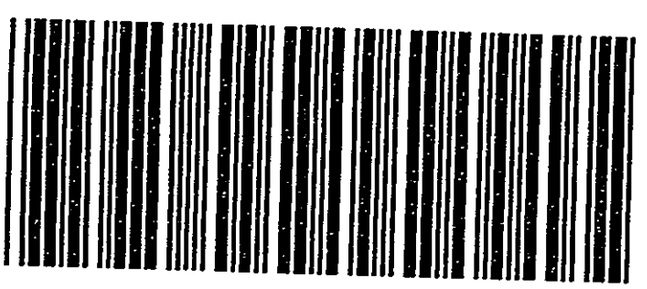
Australian Red Cross Society Wounded and Missing
Enquiry Bureau files, 1914-18 War
1DRL/0428

# 2421 Private Hubert Keane Hitchcock

## 51st Battalion



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A.I.F. 51st Battn.

Battalion Burial Redcrds.

Hitchcock,H.K., 2421; Killed April 24th 1918, Sheet 62D.U.4.b. b.8.8. 1/40,000, cr 62D.U.4.a. b.8.8. 1/40,000.

Cert.by:- W.M.K.
Red Cross Searcher,
Battn. Orderly Room,
Dinant. B.E.F.

London
20.1.19.
J.E.A.

P.

A.I.F. 51st Battn.

HITCHCOCK
H.K. 2421.

"Killed 24.4.18"

D. Company, 13th Platoon, 5ft.8ins, fair, and 29. Came from Western Australia. Was batman to Lieut. Mitchell. At Villers Bretonneux on April 24th 1918 at a little after 10.30 p.m., we were attacking and forcing the Germans back. We had reached the wire entanglements where many of our boys fell to the concentrated machine gun fire. Hitchcock was killed instantly. I saw him dead near the wire. I knew nothing of his Burial.

Informant:- E.A. Smith, 2605,
51st Battn.D. Coy,
13th Platoon.
Dinant.

W.M.K.
London
20.1.19.
J.E.A. Note:- Later, S. Irons confirmed this testimony. S. Irons, 1939, 51st Battn. D. Coy, 14 (formerly 13th) Platoon. He was with Hitchcock when he fell. W.M.K.

P..

51st Battn.

HITCHCOCK
M.K. 2421

K/A. 24/4/18

Was in support trenches at the time of Casualty and was killed instantly by concussion and no marks were on the body. Was buried with four others on Armiens outskirts of Villers Bretteneux. A large cross was erected over the grave and this has since been seen by Informant. Was buried with four others, the five names all told appearing on the one large white cross which was erected.
Description: Came from West Aust. and had been a farmer.

Informant:- 2840
Cpl. Stretcher Bearer R.H. SPICE
Private Address Northan
W.A.

H.P. Nicholas
H.M.A.T. "Demosthenes
14/9/19.

51st Bn. A.I.F. HITCHCOCK, H.K. Pte.

2421.

Killed in Action 24.4.'18.

Was in support trenches at the time of Casualty and was killed instantly by concussion as no marks were on the body. Was buried with four others on Arrions outskirts of Villers Brettenoux. A Large cross was erected over the grave and h has since been seen by the informant. Was buried with four others the five names all told appearing on the one large white cross which was erected.

Description :- Came from West Aust. and had been a farmer.

2840 Cpl. Stretcher Bearer
Spice, R.H.
Northam
W.A.

H.P.H.
Demosthenes.

Enquiry List March 1919 - p.29a. C H.M.A.T. "Commonwealth", 13th. May, 1919.

51st. Battalion. HITCHCOCK, H.K. 2421.

K. April 24/18. Dat.D/B.

Medium height, fair. Belonged to "C" Coy. He left the post for "Sick Parade" when he was marked medicine and duty. On way back to post he was killed. Particulars of casualty not known. He located his grave. He had been buried by Fritz. A nice cross had been put over the grave, painted and full particulars lettered thereon together with a crucifix which had belonged to Hitchcock. Four days after his death I was included in a party ordered to exhume the body for identification. Company C.O. ordered this action. On identification he was re-buried and the same cross left over the grave. Locality - St. Quentin to Cambrai Sector. MATTHEWS of Tasmania and JARMAN of Tasmania (both now returned to Australia) were in burial party. Their addresses not known.

Eyewitness to Grave:- 5326 Pte. W.T.Parkinson, "C" Coy. 51st. Battn.
Private Address:- 53 Landale Street, Launceston. TASMANIA.

Searcher:- Henry Millard. P

No.19562 T/Cpl. Repat. & Demob. Dept. London.
formerly 2nd. Aust. Casualty Clearing Station.
Private Address:- 19 Marian Street, Glenferrie. VICTORIA.

J. A. 1 more

51st Battn.

HITCHCOCK

H.K. - 2421 -

"Killed in Action 24.4.18"

Buried in Adelaide British Cemetery.

LONDON BUREAU
Melbourne 26.10.1920

BASE RECORDS OFFICE
Melbourne 20.5.1920.