

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

3423 Private
Henry Masterton

54th Battalion



1730803M

A.I.F. 54th Battn.

HASTERTON
E. 2423

"KILLED 1/9/18"

54 - C - 11 - 5/8, dark, 21, Came from N. Sydney - At Peronne on 1/9/18 at 7 a.m. in the attack he was killed instantly by a shell - I know nothing of Burial.

Informant:- 2154 D. G. Dunston,

NOTE:- H. K. Scott, 2989, gave similar evidence.

W.H.K.

London
24/3/19
HG

S

A.I.F. 54th Battn.

"killed 1/9/19"

S ✓ MASTERTON

H. 2423

S ✓ HOWARD

O.G. 3656

Masterton was a Pte in 11 Pltn., C Coy., 54th Battn., medium height, thin, dark. Howard was a Pte in 11th Pltn., C Coy., 54th Battn, short solid build, brown hair. They were killed during the hop over at Halle on road to Peronne on 1/9 about 6.30 to 7 a.m. by a shell, which ~~shot~~ ^{hit} both of them. I was wounded by piece of it but was able to walk back. Masterton was killed instantly, he was a pal of mine, a good soldier and a good sport. Howard was badly hit in right thigh and leg. I bandaged him up, but he died before the S/Brns came to take him away. They were buried at Halle, but I was evacuated and did not see burial or grave. He was conscious when I bandaged him up, and I gave him a cigarette. His right leg was nearly severed.

Informant:- Pte T. Lobley 2934,
11th Pltn., C Coy., 54th Bn.,
(Transferred 3rd Btn.)

H.S.Cowan (Pte T. Lobley's account is correct. I was with the party and was stunned by the explosion of the shell. When I came to London my senses a short time after I saw the five men who were 30/3/19 killed and they were all buried close by.) S

Informant:- Sgt. J.F. McLean, 1714,
C Coy., 54th Battn.,
(Transferred to 3rd Battn.)

54th BATTALION.
C. Company.

MASTERTON, H. Private.
No. 2423.

"KILLED 1.9.18"

Masterton and I first met in France. We were together in C. Company. I knew him very well. He was short, about 5 ft 4 inches, of dark complexion and clean shaven. At Peronne on the 1st of September 1918 I saw him after he was killed. We had just left the support trenches and were going up to take part in a stunt. He was lying where he fell. A shell had killed him instantly. I did not see him hit.

Informant: Hall E. Private. No. 776.
C. Company, 54th Battalion.

Private address:
High Street,
GRETA.

WEST MAITLAND.

W.C.W.

No. 4 Australian General Hospital, RANDWICK.
19.3.19.

SYDNEY BUREAU.

54th BATTALION, A.I.F.

Private H. MASTERTON.
2423.

"KILLED, 1.9.18."

Informant described Masterton as about 5 feet 3 inches high, slight build, dark complexion, aged 22 or 23 years. He came from the country.

Informant states they both belonged to C. Company, 11th Platoon. On 1.9.18 the Battalion was in action at Peronne and hopped over about 5 a.m. About 2 hours later when they were half a mile or so from where they had started but had not yet reached the objective, Masterton was killed outright by a shell which also killed Sergeant Kilminster. Informant was a few yards away and saw Masterton fall and passed him just afterwards in the course of the advance. He, however, saw stretcher-bearers approaching the two men. Informant was himself wounded shortly afterwards and never heard where Masterton was buried.

The objective was captured.

According to informant, Masterton was a fine little chap, and well thought of by his mates.

INFORMANT: Lance-Corporal P.A. Page, 5127,
C. Coy, 54th Battalion, A.I.F.

Home address: 286 Bridge Road, FOREST LODGE.

W.E.G.

Present address: "G" Ward, Randwick Military Hospital
No. 4 Australian General Hospital,
12. 12. RANDWICK.

SYDNEY BUREAU.

54th BATTALION, A.I.F.

MASTERTON,
Private H. 2423.

"KILLED, 1.9.18."

Informant described Masterton as about 5 feet 7 inches high, medium build, dark complexion, aged 23 years or thereabouts. Thought to have been a Blacksmith in civil life.

Informant states that they both belonged to C. Company. On 1.9.18 the Battalion was in action at Peronne. They hopped over at 6 a.m. and about $\frac{1}{2}$ an hour later, while going forward, Masterton was killed by a shell. Informant did not see Masterton hit, but about 9 or 10 a.m. saw him lying dead where he had fallen. Informant was present when Masterton was buried in a grave with 5 others in a little village just outside Peronne. A cross was put on the grave. Two of the others buried in the same grave were Private C.O. Howard, 3656, and Sergeant F.S.P. Hickey, 3550.

According to Informant, Masterton was well thought of by his mates

INFORMANT; Sergeant J.W. Highland, 4175,
C. Coy, 54th Battalion, A.I.F.

Home Address; Wallace Street, GRANVILLE.

SEARCHER'S NOTE: On referring to our reports re Sergeant Hickey, we find it stated that the name of the village in which he was buried is Sainte Rondegonde, about 10 minutes' walk from Peronne.

W.E.G.
Anzac Buffet, SYDNEY.
28.5.19.

S. ed. self
SYDNEY BUREAU.

54th BATTALION, A.I.F.

MASTERTON,
Private H. 2423.

"KILLED, 1.9.18."

Informant could give me no particulars of Masterton's death beyond telling me that he had been killed in action on 1.9.18 when Peronne was captured. He, however, afterwards saw a grave in which Masterton and 5 others had been buried in the backyard of a house in the village of St. Rondegonds near to Peronne. Informant, who was one of those in charge of a party putting crosses on graves, himself put a cross on this particular grave bearing the names of the men etc.

He also saw Masterton's belongings passed through the Orderly Room.

INFORMANT: Sergeant T. Stringer, 1833,
54th Battalion, A.I.F.

Home address; George Street, DENILIQUIN.

W.E.G.
Anzac Buffet, SYDNEY.
26.5.19.

S. ed. self
SYDNEY BUREAU.