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

# 5801 Private Frederick Arthur Doubleday

## 17th Battalion



0940702M

Doubleday A-92863 5807?
Sydney Norman G. C 17th Battn

Was this man at Little Moore Camp
Weymouth at the end of 1918

Ret'd Aust 21-12-18 per "Mamari."

N/R Mother Mr. Doubleday
Bumbaldry.
near Cowra N.S.W.

Reports
H.G.

A.I.F. 17. DOUBLEDAY, F.A. 5801.

M. Oct 9th 1917.

Is this entry an error? I know a Doubleday who is in C.Co., 17th Battn., and I saw him at Steenwerck, Menin Gate in the early part of December last and he was then quite all right. I believe there is no other Doubleday in the Battalion. The Doubleday I know is a man of medium height and build, of fair complexion and clean shaven. He comes from NSW.

Inf: Pte W.Hilder. 6312. A.I.
No. 7 Stat Hosp.
BOULOGNE. 7.2.18.

HH

S
21

Int Section

17th Battn. 16th Rfts.
A.I.F.

Doubleday.
Frodk.Arthur 5801

"Missing"

17th Battn. 16th Rfts.

Doubleday
Sydney Norman 5807

Signallers. To Hpl.sick 12.8.17.
Rej.from Hpl.sick 30.10.17 No later casualty.
23 years 1 month-15.5.16. 5'5¾" 132lbs. 33-35½" chest.
Complexion - medium. eyes grey. hair L.brown. Postal assistant -
Comes from Temora, N.S.Wales. N/K - Mother - Margaret Doubleday
B or Dumbaldry, via Cowra, N.S.Wales.
Doubleday S.A. 1580 Rej.unit from Hpl.5.6.17. Missing 9.10.17.
Age 23 years 2 months-13.6.16. 5'6¾" 154lbs 34-37" chest.
Complexion fair, eyes brown, and hair brown. Storekeeper - Came
from Clacton-on-Sea, Essex. Enlisted Sydney N.S.Wales. N/K
Mother - Clara Langley Doubleday, 365 Salter St., St Johns,
Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada.
A.M.W.B. H.Qrs. 16.2.18.

London.
26.2.18.

S. &
P.I.

Not Sent on.

17th Battn.
A.I.F.

DOUBLEDAY,
F.A. 5801

"Missing 9.10.17."

I saw him killed at Ypres. He was caught by a shell, and was very badly knocked about, death being instantaneous. He had just carried me into a "pill box" at the time. I knew him very well; he came from N.S.Wales, and left there with me by the S.S."Ceramic" in Oct 1916. I was wounded, and do not know place of burial, and cannot refer to anyone for details.

Informant:- Pte.C.H.Whiteley, 5926
17th Battn, B.Coy, 8Pltn,
3.A.A.H.
Dartford.

W.Oman.

London.
5.3.18.

S.
P.I.

A.I.F. 17th Btn

DOUBLEDAY
P.A. 5801

"M. 9-10-17"

"Re a report that Pte Whiteley 582 had seen my son killed at Ypres, now there is a possibility that he made a mistake, inasmuch as my son was officially posted as Missing at Paschendaele and also that there was another lad in the battalion named Doubleday. However, I have sent on my son's photo to the address you gave and if he gets this we may hear something more definite."

Ref:letter rad. from A.E.Doubleday (Mother) Enquirer
518 Basswood Place,
Winnipeg,
Canada.
21-3-18.

S & P.I

London
26-4-18

17th Battn.
A.I.F.

DOUBLEDAY
P.A. 5801

"Missing 9-10-17"

I saw this man abcut a mcnth ago, he was then at Messines, with the unit, and was quite well. I knew him well, perscnally, and also his number and initials. He left Australia with me by the S.S."Ceramic" cn the 7-10-16. Refer to Lt.Reid, 17th Battn., whc is now in France, he can ccnfirm details given. There was another manccf the same name, but a different number and initials, and he was in the Sigs.

Informant. Forrest Pte.J. 5816
17th Battn. A.Coy. 3rd Pltn.,
3rd A.A.H.,
DARTFORD.

W.Oman
London
8-5-18

P.I.
S.

Note:- Written Lt.Reid 7-5-18
Not sent on.

A.I.F. 16/17th Btn

DOUBLEDAY
F.A. 5801

"MISSING"

Killed in action 9-10-17 - previously reported Missing 8-10-17
Cert. by A.I.F.Hqrs 17-6-18.

S & P.I.

London
20-6-18

Havre

16th July 1918.

A.I.F. 17.

Doubloday P.A. 5801.

K. 9th Octr 1917. Det D/B.

I knew Pte Doubloday of A Co. III Pltn. about 24. tall, medium build, dark, clean shaven. I saw his grave in a Military Cemetery at Dickiebusch in November 1917 there was a cross on it with his name and number.

Inf:- Pte W.J.Blair No.1511.
A.I.F. 17. A. I.
Australian Camp.
Rouelles.

S
P.1

HDM.

PP.

F.A.

A.I.F. 17th Battn.

DOUBLEDAY
F.A. 5801. Pte.

"Killed 9.10.17"

I knew a Doubleday with same initials who was a Signaller on Headquarters. Fair men, about 24, 5ft. 6ins. He was alright and with the Battalion when I left them October 18.

Informant:- Pte. E.C. Baker, 4976,
17th Battn.
3rd A.A.H.
6, Ward,
Dartford.

R.P.T.
London
22.1.19.
J.R.A. Note:- Not sent on, probably same man as referred to by Pte. J. Forrest 5816.

S.
P.I.

A.I.F.
17th BATTALION.
16th Rfts.

DOUBLEDAY, Private
F.A. No. 5801

"Killed 9-10-17".

I knew a man called Doubleday in the 17th Battalion. He was thickset, medium height and dark. He was called "48 hours" owing to his name. I knew him in the Battalion before Passchendaele in October 1917 and met him again in England at Little Moore Camp, Weymouth about 3 months ago; he was then quite alright but had been opreviously wounded and had been for months in England. He never told me he had been in Canada, or that he had relations there. He was the only man of that name that I knew in the 17th Battalion. He was not attached to this Camp but was a Convalescent like myself. This Double day was a 15th or 16th Re inforcement. I was wounded at Passchendaele and was away for five months and do not remember Doubleday being posted as missing.

Informant;- 4221, Pte. A.J. Skinner,
17th Batt alion "D" Co. Xlv Platoon,
Private address;- Lower Bucca, Via South Grafton,
North Coast.

H.S.O.
No.4 Australian General Hospital,
RANDWICK.
7/3/19.

SYDNEY BUREAU.

S.N. Doubleday
5807
Det Aust. 21-12-18

A.I.F.
17th Bttn.

DOUBLEDAY.
Pte. F.A. No 5801

Killed in Action 9.10.17.

He was killed in the attack on Passchendaele on Oct.9th by H.E. shell He did not hold ground, and he would be buried either by the Germans or 4th Division Infantry who relieved us. Pte.W.Mehir No 5835 17th Battn. was killed at the same spot and time. Eyewitness- (NO) heard about it next day.

Informant:- Sgt.Maj.G.W.Rait.
17th Battalion.

Home address:-
84 Cathedral St,
Sydney.

D.R.Tomley.
Searcher S.S.Main.
London.
25.9.19.

S & P.I.

Hehir W.
5835 DOUBLEDAY
F. A. No.5801

17th Battn.

K/A. 9th October 1917.

He was killed in the attack on Passchendaele on October 9th, ~~1917~~ by a high explosive shell. We did not hold ground, and he would be buried either by the Germans or the 4th Division Infantry who relieved us. Pte. W. Hehir, No. 5835, 17th Battn. was killed at the same time.

Eyewitness - No, heard about it next day.

Informant:- Sgt. Mjr. J. W. Rait,
17th Battn.
Private Address:- 84 Cathedral Street
Sydney.

D.R.Tomley
H.M.A.T. "Main"
11/10/19.

Havre 29th Nov. 1917.

17th AUSTRALIANS DOUBLEDAY, F.A. 5801

H. 9.10.17.

He was in A Co., a S/B. On the 9th Oct. we were attacking at Passchendaele. Before we went over I was carrying wounded. I saw Doubleday: he told me that he was wounded as he was carrying a man down to the Dressing station. I saw him lying on the ground. I do not know where he was hit. We were ½ a mile back near the supports. The Germans were never over the ground: he could not have been taken a prisoner of war.

Informant: L/Cpl. R.H. Edwards, 206
17th Australians, A Co., S/B.,
Havre Hospital.

HPG



Ans 10.1.18

#18 Basswood Place
Winnipeg
Canada
20/11/17

To
Lady River Bulkeley
Canadian Red Cross
London

Madam

I am advised from Australian Hdqrs 130 Horse Ferry Rd Westminster that my Son was reported missing on Oct 9th and a friend of mine in the City referred me to you of course I know it is outside your province but living in Canada I do not receive liable news of Australian troops, and if there are any means you can take to assist me in the matter both his Mother and myself will feel very gratefully

Yours respectfully
A E Doubleday

Is he a P W?
No

Missing
Private F. A. Doubleday 5801 17th Batn
A. I. Forces

TELEPHONE: GERRARD 9910 & 9911

TELEGRAMS & CABLES: "SOCARECRO, WESTRAND, LONDON."

CANADIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY,
PRISONERS OF WAR DEPARTMENT,
14/16, COCKSPUR STREET, LONDON, S.W. 1.

5th Jan. 1918

Secretary.
Australian Record Office,
54 Victoria Street.S.W.1

Dear Sir,

I enclose herewith a letter for your kind attention.

Yours very truly,

F.C.

E. A. Buckley.

A.S. Doubleday, Esq.,
318, Basswood Place,
Winnipeg,
CANADA.

11th. January. 1918.

Dear Sir,

Your letter of 20. 11. 17. has been forwarded to us by the Canadian Red Cross, as we are the only organisation that deals with enquiries for wounded and missing members of the Australian Imperial Forces

With reference to your enquiry for :-

5801. Pte. F.A. Doubleday, 17th. Battalion. A.I.F.

who is officially reported missing since 9. 10. 17.

Wecare forwarding an unofficial report made by :-

806. L/Cpl. E.H. Edwards ,

of the same Battalion, which is not of a very hopeful nature we fear. He states:

"On 9th. October we were attacking at Passchendaele.

Before we went over I was carrying wounded , I saw Doubleday, he told me that he was wounded as he was carrying a man down to the dressing station. I did not know where he was hit. We were half a mile back near the supports, the Germans were never over the ground so I do not think he could have been taken a prisoner of War"

We cannot of course vouch for the accuracy of any unofficial evidence and wouldd advise you not to accept it as conclusive in the absence of more definite and reliable information.

Though Pte. Doyle day's name has never yet come through on any German list as that of a prisoner, there is still hope that it may do so, as six weeks is the shortest time in which such notification is received and sometimes it is months befor we hear definitely of missing men as prisoners of War.

We are doing our utmost to trace your son and as soon as we receive any news of him, we will send it to you.

Assuring you of our sympathy in your anxiety.

Yours faithfully,

Miss Ryan

SECRETARY.

2/2/18

G C.

5801
F. A DOUBLEDAY
17 Batt
M 9-10-17
S
P.I.
F

518 Burswood Place
Winnipeg
Manitoba
Canada

Dear Madam

5801 Pte F.A. Doubleday 17th Batt C.E.F.

I am obliged to you for your letter to hand re above and in reply the chances of our Son being alive seem rather remote, but we still hope on, he always used to write home every week and we feel certain if he is still alive that it is not his fault that he has not written us, however any further information you may be able to give will be very much appreciated

Thanking you for your expression of sympathy I beg to remain

Yours respectfully
W Doubleday

Miss Deakin
Secretary
Australian Red Cross Society
36 Sloane Place
London SW

Mrs. A.J.Doubleday,
518, Basswood Place,
Winnipeg, CANADA.

8th March, 1918.

Dear Madam,

In further answer to your enquiry for information about your son - No 5801 Pte.F.A.DOUBLEDAY, 17th Battalion, A.I.F.- We deeply regret to inform you of another unofficial report given by a man of his unit which leads us to fear that he was Killed in Action.

592 Pte.C.H.Whitely, when interviewed in the 3rd Australian Auxiliary Hospital, Dartford, states that he saw Pte.Doubleday killed instantaneously by a shell at Ypres, just after carrying him into a pill-box, for safety - he was wounded himself and so can give no details of your son's burial nor can he refer us to anyone for particulars. Pte.Whitely knew your son well and said that they left Australia together in the Ceramic in October 1916."

As five months have now elapsed since your son's casualty we greatly fear that he must have been killed for there has been no news of him as a prisoner in Germany.

We are however pursuing our enquiries as we realise how very anxious you must be and as soon as further details are obtained we shall advise you.

With our sincere sympathy.

Yours faithfully,

SECRETARY.

31
3
18

Doubleday
F.A. 5801

17 Bln. M.9.10-17

518 Basswood Place
Winnipeg
Canada

S
P.I.
3H

Dear Madam

Pte F.A. Doubleday 5801

Thanks so much for your letter dated 8th March and which contained a report that Pte Whiteley 592 had seen my Son Killed at Ypres now there is a possibility that he made a mistake inasmuch as my son was Officially posted as missing at Pachcundale and also that there was another lad in the Battalion named Doubleday however I have sent on my Son Photo to the address you gave and if he gets this we may hear something more definite in the meantime all we can do is to hope on, thanking you for yr kindly interest and Sympathy.

I remain
Yours respectfully
A.E. Doubleday
Mother + Enquirer

Vera Deakin
Australian Red X Society
London

9th May, 1918.

Lt. Read,
17th Infantry Bttn,
Australian Imperial Force,
B. E. F.

Dear Sir,

We are enquiring on behalf of our Sydney Bureau about

5801 F.A. DOUBLEDAY, 17th Battalion, A.I.F.

and we shall be indebted to you if you can kindly help us to clear up the following difficulty. There were two men named Doubleday with the 17th Battalion both 16th Reinforcements, A.I.F. One was Frederick Arthur 5801, who is now officially posted as Missing 9-10-17. The other was Sydney Norman 5807, a signaller officially still with his unit.

An informant alleges that he has recently seen Frederick Arthur Doubleday 5801, alive and well with his unit, and that it is the other Sydney Norman, 5807 who is missing. He refers us to you to verify this statement, and we shall be glad if any information you can give us in the matter.

Yours faithfully,

(Miss)

SECRETARY. per H R Woodhouse

Mrs A. S. Doubleday,

518 Baaswood Place,

Winnipeg,

CANADA.

25th. June

8.

Re 5801 F. A. Doubleday - 17th Battn., - A.I.F.

Dear Madam,

We deeply regret to inform you that the above soldier who was previously reported Wounded and Missing is now reported Killed in Action on 8/10/17.

We are making further enquiries in the hope of learning full details of his death and will immediately forward to you any information that we receive.

Assuring you of our sincere sympathy in your loss.

Yours faithfully,

Secretary.

Havre, 2nd. May. 1918.

27th. Australians. Pilgrim, M. J. 4654.

K. October. 9/1917. Dots. D/B.

Pilgrim was put on a M. G. for the stunt. A M. G. close to was blown up and he went to dig the men out when another shell burst in the same spot and blew him up. It was just getting dusk. I forget the name of the place but it was the next stunt after Polygon Wood There was nothing left to bury.

Inf:- Private. J. B. Burns. 5789.
27th. Australians. D.
Hospital Ship.

August 2nd, 1918.

Mrs. A.S. Doubleday.
518 Basswood Place.
Winnipeg.
Canada.

Dear Madam.

We regret to inform you of another unofficial report we have received concerning your son -

5801 Pte. F.A.DOUBLEDAY. 17th Battalion. A.I.F.

and trust that it will be of some assistance to you.

1511 Pte. W.J. Blair, when in an Australian Camp in France recently stated that he knew Pte. Doubleday whom he describes as tall, dark and clean shaven, of medium build, and about 24 years of age. He says that he has seen his grave in a Military Cemetery at Dickebusch marked by a cross bearing his name and regimental particulars.

We are continuing our enquiries in the hopes of obtaining definite particulars of your son's burial and as soon as we receive further information we shall advise you.

Assuring you of our sincere sympathy in your loss.

Yours faithfully,

(Miss)

Secretary.

CHCC.

518 Basswood Place
Winnipeg
Canada
22/8/18

Dear Madam

5801 Pte F A Doubleday 17th Battn

I am obliged to you for a further un-official report re above.
If the grave seen by Pte W J Blair was that of my Son it seems strange that Headqrs should have no record of same as after being missing for several months a Court of Enquiry has recently decided that he was Killed in Action on the day he was missing, there was another man by same name in his Batallion, however I am writing to Know if Hdqrs have any record of this as it would be some consolation for us to Know that our dear Son recieved a decent burial with thanks for your expressions of Sympathy

Yrs respectfully
A E Doubleday

To
Mrs Vera Deakin

1-10-19.

Final Draft To

Thos. A. S. Doubleday

518 Basswood Pl

Winnipeg

Canada

albert

5801 T. A. Doubleday

7th Bn.

| | |
|---|---|
| Information obtained locally (if any) or from letters. | |
| Enquiry included in W.S.M. Cable | No. 160 of July 6 - 1918 |
| Enquiry included in Deferred Cable | No. of |
| Name and Address of Enquirer | Mrs. A. L. Clarke<br>Collie |
| Relation of Enquirer to Enquiree. | Wife |
| State if Next-of-Kin. | Yes |

On card Mc

Henry Greig. Secretary.

May