

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

**2718 Private
Alexander Masterton**

55th Battalion



1730802L

A.I.F.
55th Bn.
c/o 17th Bn.

MASTERS
Alexander 2718

Killed in Action 19.10.17.

No trace Germany.
Cert. by Capt. Mills 10.10.19.

London. 21.10.19.

S.

55th Battn.
A.I.F.

MARLBOROUGH,
A. 2718.

"Killed 19.10.17. Bet"

Polygon Wood, killed by shell, which came into the dugout, smashing him up badly. I helped to dig him out and also helped to bury him in the dugout. Put rifle, helmet and name up. 3 others were with him, he was in my platoon and knew him well. I was in dugout 10 feet away at the time.

Informant:- Hollow, 3493,
W. 8.
Harefield.

D.P. Dickson.

London.
6.2.18.

S.

55th A.I.F.

Masterton A. 2718,

(K. Oct. 19/17)

I knew Masterton in D. Coy. In October I saw a cross over his grave out in the open on Anzac Ridge. I was present at his burial and was told that he had been killed by a shell while sleeping in a dug-out*.

Eye-witness: Yes

Description:

Informant: R. Champley 5346,
55th A.I.F., D. Coy.,
Welsh Hospt.,
Netley,

Home address: nr. Southampton.

Feb. 24/18,
G.R.E.

S

Havre

1st March 1918.

55th A.I.F.

Masterton A. No. 2718.

R. 19th Octr 1917. Det D/B.

Masterton was one of the original men of the 55th Batta; he was in D. Co. 14th Pltn. I knew him for 2 years; he was medium height, strongly built, dark, about 23; and came from N. Wales. On the 19th Octr the Batta was at Polygon Wood and in action. I was away wounded, but was told by Cpl Freeman of the 55th Batta D. Co. 14th Pltn, who saw Masterton hit by shell and blown to pieces. Freeman is still with the Batta and can give further information.

Inf:- Ste A.G. Garland No. 3518.
~~334~~ 55th A.I.F. D. Co. 13th Pltn.
Australian Camp.
Rouelles.

24.

S

Walter Freeman
14-3-18

55th A.I.F.

Masterton Pte. A. 2718.

(K. Oct. 19th 1917 Det D/B)

"Pte Masterton was killed on the Ypres Front and buried on Anzac Ridge".

Eye-witness: Yes

Description: Men called him Alex. He was fair tall and thin.

Informant: Pte. T.F. Donnelly 5068,
55th A.I.F., D. Coy.,
Nov. V Hospital,
Exeter.

Home address:
33 Mill St.,
Pyrmont,
Sydney.

March 4/18,
M. Fraser.

S

A.I.F. 55.

MASTERTON, A. 2718.

4. Oct. 19th 1917.

I was close beside him when Alec Masterton got cut to pieces by a shell at 'Anzac Ridge' on or about the 18th Oct. He was with the 3/Bs and had a shell lobbed right amongst them and only pieces of him could be found here and there. He came from Sydney, and was D. Coy. 3/B.

Inf. P. Cowley 1751. § 55 D. A.I.F.
A.I. 'Princesse Elisabeth.
CALAIS. 19.3.18.

GGP.

Harve.

25th. March. 1918.

55th. Australians.

Masterton, A. No. 2718.

K. 19th. October 1917. Dets. D/B.

He left Australia with me on the 2nd. November 1915, in the 6th. Reinforcements to the 17th. Battalion on the s.s. "Gurindas". He was medium height, medium build, thin features, fair, and about 28. He was a S/Bearer. On October 19th. we were in supports to the left of Menia Road. There were four S/Bearers in a dug-out, which was hit by a shell and the four men were killed and buried by explosion. They were dug out by some of their own Company. I saw them afterwards and just before they were buried. They were to be buried against the same place but I had to come out just then and did not see the burial.

Inf:- Private. H. E. Harvey. No. 2684.
55th. Australians.
C. Company. H. Q.
Australian Camp.
Rouselles.

PH.

55th Battalion. A.I.F.
(Late 17th B. 6 R.)

MASTERTON, H. Pte.

No. 2718.

"K. 19/10/17"

Informant described Masterton as about 5ft 9" high, medium build, fair complexion, aged about 25. Was a Beef Lumper at Glebe Island. Left Australia with Informant in the "Euripides" on 2/11/15. Was a Corporal or Lance-Corporal when killed.

Informant states that Masterton belonged to "D" Company. On 19/10/17 the Battalion was attacking Pz Polygon Racecourse near Polygon Wood. Informant was talking to Masterton before they hopped over at 7 a.m. . At about 9 a.m. he saw Masterton who had been killed, but he had to continue in the advance. Informant was wounded the same day and had no opportunity of making further enquiries.

Informant added that Masterton was a real good fellow.

Informant;- Pte. Thos. Sayer, No. 2787,

"C" Company - 55th Battalion.

Home address;- 2 Bishopsgate Street, Newtown, SYDNEY.

W.E.G.

No.4 Australian General Hospital,
RANDWICK.

22/3/18

SYDNEY BUREAU.

S. C. 19/10/17

55th Battn. late 17th Battn.
A.I.F.

MASTERTON.
Alex. 2718.

"Killed in Action" 19-10-17.

Re 2718.A.Masterton. He was killed and buried in the field. He left Australia Nov 2nd 1915 with 6th reinforcements. 17th Battn; stood about 5ft.6ins. in height, med. complexion, hearty mannered. He was a butcher civil occupation. I don't know as to whether a cross was erected at the place where he was killed is not in our hands.

Informant:- Frank.J.Freeman. 3510.
14th Brigade. A.I.F.
FRANCE.
S.

London.
22-5-18.

S

55th Battalion.
(late 17 Bn, 6 R.)

MASTERTON, A. Pte. No. 2718.

Killed. 19-10-17.

We were holding the line at Polygon Wood, Masterton was acting as a Stretcher Bearer at the time. He was in a dug out with three others, when a German shell fell in the dugout and killed the four of them. I do not know where he is buried.

Informant - G.H. Holton, No. 3493.
Home Address - 32 Lansdowne Street,
Surry Hills.

J.V.M.
No. 4 Australian General Hospital
(No. 5 Hut.)
Randwick.

11-8-18.

00
Capt FREEMAN

D. Coy 55 A. I. F.

B. G. 7.

about

27.8

A. MASTERTON

55 A. I. F.

K19. 10-17.

GW.
14-3-18

Adm 4 PC
22.5.18
MS

2718 (A)
Alex Masterton
55 Bath Lane 17th Plateau
Kūā 19.10.17 - 5.5.18

Dear Secretary

Re your letter 2718 A Masterton

Well he was killed and buried in the field
he left Dunedin Nov 2nd 1917 with 2nd Rein
in Bath Lane about 5' 6" in height with blonde
hair, married he was a butcher civil
occupation I don't know as to whether a dog
was with him at the place where he was killed
is not in my hands Well I don't think I
can tell you anything else about this chap
I must conclude

Yours faithfully
3510 Stanley G. H. F.