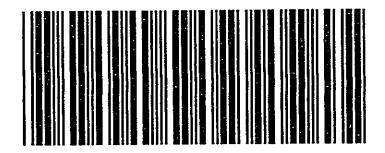
Australian Red Cross Society Wounded and Missing Enquiry Bureau files, 1914-18 War 1DRL/0428

2472 Private William Bewley Druitt

49th Battalion



0960212K

(

K. June 7th 1917. Dets D/B.

I knew W.B.Druitt well, he joined the Battn in Egypt.

He was in C.Coy and he was an Irishman. He was would be between 35 and 40 years of age. I was told by Pte J. Hair of B.Coy LGS who knew Druitt well, that he had seen him killed on the 7th June during the advance on Messines. I can't say if his body was afterwards recovered and buried.

Inf: Pte EcR.Byrnes. 5171. B.VIII No. 57 General BOULGENE. 6.9.17. AGL

Written Pa Hair 15.9.17

49th Bettn

Druitt. 7.E. 2472

"Killed in Action 7.6.17."

Hessines in the advance killed by a bullet. Think hit in the head for he died at once. I was close to himet the time I knew him well and knew his number. He was Irish.

Bitness:Nixon
95
Ward 54. Herefield.

D.F. Dickson London. 21.9.17.

S

49th Battn. A.I.F.

W.B. 2472

"Killed 7-6-17"

Druitt was in D.Coy., and killed outright by shell fire when we were attacking Messines. We could not stop to bury him then, but we took and held the ground. I can't say whether he was buried of not. I saw him killed. I believe he had people, relatives in Ireland.

Informant. Lake C.V. 3395
49th Battn. D.Coy.,
Hut 9,
WESTHAM.

W.A.Rand London 21-5-16

S.

Bruitt.W.R. Ptc. NO.2472.

D. Cov.

Killed gune 7th 1917. Dat. P.T.

I see him killed by a shell during the bon over at Messires, We were consolidating at the time. We was buried when he fell by a party from the coy, A cross was areoted with full particulars. I know his in the coy, he came ever with the 4th or 7th rainf of the batt. We came from Sucensland.

Description. Age. 30. .eight. 5-10. Complexion. wair. Well wuilt.

Witness. Pts. Robinson. A.J.L. Wo. 746. D.Coy. 49th Jatt.

Taken at NO.3.C.D.Hurdoott. I5-4-I8. F.G.H. S.Whitmes. NO.1.Command _apot Hurdcott.

5

H.M.A.T. Commonwealth, 3rd. Kay, 1919.

49th. Battalien.

2472. DRUITT, W.B.

K. A June 7/17.

Tall, fair. Light moustache. Belonged to "D" Coy. He was getting out of the trench after being wounded in the arm by Hachine Gun bullet. He received more Machine Gun bullets and was killed instantly. He was left there as we advanced. Casualty cocurred at 3 p.m. Locality - other side of Hessines, about 1000 yards - just near the Flat. Thinks that area was later cleared fer burying.

Eyewitness to Casualty:- 5146 Pte. H. A. O'Brien,
"D" Coy. 49th. Battn.
Private Address:- Alstenville,

Richmend River. HEW SOUTH WALES. benry Willard.

> Nc. 19562 T/Cpl. Repat. & Demch. Dept. London. fermerly 2nd. Aust. Casualty Clearing Station. Private Address: - 19 Marian Street, Glenferrie. VICTORIA.