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

Captain Frederick George Sims

43rd Battalion



2510103C

A.I.F. 43rd Btn. SIMS
F.G. Capt.

"Z/Action 4-10-17"

Killed in action 4-[illegible]-17
Cert. by A.I.F. Hrs 13-2-18.

P.I

London
15-2-18

43rd Batt. A.I.F.

Capt. Sims.F.G.

C.Coy.

Killed Oct 4th 1917. Det. D.B.

I saw him killed by a shell whilst we were in the front lines at Zonnebeke. He was blown to pieces. There would be no hope of him being buried. I knew him in the coy, He was an original batt man. He came from South Australia.

Description. Age. 35. Height. 5-11. Complexion. Fair. Slight Built.

Witness. Cpl. Mullaly.J.C. NO.1109. D.Coy. 43rd Batt.

Taken at
NO.4.C.D.Hurdcott.
12-3-18.
F.G.H.

S.Whitmae.
NO.4.Command Depot
Hurdcott.

P1

43rd Battn.
A.I.F.

SIMS
Capt. F.G.

"Killed 4-10-17"

I was talking to Capt. Sims a minute before a shell lobbed amongst us in our front line, about 2 a.m. on Oct. 4th while we waiting before the hop-over. I looked for him for a couple of hours, and could find nothing of him and brought up Lt. Walsh (killed afterwards, I believe) to take his place and also reported to Lt. Symons. The shell lobbed right amongst us and wounded J.K. Steenson 2408, who I believe is with the Battn. again.

Informant. Hinton L/Cpl. G.H. 2337
43rd Battn., D.Coy.,
Hut 12,
WESTHAM.

W.A.Rand
London
18-3-18

P.I.

Note:-
Written Pte. Steenson 16-3-18

A.I.F. 43½ SIMS, Captain F.G.

K. Oct 4th 1917. Dets D/B.

Captain Sims was O.C. of D.Co. I was told by Pte K. Bowman, a signaller of D.Co that he was alongside of Cpt. Sims when he was killed by shell fire on the Ypres front some time in October. I don't know if his body was repovered and buried.

Inf: Pte F.A.Rayner. 729. D.Hqrs.Signallers.
No. 1 C.C.
BOULOGNE. 27.3.18.

AGL

43rd Australian Imperial Force Sims, Capt. F.G.

(K. Cot. 4.17.Dets D & B)

Informant states that"on October 4th, 1917, at Passchendaele sector, Captain F.G.Sims, was killed outright by a shell. I was right alongside of him. The shell plumped down almost on the top of him, about couple of shell holes away from me. There was no time for burial then, but he wasaburied later on Hill 40. He was a married man, and lived at Maitland, South Australia."

Eye Witness - Yes.

Description - Medium height, sandy hair and moustache, delicate man.

Informant :- L/Cpl. Leonard Henderson, 2764,
43rd Aus. Imp Force,
York Place Hospital,
Brighton.

P.1

Home address :-
46 Miller Street,
North Unley,
South Australia.

Apl.3.1918.
J.Haddan.

43rd A.I.F.

Sims. Capt. F.G.

K. Oct. 4/17

"Sims was blown up at Ypres on Oct. 4/17. I saw it happen. I do not know where he was buried."

Eyewitness: Yes.

Description: Tall, slight, fair.

Informant: Pte. J. Lawy. 2035
43rd A.I.F.
Fairfield Court Hospital,
Eastbourne

Home address:
Port Adelaide.

7/4/18
A.W. Brodie.

P1

43rd Battn.
A.I.F.

Sims.
Capt. F.G.

"Killed 4.10.17"

Was O.C. of our Coy. (D.Coy.) He was blown to pieces by shell at Ypres. just out from Zonnebeke., during the stunt on Oct.4th. We were just waiting to "hop-over" when he got hit. I saw his body immediately after he was hit. His body was taken away and buried, but I did not see his grave.

Informant:- R.P.Heinrich 1112
43rd Battn.
Harefield.

W.G.J.

London.
17.4.18.

P.I.

43rd Battn.
A.I.F.

SIMS
Capt. R.G.

"Killed 4-10-17"

He was O.C. of D.Coy., and was in a shell hole at 2-30 a.m. on Oct.4th. just before the attack at Passchendaele with four other men, Lt.Howden, Sgt.Derrick, Pte.Teile, and one other, when they were all killed outright by a shell. I was in another shell hole about 20 yds. off. He was buried about 100 yds. on the right of the Menin Road, going towards the line, and about ½ mile behind Zonnebeke Railway Station. I have seen his grave with a Cross on it, ~~and~~ is now in German hands. His pay-book with a photo of his brother was found two days later.

Informant. Hart Pte.P. 1027
43rd Battn. D.Coy. 14th Pltn.,
DARTFORD.

A.G.Campbell
London
30-4-19

P.I.

A. I. F. 43rd Bn. SIMS, Capt. F. G.

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

He was in D.Copy. I did not see him killed, but I do know that his body was never found for burial; only his Pay-Book was found. I took it down to Battn.H.Q. myself. It was on the Ypres Front just before we went over. According to the story told to me (although I can quote no name), he was sitting in a shell hole waiting to start, when a shell fell and blew him to bits. He was my Coy. Commander and I knew him well. I was admitted to this Hospital on April 26th, and travelled down in the train with his brother, also wounded, but do not know his Hospital.

Reference: G. Jennings, 1107, D.Coy. XIV.

No.12 General, Rouen, 29.4.18.

AB.

16 3 18

2408

Pte J K Stevenson

43rd Battn A.I.F

Abroad

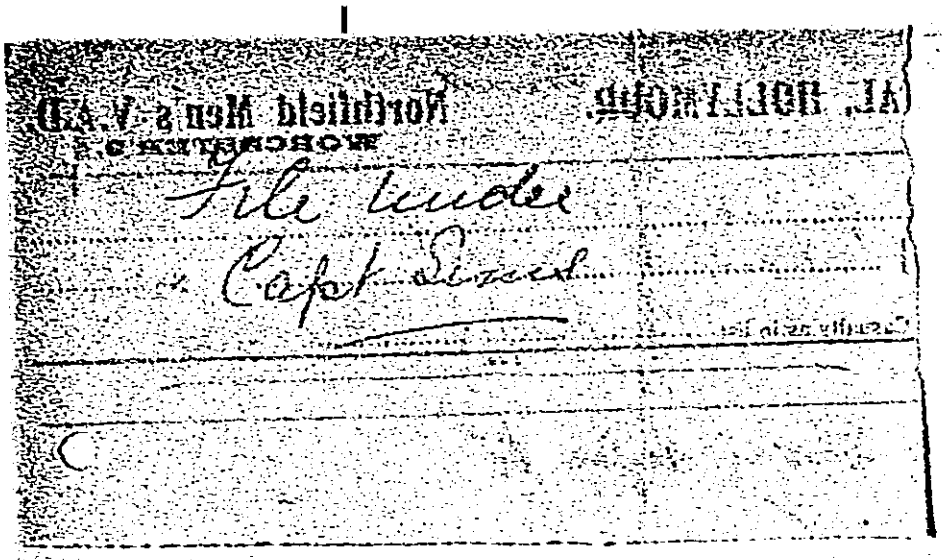
aft (offices)

Capt F G Sims

43rd Battn A.I.F

K 4 10 17

16 3 18


Northfield Mfg. Co.
WORCESTER, MASS.
File under
Capt. Lewis

Grateful letter

Capt F.G. Sims 43 Battn

Killed in Action 4-10-17 1868

× Cpl E Harvey 43 Battn Died of W. 15-10-17

The Secretary

Friendly Society Lancashire

Dear Sirs,

I have taken the opportunity of acknowledging the receipt of your letter, giving me all particulars relating to the death of Capt F.G. Sims and enclosing two letters giving all expected details of Corporal Sidney's death & burial. I thank you sincerely for all you have done for me & for your kind expressions of sympathy with you & your sorrowing staff in my hour of trouble. Once more I thank you.

Believe me to be,

Yours most gratefully

E.B.L. Harris.

2nd Aust. C.C.S.

2276.

P.C. 11.2.18

2nd Aust. C.C.S.
A.—1.—F.
France.

To
The Secretary.
Wounded + Missing
Enquiry Bureau
Aust. Red Cross Society.

Dear Sir.

Could you please give me any particulars of Capt. J.G. Sims. d/c. D. Coy. 4th Battalion A-1-F. Who was reported killed on or about Oct 4th last. Also Corp. T. Harvey died no 3. Aus. General Hospital on Oct 18th. I do not know Cpl Corps Unit or number. But will be very grateful to you if you can tell me anything about either of the above named men.

Thanking you in anticipation.

I am.
Yours Obediently
2276. Pte. B.H. Thorn.
2nd Aust. Cas. Clearing Station

22nd March, 1918.

2276 Pte.B.F.Morris,
2nd Australian Casualty Clearing Stn,
B. E. F.

Dear Sir,

In further answer to your enquiry for details of the death of Capt. F.G. SIMS, 43rd Battalion, A.I.F. - We regret to inform you of unofficial evidence given by men of his unit.

Our informant stated that he was talking to Capt.Sims a few minuates before he was killed instantaneously by a shell which fell amongst them in the front line about 2 a.m. on Oct. 4th while they were waiting for the hop over.

Another man reported that he saw Capt.Sims killed instantly by a shell while they were in the front lines at Zonnebeke on Oct 4th, but neither of them can give us information of his burial.

Further enquiries are being made and as soon as we receive a reply we shall advise you.

Trusting that it will be some consolation to know that he was killed instantaneously.

Yours faithfully,

Law

SECRETARY.

17th April, 1918.

2276 Pte.B.F.Morris,
2nd Australian Casualty Clearing Station,
B. E. F.

Dear Sir,

We regret to inform you that we have received another unofficial report respecting -

Capt. F.G.SIMS, 43rd Battalion, A.I.F.

which confirms the information already sent you.

2764 L/Cpl.Henderson, of the same unit, states that he saw Capt.Sims killed instantly by a shell in the Passchendaele Ridge on Oct 4th, 1917. Cpl. Henderson was alongside of him whe the shell fell. There was then no time for burial but later Capt.Sims was buried on Hill 40.

We are continuing enquiries and will at once advise you of any information we may obtain.

With good wishes.

Yours faithfully,

(Miss) F. St George

SECRETARY.

24th April, 1918.

2276 Pte.P.F. Morris,
2nd Australian Casualty Clearing Stn,
A.I.F. B. E. F.

Dear Pte. Morris,

In further answer to your enquiry for -

Capt. F.G. SIMS, 45rd Battalion, A.I.F.

We beg to inform you we have received the following unofficial information from Pte. R.R.Heinrich of same Bttn, He stated that Capt.Sims who was O.C. of his Coy was killed instantaneously by a shell at Ypres just out from Zonnebeke during the stunt on 4-10-17, when they were waiting to "hop-over". His body was taken away and buried but informant did not see his grave .

This report unfortunately confirms others we have already sent to you but we are continuing our enquiries and as soon as further details are received we shall advise you.

Assuring of our sincere sympathy and with good wishes to yourself.

Yours faithfully,

(Miss) Mrs Bake

SECRETARY.

9th May, 1918.

2276 Pte. B.F.Morris,
2nd Australian Casualty Clearing Station,
B. E. F.

Dear Sir,

We beg to inform you that we have received another unofficial report respecting -

Capt. F.G. SIMS, 43rd Battalion, A.I.F.

1027 Pte.P.Hart of same unit, recently at 3rd Australian Auxiliary Hospital, Dartford, stated that Capt. Sims and 4 others of D.Coy of which he was O.C. were all killed instantly by a shell falling into a shell hole in which they were sheltering at 2-30 a.m. on October 4th 1917. Pte. Hart was in another shell hole about 20 yards off. Capt. Sims was buried about 100 yards on the right of the Menin Road, about ⅛ a mile behind Zonnebeke Railway Station, and Pte. Hart has seen his grave with a cross on it. His paybook with a photo of his brother was found two days later.

We have now closed our enquiry but should any further particulars be received will at once advise you.

With good wishes.

Yours faithfully,

(Miss) F. A. G.

SECRETARY.