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

1983 Private
Alan James Mather

33rd Battalion



1730808R

33rd Btn.
A.I.F.

MATHER
Alexander James 1983.

"Killed in Action 8.6.17"

No trace Germany sent by Capt. Hills. 10.10.19.

London.
20.10.19.

S.&.P. I.

33rd Battn
A.I.F.

MATHEW.
A.J. 1965

"Killed 8.6.17."

Messines he was blown to pieces by shell when in the trenches. I was right alongside of him when knocked. He was a mate of mine. Nuggety, fair age, about 34 came from Inverell. N.S.W. I think his father was mayor of Inverell for a time.

Witness:-
Pitkin. 1227
Ward 38.
- Harefield.

D.P. Dickson.
London.
28.8.17.

S

33rd Battn
A.I.F.

Mather
A.J. 1983

"Killed 8.6.17."

I saw him killed at Messines. He was caught by a shell which hit him in the head, killing him instantly. I do not know place of burial as I was wounded the same morning and I cannot refer to anyone. I knew him well, we left Australia together and there was no other of that name in the Coy.

Withess:-
Pte. H.J. Taylor. 1924
33rd Battn D. Coy., 16ht Pln.
3rd A.A. Hospital,
Dartford.

W. Oman,
London.
2.9.17.

S

33rd Batt. A.I.F.

MATHER A. J. 1983.
"D" Coy., No 14 Platoon.

" K. June 8th.,'17. Det D & B ".

" Mather was killed during a charge at Plug St., Wood, on June 8th.,'17. We were near each other, and crossing No Man's land, when a shell exploded near Mather, killing him instantly. He was carried back, and should be buried in one of the cemeteriesjx just behind the line. I left the line wounded during the same day. We were in the same Coy., and knew each other fairly well. "

Description. Hgt 5ft7. Dark complexion. Thick Set.

Witness. Clarence L/Cpl R.F. 1098.
33rd Batt. "D" Coy.

Taken at No 7 Command Depot,
Hurdcott. J.G.W.
September 24th.,'17.

S. Whitmee.
No 4 Command Depot.
Codford.

S

33rd Batt. A.I.F.

MATHER A.J. 1983
"D" Coy., No 16 Platoon.

" K. June 8th.,'17. Det D & B ".

" I saw Mather lying dead in No Man's land at Plug St., Wood, on June 7th. He had been hit badly in the head with a shell I examined him, and made quite sure he was dead. Cannot say if he was buried, as I left the battalion myself the same day, being wounded. Mather came from Inverell, N.S.W. and I knew him quite well

Description. Hgt 5ft8/9. Fair complexion, and hair. Thick Set.

Witness. Oberg O.L. 2371.
33rd Batt. "D" Coy.

Taken at No 3 Command Depot,
Hurdcott. J.C.W.
September 28th.,'17.

S. Whitmee.
No 4 Command Depot,
Codford.

33rd A.I.F.

Mather Pte. A.J. 1983,

(r. June 8/17 Det D/B)

"I was told by Pte. Ginger that he had buried Allan Mather after the advance at Messines on the field and that he had been killed instantaneously by a piece of shell".

Eye-witness: No, told by Pte. Ginger, 33rd A.I.F.

Description: Middle height, fair, none.

Informant: Pte. J.J. Ross 1963,
33rd A.I.F., A. Coy. I Plt.,
Military Hospt.,
Devonport.

Home address:
Glen Innes,
N.S.W.

S

Nov. 5/17,
V.A. Rudge.

Written Ginger
15.11.17

33rd Battn.
A.I.F.

Mather.
Alan Jas. 1983

"Killed in Action 8.6.17"

"A man named Hadkins reported him to be buried in Ploegsteert Wood"

Information given by Enquirer 26.11.17.
London Office 28.11.17.

London.
3.12.17.

S.
P.I.

Note Written Pte.Hadkins 29.11.17.

Mather.
A.J. 1983

33rd Battn.
A.I.F.

"Killed 8.6.17"

I saw him killed outright in Fritz 3rd line at Messines just off Ploegsteert Wood. He was in same company as myself. I was wounded about the same time and came in and cannot say if he was buried. The ground was taken and held.

Witness:-
A.Rouke 1234
33rd Battn.
D.Coy.
Hut.19 Westham.

W A Rand

London.
17.12.17.

P.I.
S.

35rd Battn.
A.I.F.

Mather.
A.J. 1983

"Killed in Action 8.6.17"

Re Alan J.Mather. I have known Pte.Mather for the past two years having been one of his section comrades since joining up. He came from Inverell N.S.W. was a rather stout built man of about 5'8" between 12 and 13 stone weight. He was killed in the Messines advance on the morning of June 7th, but as to the correct place of his burial I am not certain but I might state that the majority of the boys of the 35rd Battn. killed in the Messines fight were buried at a place known as Dead Horse Corner situated on the edge of Ploegsteert Wood and St.Ives Avenue and from the above you may locate his grave. I might also state I have written to one of my old comrades now with the 35rd Battn. asking him particulars concerning Pte.Mather grave and when they come to hand I will gladly forward them along. Pte.Mather was a very particular friend of mine and as to him being one of the unfortunate to fall there is no doubt.

Letter from:- W.L.Hadkins1142
No.1 Camp
C.T.Depot.
Parkhouse. 7.12.17.

London.
27.12.17.

S.
P.I.

33rd Battn.

MATHER A.J.
1983 Pte

Killed in Action 6/6/17.

Mather was in D.Co. with me, his name was Allen and he was a late member of the original Battn. He was killed at Ploegsteert near Messines on 7/6/17 and I saw his dead body in No Mans Land not far from that of 1078 Bacon W.H. I am certain it was on the first day of the attack. Mather had been killed outright I could tell. I passed within 2 yards of his body which was almost on the edge of a shell hole and I am certain it was he. I was wounded in the evening of the same day and do not know where he was buried.

Informant: Oberg, O.L. Pte 2371
33rd Battn. D.Co. XIII Platoon.
No.4 Australian General Hospital,
RANDWICK.

A reliable and careful witness.

Pl
Sydney Bureau.

H.S.O.
6/1/18.

33rd Battalion A.I.F.

MATHER A.J. P8e.
No 1983

"Killed 8/6/17"

Informant described Mather as about 5ft 9 inches high, well built, fair complexion, aged about 30. His father lives at Belgravia, Inverell.

Informant states that on 7/6/17 the Battalion took part in the first days operations against Messines. They hopped over at about 4 a.m. At about 10 a.m. the right flank of "D" Coy to which Mather belonged mistook an order. Mather was in an advanced post. He was told to come back to the advanced line when a shell burst near him and wounded him. Informant did not see him hit but saw him about an hour afterwards. He was then unconscious. Informant was told that he died about 1½ hours after being wounded, before he had reached the Dressing Station. There is little doubt that he was buried at Ploegsteert.

Informant added that he was in the habit of seeing Mather constantly. He was a fine chap, well liked and popular with his comrades.

Informant: P'te A.D. Frater, No 771, 33rd Battalion
Home address: Ross Hill, Inverell.

X had come back to the old line. He was on his way back to the advanced line.

W.E.G.
No 4 A.G.H. SYDNEY
7/3/18.

Sydney Bureau

Pte GINGER GC

33 A.I.F.

B.S.7.

about

A. J. MATHER

1893

33 A.I.F.

Killed 8.6.17

Sur.

15.11.17

Hadkins GC 1142
Pte Wm Lawrence
33 Bn
C Tohoop France 28.3.17 sick
D Ref Vol 24 26-3-17
Bulton 31.10.17 Blighty C T-D
Pontisse 8.11.17
file under
A. J. MATHER
33 Battn
for C. J. Mather
33 Bn

26 Leinden Gardens
Nottinghill Gate W.2.
24th November 1917.

Dear Miss Deakin

Am writing to ask if you would please obtain particulars of one of your Australian soldier killed in France last June. His people live in Sydney & heard that a man named Hadkins said the boy was buried at Flowerstreet woods but they would like more news. The name & number is

No 1983
Private A. J. Mather
D. Company 9th Brigade
33rd Battalion
A. I. F.

Do you think it would be advisable to advertise in the British Aust. as it may meet the eye of someone who knew him?

Thanking you for your trouble

I remain
Yours truly
May Dr. Hamilton.

November 29th, 1917.

Mrs.McKinnon,
26, Linden Gardens,
Nottinghill Gate, W.2

Dear Madam,

In answer to your enquiry about

1983 Pte.A.J.MATHER,
33rd Battalion,
A.I.F.

who was reported Killed in Action 8.6.17, we have reports from several men in the same Battalion and give them for what they are worth.

1227 Pte.Pitkins, says "He was killed by shell when in the trenches. I was right alongside of him when knocked. He was a mate of mine, came from Inverall, N.S.Wales, I think his Father was Mayor of Inverell for a time.

1924 Pte.H.J.Taylor, says "I saw him killed at Messines. He was caught by a shell which hit him in the head, killing him instantly I do not know place of burial, as I was wounded the same morning and I cannot refer to anyone. I knew him well, we left Australia together, and there was no other of that name on the Coy."

1098 L/Cpl.R.F.Clarence, reports "Mather was killed during a charge at Ploegsteert Wood on 8.6.17, We were near each other and crossing No man's Land, when a shell exploded near Mather. killing him instantly. He was carried back, and should be buried in one of the cemeteries just behind the line. I left the line wounded during the same day. We were in the same Coy., and knew each other fairly well".

2371 Pte.C.L.Oberg, reports "I saw Mather lying dead in No Man's land at Houegsteert Wood on June 7th. He had been hit badly

in the heads with a shell. I examined him and made quite sure he was dead. Cannot say if he was buried as I left the Battalion myself the same day, being wounded. Mather came from Inverell1l New South Wales, and I knew him quite well".

1963 Pte.J.J.Ross, was told by Pte.Ginger 03rd A.I.F., "That he(Ginger) had buried Allen Mather after the advance at Messines on the field and that he had been Killed instantaneously by a piece of shell". We have written to have this verified by Pte. Ginger, so should we hear any more particulars about his burial we will let you know at once.

We will endeavour to trace Pte.Hadkins, in order that we may ascertain if he was in the burial party.

We are in communication with his Father in Australian through our Sydney Bureau.

Yours faithfully,

SECRETARY.

CG

November 30th, 1917.

1142 L/Cpl.W.L.Hadkins,
33rd Aust.Inf.Bttn,
Convalescent Training Depot,
Parkhouse, Salisbury Plain.

Dear Cpl.Hadkins,

We have been making enquiries concerning

No 1983 Alan J.MATHER,
3rd Battalion,
A.I.F.

"Reported "Killed in Action 8.6.17".

and have been lately informed that "A man named Hadkins reported him to be buried in Ploegsteert Wood,"

We should be very grateful for the sake of our enquirers, if you would kindly write and give us any details you are in possession of concerning Pte.Mather & if you can supply a rough location of his grave, we could then apply to Graves Registration & Enquiries, for a photograph to be sent to the next of kin.

We should also be glad if you could add a short personal description or any points that would enable us to prove identity.

With all good wishes.

Yours faithfully,

V.D

SECRETARY.

Acc
F21.6.18
10.12.17

1983

A. J. MATHER

33 Bn AIF

KA.8.6.17

1142-Cpl. Hadkins W L
No 1. Camp.
C. T Depot
Parkhouse
7/12/17

S. P. 1
4

To. Secretary
Aus Red Cross

C.

Dear Sir

Your letter of. November th 30. re. information of one Alan j Mather No 1983.
D. Company
33RD Battalion

Well I have known Pte Mather for the past two years. having been one of his Section Comrades since joining up. he came from. Inverell N.S.W was a Rather Stout-built man of abt 5FT. 8. inches 12 & 13 stone weight. he was killed in the Messines advance, on the morning of june 7th. but as to the correct place of his burial I am not certain, but I might state that the majority of the Boys of the 33RD Batt killed in the Messines Fifth were buried at a place known as (Dead horse corner) Situated on the edge of Ploegsteert Wood. & St Yves avenue & from the above you may locate his grave. I might also state I have wrote to one of my old Comrade now with the 33RD Batt asking him particulars concerning. Pte Mather grave, & when they come to hand I will gladly forward

them along. Pte Mather was a very particular friend of mine and as to him being one of the unfortunate to fall, there is no doubt. // trusting that the information herein will be of use

I remain yours
faithfully
W. L. Hawkins

//

28th January 1916.

Mrs. Mc.Kinnon,
26 Linden Gardens,
Notting Hill Gate, W.2.

Dear Madam,

We have received further unofficial reports about Pte. A.J. Mather 1993-33 Batt.

Pte. W.L. Hadkins 1142 knew him for two years and said he came from Inverell N.S.W. was stoutly built about 5ft. 8" and between 12 and 15 stone weight. He was killed in the Messines advance on the morning of July 7th. Hadkins could not say where he was buried, but said most of the Batt. killed in that fight were buried at a place known as "Dead Horse Corner" on the edge of Ploegstreet Wood and St. Ives Avenue. He added that Pte. Mather was a very particular friend of his.

Pte. E. Rourke 1234-33 Batt. saw him killed outright in the Frits 3rd. Line at Messines just off Ploegstreet Wood. He was in the same Company as myself. I was wounded about the same time and came in and cannot say if he was buried. The ground was taken and held.

We hope these details and the knowledge that his death

was instentaneous may be of some comfort to his people.

Yours faithfully,

Secretary.