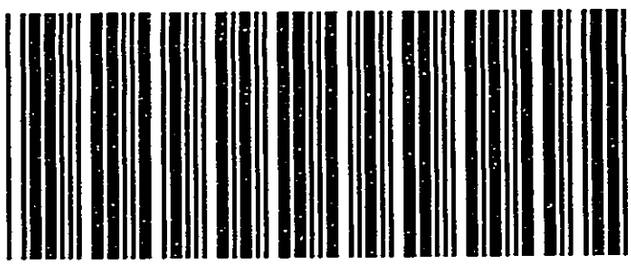
Australian Red Cross Society Wounded and Missing
Enquiry Bureau files, 1914-18 War
1DRL/0428

4259 Private John Benedict Donoghue

26th Battalion



0940204J

Havre 21st June 1917

26th AUSTRALIANS DONAGHUE, J.B. 4259

K. 5th Nov 1916 Det. D/B

Donaghue was in C. Company. I know his number was 4259; he lived in Queensland. On the 5th Nov. in the morning we were attacking - We were unsuccessful and had to retire to our own line. Donaghue was beside me when we got to the German 1st line; I saw him fall hit by a bullet in the head. He lived for about an hour and a half - he was unconscious all the time; his body was left there When we retired I took his pay-book from his body and handed it to Corporal Pierman of the 26th Btn. C.Co., who was with the Battalion when I left on the 14th June. About three months after we were over the same ground. ~~It~~ I went to the place where Donaghue had been killed and I saw his body still there; it was unrecognisable, but I could identify it by a sheepskin coat with "Machine Gun" on the arm which I know he was wearing when he was killed.

Informant; Sergt. P.C.C. Cox 807
26th A.I.F. C.Co. Lewis Gun.Sec.
Havre Hospital.

26th Battn.
A. I. F.

Donoghue.
J. B. 4259.

"Killed in Action 5.11.16."

re 4259 J. B. Donoghue, 26th Battn. I am able to inform you he was killed at "The Maze" Flers on 5.11.16. He was standing beside me when he was shot through the head. He lived about an hour and a half but did not regain consciousness. I visited the spot about 3 months later and the remains were still there. He was killed in the German first line trench which we attacked that morning, but had to retire a few hours later. I presume he has since been buried by the Pioneers but unless he had something in his pockets to identify him, his grave would be "Unknown". Speaking from memory he was about 19 years of age, 5'9", blue eyes, complexion inclined to be ruddy. He was a Queenslander but cannot say what part he was from. He was a Roman Catholic.

Letter from:-
Sgt. F. C. Cox.
L. M. G. Section,
26th Battn.
France. 15.6.17.

London.
9.7.17.

S.

Havre 25th September.1917.

26th AUSTRALIANS DONOGHUE, J.B. 4259

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

I know Pt. Donoghue whose number was in the 4000's. He came from N.S.W. He was about 19 or 20 years of age, dark and about 5ft.9" in height. I saw him killed outright in our front line trench at Flers by a shell in November 1916. I was acting as stretcher bearer, and examined the body, and took some letters out of his pockets which I handed in. The weather was bad, and he could not be got out. I think he may have been buried in the trench. He was killed after we got back to the trench from an attack which failed.

Informant: [redacted] Pt. Foley, F. 4135
26th Australians, A.Co.
H.S."Marilda" Havre.

GLT.

26th Australian Imperial Force Donoghue, Pte. J. 3. 4259

(K. 5th Nov. 1916).

" I was informed (by whom I cannot now say)that Donoghue was badly wounded by shell fire in an attack on the Maze at Flers, that he did not die until the next day, and that it was not practicable to bury his body, which sank in the mud. "

Eye Witness - No.

Description -

Informant :- Lt. R. A. Wills,
26th Aus. Imp Force,
3rd London General Hospital,
Wandsworth, S. W.

Home address :-
Aus, Imp Force Headquarters,
Horseferry Road,
London, S. W. 1.

4th Oct. 1917.
J.H.Clark Hall.

Havre

17th Oct. 1917.

26th AUSTRALIANS

DONOGHUE, J.B. 8 4259

K. 5.11.16. Det. D/B.

He was a Lewis Gunner in C Co., and came from Queensland. He was a single man. He was shot in the head by a sniper in the German front line at Ypres. All the bodies were taken out of the trench before we evacuated it, but they were not buried till about 2 months later.

Informant: Pte. T. Kirkpatrick, 3838
26th Australians, C Co.,
H. S. Carisbrook Castle.

Yours faithfully
RHS

C

26th BATTALION.A.I.F. DONOGHUE.

J.B. 4259.

10 Rfts. K/A 5.11.16

He was a Lewis Gunner, small, dark, and was in C.Company. During our attack on the Maze at Fleurs a shell burst and exterminated the Lewis Gun Team of about 6 men, of whom Donoghue was one. Witness, who was Lewis Gun Officer, was about 30 yards away, and about half an hour later he managed to reach the trench where Donoghue was and passed close to him, and there is no doubt he had been killed outright. Witness remained in the trenches for a day or two afterwards, and these men who were killed in the front lines. were mostly buried in the trenches.

WITNESS; Lieutenant S.R.Hockings,

Home Address; Eagle Junction, BRISBANE.

F.deV.Lamb, Major,
H.M.T. "Euripides",
14.4.19.

F. deV. L.

SYDNEY BUREAU.

1 encl

S.
Time

A.I.F. 26th Bttn.

DONOGHUE.
John Benedict. 4259.

6/Killed in Action. 6.11.16.

No burial report.
Cert by A.I.F. Hdqrs 17.7.19.

London.
30.9.19.

S.

A.I.F. 26th Bn

DONOGHUE
John Benedict 4259

"K/Action"

No trace Germany
Cert. by Capt. Mills 10-10-19.

S

London
21-10-19

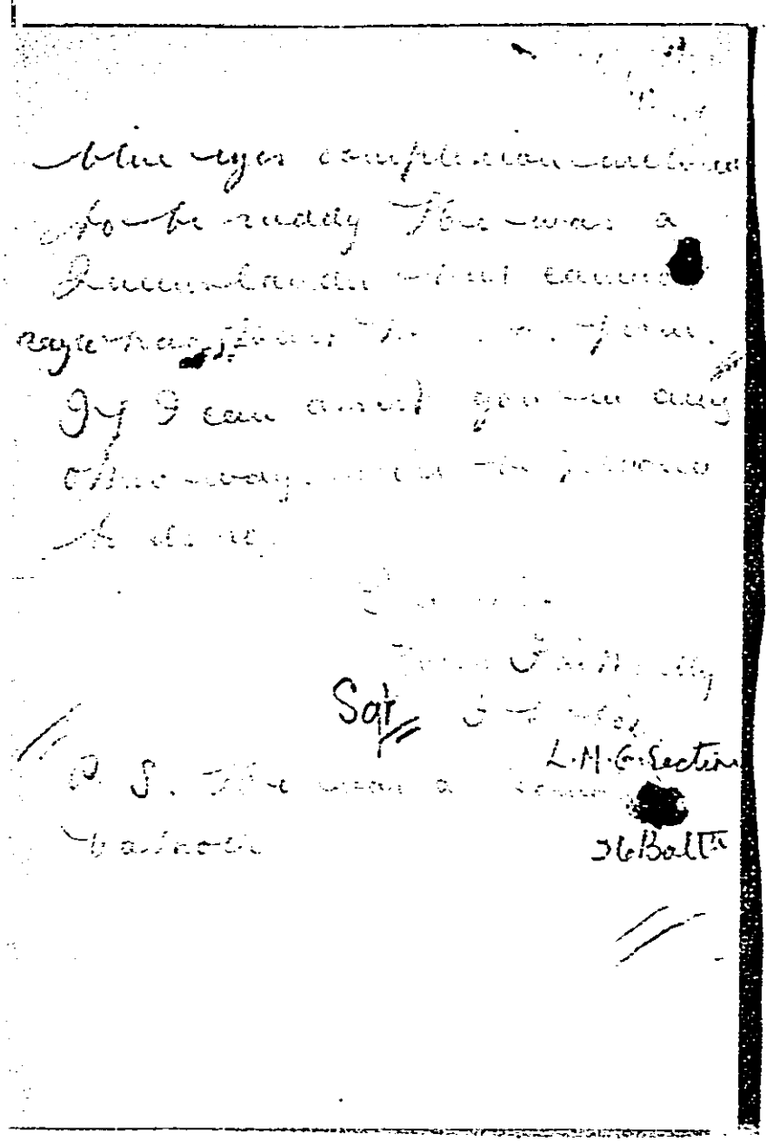
Acdr
J.A. 27.6.17

France
15-6-17

Dear Miss Hawkins

Your letter
to hand last night re
4259 J. T3 Monaghan 26 Batt
I am able to inform you
he was killed at the Front
June on 5.11.16
He was standing beside
me when he was shot
through the head, he died
about an hour & half but
did not regain consciousness
I visited the spot about 3

month later and he remains were still there
He was killed in the German first line trench which we attacked that morning, but had to retire a few hours later. I presume he has since been buried by the Prussians but when he had some thing in his pocket to identify him, he was counted the "unknown"
Speaking from memory he was about 19 years of age or 20



4259

J. B. DONAGHUE

26 Batt AIF

K 5.11.16

Sgt.

A. I. F. 26. DONAGHUE, J.B. 4259.

K. November 5th, 1916.

I saw him killed by a shell in the trench at Flers. He was quite dead when I went to him with the Sgt. I was S/B. The Sgt: took his paybook and I took some of his other things. I do not know where he was buried.

RBA.

Reference:- P. Foley. 4135.
No. 18 Gen. Hosp.

Etaples
22.5.17.

A. I. F. 26. DONAGHUE, J.B. 4259.

K. November 5th, 1916.

He was No. 2 of a L. Gun team in C. Coy. After the fighting at Flers on November 5th Sgt. Cox, No. 1 on the gun, told me he was sniped and killed on the spot. It was very muddy at the time but I believe Sgt. Cox found him in March unburied, but he will be buried now. Of course Sgt. Cox could tell you more.

NC.

Reference:- Macleod, C.L. 4478. A.I.F. 26. C.
L. Gun School.

written Sgt Cox 8.6.17

Etaples
28.5.17.