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

61 Driver
James Alisine
Sutherland

1st Battalion



2670704Q

Havre. 18th. April. 1918.

1st. Australians. Sutherland, J. A. 61.

K/A
~~W. & M.~~ September, 18/1917.

He was in D. Company, and was attached to the Transport. I was told by Driver Clarke, 1st. Battalion, D. Company, Transport, about the end of October that he had been with Sutherland on the 18th. September at Hell-Fire-Corner. Calrke was slightly wounded and he saw Sutherland knocked down by a piece of shell. Clarke had to shoot his own horse, & then walked towards the D/Station. I heard that S/Bearers found Sutherland but I don't think that they got to the D/Station. There was an enquiry but nothing more was known. Clark is with the Battalion still. Sutherland was muggety, big, fair, we called him "Jim".

Inf:- Private. P. Ballantyne. 1164.
1st. Australians.
Hospital Ship.

S
Pl Sa
Aug

CWS.

1st Battalion
A.I.F.

SUTHERLAND. J.A. L/Corporal. No. 61.

K/A
"W.A. 19.10.17"

I knew Sutherland well; his name was Jim and his number 61. He was originally a Machine Gunner in the Battalion. He was a Sergeant in September 1917 and was acting Company/Sergt./Major on 25.9.17 just before Polygon Wood. I remember distiontly that it was reported through our Orderly Room before the end of September, the day after he was killed, that he had been killed outright as they were going into Polygon Wood. Another Sutherland who was on the Transport was at the same time reported as "Wounded & Missing", but I am sure that 61, Sutherland, was officially reported as "Killed" before the end of September. He was killed outright by a shell.

Informant;- Lancé-Corporal LUDERS, E.M. 511, M.M.
1st Battalion, Headquarters Signaller.

Private address;- C/o Mr. J. Torr,
"Marion"
Ranger's Road, CREMORNE.

9.4.18.
No.4 Australian General Hospital,
RANDWICK.

H.S.O.

SYDNEY BUREAU.

1st Battalion. SUTHERLAND, J.A. L/Cpl. No.61

Killed, 18-~~10~~-17.

Informant described Sutherland as about 5'11" high, heavy build, fair complexion, aged about 27. Born in England, where he had a sister. He was an Electrical Engineer in civil life, and was a Sergeant when killed.

Informant states that the date of Sutherland's death was 16-9-17, and not 18-10-17 as officially reported. He was able to fix the date with accuracy, as he was wounded the same day. On the date mentioned, the Battalion was going into the line at Ypres; when about 3 miles behind the front line, and just near the Menin Road, a shell came over and instantly killed Sutherland, and also wounded Informant. This occurred at about 3 p.m., when they were marching along. Informant was afterwards told that Sutherland was buried close to where he fell.

Informant added that Sutherland was well liked.

Informant - Private E.Lea, No.6269,
1st Battalion, "B" Company,
Home Address - "Florence House", CONCORD.

W.E.G.
No.4 Australian General Hospital,
Randwick,
10-6-18.

1st Battalion A.I.F.

SUTHERLAND J. A. L/Cpl.
No. 61.

"Killed 18/10/17"

I first met Sutherland at Hermies. He was in the Battalion transport. He was tall, about 5ft 10in, fairish, clean shaved.
I saw Sutherland killed at Menin Road, Ypres, on Oct 8th 1917. A shell burst near him. He died before the Stretcher Bearer had time to come up. I saw him after he had died.

Informant: P. S. BEESLEY, Pte. No. 6781,
1st Battalion,
No 4 Australian General Hospital,
RANDWICK.

Home address:
35 Cowper Street,
GLEBE.

4/7/18.

SYDNEY BUREAU.

S
P.1

Enquiry for

61 Driver J.A. SUTHERLAND
1 Batt AIF

W. 18.9.17

White Card

Enquirer Lieut F. Griffiths
1 Batt AIF
at Lyndhurst
Rickmansworth
Herts
for furlough
later B.E.F.

FM
23.11.17.

26-12-17

26-12-17

61 ~~J. A. Sutherland~~

Capt. Moffatt

B.C.

12th Batt.

A.I.F.

Abroad

alt

61 J. A. Sutherland

B.C.

12th Batt.

A.I.F.

W/M. 16-9-17

25-12-17

Havre 11th Dec. 1917.

1st AUSTRALIANS SUTHERLAND, J.A. 61

T. Unc[illegible] R. 18.9.17.

I knew Sergt. Sutherland of B Co., 7th Pltn., and was Acting S.M. on the 15th Sept. 1917. I do not know his initials, but we called him George. I think he was a Scotchman, but joined up in N.S.W. I saw him his body lying in the open behind our front line at Ypres. He had been killed by a shell as we were going up to the front line on Sept. 18, 1917. He was buried where he was killed. There was not any cross on the grave. I could point out the spot. He was an original man. His number would be a low one.

Informant: Pte. C. Hughes, 5752
1st Australians, B Co., 6th Pltn.,
Australian Camp, Rouelles.

R.III
The report evidently refers to Sgt G Sutherland 61 S
not J. A. Sutherland 61, See Lt Griffiths letter.
1 attd. P.1

1st Battn.
B.Coy.
A.I.F.

Sutherland.
J.A. 61

"Wounded Unoff.Missing 18.9.17".

I saw him killed at Ypres. He was caught by a piece of shell which hit him in the chest death being instantaneous (almost) . All he said after being hit was to exclaim "Boys I'm hit". I knew him very well, he was acting C/S/M at time of casualty. He was an Englishman but enlisted in Australia and he had only just returned from Paris, whenehe was on leave. I do not know place of burial, refer to Capt. Moffat B.Coy. 1st Battn. who is in Francema nd knows place of burial and can give full particulars.

Witness:-
Pte.T.R.Hallett 2725
1st Battn. B.Coy. 5th Pltn.
3rd A.A.Hospital.
Dartford.

W.Oman.

London.
5.1.18. Note Written Capt.Moffat 28.12.17. S. P.I.

This report evidently refers to Sgt G Sutherland 81 & not to J. A Sutherland 61. See Lt Griffiths letter -

Havre.

1st Australians.

7th January 1918.

Sutherland J.A. No. 61.

W. ~~unoff~~ of M. 18th September 1917.

I know his number is 61, he was a Sergeant.

We were going up to hold the line about the 18th Septr at Clapham Junction - Ypres Sector. I was close to Sergt. Sutherland, a shell dropped near us and part of it struck Sutherland in the stomach. This happened about 4.30 p.m. He fell., and I heard him say 'I am finished; soldiering', and he died. His body was left where it was - I heard that he was buried where he was killed three days after. I never saw his grave. I was told it was by the left hand side of the track going from Menin Road to Clapham Junction.

Inf:- L/Cpl A. Villiers No.1469.
1st Battn B.Co. Vll Pltn. L.G.S.
Havre Hospital.

This report evidently refers to Sgt. G Sutherland 81 not to J.A. Sutherland 61
See Lt Griffiths' letter -

HPG.

Sutherland.

1st Battn. J.A. 61
Transport Section,
A.I.F.

"Wounded & Missing 18.9.17"

I saw him wounded on the Menin Road near Ypres. He was caught by a piece of shell which hit him on the back of the head, knocking him unconscious. I left him in charge of another man whose name I do not know. That is thelast I saw of him, and cannot refer to anyone for further details. I knew him well, he came from the South Coast of N.S.Wales.

Informant:- Dvr. J.L.Ogg 869
1st Battn. Transport.
3rd A.A.Hospital.
Dartford.

W.Oman.

London.
14.1.18.

S.
P.I.

1st Battn.
A.I.F.

Sutherland.
Dvr. James Alisine 61

"Wounded & Missing 18.9.17"

I have you letter of 10th inst., re 61 J.A.Sutherland 1st Battn. but your attached reports do not refer to this man, but to - 81 Sgt.G.Sutherland - 1st Battalion, B.Coy. Capt. Moffat (who is at present at Sutton Veny) told me of 81 Sgt.George Sutherland's death - He was killed when the Battn. were going into supports at Clapham Junction, about 3 miles east of Ypres, on the night of Sep. 16th and was buried there next day. His death was fully authenticated. Re - 61 Driver A/L/Cpl. J.A.Sutherland - He was one of a party caught in a barrage at Birr Cross Roads (about 2 miles east of Ypres on the Menin Road) on the night of Sept 17th. He was seen to be hit badly in the head by a piece of shell; and next seen on a stretcher, but after that he no trace could be found. Next day I enquiried personally at all receiving and dressing stations in the vicinity and several times afterwards. He did not pass through the Main dressing station, and no trace could be found in any local cemetery, though careful search was made, of his grave. We believe he was again hit, and probably buried by another shell. I have refrained up till now from writing to his people in the hope that you may have got some information, but will now do so.

London. 24.1.18. Letter from:- F.Griffiths Lieut. France 18.1.18. S. & P.I.

1st Battn.
B.Coy.
A.I.F.

Sutherland.
J.A. 61

"Wounded & Missing 18.9.17"

I saw him killed at Menin Road on 21.9.17. He was hit about the stomach with shrapnel pellet wi death being instantaneous. We were on our way into the front line at the time. I knew him very well, his initials were G.A. He came from Sydney where he was an Engineer prior to enlistment. His people live in England. He was a C/S/Major at time of casualty. I was wounded by the same shell and do not know place of burial and cannot refer to anyone. Casualty happened well behind the line, and I feel pretty sure he would be buried somewhere near place of casualty.

Witness:- Pte.E.Lea 6269
1st Battn. B.Coy. 5th Pltn.
3rd A.A.Hospital.
Dartford.

W.Oman,

London.
28.2.18.

S.
P.I.

ORIGINAL STATEMENT ECHELON 2697/11/11

C O P Y

Statement made by No.868 Dvr Ogg J.L. 1st Btn.

re No.61 Dvr Sutherland J.A. 1st Btn.
Wnd and Missing 18.9.17.

On 18th September 1917, we were proceeding to Hooge Dump (France) at about 8.p.m. when Dvr Sutherland J.A. was wounded in the head by a piece of shell, he was unconscious when I handed him over to an Imperial Stretcher bearer. I returned along the same road about half an hour later and he was gone.

S.

P.1.

Dated at Parkhouse th is 18th day of March 1918.

(SGD) JLL. OGG.

Statement made and signed before me (SGD) W.H. TAYLOR
Lieut

1st Battn.
A.I.F.

Sutherland.
J.A. 61

"Wounded & Missing 18.9.17"

I saw his body lying on the Menin Road (about 400 yards past Hell Fire Corner) along with two others of whom one was Thomas Madden as I was going into the line with three other D.Coy. S.B.s. Two of these (Austin E.C. and McInerny) were I believe killed. The other man Busch, G. was wounded and may be able to say more of Sutherland. I don't know where he is now. Sutherland was a Sgt. I think in C. Coy. It was on Sunday the 16th Sept. that we saw his body.

Informant:- M.J.Clifford 1017
D.Coy. 1st Battn.
Southall.

L.P.J.

London.
15.3.18.

S.
P.I.

Written Pte. Busch 2.4.18.

1st. Battalion. A.I.F.

Sutherland. J.A.No.61.

W. and. M. Sept.18/17.

I saw him killed by a shell at Clapham Junction,Polygon Wood,whilst we were going up into the line. He was buried close by, by a party from the company.I believe a mark was placed over his grave. I only knew him in th the company.He came from N.S.Wales.

Description. Age. 27yrs. Height. 5-11.Comp.Fair. Slight Build.

Witness. Hetherington.W.Pte.No. 024. "B" Coy. 1st. Battalion.

Taken at
No.3.C.D.
Hurdcott.
28-3-18
F.G.H.

S.Whitmee,
No.4.C.D.
Hurdcott.

S

One Extra copy

P.1

1st Battn.
A.I.F.

Sutherland.
J.A. 61

"Wounded & Missing 18.9.17"

A Sgt. named Sutherland of C.Coy. whose number or initials I do not know, wasinstantly killed about Menin Road on Sept. 18th 1917 by a shell. I passed the spot shortly after he was killed and saw his body there. We went straight on and I cannot say what happened afterwards to him. Sgt.Sutherland was a tall well proportioned man dark and clean shaven. I met him over here and can't say where he came from.

Informant:- F.Armitage 1443
1st Battn. A.Coy.
Westham.

W.A.Rand

London.
3.4.18.

S.
Note This report evidently refers to Sgt. G. P.I.
Sutherland 81 not to J.A.Sutherland
61. See Lieut.Griffiths' letter.

1st Battn.
A.I.F.

SUTHERLAND,
Gnr. James Alisine
61 (HQ)

"Wounded & Missing."

Killed in Action 18.9.17. Previously reported Wounded & Missing.
Cert. by Hqrs 8.4.18.

London.
10.4.18.

S & P.I.

1st Batn
A.I.F.

SUTHERLAND
JamesAlisine61

"Wounded"

Wounded and Missing 18.9.17. prev. reported wounded in Action.
Cert. by A.I.F.HDQtrs 17.12.17.

S. &P.I.

London.
19.12.17.

A.I.F. 1st Btn

SUTHERLAND
Dvr James Alisine 61(HQ)

"WOUNDED"

Wded 18-9-17
Cert. by A.I.F.Hqrs 5-11-17

No further report
Cert. by A.I.F.Hqrs 13-11-17 & Rouen letter 11-11-17

S

London
15-11-17

(28)

Hyles L. 2910. 60 AIF. K 24/12/17

Hyles, whose name was Elliot has a brother Oscar in the same Co. B. who was with him when he was killed at Polygon wood.
I saw one of the men as we came over together.

Informed Pte CC. Key 60 AIF Bn.

A/Campbell
Dartford April 5th

Lieut.F.Griffiths.

1st Infantry Battalion,

Australian Imperial Forces,B.E.F.

11th April, 1918.

Re 61 Dvr. JAMES ALISIER SUTHERLAND, 1st Bttn, A.I.F.

Dear Sir,

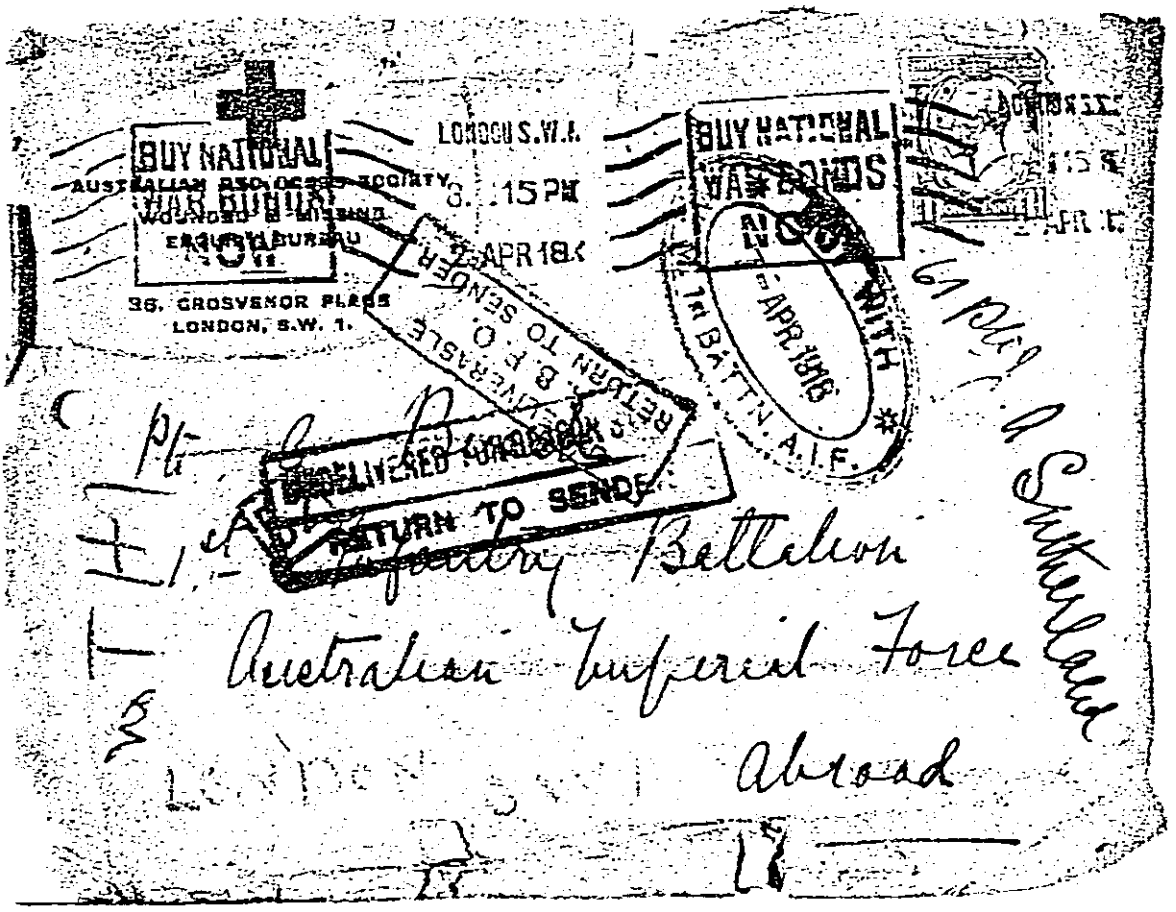
We regret to inform you that the above soldier who was previously reported Missing and Wounded is now reported Killed in Action on 18-9-17.

We are making further enquiries in the hope of learning details of his death and will send you any information that we receive.

Regretting the distressing character of this news.

Yours faithfully,

LAW



BUY NATIONAL WAR BONDS NOW

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY
WOUNDED & MISSING
ENQUIRY BUREAU
36, GROSVENOR PLACE
LONDON, S.W. 1.

LONDON S.W.1.
8. 15 PM
2 APR 18

BUY NATIONAL WAR BONDS NOW

APR 1918
1st BATTN. A.I.F.

RETURN TO SENDER
UNDELIVERED FOR DESIGN
RETURN TO SENDER

61 Pkg. A Sutherland

Pte. [illegible]
1st Infantry Battalion
Australian Imperial Force
Abroad

LONDON S.W.1

2.4.18

Pte. G. Busch
1st Batta. A.I.F.
Abwad

Abt.
61 Pte. J.A. Sutherland
1st Batta. A.I.F.
W/M. 18.9.17.

2.4.18
A.I.B.

ack'd letter O.S. 24-1-18

G C

France
Jan 18th '18

61 Dvr James Alisine Sutherland
Pt Batt
W/M 18-9-17
S.
P.I.
4

The Secretary
Wounded & Missing Bureau
Aust. Red X Society
London.

Dear Sir,

I have your letter of 10th inst re

61 J. A. Sutherland 1st Bn. A.I.F.

but your attached reports ~~of~~ ~~has~~ do not refer to this man, but to –

81 Sgt. G. Sutherland 1st Bn. B Coy.

Capt. Moffat (who is at present at Sutton Veny) told me of 81. Sgt George Sutherland's death – He was killed when the Bn was going into support at Clapham Junction – about 3 miles east of Ypres – on the night of Sept ~~14th~~ 16th, and was buried there next day. His death was fully authenticated.

2.

Re 61 Driver a/Capt J.A. Sutherland -

He was one of a party caught in a barrage at Birr X Roads (about 2 miles east of Ypres) (on the Menin Road) on the night of Sept 17th.

He was seen to be hit badly in the head by a piece of shell, and next seen on a stretcher, but after that no trace could be found -

Next day I enquired personally at all Receiving and Dressing stations in the vicinity, and several times afterwards - He did not pass through the main dressing station, and no trace could be found in any local cemetery, tho' careful search was made, of his grave. We believe he was again hit, and probably buried by another shell - I have refrained up till now from writing to his people in the hope that you may have got some information, but will now do so.

Hoping this may be of us to you

Yrs faithfully

Lt F. GRIFFITHS. Francis Griffiths

Lieut.I.Griffiths,
1st Infantry Battalion,
Australian Imperial Forces,
B.E.F.

Jamary 10th, 1918.

Dear Sir,

We beg to pass on to you two unofficial reports about

61 J.A.SUTHERLAND, 1st Battalion, A.I.F.

Informant C.Hughes, 6752,1st Battn, states I knew Sgt.Sutherland of B.Coy, 7th Platoon, and was acting S/M on 18th Sept. I do not know his initials but we called him "George" I think he was a Scotchman, but joined up in New South Wales. I saw his body lying in the open behind our front line at Ypres. He had been killed by a shell as we were going up to the front line on Sept. 18th, 1917. He was buried where he was killed. There was no cross on the grave. I could point out the spot. He was an original man. His number would be a low one."

Our second informant is 2725 Pte.F.H.Hallett, 1st Bttn, who says "I saw him killed at Ypres. He was caught by a piece of shell which hit him in the chest, death being instantaneous (almost) All he said after being hit was to exclaim "Boys I'm hit". I knew him very well, he was acting C.S.M. at time of casualty. He was an Englishman but enlisted in Australia, and he had only just returned from Paris where he was on leave. If do not know place of burial, refer to Capt. Moffat, B.Coy, 1st Bttn, who is in France and knows place of burial and can give all particulars".

We have written to Capt.Moffat in the hope in that he may be able to tell us where Pte.Savage was buried.

Yours faithfully,

Vera Deakin.

SECRETARY.

Lt.F.Griffiths,
1st Infantry Battalion,
Australian Imperial Force,
Abroad.

January 28th, 1918.

Dear Sir,

We wish to thank you for your letter of 18.1.18 in answer to ours of 10.1.18 concerning

61 Dvr.W.A.SUTHERLAND, 1st Battalion, A.I.F.

We are very sorry that a mistake has been made, and thank you very much for pointing at out the fact, and for giving us information about the above named and

81 Sgt.A.SUTHERLAND, 1st Battalion, A.I.F.

We are so glad to see that though thes personal description given by our two informants you were able to detect that these reports did not refer to the man for whom you were enquiring. It is precisely for this reason that we always endeavour to get a personal description of the man in question from our informants. It is then so easy for the enquirers to tell immediately when reading the reports whether these refers to the right soldier or not, for naturally there are often cases of two men of similar names of the same unit who are casualties at the same time.

We have an enquiry from Sydney also for

61 J.A.SUTHERLAND, A.I.F.

therefore should we gather any further information concerning him , we shall at once forward same to you.

Thanking you again for your great help.

Yours faithfully,

SECRETARY.

Lt. F. Griffiths,
1st Infantry Battalion,
Australian Imperial Force,
B.E.F.

January 28th, 1918.

Dear Sir,

In further answer to your enquiry for

No 61 Pte.J.A.SUTHERLAND, 1st Battalion, A.I.F.

We regret to inform you of unofficial evidence which only confirms the fears we had previously entertained, as to his fate.

Our informant stated that he was close to Pte.Sutherland when they were going in to the line at 4.30 p.m. about Sept. 18th at Clapham Junction on the Ypres sector when a shell fell close to them part of it wounding him severely in the stomach his death taking place almost immediately afterwards. They had to leave him there/but informant was told that he had been buried three days later just when he had been killed by the left hand side of the track going from Menin Road to Clapham Junction.

No 869 Dvr.P.S.Ogg, 3rd Australian Auxiliary Hospital, Dartford, stated that he saw Pte.Sutherland wounded in the back of the head by a piece of shell which made him unconscious, and he left him in the charge of another man whose name he did not know. That is the last he knows of him.

We are continuing our enquiries although we greatly fear that further information will only confirms our worst fears as to his fate and as soon as we obtain news we shall advise you.

Yours faithfully,

Vera Deakin.

Secretary.

D. M. B. for L. A. W.

February 1st. 8

Lt. P. Griffiths,
1st Battalion,
Australian Imperial Force,
B. E. F.

No 61 JAMES ALISINE SUTHERLAND, 1st Bttn, A.I.F.

Dear Sir,

With reference to your enquiry for the above soldier who was previously reported Wounded, we regret to inform you that he is now reported Wounded and Missing since 18.9.17.

Further enquiries are being made and we hope soon to send you detailed information.

Yours faithfully,

SECRETARY.

D/M/B.

12.4.18.

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY
(WOUNDED AND MISSING INQUIRY BUREAU),
54, VICTORIA STREET,
LONDON, S.W. 1.

Pte. G. Busch
1st Balln. A.I.F.
Abroad

Dear Sir,

We are making enquiries for a man of your Unit

61 Pte. J. A. Sutherland 1st Balln. A.I.F.
W/M. 18.9.17.

and have been told that you may be able to help us by supplying some information.

We should be most grateful for any details you could send us concerning Pte. J. A. Sutherland and would also be glad if you could add a short description of his personal appearance, or any points that would help us to prove his identity.

With best wishes,

Yours faithfully,

Vera Deakin

SECRETARY.

36, Grosvenor Place,
London. W.1.

April 9th, 1918.

Lieut. F.Griffiths,
1st Battn A.I.F.
B.E.F.

Dear Sir,

In answer to your enquiry for 61 Pte. J.A.Sutherland 1st Battn, A.I.F. We have received further unofficially information, which only confirms our worst fears as to his fate. 6524. Pte. W.Hetherington informs us that"he saw Pte Sutherland killed by a shell at Clapham Junction, Polygon Wood, whilst they were going up into the line. He was buried close by, by a party from the company, and Informant believes that a mark was placed over the grave."

His description of Pte. Sutherland was that he was 27 years old, 5ft 11ins in height, of fair complexion and slight build.

We are continuing our inquiries and as soon as we obtain further evidence we shall advise you.

Yours faithfully,

SECRETARY.... L. B.