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

998 Sergeant Reginald Emerson Sims

37th Battalion



2510108H

37th Btn.

SIMS. R. E.
Sgt. 998

K. in act. 10/8/18.

"Casualty was sniping on the Proyart Road. He was getting up to have a shot when he was hit by a machine gun bullet in the abdomen severely wounding him. I was sniping next to him and I immediately went to his assistance and helped to carry him out. I put him on a stretcher and was relieved by four stretcher bearers who took charge of him and they had not got very far when a shell exploded a direct hit killing casualty instantly. I saw his body afterwards. He was severely wounded all over. He was buried just where he fell and I saw the cross that was to be put over the grave. He was buried alongside of Lieut.Col. Knight."

Informant:- Pte. F. LC Stanfield,
No. 3395, 37th Btn.

Private address:-
Thomson Street,
South Melbourne.

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

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS INFORMATION BUREAU—MELBOURNE.

A.I.F.
37th Btn.

SIMS, R.E.
L. Sgt. 998

K. 10/8/18

I knew Casualty. He was a short man, well built, dark complexion, about 25 years of age, known as "Reg". Casualty was advancing at Proyart: I was in the same advance. He was wounded by a M.G.Bullet, the bullet entering his abdomen. He was put on a Streatcher and was being carried away when a H.E. shell exploded underneath the Streatcher killing him instantly. I was 3 yds. away at the time shell exploded and I saw Casualty's body immediately afterwards. He was most severely wounded all over and was buried at LaFague. A cross was erected over his grave with his name, number and unit on it.

Informant:- Pte. R.J.Cull, 3500
37th Btn.

M. Cd Supp

T.C.F.
11/4/19

Home address:- 1 Armadale St.,
Northcote.

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS INFORMATION BUREAU-MELBOURNE.

37th Battn. A.I.F.

Sims,
R.E. No.998.

Killed in Action 10.8.18.

He was a Sgt. in 37th Battn. C.Coy, 9th Platoon. I knew him well. He embarked at Melbourne with me on the Persic on June 3rd 1916. I know nothing of his death personally but Pte.R.J.Cull 3500, 36th Battn. C.Coy, 9th Platoon, told me he saw him killed at a place just beyond Hamel on August 10th 1918.

Informant:- H.L.Thomas. No.1007,
37th Battn., C.Coy.,
9th Platoon,
Aldwych.

J.C.M.K.
London,
30/10/18.
HDS.

M.

Note:- Written Pte.Cull 28.10.18.

37th Battn.
A.I.F.

SIMS.
R.E. 998.

"Killed in Action 10-8-18"

Think of D.Company. On night of 10/11th August at Proyart, we tried to bring off an attack with tanks, going along the road between the enemy. Was killed outright by machine gun bullet. I saw his body lying in a ditch near the road. Was bleeding from head and think hit also in chest. Know nothing of burial, but I saw his cross made by Pioneers. Was Sergeant - came from Victoria.

Informant:- Pte.H.S.Byrne. 2522.
37th Bn. B.Coy. Att: H.Q.
ANZAC BUFFET.

A.D.G.
London.
27-11-18.
H.G.

M.

37th Battn.
A.I.F.

SIMS
R.E. 998

"KILLED 10-8-18"

At Peronne he was blown up by Shell while in what were supposed to be trenches. I saw him killed at once. I knew him well, but did not see the Grave.

Informant - Mansfield.Pte. 3526
37th Battn.
1st A.A.H.
HARKFIELD.

D.P.Dickson
18-11-18
London
27-11-18
H.Q.

M.

A.I.F. 37th Battn. S.M.S. R.E. 998.

"Killed 10.8.18."

He was in C. Ccy, and was a Sergeant. He was wounded and was being brought out on a Stretcher near Proyart, being hit in stomach. I saw the shell that killed him, land, and he was hit very badly all over, death being instantaneous. I knew him well, and he came from Victoria. I cannot give any particulars of burial. Refer to Stretcher Bearer Berrie, C. Ccy, 37th Battn., who is now in England, for he was wounded by same shell.

Informant:- L/Cpl. Charles R. 836.
C. Ccy, 37th Battn.,
3rd A.A. Hospital,
Dartford.

W. Oman.
London
6.12.18.
J.F.A.

M.

Note:- Written Berrie, 4.12.18.

37th. Battn: Sims, R.E. 998.

K. 10/8/18.

Lt: H.J. Willis who was our platoon officer, called out for the stretcher bearers and sent us about 50 yards off Jerry's line (I do not remember where) to bring back Sgt: Sims who had been hit on the stomach by a bullet. We put him on a stretcher and carried him about 150 yards back and put him down to dress his wound, when we sighted one of our tanks coming straight towards us. We then decided to carry him to the nearest D/S, upon reaching the main road a shell caught us, blowing Sims up, killing him instantaneously and wounding 3 of us.

Chasemore, G.F. Pte. 3127.

37th. Battn:

A. 12. Dartford. 14/12/18.

R.D.B.

Havre 2nd January 1919.

Australians. 37. Sims R.E. No. 998.

K. 10th August 1918. Det D/B.

I saw him killed at Proyart. He was laid out ready for burial. He was buried in a Military Cemetery about 1½ miles off. He was a Sergeant.

Inf:- Pte W.A.Ridgeway No. 978.
A.I.F. 37. C. IX
Austra. Camp.

CRR.

PP.

37th Battn.
A.I.F.

SIMS.
Pte.R.E. 998.

"Killed in Action 10-8-18"

A man about 5ft 7, 26 or 27, medium, a Victorian. In front of Proyart at 10.o'clock on 10th August 1918. Whole Brigade Headquarters to cut off Huns, who put up a terrific machine gun barrage. Casualties were heavy. Sims, who was Sergeant, got machine gun. The S/B carrying him out, got a shell, wiping the lot out. I saw Sims hit, but could not say if his death was instantaneous, or whether he was actually killed by shell. I saw his body at Dressing Station together with that of Col Knight next day. I did not see him buried, but he and Col: Knight were buried together.

Informant:- Mc Pherson. Pte.A.C. 6140.
37th Battn.
3rd A.A.H.DARTFORD.

R.P.T.
London.
13-1-19.
H.G.

M.

A.I.F. 37th Battn.

SIMS
R.E. 998.

"Killed in Action 9.8.18"

Sergeant R.E. Sims, No.998 was killed at the attack on Proyart Ridge at about 10.30 p.m. on the night of 10th - 11th August 1918. He had been previously wounded in the thigh, left, by an explosive machine gun bullet, and I with four other men were engaged in carrying him out, when we were all blown up with a shell. Sgt. Sims was buried along with Col. Knox-Knight who was killed the same night. If possible, I will call at your Offices and show you the exact location of his grave. Can you please tell me the address of his next-of-Kin, as I am sailing shortly and would like to visit them, as he was a great pal of mine.

Letter from:- 834 A.J.R. Barrie,
Aust. Army Ordnance Depot,
Millwall Docks,
E. 14.

London
18.1.19.
D.W.B.

M.

(28.10.18

3500

Pte. R. J. Cull

C Coy. IX Pltn.

36th Baltn. A.I.F.

Abroad

abt.

998

Sgt. R. E. Sims

C Coy. IX Pltn.

37th Baltn. A.I.F.

~~Abroad~~

K. 10.8.18.

28.10.18

A.I.B.

To

834 Pte Berrie A.J.R
S/B.C.Co
37 Bttn - A.1.7
2 Comm.d Depot
Litternore
Weymouth

about

998 Pte R.E. Sims
37 Bttn A.1.7

K 10.8.18

Written 4.12.18
In 95

ack. P.C. 17.1.19 KWB

Australian Army Ordnance Depot
Millwall Dock
E 14
15-1-19

998
R. E. Sims
37 Bn
Kin A. 9.8.18
m 2 (cd)

Dear Madam

Your communication of 4-12-16 received to day.

Sgt R E Sims No 998 was killed at the attack on Royart Ridge at about 10-30 p.m. on the night of 10th-11th August 1916. He had been previously wounded in the thigh, left by an explosive machine gun bullet, and I with four other men were engaged in carrying him out, when we were all blown up with a shell.

Sgt Sims was buried along with Col. Knox-Knight, who was killed the same night.

If possible I will call at your offices and show you the exact location of his grave.

Can you please tell me the address of his next of kin, as I am sailing shortly and would like to visit them as he was