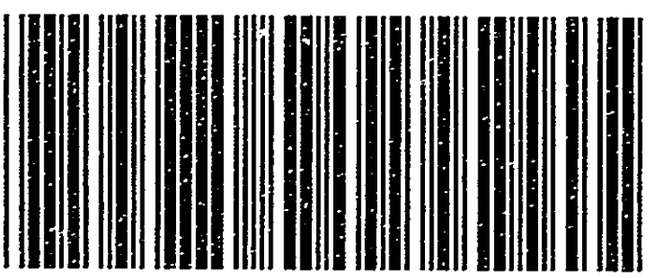
Australian Red Cross Society Wounded and Missing
Enquiry Bureau files, 1914-18 War
1DRL/0428

# 2113 Private Ritchie Lockhart Matheson

## 38th Battalion



1730910L

Havre

8th Octr 1918.

Australians. 38.

Mathieson R.L. No.2113.

K. 10th June 1916. Det D/B.

I saw him killed in a trench at Villers Bretonneux by a whizz bang. He was carried out, and I think he was buried at the Chateau there. He was in the same Company, but I can't say where he came from.

Inf:- Pte T. O'Neill No. 2382.
A.I.F. 38. A. III.
Austra. Conv. Depot.

CHR.

PP

Havre

9th June. 1917.

38th AUSTRALIANS
A. Co.

Mathieson Pte. R.L. 2113.

Lisning

I met him in the Convalescent Camp, Boulogne. He was there when I left on ~~June~~ June 7th. 1917. He had been slightly wounded. He came from Bendigo District, Victoria.

Informant: Pt. A. Shaw 2146
38th Batt., B.Co., V.Pltn.
Australians.
Australian Camp, Rouelles.

HZ.

Havre 12th June. 1917.

38th AUSTRALIANS MATHESON, R.L. 2113
A. Co.

MISSING.

The only Matheson in A. Company is in No. 2 Platoon, and is known as Dick. He came from Horsham, Victoria. He is in No. 1 Convalescent Camp, Boulogne. I saw him two days ago; he was slightly wounded.

Informant: Corpl. J.E. Taylor 402
38th Batt., A.Co., II. Pltn.
Australians.
Australian Camp, Rouelles.

RM. Discharged 6d Boat

A.I.F. 38th Btn

MATHESON
R.L. 2113

"WOUNDED"

Adm. Fovant Mil: Hpl 2-12-16 - under observation

Discharged 7-12-16
Cert. by Hpl Index

Adm. 8th Sty Hpl 2-6-17 - G.S.W. back - slight
Cert. by A.I.F.Headquarters 22-6-17.

Boulogne

London
26-6-17

A.I.F. 38th Btn

MATHESON
R.L. 2113

"Wded May-June"

Adm. 8th Sty Hpl 2-6-17 - G.S.W.Back
Cert. by Hpl Index

Trans - No. 1 Conv: Camp 5-6-17
Cert. by Boulogne letter 11-7-17.

London
14-7-17

38th Battn.
A.I.F.

MATHESON
R.L. 2113

"Killed 10-6-18"

He was in A.Coy., and I saw him killed at Villers-Bretonneux when death was instantaneous, he being hit in the head by piece from shell that landed beside him. Casualty happened at midnight on 9/10-6-18. I knew him fairly well and he came from Victoria. There was no other man of same name in Coy. His body was taken back to Coy. Hqts. for burial. Refer to Cpl.Raybould, who is in A.Coy., 38th Battn., and who I believe is now a Sgt., for he assisted to carry him back to Coy. Hqts.

Informant. McInnes. Sgt.J.W. 497
A.Coy. 38th Battn.
3rd A.A.H.,
DARTFORD.

Note:-
Written Cpl.Raybould. 29-8-18

W.Oman
London
30-8-18
H.G.

P.I.
M

Havre 27th August 1918.

Australians 38.

Mathieson R.L. 2133.
McInnes A.... 2850.
Hart W.H. No. 3982.

K. 10th June 1918. Bat D/5.

Hart I knew well. He came from Castlemaine, Victoria, and had been a cab driver. He was about 26, slim build. McInnes I knew well; he was a tall chap, fair. I don't know where he came from. Mathieson came from Horsham, Victoria, and had been a farmer. About the 10th June we were at Villers Bretonneux holding the line. The three men were part of a Lewis Gun Team, and were on the Lewis Gun post in supports. In the evening the post was hit by a shell and Hart and Mathieson were killed right out. McInnes was badly wounded all down one side and taken to the D/Station, but I heard he died at the C.C.S. I saw the bodies and they were buried at Villers Bretonneux just behind the Red Chateau.

Inf:- Pte. W.E. Brown No.1810.
A.I.F. 13. A. II.
Australian Camp.
Rouelles.

M
P.1

CWSG.

PP

A.I.F. 38 MATHIESON, R.L. 2113.

K.June 10/18. Det. D/B.

Mathieson's home was in Victoria. He was a dark, clean shaven man of medium height. On June 10 we were at Villers Bretonneux when a shell dropped into a L.G.Team who were in the trench. The whole of the team were killed. Mathieson was one of them. He was hit in the head and killed instantly. He was buried in the Cemetery near the bridge at Villers Bretonneux. A cross marks the grave. I have seen the grave and saw him when dead.

Reference: A.Chisholm, 2296. A Co.
No.11 Con.Camp Buchy Nr.Rouen. 28.8.18.

JWA.

M
P.1

FRANCE.

38th BATT. A.I.F. MATHIESON. R.L. 2113.

K.June 10th.1918. Det.

He was a signaller attached to headquarters and he was killed by a shell while in a cellar at Ribemont during the German bombardment. He was buried just outside Ribemont in a Military Cemetery attached to the French Cemetery near the railway line. Whether the cemetery belonged to Ribemont or Mericourt I can't tell, it was just about half way between the two villages.

WSI.

Ref --- Pte R.J.Jackson. 4835.
No 47 Gen. Hospital.

Le Treport. August 31st.1918

Havre

1st Septr 1918.

Australians. 38.

Mathieson R.L. 2113.
Hart W.M. 3082.
McInnes A.A. 2850.

D/W 10th June 1918. Det D/B.

I know them all. Hart was medium height, thin, and thin faced, about 26 years old. McInnes was a tall, thin, fair chap, Mathieson was a little chap with a moustache. About 30 years old. About the 10th June we were at Villers Bretonneux holding the line. These three men were part of a L.G.Team, and were in their post when in the afternoon a stray shell fell dead on it. These three were killed practically right out. I saw the three bodies on strtechers at the R.A.P. at Villers Bretonneux. They would be buried near there.

Inf:- Pte J. [redacted] Owens No.352.
A.I.F. 38, A. III.
Australian Conv. Depot.
Rouelles.

M
P.1

CWEG.

PP.

A. I. F. 38th Bn. MATHIESON, R. L. 2113.

K. June 10/18. Det.D/B.

I saw "Dick" Mathieson killed while we were in front of Viller-Bretonneux(?). He was in an advanced post and I was in the next one about 150 yards off. A shell burst at his feet and he was killed outright. He was buried close by with the 3 others who were killed by the same shell. It occurred about 10.0 a.m. He was a short, thin fellow and came from Horsham.

Reference: G.W.McClure, 460, A.Coy.

No.6 General, Rouen, 2.9.18.

D.M.

M
P.1

38th Battn.
A.I.F.

MATHIESON R.L. 2113
Hart W.M. 3082

"Killed 10-6-18"

Hart and Mathieson were killed outright by the same shell at Villers-Bretonneux, in the trenches holdding the line. I was told by Jim Brown who was with them. Was about back or going back to Battn. I saw their bodies sewn in a blanket. All these are A.Coy. men. Wilson, also A.Coy., was killed at same time, by same shell. He is a man of 5' 7 or 8", medium build, over 11 stone, dark, not black hair, about 27/30, clean shaven. I know nothing of his otherwise. They were buried together at the back of the Chateau, in Villers-Bretonneux. I saw them digging the grave.

Informant. Monaghan. W. 1879
38th Battn. then A.Coy.,
Hut 19,
WESTHAM.

W.A.Rand
London
9-9-18

P.I.
M.

38th Battn.
A.I.F.

MATHIESON.
R.L. 2113.

"Killed 10-6-18"

He was of A.Company, II Platoon. On June 10th at Villers Bretonneux holding the line, at 9 o'clock in night. Was killed outright by shell. Same shell killed W.M.Hart. 3082. of A.Coy. I saw it happen and helped to carry him out to D/S. Was buried in Military Cemetery on main Amiens Villers Bretonneux Road. Cross erected. I have seen his grave. Knew him well. Christian name Dick. Came from Victoria.

Informant:- Pte.R.S.Brown. 6639.
38th Battn. A.Coy. II Pl
HAREFIELD.

A.D.G.
London.
11-9-18.
H.G.

M & P I.

38th Battn.
A.I.F.

R.L

MATHIESON
~~R.E.~~ 2113
Hart W.M. 3082

"Killed 10-6-18"

We were in supports in the early morning, about 2 a.m. on June 10th at Villers-Bretonneux. Fritz was shelling when Hart was caught and killed instantly. Mathieson was hit about the same time. They were taken back by S/Bs about 4 a.m. to dressing station. These men were both in my Pltn. and I presonally saw this. Hart was badly knocked. I could not follow up what happened to these men as I was wounded about 2 p.m. Jn ly 11th.

Informant. Lonsdale. Sgt.H. 479
38th Battn. Pltn. 2, Coy. A.
SOUTHALL.

T.St.J.P.P.
London
10-9-18

P.I.
M.

38th Battn.
A.I.F.

MATHESON.
R.L. 2115.

Killed 10.6.16."

Matheson was in A Company. I saw his body after it was brought in at Villers Bretonneux. He had been killed by a shell the afternoon early in June. I know nothing of his burial. He came from Victoria. He had a brother in the 38th Battalion.

Informant:- L.Cpl. W.J.Cork.
38th Battn. C Coy. H.Q.
Hatley Red X.

G.R.E.
London.
24.9.18.
S.A.

A. I. F. 38th Bn. MATHIESON, R. L. 2113.

K. June 10/18. Det.D/3.

He was in A.Coy. IV Plat. C.and D.Coys. were in the front line, A.and B.Coys. in supports. We were holding a position on the edge of Villers-Bretonneux. At 10.0 p.m. or thereabouts, Jerry began his usual night shelling. Mathieson was killed outright by a shell which fell right over him: death was instantaneous. I was some 7 yards off in the adjoining Plat. He was buried by a chalk pit on the road leading from Villers Bretonneux to La Motte where most of our chaps were then being buried. We called him "Dick"; 28-30; medium build. The same shell badly wounded Sergt. McInnes who died of wounds shortly afterwards.

Reference: Pte.W.H.Martin, 2599, A.III.

No.5 General, Rouen, 21.9.18.

ET.

Havre 4th October 1918.

Australians. 38. Mathieson R.L. No.2113.

K. 10th June 1918. Det D/B.

He was killed by a shell at Villers Bretonneux, and I helped to carry him out. I took him to C. H.Q. He was taken away to be buried but I can't say where as we left the next day. He was about 5 feet 7, medium moustache, aged about 26/27.

Inf:- L/Cpl L.R.Hilson No.2088.
A.I.F. 38. H.Q.
Australian Conv. Depot.

CHR.

PP.

Havre 1st Octr 1918.

Australians. 38. Mathieson R.L. 2113.

K. 10th June 1918. Det D/B.

I just know him. He was a Lewis Gunner. He was about 30, medium and sharp featured. About the 10th June we were in supports at Villers Bretonneux. At night Fritz put over a searching bombardment, and Mathieson, who was in his gun post, was hit and killed right out. I was in a dugout close by, and came out when I heard the noise. The body was taken to Company H.Q., and buried the next ~~morning~~ night, but I am not sure where.

Inf:- Pte H.H.Jerreme No. 4841.
A.I.F. 38. H.Q.
~~HAX~~ Australian Conv. Depot.

CWEG.

PP.

A. I. F. 38.

MATHIESON, R.L. 2113.

K. June 10th, 1918. Det.D/B.

Mathieson's initials were R.L. He was in A.Coy, III or IV pl. and a L/gunner. In June we were holding the line near Villers-Bretonneux and Mathieson was in supports in the morning when he was hit with a shell and killed outright. I was 150 yards away at the time and did not actually see it but Signlr. S.Bentley (still with Bn. I think) was there, saw it, and told me. The body was taken to the R/A/P. to be buried but I do not know where.

DLF.

Informant:- Pte. G.Ranson. 3461. A.Coy.
11 Conv. Camp.

Buchy nr.Rouen
3.10.18.

38th Battn.
A.I.F.

MATHESON.
R.L. 2113.

"Killed in Action 10-6-18"

He was a mate of mine in A.Coy. 2nd Platoon. Everyone knew him as Dick. He had fair hair and blue eyes, was 5ft 6 and 27 years of age. At 1.30.a.m. at Villers Bretonneux on June 10th 1918 we were holding the line at Lewis Gun Post when Dick was killed by concussion from shell. He had no wounds - died instantly. I saw him lying dead in the line. He was buried in a Military Cemetery at the back of Villers Bretonneux. I visited his grave and saw his name on the cross. Fritz never got those parts again. No reference.

Informant:- Muir.W.N.4851.
38th Battn. A.Coy. 2nd Pl.
ALDWYCH.

W.M.K.
London.
9-11-18.
H.G.

M & Boul.

A.I.F. 38th Battn.

MATHESON
R.L.2113 Pte.

"Killed 10/6/18."

I knew Pte. R.L. Matheson. He was a Lewis Gunner. About June 10th last our Battn. was in the support trenches at Villesbrechen. A shell dropped in the trench and killed Matheson and three others of the gun team. I was standing about three or four yards away at the time. He was struck high up in the back and never spoke afterwards. I helped to carry him out of the trench to the Coy Headquarters, where I left him. He was taken from there by the Coy Stretcher bearers and buried in the vicinity, but I cannot say exactly where. The ground was held. Description:- clean shaven, about 22, fairly stoutly built, about 5ft.6ins. Came from Horsham, Victoria. Christian name Dick. He had a brother, Jack, in C. Company.

Informant:- 232 Sgt. Leonard Thomas Breen
(Very intelligent and apparently accurate)
38th Battn. A. Coy,
2, Platoon,
Monyhall Section,
1st Southern General Hospital,
Birmingham.

Home address:-
Berkley Street,
Camperdown,
Victoria. Aust.

I.E. Newman.
19.10.18.
LONDON. 13.11.18. H.G.

B'logne. M.

A.I.F. 38. MATHIESON, R. L. 2113.

K. June 10th, 1918.

I didn't see Mathieson, A.II., killed instantly at Villers-Bretonneux by shrapnel from a 4.5 shell, which hit him in the back, but was told about it by Pte. Geo. Berry, A.II., who was in charge of the L.G. on which Dick Mathieson was. He never spoke after being hit.

Mathieson was a farmer from Horsham, Vic.

Inf. Pte. H. J. Barling, 38.A.II.,
1st S. African Gen. Hosp.,
Abbeville. 4.10.18. HEH.

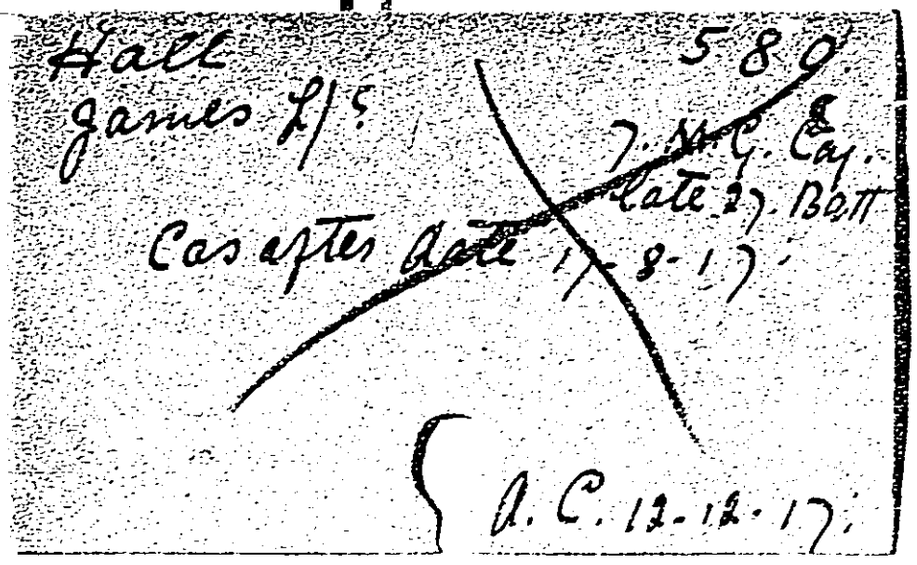
MATHESON. D 9158 1670 ✓

John. Wolfenhüttenmoor Camp 38th Bn. ✓
on 29.6.18 - sailing for expedition
to return Australia 3.7.18.
Has he gone? Yes. W.O. 9.7
Kin's address not failing that
Military district.

Ref. Aust. per D 19 13/8.18. for discharge Asthenia.
Papers in Gen: Correspondence under 3 M.D.
Papers for Victoria of 2113 Pte R.L. Matheson 38th Bn.
TR A 10.6.18.

Mr. Foster
Samuel Matheson.
St. Helens
via Horsham. Vic.

Law.


Hall
James L/S
589.
J. M. C. Esq.
late J. Bott
Cas after date 1-8-17.
A. C. 12-12-17.

Australian Red Cross Weymouth
Society London Littlemoor
June 29th

Please could you tell me anything regarding my brother No 2112 Pte R L Matthews A Coy 36th Battalion I want to know what part of the line where he was killed and where he is buried I am returning to Australia on Nov 16 and would like to know before I go I think it will be about the 8th of July

Yours truly

No 1670 Pte J Matthews
36th Battalion
Littlemoor Camp
Weymouth

YMCA POST CARD.

The Australian Red Cross Society

Velinia Q.

[illegible]

[illegible]

12.3.19

2115

R. L. Matteson

38th Batt

See under

3277 Pte A. G. Cook

33rd Batt

Telephone:— ~~6253~~ VICTORIA.
8576
8577
8578

From

Wounded & Missing Enquiry Bureau,
AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY,
~~54, Victoria Street, London, S.W.~~
36, GROSVENOR PLACE, LONDON, S.W. 1.

# MEMORANDUM.

To 1670 Pte. J. Matheson
38th Bttn. A.I.F.
Dilkeenoor Camp
Weymouth.

9.7.18.

Dear Sir.

With reference to your enquiry for your brother 2113 Pte. R. L. Matheson 38th Bttn. A.I.F. we regret that we have not yet been able to procure any information about him as you anticipate leaving for Australia so soon, we should be glad if you would send us an address there, to which we can forward any reports we may get. We should also advise you to apply to our Melbourne Office, Colonial Mutual Buildings 60. Market Street, Melbourne ~~as to cable at information for letters~~ with which we are in constant communication both by cable & letter.

With good wishes Yours faithfully
Vera Deakin Lee.
D.S.

To
Cpl Raybould
A Co.
38 Battn
A.I.F.

Also
2113 Pte R. L. Matthieson
38 Battn
A.I.F.

K June 10/18

Written 29.8.18

**FRONT** French

K.D.A.—F. 1.20.

| N AS TO k | Battalion and Regiment. | Co. | Platoon | Casualty. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 14 / 41 F | A | | K Mar 31/16 |

| BY k. | Battalion and Regiment. | Co. | Platoon | Home Address. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 14 A I F | A | | |

**INFORMANT**

first person)...

the French Cemetery Villers at
J Wood following that burial

**THE FOLLOWING :—**

e name, number, etc., } ran who told him. }

t says a man was killed, } h instantaneous? } ody buried, & if so where? }

ny other man of same } o. or Battalion? }

*Signature of Searcher* } Jean Ubsdell

*Date of Report* Aug 19 18