

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

**2472 Private  
William Bewley Druitt**

**49th Battalion**



0960212K

A.I.F. 49.

DRUITT, W.B. 2472.

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~~ He 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 E.R.Byrnes. 5171. B.VIII  
No. 57 General  
BOULOGNE. 6.9.17. AGL

*Written by Pte Hair 15.9.17*

49th Battn  
A.I.F.

Druitt.  
W.B. 2-72

"Killed in Action 7.6.17."  
F-----

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

Witness:-

Nixon

95

Ward 34. Harefield.

D.F. Dickson  
London.  
21.9.17.

S

49th Battn.  
A.I.F.

DRUITT  
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 or 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  
21-5-18

S.

49th Batt. A.I.F.

Bruitt, W.R. Pte. NO. 2472.

D.Coy.

Killed June 5th 1917. Det. D.P.

I saw him killed by a shell during the gas over at Messines. We were consolidating at the time. He was buried when he fell by a party from the coy. A cross was erected with full particulars. I knew him in the coy, he came over with the 4th or 7th reinforcements of the batt. He came from Queensland.

Description. Age. 30. Height. 5-10. Complexion. fair. Well built.

Witness. Pte. Robinson. A.J.L. NO. 2465. D.Coy. 49th Batt.

Taken at  
NO. 3.C.D. Hurdcott.  
15-4-18.  
F.G.H.

S. Whitmore.  
NO. 1. Command Depot  
Hurdcott.

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49th. Battalion.

DRUITT, W.B. 2472.

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 Machine Gun bullet. He received more Machine Gun bullets and was killed instantly. He was left there as we advanced. Casualty occurred at 3 p.m. Locality - other side of Messines, about 1000 yards - just near the Flat. Thinks that area was later cleared for burying.

Eyewitness to Casualty:- 5146 Pte. H. A. O'Brien,  
"D" Coy. 49th. Battn.  
Private Address:- Alsterville,  
Richmond River. NEW SOUTH WALES.

Searcher:- *Henry Millard.*

No. 19562 T/Cpl. Renat. & Demb. Dept. London.  
formerly 2nd. Aust. Casualty Clearing Station.  
Private Address:- 19 Marian Street,  
Glenferrie. VICTORIA.

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