

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

5091 Private  
Joseph Augustus  
Duffy

59th Battalion



0960611N

FRANCE.

59  
59th BATT. A.I.F.

DUFFY. J.A. 5091.

-----  
K.Sept 26th.1917. Det.

He was in B.Coy and a company runner. Before he joined up he lived at Caufield. I saw him killed in Polygon Wood, he was right along side of me at the time. His head was practically blown off by a shell. His body was still lying in the shell hole when I left wounded, some 24 hours later. I know all the dead were to be buried afterwards.

WSI

Ref ---Pte W.E.Harrop. 2199.  
No 2 Can. Gen. Hospital

Le Treport. Dec 29th.1917

A. I. F. 59.

DUFFY, J.A. 5091.

K. September 26th, 1917.

COMS. S.F. Chamberlain, 3260, B. Coy (now in No. 5 A.D.B.D) Havre, was next to Duffy when he was shot by a sniper and killed outright at Polygon Wood on September 26th. Nothing is known definitely as to burial. Duffy was a B. Coy runner at the time of his death. Chamberlain gave me the facts as stated.

SA.

Reference:- Cpl. R.P.W. Harris. 1944. B. Coy.  
Enquin.

Identity cert. from Battn records.

Etaples  
24.1.18.

A. I. F. 59.

DUFFY, J.A. 5091.

K. September 26th, 1917.

He was sniped and killed outright while acting as a runner at Polygon Wood on September 26th during the actions I saw this happen. He was on the deg edge of Polygon Wood at the time. I saw his dead body and know nothing as to burial. He was a B. Coy runner.

SA.

Reference:- A.M. Hill. 6286. B. Coy.  
Enquin.

Identity cert. from Battn records.

Etaples  
24.1.18.

59th Battn.  
A.I.F.

DUFFY,  
J.A. 5091

"Killed 26.9.17."

Was in the action at Polygon Wood on Sept. 26/17. We attacked at 5.50 a.m. and gained our objective. During the action I observed J.A. Duffy who was in my platoon, he was sniping the enemy. After the action I was told by many, amongst them Pte. Seamans of 59 A.I.F. Coy, B. Pltn, 5, that Duffy had been killed by a bullet through the head and that death was instantaneous, also that his disc, papers etc, had been handed to the Padre. I don't know about his burial. Ground was held.

Eye-witness; - No.

Description: - About 5ft 4. fair/clean shaven, say about 22 years old. We all of us called him "Joe". Before the war had been horse driver with timber gattery. (?)

Informant: - Pte. A. Aitken, 5004,

59th Battn, B. Coy, 5th Pltn,

Home address: .

Brondesbury Park Military Hq.

Chatsbury.

Forest Road, Double Day,

H. Constable, Sydney, N.S.W.

6.2.18.

London.

1.3.18.

Searcher's opinion of: Intelligent  
Informant's accuracy: - Truthful

Note. Written Pte Seamans 27.2.18.

H.

59th Battn.  
A.I.F.

Duffy.  
J.A. 5091

"Killed in Action 26.9.17"

I saw him killed, he was shot by a sniper in the head on the 26.9.17. He was about 5'8", dark complexion. He was not buried when we left it was at Polygon stunt. If I hear that he has been buried I will let you know as soon as possible.

Letter from:- 2247 Pte. H. <sup>S</sup>Beamons  
B.Coy. 59th Battn.  
12.3.18.

London.  
20.3.18.

M.

59th Battn.  
A.I.F.

DUFFY  
J.A. 5091

"Killed 26-9-17"

Duffy was a runner and was talking to S/M. Fred Chamberlain, 59th Battn., B.Coy, now with Coy., when a piece of shrapnel hit him in the head and killed him outright. I saw this, but Chamberlain can also give information as to burial.

Informant. McCauliffe D. 2700  
59th Battn., B.Coy.,  
Hut 12,  
WESTHAM.

W.A. Rand  
London  
25-3-18

Note:-  
Informant cannot give place.

M.

59th Battn

DUFFY, J.B. A  
5091

K. 26/9/17

I knew casualty, he was a short man, well built, dark complexion, about 21 years of age, known as Duff. Casualty was a runner. I was giving him a message to take to the B.O. Room, and he was sniped through the temple by a rifle bullet which killed him instantly. He was talking to me at the time and fell at my feet. I do not know where he was buried.

C.Q.M.S. F. CHAMBERLAIN,  
3269

Private Address  
141 Pri      Street,  
WELLINGTON.

T.G.F.  
6/6/19

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS INFORMATION BUREAU-MELBOURNE.

59th Battn.

DUFFY,  
J.A., 5091.

K. 26/9/17.

I knew Casualty, he was a medium built man, 5'6" in height, fair complexion, about 20 years of age. Casualty was at Polygon Wood during the advance on Passchendaele. He was a Company Runner at the time and was moving forward with Company Headquarters to take up a new position when a shell landed amongst them killing he and Captain Stockfield instantly. I saw him lying dead shortly after he was killed, but I do not know where he was buried.

Lt. Campbell,  
J.W.

Private Address:- 13 Cowdroy Street,  
ST. MILDAS.

N.A.F.  
12/7/19.

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS INFORMATION BUREAU-MELBOURNE.

59th Battrn.

DUFFY.  
J.A.. 5091

K. 26/9/17.

I knew casualty, he was a thick set man, 5'4" tall, fair complexion, about 23 years of age, known as Joe, embarked on the "Suffolk" with the 16th Reinforcements, 5th Battalion. Casualty was at Polygon Wood, during the advance, we had just our first objective and we were waiting for our barrage to lift off the enemy trenches, and were sitting in a shell hole while waiting. The enemy opened fire with machine guns a bullet entering casualty's head, killing him instantly. I was 20 yards away at the time and saw his body soon after. I believe he was buried near where he fell.

COTTINGHAM,  
5080, R.F.

Private Address---

336 R. Street,  
ABBOTSFORD.

N.A.T.  
4/7/19.

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS INFORMATION BUREAU-MELBOURNE.



5  
A.I.F. 59th Btt .

DUFFY.  
Joseph Augustus. 5091.

Killed in Action. 26.9.17.

No trace Germany.  
Cert by Capt. Mills. 10.10.19.

NAME

RANK

COMPANY

GRADE OR GRADE

VERLIVTIVH FIEL

London.  
28.10.19.

OFFICER

L

March 12/3/1918

5091  
J.A. DUFFY

59<sup>th</sup> Batt. A 265.

Just a few lines to let you <sup>m</sup><sub>3</sub>  
know that I seen him get  
killed he <sup>was</sup> shot by a sniper  
in the head on the 26/9/1917  
He was about 5 foot 8 and a complexion  
He was not buried when we  
left it was at Pollingane wood  
I hope if I hear that if he has  
been buried I will let you know  
as soon as possible  
wishing you good luck

From Pte J. Leamons No 2247  
B. Comp. 59 Batt.

No 5091. J. J. A. Duffy 59 Batt. B. Comp.

A. L. F.