

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

**4501 Corporal
Andrew Mahaffey**

25th Battalion



1670113J

OK
9/27/17

4501A

Cpl MAHAFFEY

France

KA 24.3.17

25

19/4/17

B3 (cd)

Dear Madam

I'm reply to your letter of 8.6.17 enquiring of
Cpl. Mahaffey 4501A. I can furnish you with a few
useful particulars regarding him.

He was a man of about 5 feet 10 inches in height and
built in proportion and of a darkish complexion and
previous to enlistment was a Police Constable stationed at
Woodengabba and his parents reside at Boonah.

He was killed about the 22nd March in a mine
crater by an high explosive shell and he was buried
the same night about 600 yards on the Bapine of
Lepigatte in an unregistered soldiers grave with a
piece of pine box wood with his name inscribed only mark
of recognition.

I will now conclude hoping this will be useful to
his enquirer Sgt G. G. Ham

25th Battn.
A. I. F.

Mahaffey.
Cpl. A. 4501.

"Killed in Action 24.3.17."

Cpl. Mahaffey was killed by shell fire. He was hit in the neck by a piece of shell which severed the jugular vein and bled to death before anything could be done to save him. He was on an advanced out-post at the time, which was inaccessible during the day-time. Cpl. Mahaffey was 6'1" in height, dark hair and dark complexion. He left Australia 31.3.16 with the 11th Reinforcements. Next of kin Father - Andrew Mahaffey Down St., Eoona, Queensland.

Letter from:-

The Adjutant,
25th Battn.

London.
23.7.17.

20.6.17.

B.

NAME:
25th AUSTRALIANS

29th May 1917.
MANAGER, 4801 A

K. 26.5.17. Ref. D/E.

His name was "Andy". Sergeant. H.M. of B Co. M.G.S. saw
his body and could give details. He was with the
battalion on the 11th May.

Informant: Pte S.A. Vestergaard, 5680
25th Australians, B Co.
R. 8th Machine.

GRB

B

C
Written Sgt Jan 8.6.17

25th Battn.
A. I. F.

Mahaffey.
L/Cpl. 4501.

"Killed 24.3.17."

His name was "Andy" and he was a L/Cpl. We were in Enoggera Camp (Queensland) and came home together. Our mate Pte. G. Bowler 4385 of same Pl. 7 of B.Coy. will probably know all about him. He came over with us and was in same camp.

Witness:-

H. A. Mason. 4521.

25th Battn.

A. I. F.

Dartford.

London.

8.6.17.

Note Written Pte. Bowler 4.6.17.

B.

25 Australian I.F.

Mahaffey, 4501.

K. Mar. 24/17. Det. D/B.

" I was on a listening post with Cpl. Mahaffey (25 B, VIII) about Mar. 24th., in a crater between the German lines & our own on the Arras front, when a whizz-bang exploded about 3 P.M. A piece caught Mahaffey in the neck & he died about 3 minutes after. I did all I could to help him. He could not speak. There were 8 of us with him at the time. Pte. Williams was one, also Pte. Tiny Fowler who died of wounds from the same shell. I buried Cpl. Mahaffey in the crater. There was probably a cross put up later."

Eye witness:- Yes.

Description:- Big, tall, dark complexion, an ex-policeman (?).

Informant:- Pte. Albert Cornay, 5558.

25 Australian I.F., B Co., VIII Plat.

3rd. Southern Genl. Hosp., Radcliffe Buildings, Oxford.

Home address:- Railway Depot, Hughendon, Queensland.

4/6/17.

H.M. Pickard-Cambridge.

Written Pte Williams 12/6/17 B

25th Australian Imperial Force

Mahaffey, Pte. 4501,

(K. March 24/17. Bets D & B)

" Mahaffey was in command of the men in a crater in front of Lagnicourt, North East of Bapaume, when he was struck by a piece of shell in the throat and killed at once. I went up to fetch Fowler in the same crater who was with him. We took the wounded to Mory. I had to leave Mahaffey lying dead there."

Eye Witness - Yes.

Description 5ft. 7". Dark.

Informant :- Pte. John Granger, 5344,

B Coy. 8th Pltn. 25th Aus. Imp Force

Home address :-

Hampton,

Edith street,

Wynnum, South,

Brisbane.

5. 6. 17.

R.C. Parr.

Footing Milit. Hospital,
London, S. W.

B

Mayre

8th June 1917

25th Australians

C/Lt A Mahaffey 4501

K. 24th March 1917. Det. D/B

I knew Corporal Mahaffey of B. Co. 7th Platoon. He was the only man of that name in the Battalion. Stretcher-bearers, Frank Humphreys and J. E. Grainger, who carried him out of the crater where he was killed, in front of Moreuil in March, will be able to say where he was buried. They are both wounded and in Hospital.

Informant: Pto. C. D. Bagshaw, 5301
25th Australians B. Co. 7th Pltn
Australian Camp, Rouelles.

RDM

See Grainger's report
Written by F Humphreys 23.6.17

B

25th A. I. F.,

Mahaffey, A 4501,

K. March 24th 1917.

"Mahaffey was killed about mid day on or about March 4th in a crater. He was sent forward with 4 others for observation purposes to a mine crater, about 200 yards from Fritz line just in advance of the Sugar Mill, about 2 miles past Bapaume and they were entirely at the mercy of Fritz, and Mahaffey was killed instantly by a whizz bang. He was buried near there."

Eye Witness: No, heard it from the men who were with Mahaffey at the time.

Description: Cpl. was going back to get married.

Informant:-- Pte. T.L. Goody, 5342,
25th A. I. F., B.Coy.,
3rd London General Hosp:
Wandsworth, S.W.

9.6.17.
Garrard.

Home address:-- Braemar,
Lensford Rd., St. Albans.
Herts.

25th A.I.F.

Mahaffey. A 4501.

K. March 24/17.

Mahaffey was killed in a mine crater in front of Lagnicourt while on outpost duty in No Man's Land. Pte. Greenhulds of B.Coy. who is now in hospital at home was one of the burial party and Lt. Fairley of B.Coy. was in charge of his platoon when he was killed and would be able to give all information."

Eye witness:

Description: A tall dark thin man.

Informant: Ete. David Sharp 502. B.V.
25. A.I.F.
Richmond Military Hospital, Grove Road,

A.G. Campbell.
13.6.17.

MC

Envyre

24th June, 1917.

25th AUSTRALIANS

MARSHALL, 4501 A

L. 24.3.17. Det. D/S.

Corpl. J. Mahaffey of the 25th battalion, B Co., 7th platoon, was in my platoon, (and was a brother-in-law of mine) the 1st Division, and also had a brother killed in action in France, was killed in front of the village of Longatte on March 24th, 1917. I sent him out with 6 men to hold a crater. Pte. Solomon of the 26th battalion, B Co., 7th platoon, was one of the party and when he returned told me that Corpl. Mahaffey was killed and that they had buried him behind a crater which was about 300 yards from the village.

Informant: Sgt. E. Templeman, 527
25th Australians, B Co., 5th Pltn.,
formerly 7th Pltn.,
Australian Camp, Reuillon.

AM

Ed B
Suff

25th A. I. F.,

Mahaffey, Pte. 4501,

K. March 24th 1917. Det: D/B.

"Mahaffey was on an advanced outpost in a mine crater at Moreuille near Papaume when a shell burst and killed them all. He was hit by a piece behind the head. I saw his dead body. He is buried in a village quite near. I forget the name but it is by a Sugar Mill. It was day light."

Eye Witness: Saw his dead body.

Description:

Informant:-- Pte. W. McHugh, 253,
25th A.I.F.,
War Hospital,
Duston, Northampton.

Home address:-- Ward G, Duston.

17.6.17.

G. MacKinnell.

Supp
B. Ed

25th Batta.
A. I. F.

Mahaffey.
Cpl. 4501.

"Killed in Action 24.3.17."

In reply to your letter of 8.6.17 inquiring of Cpl. Mahaffey 4501, I can furnish you with a few useful particulars regarding him. He was a man of about 5'10" in height and built in proportion and of a darkish complexion and previous to enlistment was a police constable stationed at Woolangabba and his parents reside at Boonah. He was killed about the 22nd March in a mine crater by an high explosive shell and he was buried the same night about 600 yards on the Bapaume of Longatte in an unregistered soldier's grave with a piece of pine box wood with his name inscribed, only mark of recognition.

Letter from:-
Sgt. G. G. Ham.
France. 19.6.17.

London.
16.7.17.

B.

22.6.14

Plt Frank HUMPHRYS

S Beavers

25 Battalion

~~Bo~~

2

1000

4501 Cpl A. MAHAFFEY

25 Battalion

K 24.3.17

S.W.

6.7.17

NOBILITY

HOSPITAL 1st Southern Kings

| Full in exactly as List. | INFORMANT | |
|--------------------------|-----------|-----------------|
| | SURNAME. | Christian Name. |
| | Beal | S |
| | | 2105 |
| | | GIVE |
| | SURNAME | Christian Name. |
| | Mayer | J L. |
| | | 46159 |

| NOTE | STATEMENT |
|---|---|
| In all cases fully what informant says he saw or heard and give DATE AND PLACE of occurrence. | (to be taken) |
| | 3 was with the man Beal and others Monquet Farm. A shell fell and there was no burial as he was b. |

PLEASE ALSO ANSWER

| | | |
|--|--------------|----------------------|
| 1. Was Informant Eye-Witness? | Yes | 2. If no of t |
| 3. Was the ground held or lost? | Held | 4. If Info was the t |
| 5. Did Informant know Christian Name, Initials or No. of man enquired about? | Yes! Stanley | 6. Was t name |
| 7. Give Informant's description of man enquired about—any nickname, marks, scars, etc. | | |
| 8. Searcher's opinion of Informant's accuracy and intelligence | Reliable | |

To Architectural & Pottery

25th BATTALION

7 Austn. Inf. Bde

17/18

The Secretary
British Red Cross Society
London

I reply to your letter dated 15-6-17
the following information is available

Capt. MATHAFIE was killed by
shell fire. He was hit in the neck
by a piece of shell which severed
the jugular vein and bled to death
before anything could be done to save
him. He was in an advanced
outpost at the time, which was
inaccessible during the day time.

Capt. Mathaffer was 6 foot 11 inches
tall, dark hair, dark complexion.
He left Australia 31-3-16 with the 11th
Reinforcements. Head of Rank 1st

John Andrew Mathaffer

From St. Botolph's Old

on record

30/1/17
Capt. B.

4501 ^A CH MAHAFFEY

25 Ball

KA 243.17

B

3

cd

MAHAFFEY
25 BALL
243.17

4.6.17

4385

RE G. BOWLES
B. G

25 BATH
BET

110

for

4501

CH A MAHAFFEY

25 BATH

K524034760.2908

W. CATT. 7.00. 1.11. 2.11. 2.11.

BEVING A E 2.0.0. 1.11.

BEVCOCK

1.6.17

2018

OSBITAT 2

HOSPITAL 3rd London General

INFORMANT

Fill in
exactly
as List.

SURNAME.

Christian Name.

Regtl. No.

SURNAME

Christian Name.

Regtl. No.

PEACOCK.

C.

5628

STATEMENT

(to be taken)

NOTE.

In all
cases
state

Informant says
he saw
or heard
and give
DATE
AND
PLACE
of
occurrence.

3

BEATTIE, A-E 5424. M

M'CALL, L. Cpl. J. D. 561.

LANSDOWN. R C. 5608.

were all killed (or being
blowing up of the Bapa
behind there, to do some w

PLEASE ALSO ANSWER

1. Was Informant
Eye-Witness?

No

2. If not
of t

3. Was the ground
held or lost?

4. If Info
was
the b

5. Did Informant know Christian Name,
Initials or No. of man enquired about?

6. Was the
name?

7. Give Informant's description of man
enquired about—any nickname,
marks, scars, etc.

8. Searcher's opinion of
Informant's accuracy
and intelligence

(P. 6.17)

Sgt. HAM/B-G
M.B.S.
25 Battalion AIF
BEF

for

4501A

W A MAHAFFEY
25 Battalion AIF

K. 24. 3. 17

8.6.17

HOSELYT

HOSPITAL 3rd Southern General, Cowley Section. Ox

| INFORMANT | | GIVEN | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------|
| SURNAME <i>Pepperell</i> | Christian Name <i>A. N.</i> | Regtl. No. <i>5665</i> | Ra <i>1</i> |
| SURNAME <i>Wether</i> | Christian Name <i>Thomas</i> | Regtl. No. <i>667</i> | Ra <i>1</i> |

NOTE. In cases state fully what informant says he saw or heard and give DATE AND PLACE of occurrence.

I heard in the Battalion that a man during the attack *March* at later when the Germans had *Y. Byle*. "I always called him *Pepperell* man".

12.01.18

PLEASE ALSO ANSWER

1. Is Informant Eye-Witness? *no*

2. If not of *no*

3. Was the ground held or lost? *Inf. was in the attack which was not a success.*

4. If Inf was the *no*

5. Did Informant know Christian Name, Initials or No. of man enquired about? *only surname*

6. Was *no*

7. Give Informant's description of man enquired about any nickname, marks, scars, etc. *medium height.*

8. Searcher's opinion of Informant's accuracy and intelligence *Very quiet & young. he seemed very sad & affected & I did not like to ask him too questions*

15th June 1917.

5531 Pte D.J. Williams,
25th Btn, A.I.F.,
Kitchener's Hospital,
Brighton, Sussex.

Dear Pte Williams,

We have been requested by our Bureau in Brisbane, to make enquiries concerning - 4501 Mahaffey, 25th Btn, A.I.F., reported Killed 24-3-17 and have recently received an unofficial report to the effect that he died as the result of a shell wound and that there were with him at the time 6 other men of whom two are mentioned by name, Pte Tiny Fowler, who died of wounds from the same shell and a Pte Williams.

We are not sure if the Pte Williams referred to was yourself, but if so, we should be very grateful for any information you could send us concerning Pte Mahaffey and would also be pleased if you could add a short personal description or any points that would help us to prove his identity, such as occupation in civil life, previous to enlistment, home town in Australia, if an original man or a reinforcement etc.

If you are not the Pte Williams referred to, perhaps you would be kind enough to send on our enquiry to the Battn, where it might reach the right Pte Williams.

We trust you are now nearly well again and will soon be able to enjoy your furlough.

With best wishes,

Yours faithfully,

V.D.
SECRETARY. Jhu.

July 4th. 1917.

Sgt. C.G. Ham,
B. Coy. M. G. Section,
25th. Battn., A.I. F.
B. E. F.

Dear Sgt. Ham,

We have to thank you very much indeed for your
letter of the 19th. June giving particulars of :-

4501 Cpl. MAHAFFEY, 25th. Battn., A.I.F.

The information you have sent will be of great assistance to us
and of value to our enquirers.

With best wishes,

Yours faithfully,

Secretary.

V.D.
J.H.