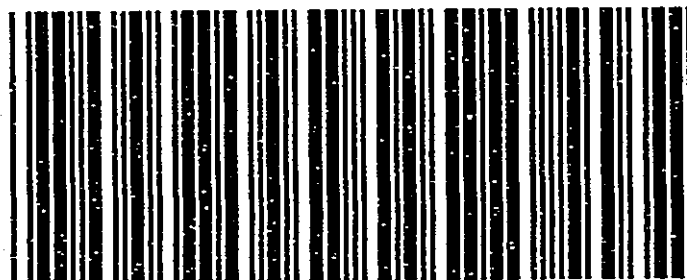


Australian Red Cross Society Wounded and Missing
Enquiry Bureau files, 1914-18 War
1DRL/0428

12626 Private
Claude Edison
Thomas

14th Battalion



2720403I

14th Bn.
A.I.F.

THOMAS
Claude Edison 12626

"Killed in Action 5.7.18"

Reburied: Villers Bretonneaux Military Cemetery 62D.0.17.4.3.3.
Plot 3 Row. C. Grave 7.
Cert. by Captain Spedding's List 2.8.19. Sheet No. 159.

London.
8.10.19.

UNIT

CASUALTY

CAUSE OF CASUALTY

AUSTRALIAN LIST
CASUALTY

14th Battn.
A.I.F.

THOMAS
C.B. 12626

"Killed 5-7-18"

He had been transferred from another unit. On morning of 5th July, after our attack at Vair Wood on 4th July. He was killed outright by shell, hit all over. I saw his body a few minutes after. He was buried in Military Cemetery, near main Road between Villers-Bretonneux and Hamel, about 2 to 2½ kilos from Villers-Bretonneux. I have not seen his grave, but Pte. Mathews, of Pioneers told me where he was buried and Cross erected. We were not related to one another.

Informant. Thomas. Pte. J.M. 6109
14th Battn., C.Coy. 10th Pltn.,
ANZAC BUFFET.

A.D.G.
London
23-10-18
M.I.B.

M.

A. I. F. 14th Bn.

THOMAS, C. E. 12626.

K. July 5/18. Det.D/B.

This man's brother was in the Battn. at the time and he made all possible enquiries. I know that he asked the Padre to write to his people and I am certain that the Padre ~~did~~ did so. The brother was himself killed on the 8th August. This man Thomas was killed by a piece of shrapnel striking his ammunition pouch, the contents of which exploded and blew a hole right through him, killing him instantly. I was on the spot immediately a call for S/Bs was given - I was his Plat. Sergt. - and saw that there was nothing to be done as he was quite dead. We were lying in front of La Vaire Wood at the time, and were in a trench. It was night-time when he was hit. We buried him that same night with the Airman, Lieut. Saunders, and His Observer who were brought down just about the same time and at the same place. Thomas was a dark, thick set fellow and had just come out. He was about 25 and a Victorian.

Reference: Sergt.A.E.Allan, 1901, B.Ccy.
No.10 General, Rouen, 21.9.18.

h.S.

GPO.

M.

Havre.

7th. October. 1918.

14th. Australians.

Thomas, C. E. 12626.

X. July. 5/1918. Dets. D/B.

I knew Private Claude Thomas, B. 7. he was transferred from the 4th. A. S. C. A.I.F. to the 14th. Battalion. I heard that he was killed in July 1918 in front of Corbie and I saw his Grave in the open near our front line near Hamel Wood and there is a Cross on the Grave I could point it out.

Inf:- Private. A. J. Jenks. 4837.
14th. Australians. B. 7.
Australian Conv. Camp.
Rouelles.

M.

RDM.

J. A.

CP.

14th Battn.
A.I.F.

THOMAS.
C.E. 12626.Pte.

"Killed in Action 5-7-18"

On July 4th at Vair Wood (?) near Hamel. The Germans were shelling us and a piece of shell struck Pte Thomas' equipment sending five of his own cartridges into his own body. Death was instantaneous. I witnessed this. Pte Thomas was buried behind the trenches near Hamel - a cross was erected. I saw his grave. Pte Thomas belonged to B.Coy. 7th Platoon. The ground was held.

Eye-Witness:- Yes.

Description:- Dark, medium height & build, clean shaven. (Claude)

Home address:-

46 Male Street. Informant:- Stowell, W.H. 1736.Pte.

Middle Brighton. (very intelligent. I consider accurate)

Melbourne. Aust: 14th Battn. A. I.F. B.7.

I.V.Gadd.

5th S.G.Hpl. Fawcett Road.
PORTSMOUTH.

London.

16-10-18.

M.I.S.

M.

A.I.F. 14.

THOMAS, C.E. 12626.

K. July 5th, 1918.

He was in B. Coy. His name was Claude, and he was killed on 5th. July about 7.30 p.m. We were standing in a trench while Jerry send over a barrage; our artillery was replying. We heard something coming over which at first we thought was one of our own guns and it made us duck; it turned out to be a German shell and a bit of the shrapnel hit the parapet in front of the trench and glanced off on to Thomas' cartridge pouch, exploding some of his cartridges which went through his heart. He fell dead instantly. I was about 10 yards off. He was buried the next morning just behind the trench. Our front was at Bare Wood near Hamel Wood to the left of Villers Bretonneux. Thomas came from south Melbourne; joined us in May at Villers Bretonneux; he had been transferred from the ASC.

Inf:- Pte. J.H. Hayes. 7509.
5 Gen. Hp.

ET.
Rouen
21.10.18.

gd swt M.

A.I.F. 14th Battn.

THOMAS
C.E. 12626

"KILLED 5/7/18"

I remember C. E. Thomas being killed. He was one of two brothers in our Battalion, and was in B. VII - On the 5th July last we were on the right of Hamel in trenches and soon after we dug in C.E. Thomas was hit by a dud shell and killed instantly. He was buried next day just behind the trench. There is the usual Cross on the grave now. I helped to bury him. Ground was held.

Eye-witness:- Yes

Description:- Age about 26 - 5 ft 6 in. in height - Medium build dark and clean shaven.

Informant:- 7441 Pte. Percy B. Barr,
14th Battn., A.I.F.,
B Coy., VIII pltn.,
Colmore Rd Hpl.,
Kings Heath,
Birmingham.

Home address:- 10 Geake St.,
Coburg,
Melbourne

W.F. Audry,
7/10/18
London
23/10/18

14th Btn.

THOMAS C. E.
Pte. 12626.

E. in act. 5/7/18.

"I knew Casualty. He was a man about 5 ft. 8 ins. well built, about 25 years of age. Casualty was sitting in support lines at Vaire Wood near Hamel. An H.E. shell exploded near Casualty killing him instantly. I did not see Casualty killed but I saw his body shortly afterwards. He was most severely wounded all over. He was buried just where he fell and a cross was erected with his name, number and unit on it."

Informant:- Pte. H.V. George,
No. 7240, 14th Btn.

Private address:-
Beulah, P.O.

T.C.F.
7/2/19.

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS INFORMATION BUREAU-MELBOURNE.

14th Btn.

THOMAS C. E.
Pte. 12625.

E. in act. 5/7/18.

"I knew Casualty. He was a well built man, about 5 ft. 7 ins. in height, dark complexion, about 23 years of age. Casualty was in the advance at Year Wood and as he was attacking with his Co. an H.E. shell exploded near a piece hitting his ammunition pouches which exploded, some entering his side killing him instantly. I was not far away from him at the time of his death and I saw his body being buried next day at Year Wood. There was a cross erected with his name, number and unit on it."

Informant:- Pte. T. A. Pocock,
No. 1806, 14th Btn.

Private address:-
Harong,
via Bendigo.

H.A.T.
2/5/19.

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS INFORMATION BUREAU-MELBOURNE.