

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

**2209 Private
Joseph Robert
McHugh**

49th Battalion



1910410G

A.I.F. 49th Btn

McHUGH
Joseph Robert 2209

"D. 20-2-17 state cause of death"

Died of natural causes in Btn lines 20-2-17 - No further particulars given

Cert. by A.I.F. Headquarters 4-4-17.

B.

London
10-4-17

49th A.I.F.

McHugh J.R. No.2209.

D. 20th February 1917. Det D/B.

He died at Montauban near Flers from excessive drink. He had only been in the battalion about 2 months. He came from Brisbane I believe and his wife had a hotel there.

Inf:- Cpl P.A.Harris No.33363.

H.S. "Newhaven".

Calais. 31.V.17. ASD.

B

49th. A.I.F.

McHugh, Pte.J.R. 2809.

(D. Feb.20/17. Det.D/B.)

" In my diary written Feb.20/17, I have recorded that on coming out of the Sergeants Mess at Bendage Camp, near Longueville, about 11 oclock on a very wet night I found this man lying across the galley (cook-house) in about 6 in. water. I had a good look at him & found he was dead. ~~Stuart~~ I went round & reported it at once to the medical officer & they came round & looked at him, saw he was dead, picked him up & put him on a stretcher till morning. McHugh was waiter in the Sgt's Mess, a man about 40 to 45, said to have a lot of money & owned hotels. -- He was a confirmed drunkard, short & very big head. I should say he died from hard drinking, but I was not called at the enquiry, though I was the man who reported it. No question of foul play. McHugh has served me in the Mess about $\frac{1}{2}$ hour before."

Eyewitness:- Only after death.

Description:- Short, big head.

Informant:- Sergt. V.Cross, 3790.
49th. A.I.F., C Co.
Fulham Mil. Hosp.

6/3/17.

L.Crichton-Stuart.

49th A.I.F.

McHugh J.R. No. 2209.

D

R. 20th February 1917. Det D/B.

McHugh was a waiter in the Sergeant's mess at a place between Eicourt and Basentin Camp. He had been working up to the night before he died and was found dead just outside the Sergeants' mess. The Doctor said he had died of heart's disease. He used to drink heavily. He came from Brisbane, about 33 or more had a big scar over one eye, dark, clean shaved, about 5 ft 7.

Inf:- Pte A. R. Kelleman No. 2185.
R.E. No. 30 General Hospital.
Calais. 8.6.17. BMR.

B

49th A. I. F.,

McHugh, Pte. J.R., 2209.

D. Feb. 20/17. Det: D/B.

"I knew McHugh. We were in the same Camp, he was a waiter in the Sgts. Mess. We were billeted at Bendigo Camp, near Eicourt. I saw McHugh's body after death. He was lying in front of the billet with a blanket over him. There was, I know, a post-mortem and the cause of death was diagnosed as heart failure. I am confident he was buried. His disc etc., would be taken by an N.C.O. to the Orderly Room. McHugh had formerly been employed in the G.P.O. He came from Brisbane. It was on the 20th-21st Feb. 1917 I saw McHugh's body."

Eye Witness: Saw the body.

Description: Between 34 and 36, medium height, dark complexion dark hair, clean shaven, he had a very noticeable scar above the eye, I forget which eye. We called him "Mac."

Informant:-- Pte. Alfred W. Felleman, 2185,
49th A.I.F.,
Brondesbury Park Military Hosp:

18.6.17.

Henry Constable.

Home address:

c/o G.P.O., Sydney, Australia.

Inf
B
C

9th Batt.
A.I.F.,

MC HUGH
Pte J.R. 2209

"Died 20.2.17"

In reply to your enquiry ~~above~~ I regret it is necessary for me to have to inform you that the above soldier died in battalion lines from natural causes on 20.2.17. On the night of 19th he was apparently in best of health but was discovered dead on the morning of the 20th.

Cert. by letter from The A/Adjutant,
49th Batt. A.I.F.,
B.E.F.

London
4.4.17.
24-4-17

B.

A.I.F. 49.

McHUGH. J.R. 2209.

D. Feb 20th 1917. Dets D/E.

McHugh - name Joseph - was a cook in the officers mess at Bendigo Camp near Flers in Feby. One night he went out and fell in the mud and was not found and picked out for an hour or so. Heart failure they said it was. It was night and the mud was awful. He was buried somewhere near - but I cannot give particulars. He came from Stone's Corner, Coopers, Brisbane.

Inf: 2526. G. R.G.Hoy.

No. 14 General.

BOULOGNE. 12.6.17.

JT

64-3

A.I.F. 49

McHUGH J.R. 2209

D. Feb. 20 1917. Det: D & B.

McHugh came in same Reinforcements as myself and had a number near mine. He died of heart failure at Hobart Camp on the Somme near Flers. Major C.C. Corlis of 13 Field Ambulance was our H.O. at the time.

Informant: Pte N.A. Johnson 2191. C. Coy.
No. 14 General Hospital.
BOULOGNE. 18.6.17.

JT
B
E



✓
TELEPHONE NO 380 KERRINGTON.
TELEGRAMS "BAILEY'S HOTEL, LONDON."

Mr. H. Larkins
BAILEY'S HOTEL,
GLOUCESTER ROAD,
LONDON, S.W.

To The Secretary Red Cross
Victoria St Westminster

Would you kindly
send me any particulars you
have of Christie J. R. McHugh
no 2204
4 of 49th Reinforcement A.D.J.
he died in hospital in France on
the 20th Feb. Trusting you will

(

Oblige & Thanking
you in anticipation
Yours Truly
A. Larkin

49th Battn.
A. Coy.
A. I. F.

McHugh.
J. R. 2209.

"Died 20.2.17."

McHugh met his death in this way. On the evening of 19th February there was a festive gathering at the cook-house, McHugh attended this, and partook of too much liquor. He left for his hut during the night when walking along the duck-boards he fell into the mud and was smothered. No one was with him when he fell, but in the morning he was dragged out quite dead. I saw the body brought in. This was behind the "supports" at rear of Fliers. His friend Pte. George Tibbey, B. Coy. 49th Battn. informed me that he saw McHugh buried near the spot where he died. He was 5'6", well built, reddish complexion. Scar on face. About 40 years. Electric Telegraph Employee in Warrack and Brisbane, Queensland.

Witness:-

Ed. Booth 2136.

B. Coy. 49th Battn.

Perham Downs Camp.

A. R. McPhee.

London.

28.6.17.

B.



AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY.

Tel.: VICTORIA 8858.

ALL COMMUNICATIONS
TO BE ADDRESSED TO
"THE SECRETARY."
WOUNDED AND MISSING
— INQUIRY BUREAU —

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY.

TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS:
"QUESTMAN, LONDON."

54, VICTORIA STREET.

LONDON, S.W.
11th April 1917.

The Commanding Officer,
49th Australian Inf. Batta.
B. E. F.

Dear Sir,

We should be very grateful if you would be so kind as to give us details as to the death of 2209. Pte. J.R. McHugh, 49th Batta. ^{ALL} as we have received an enquiry from Brisbane and any information you are able to ^{send} ~~give~~ us will naturally be of great value to his relatives.

Thanking you in anticipation.

Yours faithfully,

Vera Beakin

Secretary.
(K.A.N.)

In reply to your enquiry above
regret it is necessary for us to have to inform you
that the above Soldier died in Battalion being from
natural causes on 20th. On the night of 19th he was
apparently in best of health but was discovered dead
on the morning of the 20th
B.
Bk Sec. at 7th Bn.
also 49th Bn.

11th April 1917.

The Commanding Officer,
49th Australian Inf. Battn.
R. E. F.M

Dear Sir,

We should be very grateful if you would be so kind as to give us details as to the death of 2209. Pte. J.R. McHugh, 49th Battn, as we have received an enquiry from Brisbane and any information you are able to give us will naturally be of great value to his relatives.

Thanking you in anticipation.

Yours faithfully,

V.S.

Secretary.
A.A.W