

Durrington War Graves



Lest we Forget

World War I



26 PRIVATE

J. DUGGAN

10TH AUSTRALIAN BDE. H.Q.

26TH AUGUST, 1916

*Commonwealth War Graves Headstone for Pte J. Duggan is located in Grave Plot # 102
of Durrington War Graves Cemetery*

Joseph DUGGAN

Joseph Duggan was born in 1897 near Deniliquin, New South Wales, to parents Thomas Frank & Hannah L. Duggan. He was a 19 year old, single, Labourer from Hill Plains via Deniliquin, New South Wales when he enlisted in Melbourne, Victoria on 25th February, 1916 with the 10th Infantry Brigade Headquarters of the Australian Army (A.I.F.). His service number was 26 & his religion was Roman Catholic. His next of kin was listed as his father – Frank Duggan of Hill Plains via Deniliquin, New South Wales. Both parents signed as Consent to allow their son – Joseph Duggan to enlist for Active Service Abroad as he was under the age of 21 years.

Pte Joseph Duggan embarked from Melbourne on HMAT *Ascanius (A11)* on 27th May, 1916.

Reinforcements were only given basic training in Australia. Training was completed in training units in England. These were located in the Salisbury Plain & surrounding areas in the county of Wiltshire.

Pte Joseph Duggan was admitted to Fargo Military Hospital on 3rd August, 1916 with Influenza, followed by Measles.

Pte Joseph Duggan died of pneumonia on 26th August, 1916 in Fargo Military Hospital, Wiltshire.

A death for Jack Duggan, aged 18, was registered in the September quarter, 1916 in the district of Amesbury, Wiltshire.

The Red Cross Missing and Wounded File for Pte Joseph Duggan contains a letter from the Assistant Matron of Fargo Military Hospital, dated 8th November, 1916:

“Died of Illness – 26 Pte Duggan, 10th Infantry Brigade died in this hospital 8.30 .m. on 26.8.16 of double pneumonia and measles. During his last hours he was delirious so could not leave any messages for his relatives but I assume they will be thankful to know he was not conscious of his suffering. The chaplain visited him frequently, and previous to his becoming unconscious they had several talks together. It may be some comfort to his people to know that everything that was possible was done for him. He was a great favourite with all who nursed him and I know the Sisters were sincerely sorry to lose their patient. The chaplain, Captain Bowman, wrote to his nearest relative after he died.”

Pte Joseph Duggan was buried on 29th August, 1916 in Durrington Cemetery, Wiltshire, - plot number 102. An invoice is included in Pte Joseph Duggan’s Service Record File for the Secretary of State For War from H. Bishop, Undertaker, Amesbury, Wilts, dated August 26 - *To making Coffin for the late Pte J. Duggan including Cemetery charges - £1 – 14s.*

Pte Joseph Duggan was entitled to British War Medal only. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte Duggan’s father – Mr F. Duggan (March, 1922 & July, 1922)

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Joseph Duggan – service number 26 as being 30 years old & served with Australian Brigade H.Q. 10th. No family details are listed.

Private J. Duggan is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 2.



(Photos by Cathy Sedgwick)



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

J. Duggan is also remembered on the Deniliquin War Memorial (Column 1, 4th from bottom) located at Waring Gardens, Cressy & Napier Streets, Deniliquin.



(Photo by Mattinbgn)



(51 pages of Pte Joseph Duggan's Service records are available for On Line viewing at National Archives of Australia website).

Information obtained from the Australian War Memorial (Roll of Honour, First World War Embarkation Roll, Red Cross Wounded & Missing) & National Archives

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Newspaper Reports

CASUALTIES – 214th AND 215th LISTS

DEAD

Pte J. Duggan, Hill Plain, NSW

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW Tuesday 19 September, 1916)

IN MEMORIAM

DUGGAN – In loving memory of our dear son and brother, Private Joe Duggan, who died at Fargo Military Hospital, England, from pneumonia, on August 26, 1916.

Duty called him, he was there
 To do his bit and take his share,
His heart was good, his spirit brave,
 His resting place a hero's grave.

He is always in our thoughts,
 It is sweet to speak his name,
In life we loved him dearly,
 In death we do the same.
Inserted by his loving parents, brothers and sisters.

(The Independent, Deniliquin, NSW Friday 24 August, 1917)

IN MEMORIAM

DUGGAN – In loving memory of our dear son and brother, Private Joseph Duggan, who died at Fargo Military Hospital, England, on August 26, 1916.

Far away from the land of wattle,
 Far from the land of his birth,
In a soldier's grave he is sleeping,
 One of the dearest and best.

God saw what was before him,
 What trials there were to come,
Smiling down, He thought it best,
 To take our dear boy home to rest.
Inserted by his loving parents, brothers and sister.

(The Independent, Deniliquin, NSW Friday 23 August, 1918)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

DUGGAN.-In loving memory of our dear brother, Private Joseph Duggan, who died at Fargo Military Hospital. England, on August 26, 1916.

Our dear brother is sleeping.

In a grave we may never see,
But may some gentle hand, in a distant land,
Lay down a flower for me.

-(Inserted by his loving sisters, Ruby and Dorothy.)

DUGGAN.-In loving memory of my dear grandson, Private Joseph Duggan, who died at Fargo Military Hospital, Salisbury Plains, England, on the 26th August, 1916; also Charlie, who died at Wyalong Hospital, result of an accident, on March 22 1918.

"Gone but not forgotten.

-(Inserted by their loving grandma.)

DUGGAN.-In loving memory of our dear cousin, Pte. J. Duggan, who died at Fargo Hospital, Salisbury Plains, England, on the 26th August, 1916.

This day recalls sad memories,
Of a loved one gone to rest;
And those who think of him to-day
Are those who loved him best.

-(Inserted by his loving cousins, Alice and Emma Gould, Bacchus Marsh.)

(The Argus, Melbourne, Victoria Thursday 26 August, 1920)

Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstones

The Defence Department, in 1920/21, contacted the next of kin of the deceased World War 1 soldiers to see if they wanted to include a personal inscription on the permanent headstone at Durrington War Graves Cemetery. Space was reserved for 66 letters only (with the space between any two words to be counted as an additional letter) & the rate per letter was around 3 ½ d (subject to fluctuation).

The expense in connection for the erection of permanent headstones over the graves of fallen soldiers was borne by the Australian Government.

(Information obtained from letters sent to next of kin in 1921)

Pte J. Duggan does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Photo of Pte J. Duggan's Headstone at Durrington War Graves Cemetery, Wiltshire.



(Photo © Ian King - with permission)