

1DRL/0428

Australian Red Cross Society (ARCS)

Australian Red Cross Wounded and Missing Enquiry
Bureau
Box 96
Wallet 10

File number: 1DRL/0428/2/96/10/4

Title: 4761 Private Duncan, James Andrew



RCDIG1041896

53rd Batt.
A.Coy.,
A.I.F.,

DUNCAN
J.A. 4761

"Missing July 19/16"

I saw this man whom I knew very well, after he had been wounded in the attack at Fleurbaix on July 19th 16. He was crawling into a trench when I saw him. He seemed to be wounded in the neck. I spoke to him and he said that he had "got a knock." There were wounded and dead all round him. He was not more than 40 yards from our front line. I could not help him as I was wounded myself and just managed to crawl in. On returning that way next morning no trace of him could be found. Ground was not held. He was known by us as "Darky" was medium height, thick set, dark about 24 or 25.

Reference:- 3298 J.M. Davidson
A.Co. 53rd Batt. A.I.F.,
Perham Downs Camp,
11.4.17.

London,
17.4.17.
A.R. McPhee

S.

53rd Battn.
A. I. F.

Duncan.
J. A. 4761

"Missing 19.7.16"

No further report.

Cert: by A.I.F.Hqrs List dated 20.6.17.

London.
16.8.17.

S.

Not a prisoner

Syd

TC

Act
16-10-17

Miss Crowley

The Pines
64 Cassington Street

Broydon

Sydney N.S.W.

(50)

Dear Madam

My Mother to 446/ Private
J A Duncan of A Company 53 Battalion
reported missing on the 19th of July 1916
but since heard unofficially was wounded
& taken prisoner on that date. Talking
to Tom Sergeant lately he advised me
to write & ask your help, as if you
could do anything to trace him you
would have the most grateful thanks of
his Mother & Sister

J A Duncan

TC

Miss J. E. Duncan,
The Pines,
67, Carshalton St.,
Croydon,
Sydney.

Oct. 17th, 1917.

Dear Madam,

We have received your letter asking us to send you news of your brother -

No. 4761 Pte. James Andrew DUNCAN - 53rd Battn. A.I.F., about whom you had already heard that he was reported missing 19.7.16.

We wish we could give you some hope of his being a prisoner of war, but his name has never been on any German list of prisoners, and we fear there can now be no further doubt as to his fate; and, besides, our experience is that prisoners are generally allowed to write to their friends two or three months after their capture.

Regretting that our exhaustive inquiries of over a year have met with so little result, and with sincere sympathy in the loss of your brother.

Yours faithfully,

Secretary.

h. J. W.