

SIMONSEN, Charles Reginald

Bundaberg Mail (Qld. : 1917 - 1925), Saturday

A PRISONER OF WAR.

PRIVATE REG. SIMONSEN.

Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Simonsen, Coofton-street, West Bundaberg, are in receipt of two letters from their son, Private C. R. Simonsen of the 15th Battalion, written from Heilsberg, East Prussia, Germany. From these it is evident that he is in good health and quite cheery. He explains his joyousness by saying he was just in receipt of eleven letters. It is glad to know things are going on so well at home. I am still keeping as good as ever, considering my position. In a way I am by no means downhearted, for we are a happy family here and have plenty of fun in one way or another. The Frenchmen we are working with are regular hard cases, and help to keep our spirits up. Last Sunday week we went into the city to draw packets (supplies from England). There are seven of us Englishmen here and between us we drew no less than two hundred packets, so we are by no means in want of anything. In my spare time I am learning French—my tutor is a regular hard case.

They enclosed some snapshot photos of himself and three mates taken at the Lager by a young Russian prisoner. He certainly looks well.

National Library of Australia

From Bundaberg News Mail, Sat 23 November 1918. From TROVE: trove.nla.gov.au

Rank: Private

Service Number: 6098

Unit: 15th Battalion, 19th Reinforcement

Place of Birth: Bundaberg, Queensland

Date of Birth: 1 May 1890

Enlisted at Rockhampton, Queensland on 7 February 1916 aged 25 years 8 months.

Next-of-kin was father, John Finsen Simonsen.

On enlistment he was 5 ft 6.5 inches and weighed 9 stone. His chest measurement was 33.5 inches. His occupation was compositor. Address: Royal Hotel, Gladstone, Queensland. Unit embarked from Brisbane, Queensland, on

board HMAT A50 *Itonus* on 8 August 1916. Disembarked Plymouth, England 18 October 1916. Proceeded overseas to France. Joined 15th Battalion 19 January 1917. Reported "Killed in action" 11 April 1917. Revised to Prisoner of War 21 July 1917. Captured Reincourt 11 April 1917. Interned Limburg. Received Red Cross Parcels. Repatriated Hull, 1 January 1919. 10 February 1920 Next of kin advised returning to Australia. Discharged 20 May 1920.

Service Record: [View digital copy \(naa.gov.au\)](#)

Red Cross Missing and wounded File: [5648515.PDF](#)

Paulette Flint, 2024