

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

**6974 Private
William Gregory
Caffyn**

11th Battalion



0670205K

A.I.F. 11th Btn 23rd Rifs

CAMP
Wm. Gregory 6974

"D/Wds. 1-11-13"

Died of wounds 1-11-17 - Buried Potijze Cemetery Chateaubain
Row C.3 Sheet 28-1.41 S.4. 33747 G.
Cert. by A.I.F. Mors 19-3-18.

S & P.I.

London
21-3-18

A.I.F. 11

CAFFYN, W.D. 6974

Wm Gregory

D/W Nov. 1st 1917.

I came over with him in the 25th Reinf. in Feb 1916. He was about 5ft 7 or 8, had a dark moustache, aged say 35 or 36. On Nov. 1st about 8 a.m. at Zonnebeke we were leading pack horses and I was two or three yards away from him when he was hit by a piece of shell - he stumbled to the ground, tried to get up and fell again. At the time I thought he was hit in one or both legs, and this was confirmed after by some of our boys who made enquiries. I could not stop and know nothing more - it was on the main road and of course, somebody would fall out to attend to him. He was a soldier, very popular with us all and a very nice chap. *W.D.*

Inf: Pte G.R. Pearce 7040. D.Co.

No. 13 General

BOULOGNE. 2.8.1918. ARD

FRANCE.

11th BATT. A.I.F.

CAFFYN. W.G. 6974.

D/W Nov 1st. 1917. Det. *W. Gregory*

He was a pack horse driver and it was his first time up in the line. with pack horses. I was just in front of him with my pack horse and we were going up to Batt. Headquarters up the Menin Road. A shell dropped close behind me just where he was. He was wounded severely and two others besides. They were all carried away on stretchers to the Y.M.C.A. Hut at the corner of the road, at the first turn after leaving Ypres. We received the news later that he and one of the other men who had been badly wounded, Cpl John Lee, had died of their wounds. WSI.

Ref ---Pte Hugh Murdoch. 3084.
No 16 Gen. Hospital.

NOTE. The first hut on the Menin Road was a Canadian one, so the one informant mentions is the 2nd Hut which was British.

Le Treport. August 23rd. 1918

(SA)

August 21st, 1918.

Mrs. A. Caffyn.
Mill House. Ashurst.
Nr Tunbridge Wells.
Kent.

Dear Madam.

We beg to inform you that we have received an unofficial report from 7040 Pte. G. R. Pearce, when in No 13 General Hospital, B.E.F. concerning -

6974 Pte. W. G. CAFFYN. 11th Battalion. A.I.F.

He states "I came over with Pte. Caffyn in the 25th Reinforcements in the February 1916. He was about 5'7" or 8", had a dark moustache aged say 35 or 36. On November 1st about 8 a.m. at Zonnebeke we were leading packhorses and I was two or three yards away from him when he was wounded by a piece of shell and he stumbled to the ground, tried to get up and fell again, at the time I thought he was wounded in one or both legs, and this was confirmed after by some of our boys who made enquiries. I could not stop and know nothing more. It was on the main road and of course somebody would fall out to attend him. He was a good soldier, very popular, with us all and a very nice chap."

We shall be pleased to give you any further information and will let you know when we have fuller news of same.

Trusting that it will be some consolation to know that he was so esteemed by his comrades and assuring you of our sincere sympathy.

Yours faithfully,

(Miss)

Secretary.

d.

Sept. 17th, 1918.

Mrs. A. Caffyn.
Mill House. Ashurst.
Near Tunbridge Wells.
Kent.

Dear Madam.

In further answer to your enquiry for -

6974 Pte. W.G. CAFFYN. 11th Battalion. A.I.F.

We beg to inform you of unofficial evidence given by 3084 Pte. Hugh Murdoch of the same unit when in No 16 General Hospital, B.F.F. He stated:- "Pte. Caffyn was a pack horse driver and it was his first time up in the line, with pack horses. I was just in front of him with my pack horse and we were going up to Battn Headquarters up the Menin Road. A shell dropped close behind me just where he was. He was wounded severely and two others besides. They were all carried away on stretchers to the British Y.M.C.A. Hut at the corner of the road, at the first turn after leaving Ypres. We received the news later that he and one of the other men who had badly wounded, Cpl. John Lee had died of their wounds."

Should we receive further information of Pte Caffyn's death we shall immediately advise you and trust that our reports have been of some assistance to you.

Assuring you of our sincere sympathy in your loss.

Yours faithfully,

(Miss)

Secretary.

Law

22nd March, 1918.

Mrs A. Caffyn,
Mill House,
Ashurst,
Nr. Tunbridge Wells,
Kent.

Dear Madam,

In answer to your enquiry respecting:-

6974 Pte. W.G. Caffyn. 11th Battn., A.I.F.

We regret to inform you he is officially reported to have died of wounds 1-11-17, and was buried at Potlize Cemetery, Chateaufarn, the grave being registered Row C. 5 Sheet 28-1. 4d. 8.4. 33747 G.

We shall continue to make enquiries and should we hear further particulars, will at once forward them on to you, as we fully realise your anxiety.

Assuring you of our deepest sympathy.

Yours faithfully,

SECRETARY.

L/B

Mill House
Asheurst.

24-10-18

W. Tunbridge Wells

Miss Vera Dectin Kent.

Secretary
Australian Red Cross Socy.

Dear Madam

ack. 10/11/18
10/11/18

You have been most
kind in your enquiries
regarding ^{deceased} Mr. G. Caffyn^{11/11/18}
for which we are very
grateful

It is a great comfort to us
to know exactly how he died.
Will you kindly accept the
enclosed small gift

Yours faithfully
A. Caffyn