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

1306 Private Wilfred James Simshauser

33rd Battalion



2510109I

A.I.D. D.coy.33rd Btn

SIMSHAUSER(HQ)
SIMCHAUSN
W.J. 1306

"K/Action"

Killed in action 30-3-18
Cert. by A.I.F.Hqrs 16-5-18.

P.I.

London
16-5-18

33rd Batt. A.I.F.

NO,1306. Shimshauser.W,J. Pte.

D,Coy.

Killed March 30th 1918. Det. D.B.

I saw him killed instantly by a bullet hitting him in the head, this happened to the right of Hangard Wood, His body was taken back to be buried, I believe there were anumber of them buried the same time, I cannot give any particulars of his burial. I knew him in the coy, He came from Moree, N,S,W.

Description. Height. 5-7. Complexion. Fair. Stout Built.

Witness. Pte. Percy. E,B. NO.2629. D.Coy. 33rd Batt.

S.Whitmee.
NO.4.Command Depot
Hurdcott.

Taken at.
NO.4.C.D.Hurdcott.
24-6-18.
S.W.

P.1

Havre. 19th. August. 1918.

33rd. Australians. Shimshauser. W. J. 1306.

K. March. 30/1918. Dets. D/B.

Came from N.S.Wales. I found his body in front of Hangard Wood on March 30th. I also found a letter which I sent to a young lady in London inAustralian Postal Section. He had been at one time working with the young lady in London. He was killed by a bullet. Am not sure where he was buried.

Inf:- L/Corporal. A. G. Evans. 2207.
33rd. Australians. D. 13.
Australian Conv. Camp.
Rouelles.

N.W. P.1

WHB. CP.

Havre. 3rd. September. 1918.

33rd. Australians. Shimshauser, W. J. 1306.

K. March. 30/1918. Dets. D/B.

I knew him well; he was in D. 14, came from up Country N.S.W. had a part of his thumb off; short, nuggety, fair, freckled face, fair hair. He was in the attack on Hangard Wood on Easter Friday & was following me up. As we came back to dig the line I found him quite dead.

Inf:- Private. J. M. Harwood. 3411.
33rd. Australians. D. 14.
Hospital Ship.

P.1

WHB. N.W.

CP.

33rd Battn.
A.I.F.

SHINSHAUSER.
W.J. 1306.

"Killed 30-3-18"

He was in D.Company, and I saw him killed at Hangard Wood, when he was hit in the chest by a bullet and lived but a few minutes, but never spoke after being wounded. Casualty happened about 3 o'clock in the afternoon of March 31st 1918 at which time he was in action and was killed in the first wave going over. I knew him fairly well and he came from Northern part of N.S.Wales, where I think his Father owned land. I cannot give any details of burial. We were relieved that night, but I'm sure he would be buried. I cannot refer to anyone for further particulars.

Informant:- Pte Wilson.W.J.2686.
D.Coy. 33rd Battn.
3rd A.A.M.DARTFORD.

W.Owen.
London.
5-9-18.
S.A.

P.T.

A.I.F. 33 SHIELSHAUSER, W.J. 1306.

E.March 30/18. Det. D/B.

On the afternoon of Easter Saturday we were advancing towards Hangard wood when he was shot through the head by a rifle bullet and killed. I did not see him hit but have seen his grave in the open near where he was hit, with several others. A cross marks the grave. This is in front of the village of Cachy. His home was at Campo-Santo Station, Barraba, N.S.W. He worked on the station and his mother lives on the station.

Reference: G.B.O'Regan, 2412.
No.11 Con.Camp Buchy Nr.Rouen. 9.9.18.

JWA.

P.1

33rd Battn.
A.I.F.

SHIMSHAUSER.
W.J. 1306.

"Killed 30-3-18"

He was of D.Company. IV Platoon. On 30th March at Villers Bretonneux about 6 o'clock in evening. We had just commenced our attack, when he was hit in head by machine gun bullet. Killed outright. I was alongside him at the time. He was No I on our Lewis Gun team. I was hit later and knew nothing of burial. Had not long been with us.

Informant:- Pte.D.G.Smith. 1500.
33rd Battn. D.Coy. VI Pl.
HAREFIELD.

A.D.G.
London.
11-9-18.
S.A.
Horseferry Road has no record so far, concerning his burial.

P I.

NOTE TO AUST.RED CROSS.

33rd Battn.
A.I.F.

SHIMSHAUSER.W.J.1306
Hyland.T.W.3314.
Dornan.L.H.3038.

"All Killed 30-3-18"

These men were all killed the same evening at Hangard Wood. I did not see them killed for I was not with them, but Sergt Seddon. of D.Coy. CIV Plat. could give details for they were in that Platoon. I also knew them as I used to be in that Platoon, but I was then acting as C/S/M of D.Coy. and it was my duty to make a list of the casualties. Sergt Seddon. who is now with the Battn, and who succeeded me as Sergt of XIV Platoon, reported these men to me as killed. We had gone out to look for the enemy and had come upon them suddenly and they opened fire. We dug in there and were relieved the next morning. Sergt.Seddon knew the men and could describe them.

Informant:- Sergt.A.McLean. 1193.DXIV.
No II Stationary Hospital.
ROUEN. 5-9-18.

London.
12-9-18.
H.G.
Written Sergt Seddon about all 3 men. 10-9-18.

P I.

33rd Battn.
A.I.F.

SIMSHAUSER W.J. 1306
Ryland T.W. 3314
Dorman L.H. 3038

"Killed in Action 30-3-18"

Re 1306 W.J.Simshauser - 3314 T.W.Ryland - 3038 L.H.Dorman, of my Pltn. I was with them on the 30-3-18 when they were killed by bullets (machine gun). As we were relieved shortly afterwards I do not know where they were buried and enquiries at Battn. Hqts. do not give any record of them being buried on the field. Should I have the chance of getting in the vicinity of that sector again, I will go over the ground and try and find their graves, and if possible give you the location.

* in a Military Cemetry so I should think they must have been buried

Letter from:- Seddon. Sgt.G.W. 2638
FRANCE. 26-9-18.

London
14-10-18
N.T.

P.I.

21.5.18

1306
Pte W. J. Limshauser
33 Bltn

See under
379 Gpl Roy S. Capel
33 Bltn

To
Sgt Seddon
XIV Platoon D. Co
33rd Battn
A.I.F.

About
1306 Pt W.J.
~~Shimshauser~~ ~~Shimshauser~~
Simshauser 33d Battn
A.I.F

K March 30/18

Written 10.9.18

MSS

27. 9. 18.

Miss A. M. Ferguson
85 Herbert Road
Woolwich
S.E. 18.

Dear Madam

With further reference to your inquiry for 1306 Pte. W. J. Sinshauser 33rd Bttn. A.I.F. we regret to inform you of ~~a~~ further unofficial evidence of his ~~evidence~~ death received from one of the men in his unit, which confirms the reports already sent you.

2412 Pte. J. B. O'Regan interviewed at a convalescent camp in France stated that they were advancing towards Hangard Wood on the afternoon of Easter Saturday when

Pte. Linschauer was killed by a bullet wound in the head. Information did not see the casualty occur, but saw his grave & the cross which marks it. He was buried in the open, near the place of casualty which was in front of the village of Cachy.

We have now closed our enquiry as we feel that further enquiries would only lead to a confirmation of the report already sent in, but if we receive any other information we will immediately advise you. Trusting we have been of some assistance to you

Yours DNS

16.10.18

1306
W. J. Simshauser
33. Battn

see under
3038
L. H. Dorman
33 Battn

29th June, 1918.

Miss Alison Fergusson,
85, Herbert Road,
Woolwich. S.E. 18.

Dear Madam,

In answer to your enquiry about 1506 Pte. W. J. Simshauser, 33rd Infantry Bat. A.I.F. we regret to inform you that we have received an unofficial report from 2629 Pte. E.B. Percy of the same unit, interviewed at the 4th Command Depot, Hurdcott. He states that he saw Pte. Simshauser killed instatly by a bullet which wounded him in the head, the casualty occurred to the right of Hangard Wood on March 30th. His body was taken back for burial with many others but Pte. Percy can give no further details. He describes him as 5ft. 7inches in height, of stout build, and fair complexion.

We are continuing enquiries, and will advise you of any furhter particulars we may receive and trust that this information will be of some assistance to you.

Yours faithfully,

(Miss)

Secretary.

F.St.G.

3

September 19th, 1918.

Miss A.M. Ferguson.
85 Herbert Road.
Woolwich. S.E. 18.

Dear Madam.

We beg to inform you of further unofficial evidence about - 1306 Pte. W.J. ZIMSHAUSER. 33rd Battalion. A.I.F. who was killed in Action on 30-3-18, and we trust that it will be of some assistance to you.

2686 Pte.W.J.Wilson when in the 3rd Australian Auxiliary Hospital, Dartford reported:- "He was in D. Company and I saw him killed at Hangard Wood, when he was hit in the chest by a bullet and lived but a few minutes but never spoke after being wounded .* The Casualty happened about 3 o'Clock in the afternoon of March 31/18 at which time he was in action and was killed in the first wave going over. I knew him fairly well and he came from Northern parts of N.S.W. where I think his Father owned land. I cannot give any details of burial. We were relieved that night but I am sure he would be buried."

This report was confirmed by 1500 Pte. D.G. Smith when in hospital at Harefield. He stated that they had just commenced their attack at Villers Bretteneux on 30-3-18, when he was wounded in the head by a machine gun bullet about 6 p.m. his death being instantaneous. Informant was beside him at the time but as he was himself wounded later he knows nothing of his burial.

We are continuing our enquiries and as soon as we receive further news we shall let you know and trust that it will be some consolation to have this further assurance of his instantaneous death.

With our sincere sympathy.

Yours faithfully,

(Miss) Vera Deakin

Secretary.

L.a.W.