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

880 Sergeant Edwin George Gadsden

4th Machine Gun Company



1130104A

A.I.F. 26th Btn
Now 4th M.G.Coy

GADSDEN
L/Cpl E.G. 880

"K. in A. July-or Aug.1917"

Killed in action 16-8-17
Cert. by A.I.F.Hqrs 23-10-17.

M

London
23-10-17

Machine Gun 4th.
A.I.F.

Gadsden L/Cpl.
E.G. 880.

Killed 16/8/17.

He was in a dug-out along side their guns. He was killed right out by a shell near 16th. Battn. Head Quarters, Messines. It was on his temple. I saw him after he was hit. He was full Cpl. temporary Sgt. (Tall, fair, about 13 stone, he enlisted in Tasmania.)

Inf: L/Cpl. O.F. Pippen. 2508.
4th. M. Gun.
A.I.F. France.

F. Mackay.
London.
21.11.17.

M.

Machine Gun Coy.
A.I.F.

Gadsden
L/Cpl. E.G. 880.

Killed 16/8/17.

I was with him when he was killed by a piece of shell, death was instantaneous. It was behind the supports at Messines. The Coy buried him in the open just on the right of Messines behind Head Quarters.
He came from Victoria. I was with him 9 months. He was transferred from 26th. Battn. in November 1916 to 4th. Coy. M.Guns.

Inf: Talbot T.A. 2284,
4th. Machine Guns,
No. 3. Command Depot.
Hurdcott.
8.11.17.

G.W.Griffiths.
London.
21.11.17.

M.

FRANCE.

4th AUST. M.G.C. GADSDEN. L/Cpl E.G. 880.

K.Aug 16th.1917. Det.

He was Acting Sergeant at the time. We were to the east of Messines and to the left of Huns Walk, by the road leading up to Messines. He was in a dug-out with others when a German dud shell came over and landed close to the dug-out. They ran out of the dug-out to get better cover when another shell came over and bursting killed Cpl Gadsden, and wounded three others. His body was taken to an old German dug-out which was being used as headquarters and observation post just off the mule track, and he was buried just outside. The dug-out had an ox head on the outside by the entrance and a German word,"Frostbule". I saw the grave there before a cross was put over it.

WSI

Ref ---Pte C.H.Sims. 378.
No 2 Can. Gen. Hospital

Le Treport. Nov 30th.1917

FRANCE.

4th AUST. M.G.C. GADSDEN. L/Cpl E.G. 880.

K.Aug 16th.1917. Det.

He was in 2 Section and was killed at Messines. A piece of shell struck him in the temple and death was instantaneous. He was buried right in the town of Messines close to a large concrete dug-out and a cross was put up. He enlisted in Tasmania but belonged to Victoria. WSI

Ref ---Pte McIvor. 366.
No 3 Gen. Hospital.

Le Treport. Dec 11th.1917

M
Ld
Smith

FRANCE.

4th AUST. M.G.C. GADSDEN. L/Cpl E.G ~~885~~ 880

16.9.17.
K.~~Sept 89th.1917~~

He was in Section 2. He had been L/Cpl but was Acting Sergeant at the time. We were in the line in front of Messines; my gun was about 50 yards from his. The Germans had apparently seen some movement where his team was and they started shelling. A dud shell came into the dug-out where six of them were together. The officer came and said "You had better scatter, I don't like to see you lads all close together like this." They were just getting out when another 5.9 came and burst there. A piece of it caught Gadsden on the head and killed him outright. We were going to bury him there but our HQtres sent word to have him brought back. So he was taken back and buried close to our HQ. which was a few yards from what was left of Messines village. There was no other Gadsden as far as I know.

WHA

Ref ---Pte Rickard. 520.
No 47 Gen. Hospital.
Le Treport. Dec 17th.1917

A.I.F.
4th M.G.C.

Gadsden. Sgt. E.G. 880

(K. 16/8/17)
D/B.

"I was one of the party who carried Gadsden back and buried him close to the Village of Messines. A cross was placed on the grave. There was no cemetery near where they were."

Eye-witness: Yes.

Description:

Informant: L/Cpl; A.H. McKibbin. 250.
4th M.G.C. A.I.F.
Bath War Hospital. Ward X/3.

Home address: Lyndhurst Road,
Victoria.

21.12.17
Jos. W. Hicking.

4th. M.G.C. A.I.F.

Gadsden.E.G. L.Cpl. NO.880.

Killed August 16th 1917. Det. D.B.

I saw him killed by a shell, We were out of the lines just to the left of Hun's Walk, Messines, doing indirect fire. He was buried in Messines close to a huge dugout. A party from the coy formed the burial party. A cross was erected bearing full particulars. I knew him in the coy. I could not say where he came from.

Description. Age. 25. Height. 5-9. Complexion. Medium. Slight Built.

Witness. Pte. Hanley.H. NO.421. 4th M.G.C.

Taken at
NO.4.C.D.Hurdcott.
14-1-18.
F.G.H.

S.Whitmee.
NO.4.Command Depot
Hurdcott.