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

2155 Lance Corporal Magnus George Cheyne

43rd Battalion



0721201D

43rd Battn.
C. Coy
A.I.F.

CHEYNE
M.G. 2155

Killed 31.7.17.

I saw him killed at Warneton. He was hit through the heart with a Machine Gun Bullet, death being instantaneous. He was hit in the jaw just previous, and was on his way to the dressing station when one of our Sergeants asked him if he would give a hand to carry on a wounded officer named Lt. Burdett. He consented willingly, but while doing so, he was caught by the Machine gun bullet. I knew him very well he came from S.A. His mother lives at Rose Water Port Adelaide. I did not see his grave, and I cannot refer to anyone and I heard that he was buried at place of casualty.

Witness:- IRWIN, Pte. J. 2199
43rd Battn. C. Coy. 11th Pln.
3 A.A.Hospital,
Dartford.

Note:- Written Lt. Burdett 6.2.18

with returned "returned Australia" A

W.Oman.
London. 7.2.18

43rd Battn.
A.I.F.

CHEYNE,
M.G. 2155

"Killed 31.7.17."

Warneton. Killed at once by a bullet in the head. We had advanced, he was going back for a stretcher for some wounded man, when he was sniped. A party was sent out to bury him but I did not go with it, or see his grave. He came from Australia together. We were best of mates from the ~~Streit~~ start. It was on left bank of the River Douve he was buried.

Informant:- ~~Pte~~ Cpl. Noble, 2237
W. 37
Harefield.

D.P.Dickson.

London.
25.2.18.

A.

43rd Batt'n.
A.I.F.

CHEYNE
M.G. 2155

"Killed 31-7-17"

I saw him lying dead, killed by a shell in a hop-over at Warneton, dying instantly. We had the ground. I have known him for years. Came from Coward's Springs, S.Australia. Height 5'8 or 9", and dark.

Informant. Wright J.R. 9701
11th Fld. Engrs.,
ANZAC BUFFET.

W.Alison
London
4-4-18

A.

43rd A.I.F.

Cheyne Pte. M.G. 2155,

(K. July, 31/17 Dets. D/B)

"Cheyne was killed at Warneton and buried there".

Eye-witness: Yes

Description: Lt. A. Black,
43rd A.I.F.,
3rd London General Hospt.,
Wandsworth.

A d
b
Smith

22/4/18,
Lowe.

43rd Battn.
A.I.F.

CHEYNE
M.G. 2156

"Killed 31-7-17"

Our letter to Lt.Burdett, 43rd Battn.A.I.F. about above, has been sent back to us marked 'returned Australia'. Lt.Burdett sailed 1-11-17.

London
24-5-18

A.

No. 2155 Private W. G. Cheyne, 43rd Battalion.

As Lieutenant Burdett had returned to Australia and we gathered from a slip received from you that he, possibly, could give some information regarding the above soldier's death, we had a personal interview with him and he supplied us with the following information which we have communicated to your enquirer:-

"Private Cheyne had been wounded in the jaw (think) and was making back to the dressing station when someone asked him to help me (Lt. Burdett) to reach our lines, I having been wounded in both thighs, both knees and the right ankle, by a bomb. He assisted me for about a hundred yards and having placed me in a deep shell hole, was leaving me and at that moment was caught by (I think a machine gun) and killed instantly and died lying on the brink of my shell hole. I was subsequently taken back by stretcher bearers and was in Hospital in France for 2 months and England one month. I know nothing more about his being killed.

Deceased was a fine chap and I shall write to his Mother."

Adelaide Letter
23rd Sept 1918.

Yours faithfully,

Chas. A. Edmunds.

Honorary Secretary.