

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

**546 Private
Harold Matthew Dutton**

27th Battalion



0971103L

(N.M.)

27th Australian Imperial Force.

Dutton, 1^M, 546.

11. Nov. 5th, 1916.

"I heard from Cpl. Clarke that Dutton was killed by a bullet through the head at the attack on Bapaume. I went through it untouched and was told about Dutton in the evening. We could not get at the body to bury it, as he was getting into Fritz's trenches and we failed in the attack. Dutton belonged to the same Coy. and Pl: as myself."

Eye Witness: No, Informant was told by Cpl. Clarke.

Name--

Description: Tall and very thin.

Informant:-- Pte. Broughton Fuller, 4712,
27th Australian Imperial Force, C.Coy. 10 Pl:
3rd London General Hospital,
Wandsworth, Common, S.W.

Home address:-- B. 8., Ward.

22nd Feb:
Ethel A. Woolmer.

Written Cpl Clarke 9.3.17

✓ P. 1

A.I.F. 27.

^M
DUTTON H. 546.

H. 5.11.16.

I know him very well. Ets. J. J. Price, 2483,
of the 27th. Bn. now on the M.G.S. told me he saw Dutton
killed on 5th. Nov. round Fiers way.

FHB.

Reference: Ets. H. Porter. 2472. C.X.
L.G. School.

Staples.
9.4.17.

Written J. J. Price 30-4-17

P.1
A

A.I.F. 27th Btn C.Coy.

DUTTON
H.M. 546

MA 5-11-16

Killed in Action 5-11-16

Cert. by A.I.F. Headquarters List 19-4-17.

London
21-4-17.

A. & P.I.

27th Batt.
A.I.F.,

DUTTON
H.M. 546

"Missing 5.11.16"

No 546 Pte Dutton H.M. 27th Batt. A.I.F. missing 5.11.16 He was last seen wounded in the trench we had just captured, but, as we were forced to evacuate the trench soon after it is most probably that he was taken prisoner by the Germans. I knew Pte Dutton personally so there is no doubt as to identifying him.

Cert. by letter from Sgt. Crewes K
France.
3.4.17.

London
26.4.17.

A.
P.I.

Hawes

29th September. 1917.

27th AUSTRALIANS

DUTTON, H. ^M 546

K. Nov. 5th. 1916. Det. D/B.

I know Pt. H. Dutton of C. Co., II. Pltn. His nick-name was "Gollie", and his number 546. He was killed and buried at ~~2000~~ Maulte trench, Fiers in November, 1916. There is a cross on the grave; the grave is on the top of the trench. I did not see the grave, but was told by several boys there it was.

Informant: Sergt. N.C. Brinkley, 2479
27th Australians, C. Co., II. Pltn.
Australian Camp, Boueloe.

RDM.

P.1
A

27th Australian Infantry

Dutton, Pte. H. 546
C.Co.

(K. Nov. 5/16)

"Dutton was a mess mate of mine on the S.S. Geelong, but in Egypt I was transferred to the 7th M.G.C. and he remained with the Batt. In France the Batt. were in the same Bde and when talking with some of the Signallers they mentioned that Dutton had been killed in Gival Trench and buried there."

Eye-witness: Told by Sig. Loveday, since killed.

Description: We used to call him Elsie.

Informant:- Cpl. Reginald Wheatland, 225
Aus. M.G.C. 7th
4th Northern General Hospital, Lincoln

Home address: C/O Wheatland,
Newreals
Horsham. Sussex

Oct. 28
M. de R. Sill

P.1
A
Yance 6d

27th Battn.
C.Coy.
A.I.F.

Dutton.
H. 546

"Killed 5.11.16"

I saw his grave at Flers and it was marked with a cross bearing his number, name and unit. I did not know anything of the casualty, and I cannot refer to anyone for particulars.

Witness:-

Pte.H.R.Boyce 1513
27th Battn.C.Coy.11th Pltn.
3rd Aust.Aux.Hospital.
Dartford.

W.Oman.

London.
5.11.17.

P.I.

21. 2. 17.

No. 546. Plt. H. M. Seillon
C. Company
27. Batt.
7th Infantry Brigade
Aus. I. F. France
My nephew's address
Military Address

Andley Brown
Marble-Dragon
Salop.

To The Secretary

We shall feel most grateful if you can
please send us information respecting my nephew
No. 546. Plt. H. M. Seillon, who has been missing since
November the 5th 1916. I wrote to the Administrative Head-
quarters A.I.F. 130. Horseferry Rd. London in Dec. last;
I ^{now} enclose their reply, but as there still came no news
from my nephew (his last letter to me was dated October
28th 1916) I again wrote to the 130. Horseferry Rd. & rec'd a
reply there, saying No. 546. Plt. H. M. Seillon had been
missing since Nov. 5th. This information we rec'd on the
5th of this month. (Missing in France). I am sorry
I cannot send you this paper, as I posted it the
same day we rec'd it to Plt. H. M. Seillon's parents
in Australia, but there has no other information except
that he was missing, neither have we had any
further information from 130. Horseferry Rd.
We feel most unhappy about this boy, not knowing
what has become of him, I shall feel most thankful
if you can kindly keep us in any way.

Yours Truly
(Miss) E. A. Sargeant.

BC/WR

A.I.F. L. 11115, 50,000 - E & T. Ltd.

IN REPLY PLEASE QUOTE

5A1C/ 029765



TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS:
"ADMINAUST, LONDON."

CABLE ADDRESS:
"STRALIS, LONDON."

TELEPHONE:
VICTORIA 8820 (8 LINES)

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F.,

130, HORSEFERRY ROAD,

LONDON, S.W.

21st December 1916

Miss L. Sergeant,
"Audley Brow"
Market Drayton,
Shropshire.

Dear Madam,

I am in receipt of your letter respecting
Private ~~Beaton~~ *Beaton*, and in reply I have to advise his correct
Military address is as follows:-

No. 546 Private ~~Beaton~~ *Beaton*
27th Battalion,
Australian Imperial Force,
E.E.F. France.

No report of this soldier having sustained a
casualty has been received at these Headquarters to date,
therefore it must be assumed that he is well and serving
with his Unit.

~~No. 2776 Private G.L. Tyler, 19th Battalion,
A.I.F. I regret to have to advise was admitted to the 4th
London General Hospital, Denmark Hill, London, on the 20th
October 1916, suffering from Shell Shock.~~

Yours faithfully.

R.W. Murphy
Lieutenant
Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F.

P.S.

March 5th

7.

Miss E. Sergeant,
Audley Brow,
Market Drayton, Shropshire.

Dear Madam,

We are in receipt of your letter about your nephew No. 546 Pte H.M. Dutton, 27th Battn., A.I.F., and we regret to inform you that we have no information beyond the fact that he is officially reported Missing since Nov. 5th, 1916.

We have added his name to our lists of men for whom we are enquiring, and will advise you of any reports that we receive about him, as we fully realise your great anxiety.

Yours faithfully,

V.V.

SECRETARY.

L.A.W

15th March 1917.

Miss E. Sergeant,
Andley Brow.
Market Drayton.
Shropshire.

Dear Madam,

Following upon our inquiries for No. 546. Pte. H. H. Dutton, 27th Battalion A.I.F. we regret to inform you that the following unofficial report has been received about him from No. 4712. Pte. B. Fuller, who was in the 5rd London General Hospital Wandsworth on Feb. 22nd.

He describes Pte. Dutton as tall and very thin and says that he was told by Corporal Clarke that he was killed by a bullet through the head during the attack at Bapaume on Nov., 5th. They were unable to bury his body as the attack was unsuccessful and they had to retire.

We must emphasise the purely unofficial nature of this report and are making inquiries in the hope of learning some news of a less distressing character, on the receipt of which we shall immediately advise you.

With sincere sympathy in your anxiety.

Yours faithfully,

V.D.

LAW

2.4.17.
ans. 4.4.17

Adley Bros
Market-Islington
Shropshire.

To

The Secretary (Drowned & Missing Enquiry Bureau)

I thank you for your ^{kind} letter of 27th Feb. the 15th respecting the enquiries of my nephew Mr. H. M. Fuller No. 546. 27th Batt. A.I.F. He is indeed deeply grieved to think it is likely, from the information you have gathered that his dear nephew has died on the 5th of Nov. last; I should think it probable that he must, & earnestly hope that his dear body has been recovered, & given burial. He shall feel most thankful if this could possibly be ascertained by your splendid Society. I may say that Mr. B. Fuller is quite right in saying that my nephew was tall, & very thin. I have been waiting for news from my nephew's parents in Australia & only rec'd. a letter this morning which had been written on the 6th of February in which they say they

rec^d information the end of Jan^y that ^{the boy} he had been missing
since the 5th of Feb. last. I need you kindly say if
the information Plo. Fuller has given you, has been
sent to my nephew's parents in Australia?

I may say that (through all) as you
mention that the report of Plo. Fuller is unofficial,
we are still hoping that you may be able to
to send us better news, for which we shall feel
more than thankful.

Again thanking you for all your trouble
in this matter

Yours Truly
(Miss) Edith A. Sargeant

France
April 3rd/17.

To Secretary,

Unk'd & Missing Depot,

ACK 23-4-17
for information of No. 546. Re enquiries
10th Battr. A.I.F. missing 5-11-16.
He was last seen wounded in the trench
we had just captured, but as we were
forced to evacuate the trench soon after
it is most probable that he was taken
prisoner by the Germans.

I knew Pte Dutton personally so there
is no doubt as to identifying him.

Trusting that this may be of some
use to you,

Yours faithfully
Sgt Brewster

546 H.M. DUTTON

M. 5. 11. 16

27 Battr AIF

A

P.I. 3

24th April 1917.

No. 546. H. H. Dutton. 27th Battrn. C. Coy. A.I.F.

Priv. Rep. Missing 5.11.16.

Madam,

We very much regret to inform you that the above
Soldier who was previously ~~reported~~ reported "Missing" is now
officially reported as "Killed in Action" on that date.
If we obtain any further details of his death we shall
immediately advise you.

Regretting to have to inform you that

Yours faithfully

T. D.

Secretary
per F.L.D.

Miss E. Sergeant.
Audley Brow.
Market Drayton.
Shropshire.

M.H.B.

This copy was not typed, the one sent to you by post

24th April 1917.

No. 546. H. M. Dutton. 27th Bn. C. Coy. A. I. F.

Went. 30th March 6.11.16.

Sir,

It is very much hoped to have you and the other
soldiers who have personally witnessed or reported "Daring" actions
officially reported "Killed in action" or "died" etc.
If we often hear further details of the death of the
unofficially killed etc.

Yours truly,
J. D.

J. D.

Secretary
No. 546.

Mrs D. Sergeant.
Audley Brow.
Market Drayton.
Shropshire.

M.K. 15

This copy was not typed, the one sent was by hand

October 23rd, 1917.

Miss E. Sergeant,
Andley Brow,
Market Drayton, Shropshire.

Dear Madam,

We regret to inform you of further unofficial evidence
received about the death of your nephew

No 546 Pte.H.M.Dutton,
27th Battalion,
A.I.F.

and we trust that it will be some comfort to know that he was
buried.

Informant - No 2479 Sgt.E.C.Brinkly, who was in an
Australian Camp in France reported that your nephew was killed
and buried at Malt Trench, Flers and a cross has been erected
over his grave, several of his friends have seen his grave and
have told him about it.

We are pursuing the inquiry and as soon as we receive
further news, we shall let you know as we realise how anxious
you must be for details.

Assuring you of our sincere sympathy and regretting that
this report is not more detailed.

Yours faithfully, V.D. *pa*

25.10.17

Chudley Brook
Market-Stratton -
Shropshire

Ans'd.
29.10.17.

The Secretary

We feel most grateful
to you for further information
respecting our dear nephew
Pls. H. M. Dutton No 546. 27th Batt.
A.I.F.

It has been a great grief to
us not to know that anybody
had been buried, but we now
most sincerely hope that
the report you have so
kindly sent us may be
proved to be official.

27 March

I need not say how
thankful we shall feel,
if you are able to assure
us of the truth of this
information from No 2444,
Sgt. E. C. Brickley

We shall be very glad
to know if this informa-
-tion has been sent to
our nephew's parents
in Australia

• Again thanking
you for all you

Address & Number.

T Seeley & Sons
Sole A. Sargood.

30. 10. 17.

To.
Miss. E. Sergeant,
Audley Brow,
Market Drayton,
Shropshire.

Dear Madam,

With reference to your letter of the 25th inst, regarding
your nephew:-

546. Pte. H.M. Dutton, 27th Battalion A.I.F.

We beg to inform you that we have already sent all the
available information to his parents through our office, in Adelaide.

With our renewed sympathy in the loss of your nephew

Yours faithfully,

J.D.

Secretary,

for Ld -