

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

**3439 Private  
William Simpson**

**4th Pioneer Battalion**



2501004C

4th Pioneers.  
A.I.P.

SIMPSON,  
W. 3439

"Killed 20.8.17."

I saw Simpson killed instantly whilst sapping at Spy Farm and was buried just out from the Sap next morning. I can't say if cross was erected but probably it was.

Informant:- E.J. Rowlands, 2190  
4th Pioneers,  
Hut 20,  
Westham.

W A.Rand.

London.  
18.2.18.

B.

A.I.F.  
4th Pioneers.

SIMPSON  
W. 3439

"Killed 8-8-18"

He was blown up by a shell about 300 yds. beyond Fanny's Farm, to the left of the Messines Road, and was buried on the spot. I saw his body. There is a cross on his grave. Lieut. Dewar of No. 4 Pioneers could give particulars of all the graves. Name, William, medium height, fairish. Only one other Simpson in the Battn, who is still with it.

Informant. Roxburgh Pte. A.2700  
4th Pioneers, D.Coy.  
DARTFORD.

A.G. Campbell  
London  
28-2-18

Note:--  
Written Lieut. Dewar 27-2-18

H.

4th Pioneer Batt.  
A.I.F.

SIMPSON,  
W. 3439

"Killed 20.8.17."

Sampson was in C.Coy, I am in B. I did not see either casualty or grave, but he was killed outright when the sap was blown in by a shell at Fanny's sap and is buried at the side of the sap. Crosses were erected for everyone buried there. He was in same reinforcements as myself but I can't give a reference to anyone who told me. We were discussing different men and what happened to them of our reinforcement.

Informant:- A. Jeffrey 3378,  
4th Pioneers B.Coy,  
Hut 10,  
Westham.

W.A.Rand.

London  
20.8.18.  
3

B.

4th Australian Pioneers

Simpson, W. 3439,  
D. Coy, XIII Pltn.

(K. Aug. 20th 1917)

"Simpson was killed on Aug. 20th. We were making a sap and he was blown out of the sap about 50 yards away from where I was at the time. I saw him lying dead. He was buried at Fanny's Farm to the left of Messines. He was in my Platoon".

Eye-witness:

Description: Rather sharp-featured, always looking down, inclined to be depressed and took on the dark side, called "Simmo" amongst the boys.

Informant: Pte R. Allen, 2474,  
4th Aust. Pioneers, D. XIII,  
Horton War Hospital,  
Epsom.

Home address:  
22 London Rd,  
Caternam, Surrey.

25th March 1918.  
Braidwood.

B

4th Pioneer Battr.  
A.I.F.

SIMPSON,  
N. 3439

"Killed 20.8.17."

Simpson was caught by a shell while digging a communication trench about a mile advanced from Wyschaete village and killed straight cut. He was buried next morning by his platoon Sgt. and a couple of his mates, near a strong post there and cross erected. He had a good burial. I saw him killed and though a mate of his, I was in another platoon and could not go to his burial but I saw his grave with cross on it.

W.A.Rand.  
London.  
6.4.18.

Informant:- J.D. Nethercote, 3415,  
4th Pioneers,  
Hut 17,  
Westham. B.

A.I.F. 4th Pioneer Bn.

Simpson. Pte. W. 3439.

(K. Aug. 20/17.)

Det. D/B.

"I was at 6 yards distance to the right when Simpson was killed by a High Explosive Shell. We were digging a new trench, 12 p.m. dark no moon, but clear 1/2 mile from Ipiferm Farm 5 miles to the right of Ypres, it was after advancing 500 yards the shell burst where he was standing and he was killed instantaneously. I came to him with the stretcher bearer who took his disc. Simpson and I were of the same section No. 3 D Coy. we were good friends for over a year. We buried him a few hours later beside the trench and we made a cross next day and put it up with his name, No. killed in Action, D Coy. 4th Pioneers. No Chaplain at the time in the Battrn. All he had was buried with him the only thing belonging to him taken, was his paybook. The Sgt. took it and handed it to the Co. Sgt. who is now a Lieut. I cannot remember the name of the Sgt. who took his paybook, nor of the S/Bearer who took his disc. Simpson had remarked two days before "One never knows when a shell may come". He came from Gimpe, Queensland."

Eyewitness: Yes.

P.T.O.

Bd  
Luff

Description: Height 5'6½" medium build, fair, cleanshaven,  
always had a reddish healthy face.

Informant: Pte. P.W. Person. 2185.  
4th Pioneer Bn. A.I.F. D Coy.  
3rd Southern General Hospital,  
Cowley Section,  
Oxford.

Home address:  
Cordelta,  
Isis,  
Queensland.

13/4/18.  
R.P.M. Dunn.

Mr DEWAR

Lt Aust Pioneer  
abroad

about

3439

W. SIMPSON

Lt Aust Pioneer

1888-17.

Inc  
27.2.8.

N