

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

**3983A Private  
Arthur Jenkin Shute**

**45th Battalion**



2490803Q

45th Battn.  
B. Coy.  
A. I. F.

Shute.  
A. J. 3983

"Killed 7.6.17"

I saw him killed at Messines Ridge by a shell, which mutilated him very badly, killing him instantly. I do not know place of burial, and cannot refer to anyone for particulars. I knew him well, he was the only man of that name in the Coy.

Witness:-

Cpl. W. Sanders 2024

45th Battn. B. Coy. 8th Fl.

3rd Aust. Aux. Hospital,  
Dartford.

W. Oman.

London.

20.9.17.

S.  
P.I.

A.I.F. 45. B.

3  
SHUTE.A.J. 2983.

K. June 7th 1917. Dets.

He was killed at Messines Ridge on June 7th. Sniped by a rifle shot through the neck, cutting the jugular vane and died at once. Was buried about half a mile North East of the Ridge. I saw both death and burial. Was about 5.ft.9, brown hair had false teeth, single, came with the 12th Reinforcements 2nd Battn. joined 45th Battn in Egypt.

Inf: Sergt.A.L. Kearney. 3356. B.Coy.

8 Stat.Hosp.

BOULOGNE. 3.10.17.

FRBL

S.  
P.I.

45th Australian Imperial Force

Shute, Pte. A.J. 3983

( K. June 7, 1916 ).

" I saw Shute killed. He was on his way <sup>up</sup> to the lines in the morning and he was killed instantly by a shell. He was on his way to Messines. "

Eye Witness - Yes.

Description - Medium, young, fresh.

Informant :- Pte. G.H Redpath, 3475,  
B. Coy. 45th Aus Imp Force  
Horton County of London War Hospt  
Epsom.

home address :-

Horseferry Road,  
Westminster,

Oct. 26.17. London, S.W.  
P.A. Floud.

S

P.1

45th Battalion, A.I.F.  
(late 1st Battn, 12th Reinforcements)

SHUTE.

Private A.J.

3983.

"KILLED. 7.6.17."

Informant described Shute as about 5 feet 7 inches high, medium build, inclined to be dark, aged 23/4. He is believed to have come from the Parramatta District.

Informant states that they both belonged to the Lewis Machine Gun Section of the 8th Platoon, "B" Company. On 7.6.17 the Battalion took part in the operations against Messines. They left the trenches at about 11 a.m. Half an hour later Informant, Shute and others were walking together in lines of sections, when a shell lobbed over on top of them and instantly killed Shute and another soldier named L. Clemson (No.2633). Informant was himself ~~wounded~~ hit later on in the day, and consequently was unable to give me any particulars as to the burial of these men.

Informant added that Shute was very popular. They saw a good deal of each other.

INFORMANT;- Private J. Lloyd, 1951,  
"B" Coy, 45th Battalion, A.I.F.

Home address:- St. Luke Street, RANDWICK.

W.E.G.

No.21 Australian Auxiliary  
Hospital, SYDNEY.

13.3.18.

SYDNEY BUREAU. S

11/2/18

✓  
PICK  
0-4

A.I.F.  
45th Battalion.  
(late 1st Battn. 12th Rfts.)

SHUTE.  
Pte. A.J. No. 3983.

"Killed in Action 7.6.17."

I knew Shute, I met him in France. He stood about 5 ft 7 in., fair, clean shaved. I saw him killed at Messines Ridge on 7th June 1917. A shell came over and killed him instantly. He was a white man - a good chap.

Informant: Private R.B. Perry, No. 3105.  
45th Battalion.

Private address: 160 Palmer Street, Darlinghurst.

F.B.W.  
2.5.18.  
No. 4 Australian General Hospital, RANDWICK.

*King, G. P. 1*

SYDNEY BUREAU

45th Battalion, A.I.F.  
(late 1st Battn. 12th Rfts.)

SHUTE.  
Pte. A.J. No. 3983.

"Killed in Action 7.6.17."

I <sup>met</sup> knew Shute in France, and know him well. He was 5 ft 7 in. in height, clean shaved, fair. I was with him at Messines Ridge on 7th June 1917. I was just beside him - a shell struck him and killed him at once.

He was very brave, one of the whitest men I ever met.

Informant: Private P.J. Gaffney, No. 3146.  
45th Battalion.

Private address: Oaklands, N.S.W.

F.B.W.  
2.5.18.  
No. 4 Australian General Hospital, RANDWICK.

*King, G. P. 1*

SYDNEY BUREAU

ack  
2-7-17.

14 Cheltenham Street  
Barnwinthorpe  
England  
June 28<sup>th</sup> 1917

Superintendent  
Australian Red Cross Society

Dear Sir

I have just received information from the front of an unofficial nature, informing me that my Nephew, No. 3983 (Private. A. J. Skute, B. Company, 43<sup>rd</sup> Battalion 12<sup>th</sup> Brigade A. F. C. F. France) has been killed. I should like to be informed if the bad news is correct, also the date, if possible.

I may say that I am the nearest of kin in this Country, therefore it is only natural that I am anxious to know the truth.

I am Yours Sincerely  
W. J. Lees

"Row Cottage"  
Salthouse Lane  
Barnwin Turners  
July 20<sup>th</sup> 1917

The Secretary  
Australian Red Cross Society.

Dear Sir

At the later end of June I wrote you from my late address 14 Cheltenham Street, Barnwin informing you that I had received the news unofficially that my Nephew Private A. J. Skule, No 3983 B. Comp 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion 12<sup>th</sup> Brigade A.I.F. France was killed in action on June 7<sup>th</sup>. I received an acknowledgement dated July 2<sup>nd</sup> informing me that all possible enquiries would be made & that I should be informed later on, up to the present I have not received any authentic information. I do hope you will help me to get the truth or otherwise, as I stated in my previous letter I am the nearest of kin in this country.

Thanking you in Anticipation  
I am Yours Truly  
W. J. Lee



Mrs. W. J. Lees,  
Rose Cottage,  
Jalhouse Lane,  
Barrow-in-Furness.

Oct. 11th, 1917.

Dear Madam,

In further reply to our inquiries for details of the death and burial of your nephew -

No. 3983 Pte. A. J. SHUTE - 45th Battalion. A. I. F., we regret to inform you of an unofficial report which has been received from a man of his unit who is in the 3rd Australian Auxiliary Hospital, Dartford.

Informant No. 2024 Cpl. W. Sanders stated that he saw Pte Shute killed instantly by a shell at Messines Ridge on June 7th but knows nothing of his burial.

We are continuing our inquiry for details and hope soon to send you a more definite report which shall be immediately forwarded to you.

Trusting that it will be some consolation to know that his death was instantaneous and assuring you of our sincere sympathy.

Yours faithfully,

V. D.  
Secretary.  
Law

Oct. 25th, 1917.

Mrs. W. Lees,  
Rose Cottage,  
Salthouse Lane,  
Barrow in Furness.

Dear Madam,

With reference to your inquiry for -

3983 Pte. A. J. SHUTE - 45th Battalion. A. I. F. - who is officially reported as having been killed in action 7.6.17, we are forwarding a further unofficial report that has just come to hand concerning him.

3356 Sgt. G. L. Kearney stated "Pte. A. J. Shute was killed at Messines Ridge on June 7th. He was sniped with a rifle shot and died instantaneously. He was buried about half a mile north east of the Ridge. I saw both death and burial. He was about 5'9" in height and had brown hair. He was single and came over with 12th Reinforcements of 2nd Battalion in Egypt."

We are doing our best to obtain further particulars and will advise you as soon as we succeed.

Assuring you of our sincere sympathy.

Yours faithfully,

*Vera Deakin*  
Secretary.

*PM for AC*

Mrs. W.J. Lees,  
Rose Cottage, Salthouse Lane,  
Barrow in Furness.

January 8th, 1918.

Dear Madam,

In further answer to your enquiry for details of the  
death of your nephew

No 5895 Pte. A.J. SHUTE, 45th Battalion, A.I.F.

We regret to inform you of another unofficial report given  
by No 5475 Pte. G.H. Redpath, of the same unit when in the  
Horton County of London War Hospital, Epsom.

He stated that he saw Pte. Shute, killed instantly by  
a shell when on his way up to the line at Messines on June  
7th 1917, but he can give us no information of his burial.  
He describes your nephew young and of medium complexion and  
height.

. Should we obtain further news of him we shall immediately  
advise you as we realise how anxious you must be and trust that  
it will be some comfort to know that his death was instantaneous.

Yours faithfully,

SECRETARY.

*L.B. for L.A.H.*