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

2380 Private Alfred Tasman Sinclair

21st Battalion



2510202C

A.I.F. 21st Btn

SINCLAIR
Alf. 2380

"M. 20-11-16"

Killed in action 20-11-16 - previously reported Missing
Cert. by A.I.F.Hqrs 31-7-17.

M & P.I.

London
4-8-17

A.I.F.
21st. Battn.

SINCLAIR.
A. 2380.

Missing 20. 11.16.

No further report. Correct date.

Reference Hd. Qrs. 18th. April, 1917.

Off. M.

London.
27.4.17.

2380

A.I.F. 21. SINCLAIR, A. 2380

M. 20.Nov. 1918.

I know Albert Sinclair; he was a great foot-baller. He was killed on Nov. 6th. not Nov. 20th. He was one of twelve, who went out on Patrol Duty. When they came back Pte. A.V.Whiteley, 4319, told me that he had seen him killed. He can give you further details. This was in front of Flers; the day after the attack on Nov. 6th. made bythe 7th. Bde.

EC.

References: Cpl. A.V.Leng. 4827.
No. 26. Gen.

Etaples
22.March 1917

H Q date ?

Asst Reg HQ Brierly 2.4.17 Written
A.V. Whiteley .4.4.17

Havre 17th May, 1917.

21st AUSTRALIANS SINCLAIR, A. 2380

M. 20.11.16.

I know A. Sinclair in D Co. He is very big, 5'8", made chap and comes from Bendigo, Victoria. He is now a Machine Gunner. He rejoined early in December. I think he was away with trench feet.

Informant: Pte C.P. Creighton, 5009
21st Australians, D Co., 13 Pltn.
H. S. Wards.

List sent on GHB

21st Batt.
A. I. F.

Sinclair,
Albert, 2380.

"Missing 20.11.16"

I'm afraid that I cannot give much information re Albert Sinclair. He was hit by a sniper whilst we were digging a hop-over trench at Flers, about the time you mention. I know he was not killed outright as he was quite near me. I then saw him making back toward our front line trench, and since then we do not know what became of him. I'm sorry this is the only sure information that I can give. Re the description, he was about 5ft, 7.inches in height, and of medium build, dark hair.

Witness:-

Sig.A.Whiteley 4819.
21st Batt, A.I.F.
School of Musketry
Bhurtpore Barracks
Tidworth
Hants, Eng,

London
18. 5.17.

Off M

0th Btn.
ate 21st Btn.
A.I.F.

SINCLAIR, A.
Pte. No. 2380

20.11.16

Officially stated as missing since November, 1916.

In a letter from France dated 20/2/17 by one "George" to one "Ethel" George says "I have not seen Alf. (the above missing man) yet but by what Tom says he is in the best of health as he seen him 2 days before he met me" The Tom spoken of is Pte. T. W. Alsbury, No. 4353, 31st Btn. late 23rd Btn. Will you please get Pte. Alsbury to verify this statement.

P.1
M

1 Copy for P.1.

25/5/17

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS INFORMATION BUREAU—MELBOURNE.

21st Batt. A.I.F. SINCLAIR A. 2380.
"B" Coy. No 6 Platoon.

"K. Nov. 20th., '16.. Det D & B".

"We were digging a new trench during an advance, and came across what we are almost sure, was Sinclair's body. He had come over with us, and was the only man missing out of the party, while none of our men had been in this position previously. He had fallen in a shell hole, and was covered with mud. While we did not actually identify him, we felt sure it was Sinclair. We had to retire just after we had discovered the body, so did not have proper time to investigate. I knew him through being in the same Coy."

Description. Hgt. 5ft4. Dark complexion. Medium build. Age about 20.

Witness. McLean J.S. 2216.
21st Batt. "B" Coy.

Taken at No 4 Command Depot.
Codford. S.W.

S. Whitmee.

September 9th., '17.

M1 P1

Adr
FM. 8.5.17

School of Musketry
13 Hurstpore Barracks
Tidworth
Hants
May 7th 1916

Sec. Wounded & Missing
Enquiry Bureau.

Alb. SINCLAIR
21 Batt'n A.I.F.
No. 11 16 F.M.2

Dear Madam

Your letter of enquiry to hand this am. 4th inst.

I'm afraid that I cannot give much information re Albert Sinclair. He was hit by a sniper whilst we were digging a hop-over trench at Ypres about the time you mention. I know he was not killed outright as he was quite near me. I then saw him making back toward our front line ~~from~~ trench, since then we do not know what became of him. I'm sorry this is the only sure information that I can give.

Re the description.
He was about 5'.7" in height, of medium build, dark hair. I know this is not much to go on but I hope it will help you a little in your good work. Hoping that he proves to be alive & well, with best wishes

Yours faithfully
Sig. A. Whiteley.

Sig. A. Whiteley 41st Reg
21st Battn R.E.
School of Musketry
B Lichfield Barracks
Tidworth
Hants

14.5.17

4819 Sig. A. Whiteley
21 Battn. A.I.F.,
School of Musketry
Bhurtpore Barracks
Tidworth, Hants.

Dear Sig. Whiteley

Very many thanks for your letter of May 7th in answer to our enquiry about 2360 Albert Sinclair 21 Battn. A.I.F.

The information you have sent will be of much assistance.

With best wishes

Yours faithfully

V.D

Secretary.

3/7/17

Miss. H. Eastlake
3 Georges Rd
Holloway
N. 7

RECEIVED
4 - JUL 1917
CARLTON HOUSE TERRACE

Sir,

I am writing to ask you if you could give me any information of Pte. Alf. Sinclair, 2380, 21st Batt, Australian Imperial Forces who has been missing since the beginning of November last 1916, His mother has had no official o concering him, so I would be very much oblige if you would forward me an answer

I am Yours Truly
Miss Eastlake.

July 24th. 1917.

Miss H. Eastlake,
3, George's Road,
Holloway, N. 7.

Dear Madam,

In answer to your enquiry for any information about :-

2380 Pte. Alfred Sinclair, 21st. Battn. A.I.F.

we regret to state that all the news we have, as you must have feared after so long a silence on his part, is of a dad nature. It is of course quite unofficial in character and we cannot vouch for its accuracy but in the absence of any official news, it is all we can obtain In March 4827 Cpl. A.V.Long, of the same battalion stated that Albert Sinclair was a great footballer. He was killed on Nov. 6th. being one of the twelve, who went out on patrol duty, when they returned 4819 Pte. A.W. Whitely told us he had seen him killed. It was in front of Flers, the day after the attack on Nov. 5th. We wrote to Pte. Whitely and on 18th. May he wrote and gave us the following statement.

"I am afraid I cannot give much information re Albert Sinclair. He was hit by a Sniper whilst we were digging a hop,-over-trench at Flers about the time you mention. I know he was not killed outright as he was quite near me. I then saw him making back to our front line trench and since then we do not know what became of him. I'm sorry this is the only sure information I can give. He was about 5ft. 7" in height.

and of medium build with dark hair" This is to date all the information we have but we are hoping for more and will send it to you immediately Will you assure his Mother of our sincere sympathy with her in her anxiety and grief.

Yours faithfully

W.F.J.

Secretary.

August 17th, 1917.

Miss H. Eastlake,
3, Georges Rd,
Holloway, N 7

Re 2380 Alf.Sinclair, 21st Battalion, A.I.F.

Dear Madam,

We regret to inform you that the above soldier who was previously reported "Missing" is now reported "Killed in Action on 20.11.16".

We are making further inquiries in the hope of learning details of his death and will send you any information that we receive.

Regretting the distressing character of this news.

Yours faithfully,

K.D.
Secretary.
AAW.

29th Bapk. 1917

Miss H. Eastlake.
5, Georges Road,
Holloway,
N. 7.

Dear Madam,

We regret to inform you of an unofficial report received about No 2380 Pte. Alf Sinclair, 21st Batn A.I.F. our informant being a man of the Unit No 2216 Pte. J.S. McLean who was at No 4 Depot Codford Wilts.

He stated that when they were digging a trench during an advance they found a man whom they all believed to be Pte. Sinclair as he alone of the party was missing and none of them had been in that place previously. He had fallen into a shell hole after being killed and it was here they discovered his body. Informant describes him as 5'4" in height of Medium Build, and dark complexion, and 20 years of age.

We are continuing enquiries for a detailed account of his death and was soon as these are received we shall advise you assuring you of our sincere sympathy.

Yours faithfully, V.D
CAW

21/8/1918

Mrs. H. Eastlake
3 Gorges Rd
Holloway
N.7.

Dear Sir or Madam

I am writing to ask you if you can give me any information of 2380 Pte Alfred Isaac Sinclair 5th Reinforcements 21st Battalion A or B Company 6th Infantry Brigade No 2380, A.I.F. His mother has been informed that he is a prisoner of war in Switzerland, so if you could let me have any news I shall be thankful, it is his young lady that is writing

I am Yours Truly
Mrs. H. Eastlake

August 27th, 1918.

Miss H. Eastlake.
3 George's Road,
Holloway. N. 7.

Dear Madam.

We beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of 21-8-18 concerning -

2380 Pte. ALFRED T. SINCLAIR. 21st Bttn. A.I.F.

who was Killed in Action on 20-11-16, having been reported previously as Missing on that date.

From the nature of the unofficial evidence we have sent you we feel that there is no reason to doubt the official report of Pte. Sinclair's death and we should be glad if you would let us know how his Mother heard that he is a prisoner in Switzerland.

There is no official report to this effect and he would certainly have advised someone, had he been captured and a prisoner of War for twenty one months.

We sincerely regret that there seems no hope of his being alive after so many months have elapsed without news and that we are unable to continue enquiries. Should we receive further information we shall immediately advise you and assure you of our sincere sympathy in your loss.

Yours faithfully,

(Miss) V. D. per L.A.W.

Secretary.

A.K.E.