

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

1796 Sergeant
Dudley Shearwin
Matheson

13th Battalion



1730905P

A.I.F. 13.

MATHESON, Sgt D.S. 1796

M. April 11th 1917.

Sgt Jones, D.Coy. should be able to give particulars as I heard from him that Sgt Matheson had been killed by a bullet during the advance at Bullecourt on April 11th. I know nothing about Matheson, except that he was an original Pattn. man.

Inf; Pte W.J. Collins. 6723, 13.D.
2nd Army Rest Camp.
BOULOGNE. 25.7.17.

HMH

Written Sgt Jones 15.5.17

S.P.I.

Havre

18th June, 1917.

13th AUSTRALIANS

MATHESON, Sgt. D.S. 1796

M. 11.4.17.

He was in D Co., 13th platoon. Corpl. Purcell of the 13th battalion; D Co., 13th platoon, told me that Matheson was killed on April 11th, 1917 at Bullecourt; he did not say that he saw him. Others in his platoon also told me that he was killed.

Informant: Pte V. Christie, 1523,
13th Australians, D Co., 13th Pltn.,
Australian Camp, Rouellee.

Written Cpl Purcell 15.7.17
RDE

Barre

18th Aug. 1917.

13th AUSTRALIANS

MATHESON, Sgt. D.S. 1736

H. 11.4.17.

I knew him well. His initials are as stated, and the number about as given. He was in my company. We were attacking the Hindenburg Line at Bullecourt on the 11th April, 1917 and when we reached the front German wire, we were subject to a terrific machine gun fire, and D Co. being the first over suffered heavily. When we were returning, Sergt. Wolfe of D Co., 13th Pltn. told me that he saw Sergt. Matheson lying over the German wires dead, being shot through the head and stomach. We retired after that. I know nothing further of what took place.

Informant: Corpl. R.G. Falton, 3522
13th Australians, D Co., 14th Pltn.;
H. 5. Garishbrook Castle.

P-1
S
I do D.

(COPY)

Statement made by No. 3522 Cpl Walton R. 13th Bnre No. 1796 Sgt Matheson D.S. 13th Bn
Missing 11.4.17

I can make you no conclusive statement that the above Sgt Matheson was killed or that D.S. were his initials. There was a Sgt Matheson in my coy whom I was told was killed on 11th April just after my coy reached the German wire in the attack on Bellecourt. The Sgt Matheson I refer to came back to the Bn from England between February and March of this year, and joined my coy again at Mesnil, France. He had been wounded at Pozieres, I used to call him Bob.

Dated at Exeter this 3rd day of September 1917.

(Sgd) R.G. Walton.

Statement made and signed before me

(Sgd) C. Bean

P.I. 12
S.

13th Australians

^h Matherson Sgt. D.S.
D.S. 1796,
A. Coy.

(H. Apl. 11/17)

Sgt. Matherson on Apl 11/17 was in an attack at Bullecourt at 4.30 a.m. His was the first Coy. over, they had to pass through a terrific gun barrage. Only 19 men survived out of a Coy. of 156. Informant was one of the 19. Sgt. Matherson's body was seen lying on the German wire.

Eye-witness: Yes

Description: 5ft 6 or 7, medium colouring, 24 years old. clean-shaven, medium build, very pleasant and popular. Sgt. to XIII Plt.

Informant Cpl. Robert Walton 3522,
13th Australians, D. Coy., XIV Plt.,
No. III military Hospt.,

Home address:
240 Stanton St.,
Newcastle-on-Tyne.

Aug. 20/17,
E. Benson.

P.1
S
20/17

ORIGINAL STATEMENT FORWARDED.

B394/7/14

(COPY)

Statement made by No. 1 Lt D'Arcy Irvine 13th Bn

re No. 1796 Pte Matheson D.S. 13th Bn

Reported Missing 11.4.17

I could not give any definite information.

Dated at Perham Downs this 23rd day of August 1917.

(Sgd) C. D'Arcy Irvine

Statement made and signed before me

(Sgd) W. Defonshaw

P.I.

S

13th A. I. F.,

Matheson, Sgt. D.S. 1796,
D.Coy. 16 Pln.

M. Apl. 11/17.

"On Apl. 11/17 at Bullecourt I saw Matheson in the barbed wire between two German lines and that was the last I saw of him as we had to retire. For further information refer to Sgt. Wolf, D.Coy., 13th A.I.F., France. I was in 16 Pln. in Apl. and he was our Pln. Sgt."

Eye Witness: Yes.

Description: Called "Mat", of slight build, clean shaven.

Informant:-- Pte. C. A. Dalton, 6727,
13th A. I. F., D.Coy. 13 Pln.,
3rd London General Hosp:
Wandsworth, S.W.

Home address:-- Darling Street,
Bubbs, N.S.W.

25.9.17.

Maud Hammond.

Wrote William Matheson's wife.
4.10.17

P.1
S

A.I.F. 13.

MATHESON, Sgt D.S. 1796

M. April 11th 1917.

We were at Bullecourt on April 11th. I was told by some of the men in D.Coy whose names I forget that they saw him killed during the attack at Bullecourt but I did not hear where he was buried. He joined the 21st 13th Battn in Egypt as a Reinf. was wounded at Pozieres last year, went to England and rejoined the 13th just before Bullecourt. He was about 5ft 5, medium colour, 23 years, single, very well educated man.

Parry
Inf: Cpl. A.C. ~~Pelly~~ 2003. 13.D.XIII
No. 8 Stat
BOULOGNE. 29 10.17.

FRBL

P.1
1450-S

13th A.I.F.

MATHESON Sergt. D.S. No. 1796.

A. 11th April 1917.

After we left the Somme when we were coming out of the line into supports, a shell dropped and killed three and wounded three. Matheson was blown to pieces. I did not see him killed but was called out in the burial party. The remains were wrapped in a blanket and buried in the open. There were many other graves around but it was a wild place, and heavy shelling going on. I went into hospital on the 16th day and I know it was about a fortnight before that. I knew Matheson well, I was with him at Codford, England. He was at Tel-el-Kebir with us in Egypt. He was about 5 ft 8, dark hair, clean shaved, medium build, looked about 32. He was a Sergeant in C. Company.

Inf:- Pte Chas Greer No. 2972.
Amb. T. 'Stad Antwerpen'.
Calais. 14.4.17. - 3H.

P.1
S

Not sure *Obviously another man*

Mavre
15th A.I.F.

19th Dec 1917.
MATHESON Sergt. D.S. No. 1796.

A. 11th April 1917.

I knew Sergt. Matheson of, I think, B. Company slightly and saw him wounded in front of Reincourt about 7 a.m. on the 11th April in the Hindenburg line. I helped to dress his wound; he was badly hit in the arm, leg, and chest, also a scratch on the face; he could not walk. We put him in a German dug out and he was left behind when we evacuated the ground about 2 p.m. I did not hear any more of him. He was about 33 years, fairly tall, medium build, dark hair, clean shaven.

Inf:- S/Cpl T.L. Stan No. 1194.
15th A.I.F. A.S. 14 Pltn.
Australian Camp.
Boulogne.

P.H.

\$ Q 1 12/17

A.I.F.
13th. BATTALION.
(late 30th. Battalion)

D. S. Matherson. Sergeant
No. 1796.

"Killed in Action 11/4/17".

Sergeant H. L. Lake was a prisoner with me and in the same Hospital, (Verder) in Germany. He was a cousin of Mathersons and told me that he saw Matherson killed at Bullecourt on the 11/4/17. We were taken prisoners on that date.

Informant:- A. Crago, 2383,
13th. Battalion.

Coast Hospital,
Little Bay.
25/7/18.
B.M.

Time canal
S.
P. 1. ✓
File filed

SE77

POST CARD

SE77



AM

ADDRESS ONLY TO BE WRITTEN ON THIS SIDE

118

11 NOV 18

The Secretary
Wounded & Missing Enquiry
Bureau
Australian Red Cross Socy
36 Grosvenor Place
C
LW1

Temperance Collegiate Association

(Incorporated 1901).

METROPOLITAN AND HOME COUNTIES CENTRE.

From the Hon. Organizing Secretary:

P. L'H. BOTTLE-GILL, F.T.C.A.,
77 Wellington Road, West Norwood, S.E.

SAVE AN POSTAGE.

I am exceedingly obliged
to you for the information
you have given me with
regard to the late

Mrs. D. I. Matheson.
L. 1796 Dec 13th B.
A. J. J.

P. L'H. Bottle-Gill

Dear

77, WOLFINGTON ROAD,

RECEIVED

WEST NORWOOD, S.E. 27

1 NOV 1918

31-10-18

EARLTON HOUSE TERRACE

Dear Sir. *Ans. 11.18*

A friend in Australia
has written to me informing me
that his son, who was in
the 13th A.I.F. has been
missing since 1914 & begs me
to make any possible enquiries
of the British Red Cross, as
to whether they can obtain
any information. After such
a long period I am afraid
it is quite hopeless. The 13th
was I believe, at the Gallipoli.
The information I have is as
follows:-

Sergt. D. S. Matheson.
13th A.I.F. Capt. Australia in

1914 - just afterwards ~~was~~ his
Commission was gazetted a
week (about), after ~~the~~ 14th
he was reported missing.

Age 19. 4th 1496, Sergt D.S.
Matthew D. Coy. 13th A.I.D.

Since the report of his
being missing he news has
been received by his parents,
who have already furnished
particulars to the Australian
Red Cross.

Yours faithfully,
P. J. B. Gill

The Secretary
Wounded & Missing Dept.
British Red Cross
Carlton House, London

64 Leopold St.
Leeds.

4th Oct. 1914.

Dear Sirs

I wish to make enquiries
with regard to Sgt. D. Matheson,
(1496). D. Company 13th
Aus. Infantry, who has been
missing since April last.

I understand that a Plé.
Woodecock was with him. Is
it possible for you to get
into touch with the latter?

I should be very much
obliged for any information
you could give me.

Thanking you in
anticipation.

Yours truly

Gladys. E. Bean

Sgt. ^D S. Matheson 1796.
13 Batt.

see under

Lt. C. E. Wailes 2616.
7th Field Co. Engs.

7.8.17.

Sgt. D. S. Matheson 1796.
13 Batt.

see under

Pte. C. E. Wailes 2616.
7th Field Co. Engs.

10/8/17. (C)

4.10.17

Sgt. WOLF

D. Coy.

13th Battr.

A.I.F.

B.E.F.

About

1796 Sgt. D.S. MATHESON

D. Coy. - 16 Plat.

13th Battr.

A.I.F.

M. 11. 4. 17

W.E.
5-10-17

(2-10-17)

Sgt- WOLFE

D. Co 13th Plt

13th Bator a 17

about
1796 Sgt- D. S. MATHESON

13th Bator

N/ 11-4-17.

CA.
6.10.17

Sgt JONES

(16-8-17)

D. Co

13 Batt AIF

13 EF

for

1496

Sgt D.S. MATHESON

13 Batt A.I.F

13

M. 11. 4. 17

17-8-17

C. Boitet - Gill Esq.
77 Wolfington Road.
West Norwood.
S.E. 27

5.11.18 ✓

Dear Sir - your letter of 31st ult. has
been forwarded to us from B.P.C.S.
Carlton House Terrace, as we are the
only organisation that makes inquiries
for members of the A.I.F.

With reference to your inquiry for
1796 Sgt. D.S. Matheson 13th Batt
A.I.F. who is officially reported to be
missing since 11.4.17 ^(not 1914) - we beg to
inform you that we have already sent
all available information concerning
him to our Sydney office in answer
to an Australian inquiry.

Definite news of Sgt. Matheson's fate
has never been received - but
in the unofficial reports of men of the
same battalion, he is stated to have
been seen dead near the German
wire - and we fear that this

INQUIRY BUREAU, 39 BROAD STREET, BRISTOL.

Cross Index No. 32854A

NAME Bryant, B. D. No. _____ Rank Lt.
(Surname first)
 •Regiment 44th A. I. F. Coy. B Plat. _____
 Hospital Southmead Ward 1
 Arrived 4/10/18 At Front from June 1917 To 29/9/18
 Home Address c/o H. Nathan, Geraldton, W. Australia
 Depot _____

GIVES INFORMATION REGARDING:—

Missing man Tuke, S. Casualty? W & M. Mar 28/18
 Regiment A. I. F. Battln. 44 Coy. _____ No. 2521
 Red Cross List dated 1st. September 1918 page 32A

B. E. F.

I believe Tuke was killed by a shell. His body was covered over with several others by the Germans where he fell. Subsequently Lt. Anketell was sent down to find these missing men and found Tuke's body with the others. They were then buried properly and a cross erected over the grave. I believe he was killed near Salle-le-Sec.

²
evidence of his death
must be covered as there has
never been any trace of him as a
prisoner of war in Germany--

We have ~~now~~ ^{now} reluctantly been
(compelled to remove Sgt. Matheson's
name from our list to make room
for more recent casualties--
but in any case we fear it ~~was~~ ^{would}
have been impossible ~~to do so~~
to take a list of the particulars
to obtain further & more definite
information.

(Assuming Sgt Matheson
people of true sincere sympathy
in their loss
✓

Note Written at Piper & St Aubertell
19.10.18

Any Nickname? _____ Christian Name? Stanley
Any Tattoo Marks? _____ Scars? _____
When last seen, and where? _____ Date _____
Was it light or dark at the time? _____
If killed, was body buried, and where? _____
Engagement or Circumstance? _____ Place? _____
Was the ground held or not? _____
Were you an eye-witness? _____
If not, who told you, and when? } _____
Give man's No. and Rank, if possible } _____
Any other man of same name in Battln.? _____
Searcher's opinion of Informant _____
Searcher's Name H. Rich
Dated 6/10/18 PB

(13.7.17)

Cpl PURCELL

D Co

13 Batt AIF

B.E.F

for

1796 Sgt D.S. MATHESON

13 Batt AIF

M. 11. 4. 17

Gw.

17.7.17.

Road FRONT France

AS TO

KDS-V.12M

Battalion and Regiment.	Co.	Pla- toon	Casualty.
19 th AIF			M/ May 3/17

Battalion and Regiment.	Co.	Pla- toon	Home Address.
18 th AIF			

INFORMANT.

(first person).

(A.co) and Joe Silk, both of the 19th AIF, pals of mine, had been killed in and that they had seen their bodies. a 1st reinforcement for the 56th AIF but, on a 1st AIF.

RECEIVED

11 JUL 1917

FOR HOUSE TIERMAG

THE FOLLOWING:-

give name, number, etc.,
the man who told him.

Pte Frank Donnel, A Co. 19th AIF
Pte Joe Silk 19th AIF

Informant says a man was killed,
death instantaneous, and was
buried, and if so where?

Death with the battalion in France

Are there any other men of same
in Co. or Battalion?

No other men of either name in the
battalion as far as I know.

Man of over thirty & was a photographer from near Sydney NSW.
tall. He had been a policeman at Goldbraun, Queensland.

Signature of
Searcher

[Signature]

Date of Report

July 10/17

1797-19

1796

2 D. Fleischer Matheron

13 Btm.

Kin. 2/17/17

See under

4048

Arthur H. Watson

1st Btm

Information obtained
locally (if any) or from
letters.

Enquiry included in
W.S.M. Cable

Enquiry included in
Deferred Cable

Name and Address of
Enquirer

Relation of Enquirer to
Engravee.

State if Next-of-Kin.

No.

123

of

May 22-1918

No.

of

Mrs Jessie Kelly
Meckering

Mother
Yes

On cards
me

Henry Greig Secretary.
man

Quil draft. 3-10-19.

Gladys E. Bean.

67 Leopold St.

Leeds

C. L. Bortel Gill

77 Wolvington Road.

N. Norwood.

Mrs G. C. Burrows.

A. R. X. Representative

9 Nareham Gardens,
Oxford.

1796 Matheson. D.S. 13 Bu

by Leopold St.
Leopold.

1st. Jan. 1918.

Dear Adam:

I am very much obliged
for your letter of the
14th Dec. I have been
away since the 15th Dec.
otherwise I should have
acknowledged your letter
before.

The news is indeed
very distressing.

I should be glad if

You could let me know
whether this information
has already be given to
his mother - Mrs Matheson
in Sydney.

Yours faithfully.

Gladys Beau.

1796 Sgt. Matheson ¹³ #3 Bn

①

Friday. 12.10.14

Dear Sir

1796

re. Egt. D. S. Matheson. 13 Bth

I am very much obliged for
your letter of the 10th inst. with
information regarding the above named
"missing soldier".

I had Plé. Woodcock's name given to
me by a friend in France, & I have
written for further particulars.

I shall be pleased to have any other
information you may gather from time
to time.

Again thanking you very much
for the trouble.

Yours truly

Gladys E. Bean

1 Slip

Answered
28.7.17

1/6 1/1

A. G. H.
Rouen
France

20.7.17

To the Secretary

I am writing to ask
if it would be possible to find out
any particulars of Sgt. L. Matheson
13th Batt who has been missing
since April 11th 1917. He rejoined his
Batt about March over here.

I have made inquiries at the
Records here but they have not
had any further notice.

Thanking you in
anticipation

Sgt. D. S. Matheson
1796.13
M 11 4 17

I am

Yours truly

L. Boughton

(Skelis)

August 30th, 1917.

Sister L.K. Boughton,
No 1 Australian General Hpl,
B.F.F.

Dear Madam,

In further answer to your inquiry for

No 1796 Sgt. D.S. Matheson,
13th Battalion,
A.I.F.

We very much regret to inform you of further unofficial evidence given by a man of his unit who confirms our worst fears as to his fate.

No 672 Pte. W.J. Collins, who was in the 2nd Army Rest Camp, B.E.F., stated that he was told by Sgt. Jones of D. Coy, that Sgt. Matheson had been killed by a bullet during the advance at Bullecourt on April 11th. Unfortunately he can give us no further details.

We have written to Sgt. Jones in the hope that he will supply definite information which we are sure you will appreciate and as soon as we obtain further particulars we shall advise you. We must emphasise the purely unofficial character of this evidence which, however, we fear must be only too true.

Yours faithfully,

J. A. W. SECRETARY

September 7th, 1917.

Sister L.K. Boughton,
No 1 Australian General Hpl,
B.Z.F.

Dear Madam,

We regret to say that we have received further
unofficial information about

No 1796 Sgt. D.S. Matheson,
15th Battalion,
A.I.F.

which only confirms our worst fears as to his fate.

Informants both report that he was last seen
lying dead at the German wire at Bullecourt while
they were retreating after an attack on 11.4.17. His
was the first company to go over and they had to pass
through a terrible barrage suffering heavily in consequence.

Sgt. Matheson is described as clean-shaven, 5 ft 6 or
7 inches in height, of medium colouring and build and very
popular in the regiment.

We are continuing our inquiries for further details
and soon as we obtain information we shall advise you as
we realise how you will appreciate definite news.

Assuring you of our sincere sympathy. V.D.

Yours faithfully L/m

August 30th, 1917.

3255 Signaller J.G.Watt.
C/o Red Cross Depot,
Horse Command Depot,
Cothford, Wilts.

Dear Sir,

In further answer of your inquiry for

No 1726 Sgt. D.S. Matheson,
~~13th Battalion,~~
~~A.I.F.~~

we very much regret to inform you of further unofficial evidence given by a man of his unit who confirms our worst fears as to his fate.

No 672 Pte. W.J. Collins, who was in the Red Army Rest Camp, B.E.F. stated that he was told by Sgt. Jones of D. Coy, that Sgt. Matheson had been killed by a bullet during the advance at Bullecourt on April 11th. Unfortunately he can give us no further details.

We have written to Sgt. Jones in the hope that he will supply definite information which we are sure you will appreciate and as soon as we obtain further particulars we shall advise you. We must emphasise the purely unofficial character of this evidence which, however, we fear must be only too true.

Yours faithfully.

July 30th. 1917.

Miss L.K. Broughton,
No. 1 Australian General Hospital,
E. E. F.

Dear Madam,

In reply to your enquiry for :-

1796 Sgt. D.S. Matheson 13th. Batt.A.I.F.

who is officially reported "Missing" as from 11.4.17. we regret to state that his name has not come through on the Lists of Prisoners of War up to the present.

We have received an unofficial report from a man of the same Unit 1323 Pte. W. Christie who said that Matheson was in D.Coy. 16th Platoon. The informant was told by Cpl. Purcell of the 13th. Battalion that Matheson was killed on April 11th. at Bullecourt, but he did not say that he saw him. Others in his Platoon also told him that Matheson was killed.

We have written to Cpl. Purcell but up to the present have received no reply. As soon as we do, or as soon as any other information comes to hand we shall at once advise you.

Assuring you of our Sympathy in your anxiety.

Yours faithfully,

V.D. per [Signature]

7.8.17

3255 Sig. J.G.Watt,

c/o Red Cross Depot,
No. 4 Command Depot. Codford. Wilts.

Dear Sir,

In reply to your enquiry for 1796 Sgt. D.S. Matheson, 13th. Battrn. A.I.F. we beg to state that he is still officially reported "Missing" as from 11.4.17. His name has never come through on the lists of prisoners of war and up to the present we have only been able to obtain one ~~unofficial~~ report concerning him.

The informant 1323 Pte. W. Christie said that Matheson was in D.Coy. 16th. platoon. Corpl. Purcell of D.Coy 15th platoon told him that Matheson was killed on April 11th. at Sullecourt. He did not say that he saw him, but others in his platoon have told informant that he was killed.

We have written to Cpl. Purcell but so far had no reply. As soon as we receive further news we shall advise you.

Re 2616 L.Cpl Chas. E. Wailles 7th. Field Coy. Engineers A.I.F. ^{Killed in action 14.11.17} we regret to state that he is now officially reported ~~Missing~~. We have received a great deal of unofficial evidence concerning L.Cpl Wailles from which we shall quote in brief-

The O.C. of 7th field Coy Engineers wrote as follows on 27.2.17;

"I have to forward the following particulars regarding 2602 Sgt. W.H. Gregson and 2616 Cpl. C.E. Wailles - These M.C.O's formed portion of parties of Engineers accompanying attacking infantry in an attack on the enemy position on 14th. November 1916. Cpl Wailles was first hit in the thumb when within a short distance from the German line, and was moving back to our position, when he had his thigh badly smashed by a shell burst. He was then brought back and left in a shell hole within a few yards of our front line. They were, on the party returning from the attack, looked for, but as no trace, could be found of them it was naturally assumed that they had been taken in by stretcher-bearers. I have had exhaustive enquiries made and the

Base Records Office has been communicated with on the matter of the non-appearance of any record of their whereabouts. I have not as yet received any definite answer from Records, but I regret to state that I fear they will both be posted as wounded and missing. Please convey to the relatives enquiring the sincere sympathy of all ranks of the 7th field Coy Engineers."

One informant said that Wailles and Gregson belonged to the Section No. 3. In November some of the company were digging a sap from the front line and both Wailles and Gregson were wounded and were put in a shell-hole, about 2 tapes out. The shell-hole where they were left was one through which the sap was to run, so it was assumed that No. 3 Section would find the wounded men. Informant does not know what happened after but adds that the Dressing Station was blown up about this date.

Another informant gives a similar report and says that Wailles was very badly wounded. A stretcher was improvised from rifles and Wailles was put on it and placed in a shell-hole with Gregson.

Later when the men went to the shell-hole to carry them in, both men were missing. The belief is that the wounded men were blown up in the shell-hole.

Another man says he has seen the names of these two men, Wailles and Gregson, on a memorial erected to the killed of their unit. The memorial he states is at Tara Hill just outside Albert between La Boisselle and Albert on the main Bapaume Road.

Lieut. J. Campbell Close, 7th fld. Coy Engineers reported on 19.7.17 as follows:-

"Two of our lads wandered over the ground last Sunday. They actually discovered Cpl. Wailles' grave and a cross had just recently been put up. It had the name Wailles on it, but as there was no Wailles in the battalion we feel sure it was L.Cpl. Wailles' grave."

All this information has been sent to our Sydney Office and can be obtained there on application.

Yours faithfully,

V.D. per R.
Secretary.

September 7th, 1917.

No 3255 Signaller J.G.Watt,
C/o Australian Red Cross Depot,
No 4 Command Depot, Codford, Wilts.

Dear Sir,

We regret to say that we have received further unofficial
information about No 1796 Sgt. D.S. Matheson,
~~13th Bn.~~
~~N.I.~~

which only confirms our worst fears as to his fate.

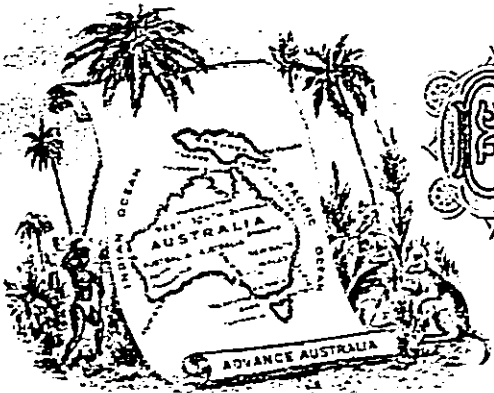
Informants both report that he was last seen last lying
dead at the German wire at Bullecourt while they were retreat-
ing after an attack on 11.4.17. His was the first company to
go over and they had to pass through a terrible barrage suffer-
ing heavily in consequence. St. Matheson is described as
clean-shaven, 5 ft 6 or 7 inches, in height, of medium colouring
and build and very popular in the regiment.

We are continuing our inquiries for further details and as
as we obtain information we shall advise you as we realise how
you will appreciate definite news.

Assuring you of our sincere sympathy.

Yours faithfully, V.D

SECRETARY.
A.W.



HEAD OFFICE, SYDNEY, N.S.W.
BRANCHES:

MELBOURNE	BOWEN	THURSDAY ISLAND	GIZO	SUVA
ADLAIDE	CAIRNS	TOWNSVILLE	MAKAMBO	LEVUKA
PERMANTLE	CHARTERS TOWERS	WELLINGTON, N.Z.	VILA	RASAU
GERALDTON	COOKTOWN	PORT Moresby	NUKUALOFA	BUTANITARI
PERTH	CROYDON	SAMARAI	HAAPAI	SOUBABAYA
BRISBANE	NORMANTON	FAISI	APIA	SAMARANG

Agencies throughout Australia and the East.

Telegraphic Address.
"GOGOBERA."

London House.

35, Crutched Friars.

London E.C.3. 11th Sept. 1917.

THE SECRETARY,
Australian Red Cross,
54, Victoria Street, S.W. 1.

Dear Sir:

SERGT. E. D. MATHESON, No 1496.
D. Company,
13th Battalion,
Australian Forces.

We have been requested by the parents of the above to, if possible, find out definite information as to what has happened to him.

We understand he was reported missing since the 11th April.

We shall esteem it a favour if you will kindly make all enquiries you can and let us have the fullest information.

Yours faithfully,
per pro. BURNS, PHILP & COMPANY:

Manager at London

September 18th, 1917.

Messrs. Burge, Philp & Co,
London House,
35, Crutched Friars, E.C.3

Dear Sirs,

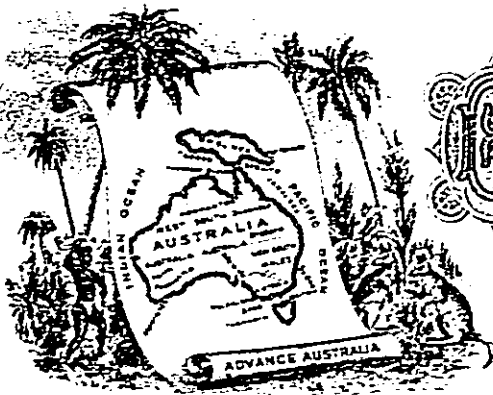
We have received your letter of the 11th inst.,
asking for news of Sergt. D.S. and E.D.,
Matheson, 1796,
B. Coy, 15th Battalion,
A. I. F.

up till now we have received no further news of him
in spite of exhaustive enquiries.

We have received enquiries for him from our
office in Sydney and also from two private sources, in
these circumstances we should be glad to know if you
still wish us to inform you of any further news of him.

Yours faithfully,

SECRETARY.



AUSTRALIAN MERCHANTS
CAPITAL £2,000,000.
BURNS, PHILP & COMPANY LTD

HEAD OFFICE. SYDNEY. N.S.W.
BRANCHES:

MELBOURNE ADELAIDE FREMANTLE GERALTON PERTH BRISBANE	BOWEN CAIRNS CHARTERS TOWERS COOKTOWN CROYDON NORMANTON	THURSDAY ISLAND TOWNSVILLE WELLINGTON N.Z. PORT MORESBY SAMARAI FAISI	GIZO MAKAMBO VILA NUKUALOFA HAAPAI APIA	SUVA LEVUKA RABAU BUTARITARI SUURABAYA SAHARANG
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Agencies throughout Australia and the East.

Telegraphic Address.
"GOGOBERA"

MGR/HL.

London House.

35. Crutched Friars.

London. E.C.3. 19th Sept. 1917.

The Secretary,
Australian Red Cross, Society,
54, Victoria Street,
London, S.W.

Dear Sir,

We thank you for your letter of 18th inst. and
in view of what you write we do not think it necessary for
you to send any further news to us in regard to Sergeant

Matheson, No. 1796,
L. Coy.,
13th Battalion,
A.I.F.,

Yours faithfully,

per pro. S. M. P. & Co. Ltd.
George Smith

Manager & Secretary.



AUSTRALIAN MERCHANTS
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£ 2,000,000.
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BRANCHES:

- | | | | | |
|-----------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------|------------|
| MELBOURNE | BOWEN | THURSDAY ISLAND | GIZO | SUVA |
| ADELAIDE | CAIRNS | TOWNSVILLE | MAKAMBO | LEVUKA |
| PERMANTLE | CHARTERS TOWERS | WELLINGTON N.Z. | VILA | RABAU |
| CERATOTON | COOKTOWN | PORT MORESBY | NUKUALGFA | BUTARITARI |
| PERTH | CROYDON | SAMARAI | HAAPAI | SCURABAYA |
| BRISBANE | NORMANTON | FAISI | APIA | SAMARANG |

Telegraphic Address.
"GOGOBERA"

Agencies throughout Australia and the East.

London House.

35, Crutched Friars.

London, E.C.3. 20th Sept. 1917.

THE SECRETARY,
Australian Red Cross Society,
54, Victoria Street, S.W.

Dear Sir,

With reference to our letter of yesterday, as
we have been requested to cable Sydney in connection with
Sgt. Matheson we would ask you to acquaint us should anything
be heard of him.

We should also be glad to know whether anything
beyond the fact that he was missing on or about the 11th
April is known about him.

Thanking you in anticipation,

Yours faithfully,

BURNS, PHILP & COMPANY LTD

W. Macpherson

Manager at Port

1796 Sgt D. S. Matheson. 13 Ball

Miss Gladys Bean,
67, Leopold St.,
Leeds.

Oct. 10th, 1917.

Dear Madam,

I We have received your letter of 4.10.17, in which you ask us for information about -

No. 1796 Sgt. D. S. Matheson - 13th Battalion. (late 30th Battn) A.I.F. - We are sorry to say that we have received unofficial information from several men in his battalion that lead us to fear that he was killed at Bullecourt 11.4.17.

No. 3522 Cpl. Robert Walton 13th Battn. A.I.F. writes as follows - "Sgt. D. S. Matheson was in an attack at Bullecourt 11.4.17. His was the first company over. They had to pass through a terrific gun barrage. Only 19 men survived out of a company of 156. Informant was one of the 19." Cpl. Walton goes on to describe Sgt. Matheson Height 5'6" or 7", medium colouring, 24 years old, clean shaven, medium build, very pleasant and popular."

This news is confirmed by another comrade - No. 6727

Pte. C. A. Dalton 13th Battn. A.I.F. who writes - "On 11.4.17 at Bullecourt I saw Matheson in the barbed wire between the German lines, and that was the last I saw of him as we had to retire. For further information refer to Sgt. Wolf."

We have written to Sgt. Wolf but have not yet received his reply. We will send any further information given by him on to you.

The name of Sgt. Matheson has not appeared on any list of prisoners of war.

If you have any information about the Pte. Woodcock you mention we shall be glad if you will send it to us, as we may then

-2-

be able to trace him and learn from him something of Sgt. Matheson's fate.

With our sincere sympathy.

Yours faithfully,

Secretary.

C. M. F. W.

13th October 1917.

Dear Madam,

We beg to forward further unofficial information that has come to hand concerning - 1776 Sgt E.S. Matheson, 13th Bn, A.I.F. who is officially reported missing 11-4-17.

The informant - 6727 Pte C.A. Dalton, on 11th April at Bullecourt saw Matheson in the barbed wire between the two German lines and as they had to retire that was the last he saw of him. He described Matheson as clean-shaven and of slight build and says he was called 'Art'.

We regret that this news is so distressing and when other particulars come to hand, we shall at once advise you. Accepting you of our sympathy in your anxiety.

Yours faithfully,

Miss Gladys Bean,
67 Leopold Street,
Leeds

V.D. per *AP*
Secretary

13th October 1917.

Dear Sir,


We beg to forward further unofficial information that has come to hand concerning - 1796 Sgt E.C. Matheson, 13th Bn, M.I.F. who is officially reported missing 11-4-17.

The informant - 6727 Pte C.A. Dalton, on 12th April at Bullecourt saw Matheson in the barbed wire between the two German lines and as they had to retire that was the last he saw of him. He describes Matheson as clean-shaven and of slight build and says he was called "Nat".

We regret that this news is so distressing and when other particulars come to hand, we shall at once advise you. Assuring you of our sympathy in your anxiety,

3255 Sig. J.G. Watt,
c/o Red X Depot
No. 4 Command Depot
Codford, Wilts.

Yours faithfully,


Secretary

13th October 1917.

Dear Madam,

We beg to forward further unofficial information that has come to hand concerning - 1796 Sgt D.S. Matheson, 13th Bn, A.I.F. who is officially reported missing 11-4-17.

The informant - 6727 Pte C.A. Dalton, on 11th April at Bullecourt saw Matheson in the barbed wire between the two German lines and as they had to retire that was the last he saw of him. He describes Matheson as clean-shaven and of slight build and says he was called "Mat"

We regret that this news is so distressing and when other particulars come to hand, we shall at once advise you. Assuring you of our sympathy in your anxiety,

Sister L.K. Boughton
No. 1 Aust. Gen. Hpl
B.E.F.

Yours faithfully,


Secretary

October 18th, 1917.

2
No 3504 Pte. Arthur Woodcock,
13th Australian Infantry Batta.,
B. E. F.

Dear Sir,

We have heard from the friends of No 1796 Sgt. D.S. Matheson,
13th Battalion,
A.I.F.
who was officially reported Missing 11.4.17, that they think you
were one of his comrades, and may therefore be able to give some
information about him.

We shall be most grateful to you if you will kindly write
and tell us any particulars you know about him.

Thanking you in anticipation, and with our best wishes.

Yours faithfully,

SECRETARY.

T. J. W.

18th October 1917

2500 John Arthur Joseph Woodcock,
18th Australian Infantry Bn.,
I.E.E.

Dear Sir,

We have heard from the friends of No 1796 Sgt.
D.S. Matheson 18th Bn, who was officially reported missing
11.1.17., that they think you were one of his comrades, and
may therefore be able to give some information about him.

We shall be most grateful to you if you will
kindly write and tell us any particulars you know about
him.

Thanking you in anticipation, and with our best
wishes.

Yours faithfully.

Secretary.

H. F. W.

December 17th, 1917.

Dear Sir,

We have received another unofficial report about

No 1796 Sgt. D. C. MATTHEWSON, 13th Battalion, A.I.F.

from one of the men of his unit and regret it contains such distressing news.

No 2003 Cpl. A. C. Parry, when interviewed in the 6th Stationary Hospital, B.V.F., stated that he was told by men of D. Coy, whose names he has forgotten, that they saw Sgt. Matthewson killed during the attack at Bullecourt on May 11th, but he was not told where he was buried. He adds that the Sgt. had been wounded at Lesclapart in 1916, and had rejoined the battalion just before they went into action at Bullecourt.

While emphasising the unofficial character of this report we fear it must be only too true for there has been no news of him from Germany although 6 months have passed since he was missing.

We are however making further inquiries and as soon as news is received we shall advise you.

Regretting that this news continues to be so distressing.

Yours faithfully,

LAW
SECRETARY.

December 17th, 1917.

Robert L. E. ...
...
...

Dear Sir,

We have received another unofficial report about

No 1796 Sgt. D. E. WATKINSON, 15th Battalion, A.I.F.

from one of the men of his unit and regret it contains such distressing news.

No 2808 Col. J. C. Barry, when interviewed in the 6th Stationary Hospital, D.F.P., stated that he was told by one of D. Coy, whose name he has forgotten, that they saw Sgt. Watkinson killed during the attack at Bullecourt on May 11th, but he was not told where he was buried. He adds that the Sgt. had been wounded at Pozieres in 1916, and had rejoined the battalion just before they went into action at Bullecourt.

While emphasizing the unofficial character of this report we fear it must be only too true for there has been no news of him from Germany although 6 months have passed since he was missing.

We are however making further inquiries and as soon as news is received we shall advise you.

Regretting that this news continues to be so distressing.

Yours faithfully,

LAN

FOR TAY.

December 17th, 1917.

No 3255 Signaller J.G.Watt,
C/o Red Cross Depot, No 4 Command Depot,
Codford, Wilts.

Dear Sir,

We have received another unofficial report about

No 1726 Sgt. D.L. MATHEWS, 13th Battalion, A.I.F.

from one of the men of his unit and regret it contains
such distressing news.

No 2302 Cpl. J.C. PARRY, when interviewed in the 8th
Stationary Hospital, S.E.F., stated that he was told by
men of I. Coy, whose names he has forgotten, that they saw
Sgt. Mathews killed during the attack at Bullecourt on May
11th, but he was not told where he was buried. He adds that
the Sgt. had been wounded at Lozieren in 1916, and had rejoined
the battalion just before they went into action at Bullecourt.

While emphasising the unofficial character of this report
we fear it must be only too true for there has been no news
of him from Germany although 8 months have passed since he was
missing.

We are however making further inquiries and as soon as
news is received we shall advise you.

Regretting that this news continues to be so distressing.

Yours faithfully,

LAW

SECRETARY.

January 25th, 1918,

Miss Gladys Henn,
67, Leopold Street,
Leeds.

Dear Madam,

We have received another unofficial report about

1796 Sgt. D.S. MATHESON, 13th Battalion, A.I.F.

which seems to contradict the former evidence, but we cannot vouch for its accuracy. L/Cpl. W.L. Blau, 1194, 13th Battalion, said "I knew Sgt. Matheson of (I think) B.Coy, slightly and saw him wounded in front of Reincourt about 7.am. on 11.11.17, in the Hindenburg Line. I helped to dress his wounds, he was badly hit in the arm, and chest also a scratch on the face, he could not walk. We put him in a German Dugout and he was left behind when we evacuated the ground about 2 p.m. I did not hear any more of him. He was about 23 years, fairly tall, medium build, dark hair, clean shaven". Can you tell us whether the description is a correct one of Sgt. Matheson?

We are continuing our enquiries and hope to get more definite news. Assuring you of our sympathy in your anxiety.

Yours faithfully,

SECRETARY.

W.

Miss Henn
Miss Henn

29th January 1918.

Sister L. E. Boughton,
1st. Ave. Gen. Hospital,
Rouen,

Dear Madam,

We have received another unofficial report about Sgt. D.S. Matheson 1796-18 Batt. which rather contradicts the former evidence, though of course we do not vouch for its accuracy. L/Cpl. Blair 1194-18 Batt. said "I knew Sgt. Matheson of, I think B. Coy. slightly and saw him wounded in front of Reincourt about 7.a.m. on 11.4.17, in the Hindenburg Line. I helped to dress his wound, he was badly hit in the arm, leg, and chest, also a scratch on the face. He could not walk. We put him in a German Dug-out and he was left behind when we evacuated the ground about 2.p.m. I did not hear any more of him. He was about 28 years fairly tall, medium build, dark hair, clean shaven".

We are continuing our enquiries and hope to get more definite news.

Yours faithfully,

AR.

Secretary.

29th January 1918.

Sign. J.G. Watt 3255,
c/o Red Cross Depot,
4th, Command Depot, Colford,
Wilts.

Dear Sir,

We have received another unofficial report about Sgt. D.S. Matheson 1796-13 Batt. which rather contradicts the former evidence, though of course we do not vouch for its accuracy.

L/Cpl. Blair 1194-13 Batt. said "I knew Sgt. Matheson of, I think B. Coy. slightly and saw him wounded in front of Reincourt about 7 a.m. on 11.-.17. in the Hindenburg Line. I helped to dress his wound, he was badly hit in the arm, leg, and chest, also a scratch on the face. He could not walk. We put him in a German Dig-out and he was left behind when we evacuated the ground about 2.p.m. I did not hear any more of him. He was about 23 years fairly tall, medium build, dark hair, clean shaven".

We are continuing our enquiries and hope to get more definite news.

Assuring you of our sympathy in your anxiety.

Yours faithfully,

AR

Secretary.

Mrs. J.C.Burrows,
Representative Aust.Red.Cross,
9. Norham Gardens, Oxford.

11th March, 1918.

Dear Madam,

With reference to your enquiry of 3rd inst., for 1796 Sgt.

D.S. MATHESON, 13th Battalion, A.I.F., - who is officially reported
Missing since 11-4-17. We much regret to inform you that the unofficial
reports given by men of his Battalion leave little hope of his proving
to be alive.

3522 Cpl.Robert Dalton, states "Sgt. Matheson was in an attack
at Bullecourt on April 11th at 4.30 a.m. His was the first company
over and they had to pass through a terrific gun barrage. Only 19
men survived out of a company of 156. Sgt. Matheson's body was seen
lying near the German wire". Informant describes Sgt.Matheson as
a man about 24 years of age, 5'6 or 7" in height, clean-shaven, of
medium build, and very pleasant and popular. This report is confirmed
by Sgt. Wolfe, Sgt. Jones, and 6727 Pte.C.A.Dalton.

We cannot of course vouch for the accuracy of any unofficial
evidence, but we are very much afraid that these reports of S t.
Matheson's death must be correct - as there has never been any trace
of him as a prisoner of War, and so many months have now elapsed
without definite news. We are doing our utmost to obtain further
information concerning his fate, and will advise you as soon as we
succeed.

Regretting that we are unable to send you more satisfactory
news.

Yours faithfully,
M. Ryan

August 30th, 1918.

3715 Pte. J. Cook.
13th Australian Infantry Battalion.
Gefangenenlager Altdamm.
Lager No 35986. Pommern.
Germany.

Dear Pte. Cook.

We have recently been asked by our Sydney Bureau
to discover if you have any information concerning -

1796 Sgt. DUDLEY S HAMILTON of your unit.

who has been missing since 11-4-17. We are told that you
wrote home in March 1918 from Altdamm Pommern that you believed
him to be wounded and a prisoner of war and his father is most
anxious that we should get further particulars from you. You
will realise his anxiety and we should therefore be glad to
know why you believe him to be a prisoner of war and if you
have any news of his whereabouts as he is still officially reported
as missing. We know that your correspondence is limited and would
be glad if you will send us a reply on your next card to Miss Chomley.

With apologies for troubling you and trusting that you are
receiving your parcels regularly.

With good wishes.

Yours faithfully,

MAW
SECRETARY.