

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

**403A Private
Matthew Roy Cathcart**

53rd Battalion



0710304F

53rd Battalion.
Late 36th B.

CATHCART H.R.
No. 403A Private.

Killed in Action 23/9/17.

Informant described Cathcart as about 5 ft. 2 inches high, slight build, fairly dark complexion, aged about 20. Used to work at Norman Shelly's, Sydney.

Informant stated that on 24/9/17 (not 23rd) the Battalion was just outside Polygon Wood near Ypres, holding the line and preparing to go over on the 26th. Both Cathcart and Informant belonged to the Headquarters Signallers, and at the time were in a Pillbox. Cathcart was nearest to the window, attending to the telephone. A shell came just outside the Pillbox and shattered the cement which fell blew in the window, and the fragments hit Cathcart. He did not appear to be seriously hurt, and Informant was surprised to learn from me that the wounds had proved fatal. He was taken away about 10 minutes after being struck, and Informant saw no more of him.

Informant added that Cathcart was well liked, and one of the best Signallers in the Battalion.

INFORMANT:

Private W. Henderson, 2857,
Headquarters Signallers,
53rd Battalion,
17 Llandaff Street,
Waverley.

HOME ADDRESS:

W.E.G.
No. 4 Australian General Hospital,
SYDNEY. 26/2/18.

SYDNEY BUREAU.

Home address:
Corralin,
Eaton Street,
Willoughby,
N.S.W.

3/12/17.
H.M. Pickard - Cambridge.

53 . A.I.F.

Cathcart M.R. 403A

K. Sept.23.17.
Det.D/B.

"I was only 20 yds from Pte. Cathcart (53.A.1) when he was killed instantaneously by a shell at 2 p.m. about Sept.23rd at Hell Fire Corner (Ypres) we were retiring in the open while moving up to the front line when a shell burst and there were several casualties. He was buried close to the spot where he was killed by the R.C. Chaplain, Father Kennedy (attd 14 Bgde.5 Div.) I attended the funeral. There was no cross there but probably one was put up later. We were both in four section."

Eyewitness: Yes.

Description: Thin built chap, looked miserable, single, joined up lately.

Informant: Pte.L.Bugden.3352,
A Coy, 1 pltn.. S
53 A.I.F.
3rd, Southern General Hospital
The Base, Oxford

53rd. Battn.
A.I.F.

CATHCART
M.R. 403A.

Killed 23/9/17.

I saw him blown to bits by a shell in a sort of trench at Tympres. He was not buried for obvious reasons. The same shell that killed him wounded me. I knew him well. He came from N.S. Wales, was of medium height and complexion. He was well-liked by all the chap.

Ref. C.S.Pryor, 152a,
53rd. Battn.
Harefield. W.32.

W. Alison.
London.
23.11.17.

S.

FRANCE.

53rd. BATT. A.I.F.

^c
WATHCART. M.R. 403A.

X. Sept 23rd. 1917 Det.

HADDOCK. A. 3510.

Both these men were in A. Coy, 1 Platoon and it was Haddock's first time in with us. They were both killed by a shell which landed in the dug-out where they were at Half-way House past Dickebusch. They were buried within 100 yards of the dug-out.

WSI

Ref ---Pte P. Sinclair. 2521.
No 47 Gen. Hospital.

NOTE. The date should probably be Sept 28th.

Le Troport. Nov 23rd. 1917

Havre

1st Dec. 1917.

53rd AUSTRALIANS

CATHCART, R.R. 403A

R. 23.9.17. Bot. D/B.

He was in A Coy. He was in the same company, but I did not know him personally. On the Ypres sector at Midway House, Sunday afternoon, the 23rd Sept., A Co. was in reserve, 3 miles behind the line. A shell burst and killed four men, and he was killed instantly. The four were buried together. The men were Cathcart, Clifton, Dechert, and Gennors. (See HQ BATTERY reports on last 3 men).

Incident: Lts. J. Lynch, 1940
53rd AUSTRALIANS, A Co., 3rd Pltn.,
Australian Camp, Rouelles.

S

27