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

# 2421 Private William Magnus Stewart

## 44th Battalion



2630803M

44th Battn.
A.Coy.
A.I.F.

Stewart.
W.M. 2421

"Killed 8.6.17"

I saw him killed at Messines. He was caught by a shell and killed instantly. I was a company runner and was taking a message to him at time of casualty. I knew him well, he was a Sgt. and came from West Ludenville, W.A. We held the ground and he was buried just behind the line, but I did not see the grave and I cannot refer to anyone for details.

Witness:-
Pte.A.F.Brooks 2048
44th Battn. A.Coy.
3rd A.A.Hospital.
Dartford.

W.Oman.

London.
11.12.17.

P.

Havre

13th Dec. 1917.

44th AUSTRALIANS

STEWART, W.M. 2421

K. 8.6.17. Det. D/B.

I helped to bury Sergt. Stewart of the 44th Battn. in No. 2 Military Cemetery on the right of Messines Road down in the hollow, half way between our old front line and the village. Capt. Bryan, Lieut. Walsh, and Lieut. Hughes were buried in the same cemetery. Temporary crosses were placed on the graves.

Informant: Pte. A.P.W. Massey, 2367
44th Australians, B Co., 8th Pltn.,
Australian Camp, Rouelles.

P RDM

44th.Battalion.A.I.F. Stewart.W.M.No.2421. C

K.June.6/17.Det.D./B.

I saw him shot through the head by a sniper in No Man's Land about five o'clock in the morning.Death was instantaneous.This happened at Massines. We buried him where he fell,which was about a hundred yards in front of our line,slightly to the left of Hun's Walk.Just as we finished the Pioneers came along and took over and probably erected a cross,but I couldn't say for certain.I knew him well and we left Fremantle together on the 13th.Oct.1916.We sailed on the troopship "Port Macquarie".

Description.Height.5-9.Comp.dark,Sturdy build.

Witness. Cook.Pte.F.No.2316. 44th.Battalion.

S.Whitmee,
No.4.C.D.
Hurdcott.

Taken at
No.4.C.D.
4-2-18.
S.W.

Stewart.
W.M. 2421

44th Battn.
A.I.F.

"Killed 8.6.17"

About 5 o'clock in the morning of the 8th Stewart was killed by a sniper's bullet through the head. Killing him instantly in No Man's Land at Messines. He was my mate S.Bearer & and went over to pick a man up. He was buried where he fell, we had partly buried him when Pioneers came along and it was left to them to finish. His disc was handed to the Pioneer in charge - I can't say if cross was erected but probably was. I saw him killed and helped to partly bury him.

Informant:- F.Cook 2316
44th Battn. A.Coy. (H.Q.S/B.)
Hut 10 Westham.

W.A.Rand

London.
4.3.18.

P.

In reply to my question. Cook informs me that L/Cpl. Adam (the reference in report of Ashe) is a S/B but was not present.

W. A. R.