

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

**1639 Private  
James Paul Cahill**

**56th Battalion**



0670211H

56th Bata  
A.I.F.

CARILL (not Sethill)  
James Paul 1639

"Wounded"

Killed in Action 26.9.17. prev. reported wounded.  
Cert. by A.I.F. HQtrs 17.12.17.

London.  
18.12.17.

S

56th Batt. A.I.F.

*James Paul*  
Cahill, J.P. Pte. NO. 1639.

NO. 5. Plat. B. Coy.

Killed Sept 26th 1917. Det. D.B.

I saw him killed instantly by a shell whilst we were at Polygon Wood. he was buried where he fell by a party from the coy, A temporary cross was erected at the time. I knew him in the coy, I could not say wher he came from.

Description. Height. 5-7. Complexion. Fair. Medium built.

Witness. Sgt. Peterson. P.A. NO. 3638. B. Coy. 56th Batt.

Taken at  
NO. 3. C.D. Hurdcott.  
21-3-18.  
S.W.

S. Whitmee.  
NO. 4. Command Depot  
Hurdcott.

5.

Havre./

22nd. March. 1918.

56th. Australians.

Cahill. J. P. No. 1639.

K. 26th. September 1917. Dets. D/B.

I know Cahill in the Battalion since November 1916. He was a good sized man, full in build, dark, about 28, came with the 2nd. Reinforcements to the 53rd. Battalion, and was from N. S. Wales. On the 26th. September we were at Polygon Wood. He had hopped over and gone right through to our objective. When digging in Cahill raised himself to have a look, and was shot by a sniper through the head. I saw him killed and saw him buried at the back of the trench that same night. The grave was not marked to my knowledge. Shelling was heavy, and we could not stay.

Inf:- Private. E. Elliott. No. 3263.  
56th. Australians.  
B. Company.  
5th. Platoon.  
Australian Camp.  
Houellies.

12.

Bayre.

13th. May. 1918.

56th. Australians.

Cahill, James. 1639.

K. September 26/1917. Data. D/B.

He was in B. Coy, 5th. Pltn. and I had known him for three or four months. He was a big man about 35, a reddish moustache, and was a slow easy going man without much to say, and nicknamed Big Cahill. On September 16th. we were near Polygon Wood holding the line. Just after daybreak Cahill stood up in the trench and said 'They are coming over' when he fell back shot by a sniper quite dead. I was close by. He was buried just a few yards behind the front line trench but I don not know whether there was time to mark the grave.

Inf:- Private. A. A. Jones. 2191.  
56th. Australians. B.  
A. L. "Garrickbrooke Castle".

0830.

S

A. I. F. 56th Bn.

*James Paul*  
CAHILL, J. P. 1639. ✓

Killed Sept. 26/17. Det. D/B.

I knew him before the War in M.S.W. He lived with his sister who had a big farm (Greenvale Farm) at Narandera, a mile from my home. We enlisted together Jan. 22/16, and sailed together April 12/16 in S.S. "Ceramic". I was by his side when he was killed in our attack at Polygon Wood on date mentioned. It was 11.0 a.m. A sniper's bullet got him in the head and he fell dead at my very side. I ran to help him, when another bullet passed through my throat, just missing the windpipe. I saw no more. I never heard about his being buried, but we held that ground (and hold it to-day) and S/Bs covered it all. He was in C. Coy. but I am not sure which Plat.

Reference: H.T. Dunne, 1766, A. Coy. (Runner)

No. 12 General, Rouen, 15.5.18.

AB.

*S. P.*  
*500*

Reyre.

6th. August. 1918.

56th. Australians.

Cahill, J. 1639.

K. September 26/1918. Dets. D/B.

I knew Private 'Ginger' Cahill, 1639, - I know his number well - B. Company, 5th. Platoon. I was right alongside of him in our front line. We had just taken our objective at Pelgon Wood & were digging in when he was sniped through the head & killed instantly. He had a cigarette in his mouth. We held the ground & he was buried near where he was killed. I did not actually see the grave as we were moved on the same night but I know that all our dead were buried the same night.

Inf:- Private. W. G. Fisher. 1655.  
56th. Australians. B. Co.  
Australian Conv. Camp.  
Rouelles.

RDM.

CP.

56th Btn/  
A.I.F.

CANELL  
James Paul 1639.

" Killed in Action 26.9.17"

No trace Germany

Certd. by Capt. Mills. 10.10.19.

London.  
25.10.19.

CHIEF OF CHURCH

8.

VIRGINIA 1131

CHURCH