

To M^r & M^{rs} Ducherne

Jona
M^cPherson St
Bronte Sydney
31/3/16

Dear Sir & Madame

It is with
a feeling of regret & sincere sympathy that
I ask the late Lieutenant's sorrowing Mother &
Father to accept my sympathy. I very much
regret your loss (as well as the loss of our King
& country) at the sudden & untimely "but brave
& glorious" death "on the battlefield" of so
promising an Officer & comrade as you only dear
son Lieutenant Ducherne. I also regret that
I can give you no information as to his last
moments only he was too game & went on
in front shouting to his men to come on, all
at once word was passed along the line that
Lieut Ducherne was down, but there ~~was~~
a lot of short stubbly bushes, which was
tearing our clothes & hands & the fighting
was simply awful "as you already know". I have
been inquiring from any of the old 1st Batt
but there are so few of the Original 1st here
that it is hard to find out anything about
him. One man here who was wounded told
me he was shot stone dead & never moved
& it is a blessing if he never suffered

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I had my two best mates killed the same way they hardly moved. I got mine that morning also, but it only cut my scalp on the top of my head & I went on for sixteen weeks & got knocked at Lone Pine with a shrapnell bullet which broke my thigh. Yes I thoroughly understand the feelings of M^r Duschone & yourself in connection with your son as I can see the havoc that the anxiety of my wounds (& also the wounds of my brother) has done with my own dear parents Oh yes sir its a terrible time & when one looks around Sydney & goes to sports & see the big hulking shirkers in thousands, well its simply deplorable. Yes indeed M^r Duschone your late son was very popular with his men for when he was removed from my old Coy: 5th at Hennington we got up a petition to keep him in our Coy & needless to say my name was one of the first on the list but he told us we had better not put it in, as the military law is strict & he'd better go into another Coy if they told him to. I am sorry I can give you no more information & hope that M^r Duschone & yourself will bear up & consider what an immortal name

Your late son has killed to win for our country & for you & that God in his mercy will help you to bear your troubles I am yours obediently & sincerely where R. M. Duschone 1st Batt.