

**Hartshill Cemetery,
Stoke-On-Trent, Staffordshire**

War Graves



Lest We Forget

World War 1



2600 PRIVATE

F. DUFFY

55TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

7TH AUGUST, 1916 Age 30

Frank DUFFY

Frank Duffy was born at Glasgow, Scotland to parents John and Margaret Duffy.

[It is not possible to identify Frank Duffy in any of the Scotland Censuses.]

Frank Duffy attended Public School near Glasgow, Scotland.

[The 1911 England Census recorded a "Frank Duffy" born Glasgow; Able Seaman as crew on SS *Leona* which was berthed at Victoria Dock, Goole, Yorkshire West Riding, England on the night of the Census. This "Frank Duffy" was aged 34 & married.]

Frank Duffy was a 29 year old, single, Able Seaman from Stockton, NSW when he enlisted in Newcastle, NSW on 26th July, 1915 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 2600 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his sister – Miss Lucy Lavender, 29 Wellesley St., Toronto, West Canada (as per Attestation Papers). (Next-of-kin listed on Embarkation Roll as "Sister, N. Lavender, Toronto, West Canada.")

Private Frank Duffy was posted to 6th Reinforcements of 19th Battalion for recruit training.

Private Frank Duffy embarked from Sydney, NSW on HMAT *Euripides (A14)* on 2nd November, 1915 with the 5th Infantry Brigade, 19th Infantry Battalion, 6th Reinforcements. He disembarked at Fremantle, Western Australia medically unfit & returned to 2nd Military District on *Katoomba* on 28th November, 1915.

A Medical Report was completed on Private Frank Duffy on 20th December, 1915 at No. 4 Australian General Hospital. His disease/disability was recorded as Torticollis (painfully twisted and tilted neck) which had originated in September, 1915 at Liverpool Camp, NSW. "Stiffness arose after operation for Tonsils & Adenoids at Garrison Hospital." Private Duffy's present condition was listed as "*on admittance here could detect nothing at all and the man states he feels well.*" The Medical Officer in charge of the case recommended that Private Duffy was fit for duty. The Medical Board agreed with the recommendation on 6th January, 1916.

Private Frank Duffy was reported for duty with Reinforcements 2nd Military District on 10th January, 1916. He embarked from Sydney, NSW with 9th Reinforcements of 19th Battalion & was to rejoin 6th Reinforcements. Private Duffy disembarked at Alexandria on 26th February, 1916.

Private Frank Duffy was transferred from 5th Brigade Details at Moascar on 3rd April, 1916 to 55th Battalion. He was taken on strength of 55th Battalion at Ferry Post on 3rd April, 1916.

Private Frank Duffy was admitted to 14th Field Ambulance at Ferry Post on 6th June, 1916 with an Abscess. He was transferred & admitted to No. 1 Australian Stationary Hospital.

Private Frank Duffy embarked from Alexandria on 19th June, 1916 on H. T. *Caledonian* to join B.E.F. (British Expeditionary Force). He disembarked at Marseilles, France on 29th June, 1916.

Private Frank Duffy was wounded in action in France on 20th July, 1916. He was admitted to 13th General Hospital at Boulogne, France on 21st July, 1916 with G.S.W. (gunshot wound/s) to neck/face. Private Duffy embarked on Hospital Ship *St. David* on 28th July, 1916.

55th Battalion

The 55th Battalion was raised in Egypt on 12 February 1916 as part of the "doubling" of the AIF. Half of its recruits were Gallipoli veterans from the 3rd Battalion, and the other half, fresh reinforcements from Australia. Reflecting the composition of the 3rd, the 55th was predominantly composed of men from New South Wales. The battalion became part of the 14th Brigade of the 5th Australian Division.

Arriving in France on 30 June 1916, the battalion entered the frontline trenches for the first time on 12 July and fought its first major battle at Fromelles a week later. The battle was a disaster, resulting in heavy casualties across the division. Although in reserve, the 55th was quickly committed to the attack and eventually played a critical role,

forming the rearguard for the 14th Brigade's withdrawal. Despite its grievous losses the 5th Division continued to man the front in the Fromelles sector for a further two months.....

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

War Diary – 55th Battalion

Bac St Maur – 19th July, 1916:

4.30 pm – Received final orders for the attack on Gorman lines this afternoon.

Marched out of billets to join in attack which was launched about 6 pm.

The attack was successful and the Gorman trenches were carried. The trenches were held during the night and communication established with our own lines.

Owing to strong counter attack by the enemy, and to being exposed on both flanks a retirement was necessary and this was effected.

20th July, 1916:

7 am – The losses were heavy, but the battalion, four fifths or more, of whom were strangers to battle acquitted itself honorably in its first engagement, and returned with 40 German prisoners.

(The report of the Commanding Officer, Lieut. Col D. M. McConaghy C.M.G. is attached. See Appendix A.)

Casualties:

<i>Killed</i>	<i>2 Officers</i>	<i>35 other Ranks</i>		
<i>Died of Wounds</i>		<i>5</i>	<i>“</i>	<i>“</i>
<i>Wounded</i>	<i>5 “</i>	<i>149</i>	<i>“</i>	<i>“</i>
<i>Missing</i>	<i>4 “</i>	<i>139</i>	<i>“</i>	<i>“</i>

This is a statement of Casualties as known on 31st July 1916. Many of the missing will undoubtedly be proved to have been killed and others wounded in Hun trenches are doubtless prisoners of war.

(Extract of War Diary from the Australian War Memorial)

Private Frank Duffy was admitted to Stoke-on-Trent War Hospital, Newcastle, Staffordshire, England on 29th July, 1916.

Private Frank Duffy died on 7th August, 1916 at Stoke-on-Trent War Hospital, Newcastle, Staffordshire, England from wounds received in action in France - G.S.W. (gunshot wound/s) to left side of neck; & secondary Haemorrhage & Heart Failure.

A death for F. Duffey, aged 29, was registered in the September quarter, 1916 in the district of Stoke on Treny, Staffordshire, England.

Private Frank Duffy was buried on 11th August, 1916 in Hartshill Cemetery, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire, England – Gravesite – 3rd Class Grave No. 4920. This is now recorded by CWGC as Grave Reference 15404 and he now has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

A War Pension was granted to Lucy May Duffy, 29 Wellesley St. Toronto, Canada, sister of the late Frank Duffy, in the sum of 22/6d per fortnight commencing on 7th October, 1916 & to be revised on 10th October, 1918.

Mrs L. McLean, Douglas St, North Stockton, Newcastle, NSW, wrote to Base Records on 24th October, 1916 asking *"Could you find out if Private Frank Duffy No 2600 55th Battalion Australians died. He was wounded on the 20th of July in France removed from Hospital there to Stoke War Hospital, England, a letter from him on the 1st of August stated he was doing alright. We have no further news."*

Base Records replied to Mrs L. McLean on 27th October, 1916 advising that Private F Duffy *"is reported as having died on 7/8/16 at the War Hospital, Newcastle, from the effects of a gunshot wound in the neck, haemorrhage, heart failure. Detailed circumstances of his loss will not, it is anticipated, be known here until the receipt at a later date of the final official confirming documents from the Front."*

Base Records wrote to Mrs L. McLean, Douglas St, North Stockton, Newcastle, NSW, on 8th October, 1920 with the following: *"I shall be much obliged if you can furnish me with the names and addresses of the parents of the late No. 2600, Private F. Duffy, 55th Battalion, or if they are already deceased, the names and addresses of the late soldier's eldest brother and eldest sister. This information is required in order that the instructions under the Deceased Soldiers' Estates Act of 1918 may be properly complied with when disposing of War Medals, etc. issuable on account of the abovementioned late soldier's service."*

Mrs L. McLean replied to Base Records on 21st October, 1920 *"In reply to your letter asking for particulars of relatives of Private Frank Duffy No 2600 55th Battalion. He lived with us up to the time of enlisting, both Parents were dead and his only sister died while he was here, and having no other relative he left his allotment to me. His last letter was written from Stoke War Hospital England where he died later from gun shot wounds. Trusting these particulars will be satisfactory."*

Base Records wrote to Miss Duffy, 96 Highland Avenue, Rosedale, Toronto, Canada, on 3rd November, 1920 asking *"...if you will inform me whether letters addressed as under will reach you, as I desire to be in a position to dispose of the 1914/15 Star, and other war medals. etc, when available, due on account of the services of your brother, the late No. 2600 Private F. Duffy, 55th Battalion."*

Lucy May Duffy, sister of the late Private Frank Duffy, replied to Base Records on 27th December, 1920 stating she had moved to 188 Glen Road, Rosedale, Toronto, Canada *"but if you have sent anything to 96 Highland Ave it does not matter as I would get it just the same."*

Base Records wrote to Miss L. M. Duffy on 28th February, 1921 with the following : *"It is my painful duty to transmit, per separate registered packet post, one 1914/15 Star as one of the mementos of the gallant service rendered by your brother the late No. 2600 Private F. Duffy, 55th Battalion, with the Australian Imperial Force. The package bears Registered No. 5627 G.P.O. Melbourne and is address as follows:- Miss L. M. Duffy, 188 Glen Road, Rosedale, Toronto, Canada. If it does not arrive within a reasonable time (say 14 days) after receipt of this advice, please cause enquiries to be made from the local postal authorities and notify this office so that investigations may also be made from this end.....The other medal, etc will be transmitted as soon as they are available, no application being necessary."*

Base Records wrote to Deputy Commissioner, Department of Repatriation, Melbourne on 11th September, 1923: *"I shall be much obliged if you will advise me whether any pension is being paid on account of the service of the late No. 2600 Private Frank Duffy, 55th Battalion, and, if so, favor me with the name, address and relationship of the pensioner. It is particularly desired to ascertain the present address of the late soldier's sister, Miss L. M. Duffy, as a communication forwarded to her at 188 Glen Road, Rosedale, Toronto, Canada has been returned unclaimed."*

The Repatriation Commission replied to Base Records on 20th September, 1923 to advise that the *"war pension granted to Miss L. M. Duffy, sister of the abovementioned, was cancelled in London with effect from the 6th November 1918 as pensioner was able to earn her own living. Miss Duffy's address as given on the papers received from the Deputy Commissioner of Pensions, London, was 29, Wellesley Street, Toronto, Canada."*

Base Records wrote to Miss L. M. Duffy at 29 Wellesley St. Toronto, Canada on 27th September, 1923 asking if communications address to her would be received as they desired to transmit the Victory Medal on account of the service of her brother.

Miss Lucy Duffy replied on 5th October, 1923 from 503 Broadview Ave, Toronto, Canada.

Private Frank Duffy was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Duffy's sister – Miss L. Duffy, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll & Plaque issued in England August, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Frank Duffy – service number 2600, aged 30, of 55th Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of John and Margaret Duffy, of Glasgow, Scotland.

A "P. Duffy" is remembered on the Stockton War Memorial, located at Mitchell & Hereford Streets T-intersection, Stockton, New South Wales.

(Note: There is no "P. Duffy" listed on the Roll of Honour at Australian War Memorial who died in WW1. Assuming it should be "F. Duffy.")



Stockton War Memorial (Photos from Monument Australia)



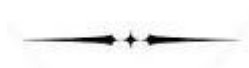
Private F. Duffy is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 160.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

(67 pages of Private Frank Duffy'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



Newspaper Notices

AUSTRALIANS IN ACTION

ROLL OF HONOR

Sydney, Monday – The 193rd casualty list

NEW SOUTH WALES

Wounded -Ptes.....F. Duffy, Canada;....

(Northern Star, Lismore, NSW – 15 August, 1916)

CASUALTIES

Two casualty lists were released yesterday, the 200th and the 201st. The following are the details of the 200th list:-

DIED OF WOUNDS

Pte F. DUFFY, Canada (prev. reported wounded)

(The Daily Telegraph, Sydney, NSW – 29 August, 1916)

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. 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 F. Duffy does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Hartshill Cemetery, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire, England

Hartshill Cemetery, Stoke-on-Trent contains 151 Commonwealth War Graves Commission War Graves – 91 from World War 1 & 60 from World War 2. There are 8 Australian WW1 Graves in this Cemetery.



8 Australian War Graves in Hartshill Cemetery, Stoke-on-Trent

(Photo by ken perkins 2017 – Find a Grave)

Photo of Private F. Duffy's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Hartshill Cemetery, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire, England.



(Photo by Alf -28th61st)



8 Australian War Graves in Hartshill Cemetery, Stoke-on-Trent

(Photo by Callan Chevin)