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

7301 Private Leonard Barrymore Sims

23rd Battalion



2510106F

23rd Battn.
A I.F.

SIMS.
L.B. 7301.

"KILLED.4th.10.17"

He was killed by a shell, and also killed 2 others, it happened at Passchendaele stunt on Oct 4th. I did not see it happen, but was told by. Cpl Miller, Lewis gun Section. 23rd Battn. France, who told me that he saw Sims Killed and can give all details regarding His death and burial..

Informant;- Edmiston.G. 7229.
8th Battn.

W.G.J.

Note;- Written to Cpl Miller.,
19.2.18. M.

London.
19.2.18.

A.I.F. 23. Late 5 Batt

SIMS, L.B. 7301.

K. Oct.4/17 . Det. D/B.

Sims came from Melbourne, was married and had one child. He left Melbourne with me on the "Ballarat" Feb.19/17. In civil life I think he was a clerk. On Oct.4 we had an attack this side of Passchendaele Ridge, and when we came out, Pte. Hilton Taylor, whom we called "Showy" A Co. 4 Pl., wounded recently, told me about Sims. He said that Sims, McGanon and Sharples were together in a shell hole just before the attack during Fritz' bombardment. In answer to a Cpl., Sharples went away for some job, and got wounded in the arm with a M.G.Bullet. Just after Sharples had left, Sims and McGanon were both killed by a shell, being killed outright, McGanon being hit in the chest, and Sims having his head blown off. Taylor saw this, and I believe Pte.J.Sharples is now back with the Bn., I believe with B Co.

Reference: Pte.R.E.Butters, 7206. A Co. 2 Pl.
No.9 General, Rouen. 27.4.18.

DLF.

Wrote Pte Sharples 15.5.18. Letter returned marked "Deceased" 20.6.18

23rd Battn.
A.I.F.

SIMS
L.B. 7301

"Killed 4-10-17"

I was told by Percy Honey, and Percy Stringer, both of A.Coy., and back with the Coy. now, that Sims was killed at Passchendaele. McLean and Rennards, were also killed in that stunt. I was in that stunt, but did not see them killed.

Informant. Turner R.F. 7317
23rd Battn. A.Coy.,
Hut 21,
WESTHAM.

W.A.Rand
London
2-5-18

M.

Note: Written Honey and Stringer 2-5-18

Havre. 4th. May. 1918.

23rd. Australians. Sims. L. B. 7301.

K. October. 4/1917. Dets. D/B.

He was in B. Company. I know Sims very well. We were together in the same Hut for about three months. He lived at St. Kilda, Victoria. I think he worked in the Metroplitan Gas Works. His number was 7301 (quoted) On the 4th. October we were in reserves at Anzac House, near Ypres. I heard that Sims was killed by a part of a shell there. Private. J. Sharples, 23rd. Battalion, B. (who I saw with the Battalion on the 6th. April) told me that Sims was buried near Anzac House and that a Cross was put up to him. A few others were buried there.

Inf:- Private. A. Wright. 7328.
23rd. Australians. A. 2.
Australian Camp.
Rouelles.

HPG. Written Sharples 10-5-18

M

A. I. F. 23. SIMS, L.B. 7301.

K. October 4th, 1917.

Sims was in my pl. He came from Melbourne. He was fair, about 27 years old. On October 4th the Bn. was in reserve line at Anzac House, Passchendaele. I did not see Sims killed but passed along the trench during the morning and saw his body lying in front of a dugout in the trench. He had been hit by shell in back and must have died instantly. I saw the cross with his name on which the Pioneers made. Sims' body was buried where he fell, also that of another man killed at same spot by same shell, McCannon. I saw the grave.

FJ.

Reference:- G.J.Dillon. 7223.
1 Can. Gen. Hosp.

M Etaples
9.5.18.

23rd Battn Late 8th Battn. SIMS.
A.I.F. L.B. 7301.
Leonard Ormsby

"Killed in Action" 4-10-17.

Re Pte.L.B.Sims. 23rd Battn. late 8th Battn. He was a mate of mine and was killed on Westhoek Ridge at Ypres, on or about October 4th 1917. He was blownup by a shell and was not buried in a registered soldiers' cemetery, but is buried on the battlefield. His grave is about 50 yards to the left of Anzac Ridge. on Westhoek Ridge.

The battalion have erected a cross on his grave so it will be easily identified. He was about 5ft.9ins.in height, fair hair and complexion and blue eyes. I think this is about all I can remember.

Letter from Pte.A.R.Stringer.7304.
A.Coy. 23rd Battn.
A.I.F.
FRANCE.

K.

London.
15-5-18.

A.I.F. 23rd. Batln. SIMS
L.E. 7891.

"Killed in Action 4/10/17"

Re Pte Sims, as far as I can tell you he was killed on or about 4th October and was buried a few yards to the left of Ammon House Wood. I believe the Battalion put a cross up at the grave, so I should be able to find the spot for you when he has buried. Pte. Sims was a Son of Mr. [illegible] and I am very glad to be able to give you further information if possible.

Letter from- Pte. F. Sims,
[illegible] Batln.
France. 21/8/18.

London
10/8/18.

23rd Battn.

SIMS,
L.B. 7301

K. 4/10/17

I knew casualty, he was a tall man, medium built, fair complexion, about 21 years of age known as Les. He was a 24th Reinforcement man, of the 8th Battalion and embarked on the troopship "Ballarat". Casualty had just got over the top of the parapet in the advance on Paschendael, I was in the same advance, an H.E. shell exploded near Casualty, a piece entering his abdomen, killing him instantly. I was ten yards away at the time the shell exploded and I saw his body being carried back for burial. He was buried near th where he fell but I did not see his grave.

C. Swinburne,
7308
Private Address:-
Billakeye
Elmhurst,
via Maryborough

T.C.F.
13/6/19

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS INFORMATION BUREAU–MELBOURNE.

15. 2. 18

Cpl. MILLER
Lewis Gun Section
23rd Batt.
A. I. F.
Abroad

Aboud
7301
Pte L. B. SIMS
23rd Batt. Mc
A. I. F.

K. 4. 10. 17.

19. 2. 18.

B

25-18

Percy Honey

A. Cay.

23. A. 1-4

B 5-7

7301. d. B Sucs

23 - A. 1-4

12. 4-10-17

Annul

9-8-18

2.5.18.

pte. Percy Stringer. 9. Lay
23. A. 4. 4.
B. 2. 7.

7301. 2. B. Smith.
23. A. 4. 4.
B. 2. 7.

12. 4. 10. 17.

M. M. C.
2.5.18.

10-5-18.

Pte J. Sharples.

B. Coy.

23. a. 1. 7.

1301 L.B. Smith.

23. a. 1. 7.

Killed 4-10-17.

M.M.C.

10-5-18

Tel.: VICTORIA {8576 8577 8578

ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO BE ADDRESSED TO "THE SECRETARY." WOUNDED AND MISSING — ENQUIRY BUREAU — AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY.

15.5.18.

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY.

36, GROSVENOR PLACE,
LONDON, S.W. 1.

Pte J. Sharples
B Coy ? 23rd Battn. A.I.F.
(late 8th Battn.)
Abroad

Dear Sir,

We are making enquiries about a man of your unit,

7301. Pte. L. B. Sims 23rd Battn. (late 8th) A.I.F.
K. 4. 10. 17.

and have been told that you may be able to help us by supplying some information.

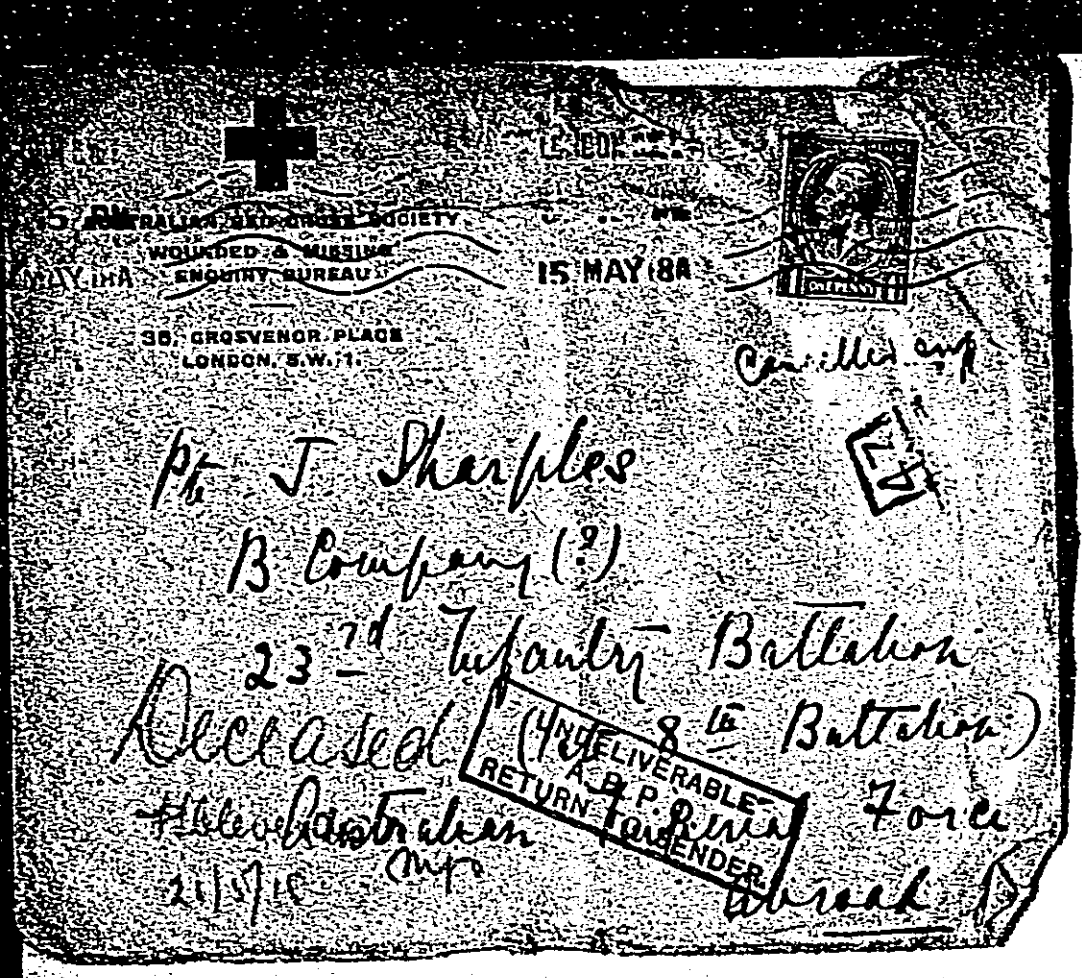
We should be most grateful for any details you can send us concerning him, but our enquirers wish especially to know whether he was buried, if so, whether it was on the field, or in a soldiers' cemetery where the grave would be registered. We would also be glad if you could add a short description of his personal appearance or any points that might help to prove his identity.

In your reply kindly quote name, initials and number, as without these particulars delay and confusion might be caused in identifying the soldier about whom you have written.

Yours faithfully,

(Miss) Vera Deakin Per A.I.B.

Secretary.


AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY
WOUNDED & MISSING
ENQUIRY BUREAU
15 MAY 18
35, GROSVENOR PLACE
LONDON, S.W.1.
Pte J. Sharples
B Company (?)
23rd Battalion
Reported
(4th Battalion
8th Battalion)
Gassed
Admitted
2/7/18
Convalescent
Abroad
UNDELIVERABLE
A.P.O.
RETURN TO SENDER

(15 - 5 - 16)

Pte T Shatpites

B Co (?)

23rd Balta a.17

(late 8th Balta)

abroad

abd

7301

Pte L B. Sims

23rd Balta (late 8th)

a.17.

K 4.10.17.

S.S.

S.A.B.

Information concerning 7301 Pte L.B. Sims
23rd Batt A.I.F.

7301
Leonard Barrymore Sims
23 Battn Coy 8 Platoon France
K in A. 4-10-17

May 8th/1918

Dear Madam,

I received your letter enquiring about information of Pte L.B. Sims

Pte Sims was a mate of mine. He was killed on Westhoek Ridge, at Ypres, on or about October 4th/1917 he was blown up by a shell and is not buried in a registered soldiers cemetery, but, is buried on the battlefield, his grave is about fifty yards to the left of Anzac House, on Westhoek Ridge.

The battalion have erected a cross on his grave so it will easily be identified.

He was about 5 feet 9 inches in height, fair hair and complexion, blue eyes. I think this is about all I can remember, so I will close from.

yours faithfully
A. R Stringer

7304 Pte A.R Stringer.
"A" Company
23rd Batt
A.I.F.

130 L B SIMS 23 Batt K/A 4 10 17 M 3 (A)

In the Field, May 21 1916

Y.M.C.A.

To the Australian Soldiers Friends Society

Dear Sir or Madam

You were enquiring about a soldier Pte Sims Co Fergus Down tell you he was killed on or about Oct 4th and was buried a few yards to the left of Anzac Cove Gallipoli Peninsula. He told me at the time when his grave is at should be easy to find the exact

spot where he was buried. Pte Sims was a man of fair complexion & about 28 years old & I am sure it is the same man you are enquiring about, hoping I have given you better information if possible.

I am

Yours truly

Pte Sims

23 Batt

Tel.: VICTORIA {8576 8577 8578

ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO BE ADDRESSED TO "THE SECRETARY," WOUNDED AND MISSING — ENQUIRY BUREAU — AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY.

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY.

36, GROSVENOR PLACE, LONDON, S.W. 1.

Pte J. Sharples.
B. Coy.
23. A-I-T.

10.5.18.

Dear Sir,

We are making enquiries about a man of your unit,
7301. L.B. Sims. 23.A-I-T.
Ref. killed 4-10-17.

and have been told that you may be able to help us by supplying some information.

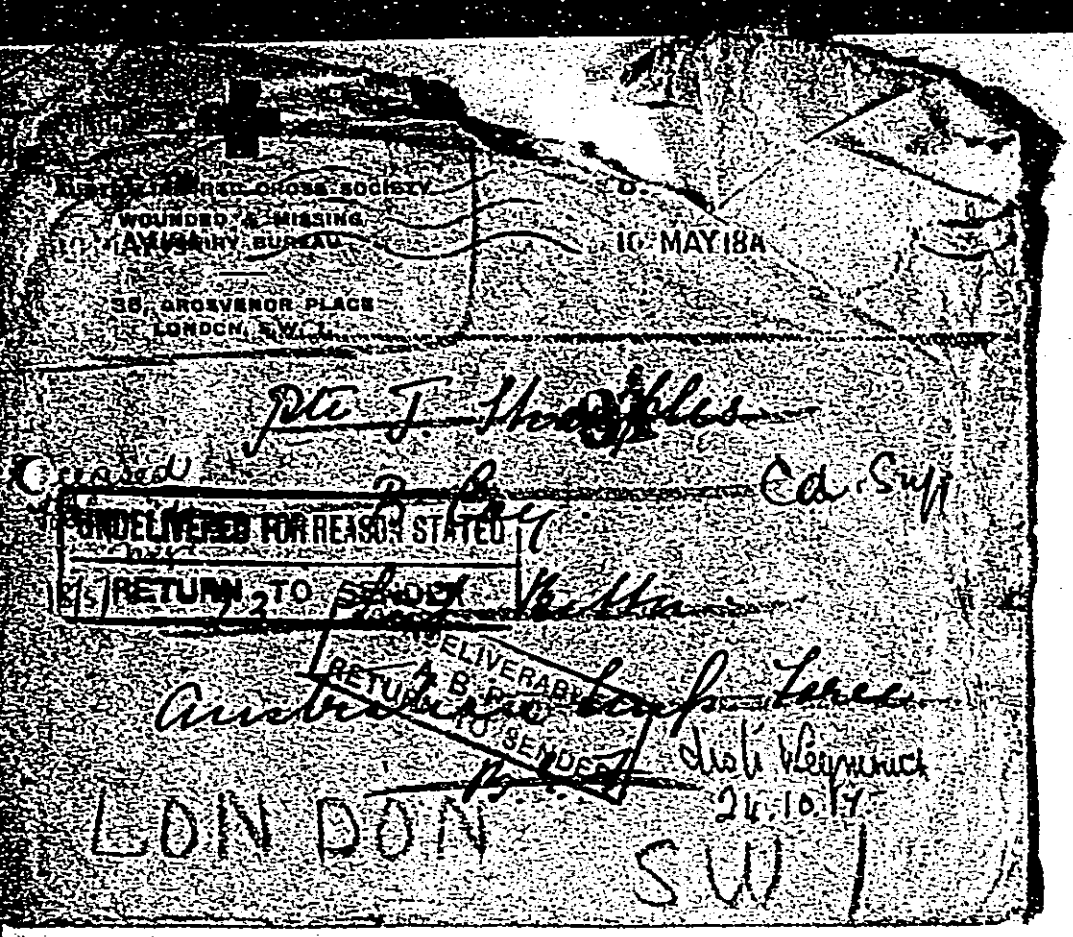
We should be most grateful for any details you can send us concerning him, but our enquirers wish especially to know whether he was buried, if so, whether it was on the field, or in a soldiers' cemetery where the grave would be registered. We would also be glad if you could add a short description of his personal appearance or any points that might help to prove his identity.

In your reply kindly quote name, initials and number, as without these particulars delay and confusion might be caused in identifying the soldier about whom you have written.

Yours faithfully,

(Miss) Vera Deakin

Secretary.
M M C.


WOUNDED & MISSING
AVIS BUREAU
10 MAY 18
35, GROSVENOR PLACE
LONDON, S.W. 1.
UNDELIVERED FOR REASON STATED
RETURN TO
RETURNED TO SENDER
LONDON
SW1


AUSTL. IMP. FORCES
BASE POST OFFICE
MY 11 18
7301 L.H. Sims