

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

**2256 Private  
Charles Willie Symons**

**47th Battalion**



2680810P

Havre

19th October.1917.

47th AUSTRALIANS

SYMONS, C.W. 2256

K. Aug. 12th.1917. Det. D/B.

I knew Pt. Bill Symons. I knew him in Mackay, Queensland; he was a printer, and worked in the Mackay Mercury Newspaper Office. I saw his grave in the Wytschante Military Cemetery; there is a cross on it.

Informant: Pt. W.J. Bradford, 2393  
47th Australians, A.Co., IV. Pltn.  
Australian Camp, Rouelles.

RDX.

BPI

47th Batn  
A.I.F. 617

SIMONS  
C.W. 2256

"Killed 12.8.17."

Quite a number of us were sitting in a dugout in the line, on the left of Messines, when a shell landed amongst us killing some, and wounding quite a number, he being amongst the killed. I was wounded at the time and did not see his grave, but I was told by the Pltn Sgt-Sgt. H.S. Warfield that all the men that were killed were buried at Battn HdQtrs behind the line, and that the graves were marked with crosses bearing all the particulars. I knew him very well there was no other of that name in the Coy.

Witness:- Pte. B. Masterman 4202

47th Batn C. Coy., 10th Pltn.

3rd A.A. Hospital.  
Dartford.

W. Owen  
London.

10.11.17. Note written *Sgt* Warfield. 9.11.17.

P.I. B.

Havre

23rd November. 1917.

47th AUSTRALIANS

SYMONS, C.W. 2256  
Kirk, R.W. 4188  
Pope, J. 3411

K. Aug. 12th. 1917. Det. D/B.

Symons was about 5ft. 6" in height, very quiet, had a big nose, fair complexion, and about 21 or so years of age. Kirk came from Charters Towers, North Queensland. He had thin features, big eyes, very young looking, and fair. Pope was very young looking, stoutly built, and freckled. Those three men, and Pts Gentry and Millard (all H.Q. Signallers and runners) were killed by one shell that blew in a dugout on them in the front line at Gun Farm, Wytschaete, about August 11th. I had a party of men to dig them out. They were killed outright. I recognised Kirk, Pope, Symons and the others, and took their paybooks off them. The bodies were taken back, and buried at Dorry Farm, near Ulster Dump. There is wire round all the graves of the 47th Batt. there. These men each had a separate grave with a cross for each with his name &c on, and the Rising Sun Badge. I saw the crosses after they were put up. They had been in my platoon before; I knew them well. Informant: Sergt. Warfield, H.S. 4269

47th Australians, C.Co., X.Pln.

Australian Camp, Honnelles. GLT.

47th A. I. F.

<sup>S</sup>  
Symonds, Pte C.W. 2256.

(K. Aug. 12/17. Det D & B)

"I know that Pte Symons was killed. He was buried just outside Wytschaete, not in a cemetery."

Eye-witness: Yes

Description:

Informant: Pte J.J. Donnelly, 2159,  
47th A.I.F.,  
1st London General Hospital,  
Camberwell.

Home address:  
Refer to Regiment.

30th April 1918.  
F. Ross.

PI  
Bca

47th Battn.  
A.I.F.

SYMONS  
C.W. 2256

"Killed 12-8-17"

I buried Symons at Derry House. Map ref. 027. A54. Grave No. 152. I did not see him killed, but he was killed at Wytochatteau, Passchendaele, on 12-8-17. The ground was held.

Eye-witness; No.  
Description;

Informant; Scott Sgt.F. 2679 (intelligent)  
Home address; Hqts.,  
Prospect Farm, Guildford War Hpl.  
Brisbane,  
Queensland.

J. Cumber  
25-4-18  
London  
2-5-18

P.I.  
B.

Inquiring for

C.W.  
2256 A SYMONS

K.A. 12. 8. 17

private Cable from Brisbane

*[Signature]*

Inquirer

— Mr. Moberly Bell  
Soldiers & Sailors Family Asst.  
11 Tophill Street.

NOBILITY

Nov. 6th, 1917.

Mrs. Moberley Bell,  
Soldiers & Sailors Family Association,  
11 Tethill St.,  
S.W.I.

Dear Madam,

With reference to your inquiry for -

2256 Pte. C.W. SYMONS - 47th Battr. A.I.F. - who is officially  
reported killed in action on 12.8.17 we are forwarding an unofficial  
report we have just received concerning him.

Informant Pte. W.J. Bradford 2393 States "I knew Bill Symons  
in Mackay Queensland, he was a printer and worked in the Mackay  
Mercury newspaper office. I saw his grave in the Wytschaete Mil-  
itary Cemetery, there is a cross on it"

We are doing our utmost to obtain further particulars  
of Pte. Symons death and burial and will advise you as soon as we  
succeed.

Yours faithfully,

*Miss Ryan*  
Secretary.



# THE SOLDIERS' AND SAILORS' FAMILIES ASSOCIATION. COUNTY OF LONDON OFFICE.

PRESIDENT:  
H.R.H. PRINCESS LOUISE, DUCHESS OF ARGYLL.

CHAIRMAN:  
T. SLINGSBY TANNER, Esq.

HON. TREASURER:  
R. B. BARRON, Esq.

ACTING HON. SECRETARY:  
Mrs. MOBERLY BELL.

HON. ASSISTANT SEC.  
Mrs. T. STOKER.

11, TOTHILL STREET,  
WESTMINSTER, S.W. 1.

Telephone: 4099 VICTORIA.

8th November 1917.

Dear Madam,

I am very grateful for your letter to-day and for the kindness you have shewn in the trouble you have taken in getting information about 2256 Pte C.W. Symons. There was so little to go upon as my cable from Mackay did not even give the initials. Thank you very much indeed, I shall at once send your letter to my Mackay correspondent.

Yours faithfully

S. Moberly Bell

The Secretary  
Wounded & missing  
Australian Red Cross Society  
54 Victoria Street S.W. 1

J E  
Sgt. H. S. WARFIELD

P. W.

H. Y. A. 1. F.

B. G. 7.

About

P. W. SYMONS

P. W. 2256

H. Y. A. 1. F.

Killed 12.8.17.

Qu.

9.11.17.

November 15th, 1917.

Mrs. Moberly Bell,  
Soldiers and Sailors Family Assoc.,  
11, T. Hill Street,  
Westminster.

Dear Madam,

With reference to your enquiry for 2256 Pte. C. E. Symons 47th. Batta. A. I. F. who is officially reported killed in action on 10.11.17. We are forwarding a further official report we have received concerning him.

Informant, 1302, Pte. H. Henderson states: "A number of us were sitting in a dug out in the line on the left of Kemmies when a shell landed amongst us killing some and wounding quite a number, Symons being amongst the killed."

I was wounded at the time and did not see his grave, but I was told that all the men that were killed were buried at Battalion Headquarters behind the line, and that the graves were marked with crosses bearing all particulars. I know Symons very well. There was no other of that name in the Company."

We are still pursuing our enquiries for Pte. Symons and will advise you as soon as we obtain further particulars.

Yours faithfully,

*Mrs. Ryan*

Secretary.

G-C

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HON. ASSISTANT SEC.  
Mrs. T. STOKER.

11, TOTHILL STREET,  
WESTMINSTER, S.W. 1.

Telephone: 4099 VICTORIA.

20th November 1917.

Dear Madam,

I am so grateful for all the trouble have taken to send me reports concerning the death of Pte, W. Symons 2256 47th Battn A.I.F. Please do not bother to make any further enquiries as what you have learnt has placed beyond a doubt the fact of the man being killed. It will give great comfort to his mother that he was buried and his grave marked. It will also be a great consolation to know that he was killed outright without long suffering. May I thank you most sincerely for your kindness in this matter, such human sympathy does more to soften the agony of bereavement than you kind and devoted workers can possibly realise. Yours with gratitude

Secretary  
Australian Red Cross  
54 Victoria Street  
S.W. 1

*S. Moberly Bell*

*Actg. Sec.*