Glanadda Cemetery,

Bangor, Gwynedd, Wales

War Grave

Lest We Forget

World War 1

4586   PRIVATE

J. DOHENY

26TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

14TH DECEMBER, 1916   Age 32

John DOHENY

John Doheny was born at Harley Park, Callow Co. Kilkenny, Ireland in 1884 (possibly 22nd December) to parents John & Alice Doheny (nee Breen).

The 1901 Ireland Census recorded John Doheny as a 14 year old living with his family at Knockulty, Modeshill, Tipperary, Ireland. His parents were listed as John Doheny (aged 54) & Alice Doheny (aged 54). John was one of six children listed on this Census – Kate Doheny (aged 22), Richard Doheny (aged 20), Mary DOheny (aged 18), Ellen Doheny (aged 16) then John & Cornelius Doheny (aged 12).

According to information provided by his father for the Roll of Honour – John came to Australia when he was 26 years old. John Doheny was a passenger on the Orontes which arrived at Brisbane, Queensland on 6th February, 1911.

John Doheny enlisted under the name of John <u>Sullivan</u>. He stated he was a 29 year old, single, Labourer from Mount Sophia via Cairns, Queensland when he enlisted in Brisbane, Queensland on 28th December, 1915 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 4586 & his religion was Roman Catholic. His next of kin was stated to be his mother – Mrs Alice Sullivan, Ballengarry, Tipperary, Ireland. John <u>Sullivan</u> stated he was born in Tipperary, Ireland.

Private John <u>Sullivan</u> was posted to No. 9 Depot Battalion – "D" Company for recruit training. He was transferred to 17th Reinforcements of 15th Battalion (no date recorded) then transferred on 29th March to 11th Reinforcements of 26th Battalion.

Private John <u>Sullivan</u> was written up on 4th March, 1916 for Drunkenness. He was punished with 48 hours ___.

Private John <u>Sullivan</u> embarked from Brisbane, Queensland on HMAT *Star of Victoria (A16)* on 30th March, 1916 with the 7th Infantry Brigade, 26th Infantry Battalion, 11th Reinforcements.

Private John <u>Sullivan</u> was written up on 20th April, 1916 at Colombo – absent without leave. He was punished with 1 days F.P. (Field Punishment).

Private John <u>Sullivan</u> embarked for overseas from Alexandria on 30th May, 1916 on H.T. *Tunisian.*

Private John <u>Sullivan</u> proceeded to join his Unit from 2nd Divisional Base at Etaples on 31st July, 1916 & was taken on strength of 26th Battalion in France on 2nd August, 1916.

Private John <u>Sullivan</u> was wounded in action in France on 5th August, 1916. He was admitted to 13th Field Ambulance on 7th August, 1916 then transferred No. 3 Casualty Clearing Station. Private <u>Sullivan</u> was transferred to Ambulance Train on 8th August, 1916 & admitted to No. 6 General Hospital at Rouen, France on 10th August, 1916 with G.S.W. (gunshot wounds) to arms & legs. He was transferred to Havre & invalided to England on Hospital Ship *Salta* on 15th August, 1918.

26th Battalion

The 26th Battalion was raised at Enoggera, Queensland, in April 1915 from recruits enlisted in Queensland and Tasmania, and formed part of the 7th Brigade. ……. The Battalion fought in its first major battle around Pozieres between 28 July and 7 August.

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

<u>War Diary – 26th Battalion</u>

Pozieres Heights 4th August, 1916:

Battalion took part in the attack on heights of Poziers at 9.15 pm

Pozieres Heights 5/6th August, 1916:

Holding O.G 1 and 2. The area from jumping off X4 b 67 to X 4 Z 19 line and forward to R34 d 59 thence eastward to R 35 c 48 was held by the Bn. The 14th Bn. A.I.F. took over at 11 pm 6/8/16 repelling enemy attack, taking 91 prisoners & killing many others. Bn reassembled at Tara Hill and marched to Brookfield….

….
Action of 4th, 5th & 6th August '16

…….
<u>*Wounded*</u>

Great difficulty was experienced in evacuating the wounded 8 stretchers and 16 bearers per Battalion is totally inadequate for such work. Before going into the attack we secured 8 additional stretchers and detailed 16 more men to act as bearers. The distance from O.G. 2 to the first aid post was about 2,300 yards in a straight line. The bearers could not cope with the work. The wounded were brought in and placed in deep dugouts in O. G. 1. and old Communication trench. On the morning of 6/8/16 together with the Adjutant I went round the lines and found a number of the wounded of all Battalions and of the 6th Brigade were being cared for by our men and some had been there since the night of 4th. I immediately got all available men and sent them down for stretchers. Later in the day assistance was received to help carry out our wounded. By these means all wounded were removed before we were relieved.

(Extract of War Diary from the Australian War Memorial)

Private John <u>Sullivan</u> was admitted to Richmond Hospital, Dublin on 17th August, 1916 with G.S.W. to arm & right leg. The Medical Case Sheet for Private John <u>Sullivan</u> records he was admitted to Whitworth Hospital, Dublin on 17th August, 1916 with G.S.W. both knees (knee joints not involved). *"Patient wounded in France. Patient admitted to Whitworth Hospital with both wounds discharging and a tube in left knee. One wound has now healed & the other still slightly discharges; otherwise he is perfectly fit. Recommend him for Military Convalescent."* It was recommended that Private <u>Sullivan</u> be transferred to Convalescent Hospital Co. Kilkenny.
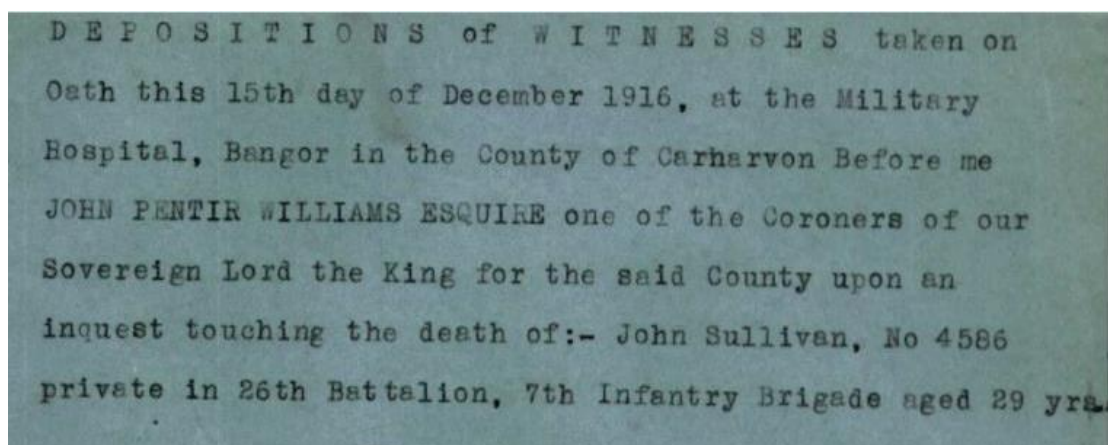
Private John <u>Sullivan</u> was admitted to Aut Even Hospital at Kilkenny on 24th October, 1916. He was recommended for discharged on 15th November, 1916 but "ordered to keep patient until 20th November, 1916."

Private John <u>Sullivan</u> was transferred to 1st Auxiliary Hospital at Harefield Park, England on 24th November, 1916 with G.S.W to knee. Private <u>Sullivan</u> was discharged from Hospital & granted furlough from 28th November, 1916 till 13th December. 1916 & was then to report to Perham Downs, Wiltshire.

Private John <u>Sullivan</u> was admitted to Military Hospital, Bangor, North Wales at 2.30 am on 13th December, 1916 suffering from a fracture of skull & two scalp wounds extending to the skull from an accident whilst on a train between Holyhead & Bangor. He was unconscious on admission to Hospital & remained so until his death. (Casualty Form - Active Service records that Private <u>Sullivan</u> was injured in Railway accident & was admitted to Military Hospital, Bangor - dangerously ill on 9th December, 1916.)

Private John <u>Sullivan</u> died at 12.45 am on 14th December, 1916 at Military Hospital, Bangor, North Wales from injuries received in a railway accident.

A Coroner's Inquest was held on 15th December, 1916 by Coroner J P. Williams, Esq.

DEPOSITIONS of WITNESSES taken on Oath this 15th day of December 1916, at the Military Hospital, Bangor in the County of Carharvon Before me JOHN PENTIR WILLIAMS ESQUIRE one of the Coroners of our Sovereign Lord the King for the said County upon an inquest touching the death of:- John Sullivan, No 4586 private in 26th Battalion, 7th Infantry Brigade aged 29 yrs.

WILLIAM EVANS WILLIAMS says:-

I am a Private in the R.A.M.C. No 105355. I was present when the Jury viewed the body in the mortuary here, it is that of John Sullivan, Private No 4586 in the 26th Battalion, 7th Infantry Brigade; age 29 years. He came from Harley Park, Cattan Kilkenny, Ireland. He was brought here on Wednesday morning December 13th at 2.15 a.m. He died here yesterday morning the 14th at 12.45 a.m.

WILLIAM JAMES WHITNELL says:-

I reside at 15 Goodall Street, Willesden Junction, London. I was in charge of the up Mail Train timed to leave Holyhead at 12.22 a.m. on Wednesday morning last. We were a little late that morning and left at 12.59 a.m. Just after passing Bodorgan the communication cord was pulled.- the train was stopped A soldier was waving his hand out of the window. I went to the compartment. I found a soldier badly wounded, had evidently been struck by something on the head. A Staff Sergeant - Hegarty- had bandaged the wound- the Sergeant belonged to the 44th Field Ambulance 14th Division. The Bleeding had been stopped. I told driver to stop at Gaerwen and wire Bangor for the ambulance; that was done. When we got to Bangor, the ambulance was ready for his reception. There were five other soldiers in the carriage, all quite sober, very respectable lot of men altogether. They said deceased was bad coming over in the boat, he put out his head to vomit, and fell back into the carriage badly wounded - his head had evidently come into collision with something. They told me it happened about 7 minutes before

I was called; I think it was at Bodorgan Tunnel it happened. The outside of the window on the side where deceased was struck was covered with vomit.

WALTER SHEPHERD SAYS:-

I am a permanent way inspector in the employment of the L.&.N.W.Railway Company. I examined Bodorgan Tunnel a few hours after the accident, did not find the trace of anything.

JOHN WILLIAMS SAYS:-

I reside at Mona House, Carnarvon Road, Bangor, platform inspector at Bangor. I received a telephonis message from Gaerwen to be prepared to receive a man who had fallen out of the train. I telephoned to the Loco. Department and to the Military Hospital. I met the train, got soldier out and brought him up here straight, the man was unconscious all the time. I could see he had received first aid. The men with him in the carriage appeared a very respectable lot - they said he was sick - they thought he had knocked his head in the tunnel.

PRIVATE BERTIE MIDDLETON STAFFORD BEARDMORE SAYS:-

I am night Orderly Here. I was on duty when deceased was brought here at 2.15 a.m. on Wednesday last. He was immediately put in bed and attended by a night sister. I telephoned for Dr Thomas, could get no reply. I went down to Dr Thomas' and got him up, he was up here by 2.55 a.m.
By Jurors - No doctor in residence.

JAMES TAYLOR KYLE SAYS:-

Iam Captain R.A.M.C. and a qualified surgeon. I attended the deceased together with Dr Thomas. The man when I saw him was unconscious, black eyes, on the scalp lacerated wound about 2 inches long, began about 1 inch above where the hair began. On probing, fracture of the bone could be felt; all the signs

pointed to a fracture of the skull - extensive.

Extract from Coroner's Court - Casualty Form - Active Service – "*At the Military Hospital Bangor 14.12.16. Death took place of soldier. Cause of his death was that deceased being unwell looked out of window in a railway carriage, whilst in motion, his head came in violent contact with the side of a tunnel or bridge & fractured his skull. The Court declare that he accidently & by misadventure was killed. Age 29 years.*"

Private John Sullivan was buried on 16th December, 1916 in Glanadda Cemetery, Bangor, Gwynedd, Wales – Plot number W. OG. 704A. and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

Private John Sullivan requested in his Will in his Pay Book, dated 1st August, 1916 that in the event of his death the whole of his property & effects to be given to Mrs J. Doheny, Harley Park, Callan, Kilkenny, Ireland.

A War Pension was granted to John Doheny, Harley Park, Callan, Co. Kilkenny, father of the late Private John Sullivan in the sum of 15/- per fortnight commencing 5th February, 1917 & to be revised on 14th February, 1918. A War Pension was also granted to Alice Doheny, same address, mother of the late Private John Sullivan in the sum of 15/- per fortnight commencing 5th February, 1917 & to be revised on 14th February, 1918. Both pensions were granted "*based on inadequate means of support.*"

Administrative Headquarters, London, contacted Base Record, Melbourne in November, 1917 regarding: "Re No. 4586, Pte SULLIVAN, John, 26th Bn. A.I.F. (Decd). Information has been received which shows the correct name of the above-mentioned deceased soldier as DOHENY, John, and that his next-of-kin is: - Father – Mr John Doheny, Harley Park, Callan, Co. Kilkenny, Ireland. Documentary evidence has been produced in support of this, and all necessary action has been taken in this Office in accordance with K.R. 1901.

A later Attestation Paper for Private John Sullivan shows his father listed as the next of kin in red pen – Mr John Doheny, Harley Park, Callan, Co. Kilkenny, Ireland then "Parents Deceased". Marked in red is the new next–of-kin – Brother Mr Richard Doheny, Harley Park, Callan, Co. Kilkenny, Ireland.

Private John Sullivan was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Mr J. Doheny, father of deceased soldier, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll & Plaque issued in England in July, 1922). The Memorial Plaque was issued in the name of Private John Doheny.

Base Records, Melbourne wrote to The Official Secretary (Military), Australia House, Strand, London in July, 1922 stating "*With reference to the issue of the Memorial Plaque and Scroll in respect of the late No. 4586 Private J. SULLIVAN, (stated to be John DOHENY) 26th Battalion, it is noted from the nominal roll (No. 313466) that these mementoes have been distributed in England inscribed in the name of John Doheny, notwithstanding that deceased served and died under the name of John SULLIVAN, and presumably on this account your administration will arrange to recall the memorials and re-issue under the latter name in keeping with the regulations.*"

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private John Doheny – service number 4586, aged 32, of 26th Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of John and Alice Doheny, of Callow, Co. Kilkenny, Ireland.

Private J. Doheny is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 107.

Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

John Sullivan, 4586, Pte, A.I.F., is remembered on the Callan War Memorial, Callan Co. Kilkenny, Ireland.

Callan War Memorial

NAME	NO.	RANK	UNIT
Russell Richard	9310	Pte	R. Irish. Regt.
Russell William	4412	Cpl	R. Irish. Regt.
Ryan Joseph	10038	Pte	R. Ir. Rf.
Sarsfield John	4 / 5100	Pte	R. Irish. Regt.
Sarsfield Richard	J / 28661	O / Sgmn	R.N.
Sarsfield Thomas	J / 35785	Boy 1	R.N.
Shaughnessey James		Pte	R. Irish. Regt.
Shelly James		A / Capt	R.E.
Shelly John	5237	Gnr	R.G.A.
Somers Nicholas		Pte	R. Irish. Regt.
Somers Thomas		Pte	R. Irish. Regt.
Stapleton Patrick	3837	Pte	R. Irish. Regt.
Sullivan James	4583	Pte	R. Irish. Regt.
Sullivan John	4586	Pte	A.I.F.
Tierney James	2059	L/Cpl	R. Irish. Regt.
Torpie Teresa Mary			R.A.M.C.
Upfold George	2588	Pte	R. Irish. Regt.
Walker William	4724	Pte	Leins.
Walsh Ellen			R.A.M.C.
Walsh Joseph	1966	Pte	Q.OR.R. Yeo.
Walsh Michael	2020170	Pte	C.E.F.
Walsh Nicholas	2635	Pte	R. Irish. Regt.
Walsh Patrick	5385	Pte	Hsrs.
Walsh Patrick	10247	Pte	Leins.
Walsh Richard	4 / 3285	Pte	R. Irish. Regt.
Walsh Richard	4250	Pte	Ir. Gds. egt
Ward John	5398	Pte	Ir. Gds.
Ward Richard	10214	Pte	R. Irish. R gt.
Ward Thomas	4072	Pte	R. Irish. R gt.
Wellwood Robert		Reverend	Y.M.C.A Re
Whelan Edward		P.F.C.	A.E.F.
Wholehouse Francis	3323	Pte	Leins.
Woodgate John	4 / 4176	Sgt	R. Irish. Regt.
Woodgate Martin	92994	Spr.	R.E.
Woodgate Thomas	297699	Pte.2	R.A.F.
Woodgate William	4 / 3576	Sgt	R. Iris Regt.

(53 pages of Private John <u>Sullivan</u> (real name John Doheny)'s Service records are available for On Line viewing at National Archives of Australia website).

Information obtained from the CWGC, Australian War Memorial (Roll of Honour, First World War Embarkation Roll) & National Archives

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<u>Newspaper Notices</u>

CASUALTIES

THE 212th and 213th LISTS

WOUNDED

Pte J. Sullivan, Ireland

(*Daily Standard*, Brisbane, Queensland – 16 September, 1916)

ANZAC'S SHOCKING DEATH

While travelling by the Irish Mail train from Holyhead to London yesterday morning, Private John Sullivan, Australian Imperial Forces, put his head out of the window, and it came in contact with the brickwork of a tunnel. He sustained severe injuries, and was conveyed to hospital at Bangor, where he died. His next of kin lives at Horley Park, Callum, Kilkenny, Ireland.

(*Nottingham Journal*, England – 15 December, 1916)

FATAL RAILWAY ACCIDENT NEAR GAERWEN

AUSTRALIAN SOLDIER KILLED

Private John Sullivan, of the Australian Imperial Force, died at the Bangor Military Hospital yesterday as the result of an accident while travelling in the Irish mail from Holyhead on Wednesday night.

It appears that he was taken ill between Bodorgan and Gaerwen, and opened the window to vomit when his head came in contact with a wall and he sustained shocking injuries. The mail was stopped and the guard and fireman bandaged him and telephone to the Bangor Military Hospital with regard to him. At Bangor he was removed to the hospital where he died shortly after admittance.

According to papers found on him the deceased's next of kin is Mrs J. Dohery, Horley Park, Kilkenny, Ireland. He had been out to the front, where he was wounded.

(*North Wales Chronicle* – December, 1916)

CASUALTIES

257th and 258th LISTS

DIED OF INJURIES

Pte J. Sullivan, Ireland, 14/12/16, (result of accident, prev. rep. wounded.)

(*Daily Standard*, Brisbane, Queensland – 27 December, 1916)

<u>Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstones</u>

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. 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).
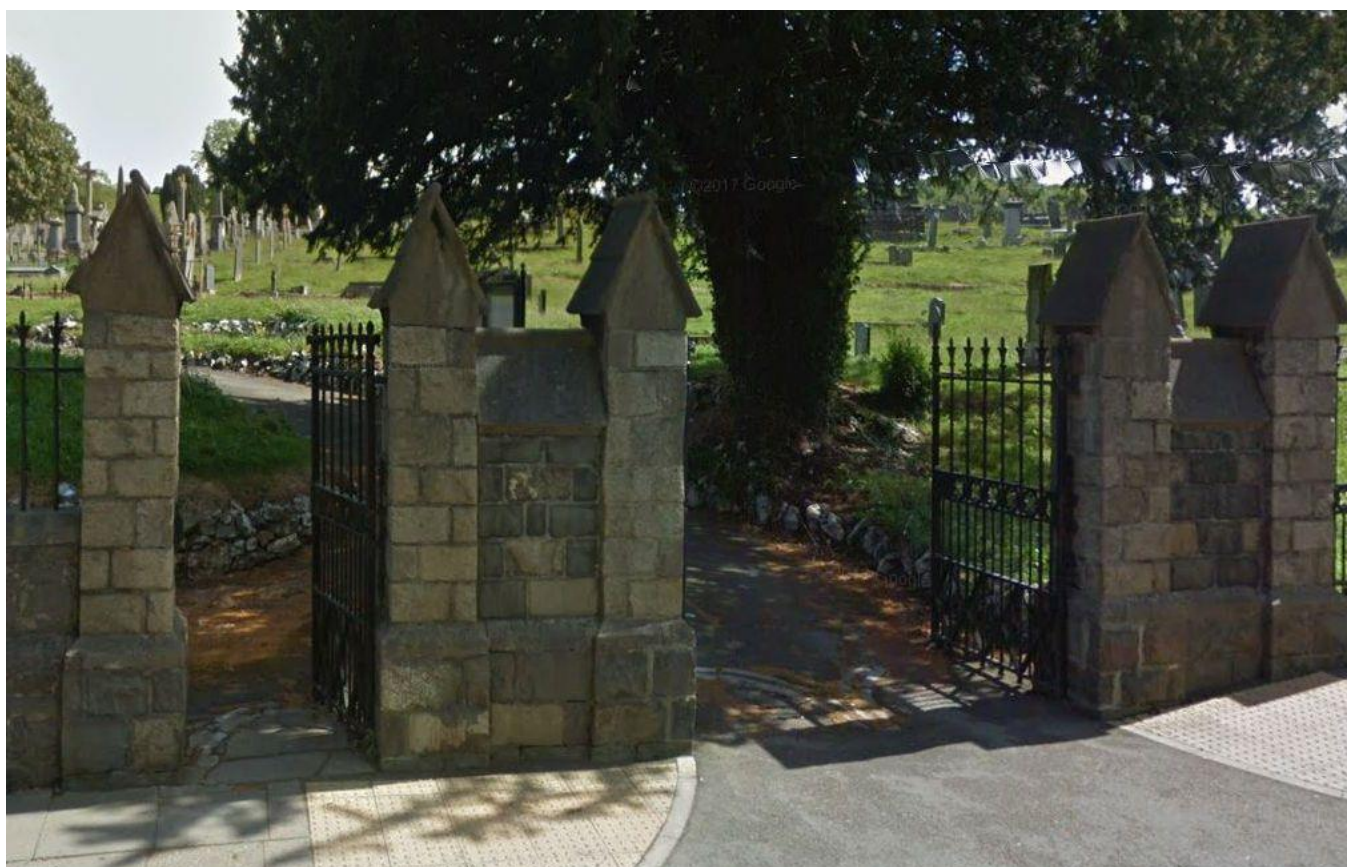
The expense in connection for the erection of permanent headstones over the graves of fallen soldiers was borne by the Australian Government.
(Information obtained from letters sent to next of kin in 1921)

Private J. Doheny does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Glanadda Cemetery, Bangor, Gwynedd, Wales

Glanadda Cemetery, Bangor has 73 Commonwealth War Graves – 55 from World War 1 & 18 from World War 2.

Entrance to Glanadda Cemetery, Bangor *(Photo by Welshgen - find a grave)*

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Photo of Private J. Doheny's (served as John Sullivan) Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Glanadda Cemetery, Bangor, Gwynedd, Wales.

(Photo by Dai Bach y Sowldiwr - Great War Forum)

Cross of Sacrifice, Glanadda Cemetery, Bangor