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

386A Private
John Sinclair

22nd Machine Gun Company



2510310C

22nd Co. M.G., A.I.F.,

Sinclair, J., 386A,

K. April 21/17. Det: D. & B.

Informant states that "I knew J. Sinclair as I was attached to the M.G.C. That is his correct number. He was killed and buried in a dug out. I also know he was buried outside Vaux, though I did not see his grave. The body was recovered from the dug out."

Eye Witness: No, made special enquiries among M.Gunners.

Description:

Informant:-- H. Forbes, 368,
22nd A.I.F., 22nd M.G.Coy.
Fulham Military Hosp:
(just left) Hammersmith, W.

Home address:--

M

9.8.17.
V.Cholmondley.

22nd Machine Gun Corps
Australian Imperial Force

Sinclair, Pte. J. 386 A

(Killed April 21/17.)
Dets D & B

" I gathered from conversations with comrades that Sinclair was killed by shell about 21st April, while he was on anti-air-craft duty The place of his burial was pointed out to me at Heuville in the Sunken Road known as Artillery Gully. Sinclair's belongings were handed to his particular chum, name unknown. "

Eye Witness - No.

Description - Informant did not know Sinclair. Had the information from comrades.

Informant :- Pte. L. Adams, 366,
22nd Machine Gun Corps, A.I.F.
Military Hospital,
Southwark.London, S.E.

Home address :-
Clare,
S. Australia.

9. 8. 17.
C.Elphage ?

A.I.F. M.G.C. Batt. Sinclair. John. 386A
22nd Company.

K. April 21/17 Det D/B

Informant states that:-
" On April 20/17 at Bullecourt, John Sinclair was killed in a dug-out. He was got out with another man; but was dead, although the body was warm. Informant cannot remember the other man's name who was brought round. He was buried by the gun team of M.G.C. 22. A.I.F. Informant came over on same boat from Australia."

Eye Witness:-- Yes.

Description:--

Informant:-- Leslie Daniel, 369,
22 M.G.C. A.I.F.,
2nd Birmingham War Hos.,
Hollymoor.

Home address:--

Aug 13/17.
E.W. Moore.

22nd Machine Gun Co.

SINCLAIR, J.
Pte. 386.

The above named soldier was killed in action on the 21st April, 1917, and on the 25th September you obtained a report from Pte. F. H. Gray, No. 377, 21st Machine Gun Co. and in this report Pte. Gray said that he would like the address of Pte. J. Sinclair's next of kin, and that he believed they resided in Lancashire, England.

We find that when Pte. Sinclair enlisted he stated his next of kin as his friend Mr. Thomas Seymour of Powell Town, Vic. We have communicated with this gentleman and also with Miss E. Young, C/o Mrs. S. Hardy, 14 Margaret Street, West Footscray, and Mr. Mc Villey, C/o Timber Mills, Powell Town, who have also made enquiries from us concerning the soldier's death and burial, but all these people say that as far as they know the soldier did not have any relatives in England. We also wrote to Mr. E. Allen, Orchardist, Ringwood, mentioned in the report by Pte. F.H. Gray but he has not replied to our letter. We therefore regret that we cannot supply the address which Pte. F. H. Gray has asked for.

6/3/18.

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS INFORMATION BUREAU—MELBOURNE.

22nd Machine Gun Coy
A.I.F.

'No Enquiry'

SINCLAIR
Jack.

I do not know his number, but he and a mate were killed at Nouiel by a shell whilst asleep in their dugout. We had to dig them out to extricate them from the debris. I buried him and his mate in the valley just behind Nouiel, and I marked the grave with a cross bearing number, name and unit. I am anxious to learn the whereabouts of his people, as I promised him that I would write to them if at any time anything should happen to him. I understand they live in Lancashire, England. He went to Australia with them when quite a little chap and was left there in St Vincent De Pauls Orphanage for Boys Melbourne, and heard nothing of them until he arrived back in England 14.11.15, and could not then obtain any leave to enable him to go up and see them. I have lost their address, and would be very pleased if you could assist me to locate them. Sinclair used to work for a Mr. F. Allen, Orchardist, Ringwood, Victoria.

Witness:- Pte [illegible]. H. Gray 377
21st M/Gun Coy,
3rd A.A. Hosp, Dartford.

W. Oman
London 25.9.17.

22nd Machine Gun Co.

SINCLAIR, J.
Pte. 386.

Killed in action 21/4/17.

"I knew Casualty. He was a tall man, well built, red hair, freckled face, about 19 years of age, known as "Ginger". He embarked on the transport "Commonwealth" and came from Tasmania. Casualty was in his dug-out asleep at Bullecourt on the Somme and was in support lines. An H.E. shell exploded on top of the dug-out burying Casualty and Pte. H. Wilson. I was near Casualty at the time of his death and I came over to where his body was being dug out, which was quite warm on recovery three hours later which proved that he had not been very long dead. The chief cause of death was suffocation. He was buried in Noriel Gully with the other man, Pte. Wilson that was killed, and I witnessed the burial. A cross was erected with his name and number on it."

Private address:-
Penrose,
Drouin.

Informant:- Pte. L. Bosanko,
No. 394, 22nd M.G.Co.

T.C.F.
1/11/18.

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS INFORMATION BUREAU-MELBOURNE.