

**St. Mary's New Churchyard,
Codford, Wiltshire, England**

War Graves



Lest We Forget

World War 1



7716 PRIVATE

W. R. CATHCART

16TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

25TH NOVEMBER, 1917 Age 30

GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

William Rea CATHCART

William Rea Cathcart was born at Moat Road, Ballymena, Co. Antrim, Ireland on 30th January, 1887 to parents Thomas & Margaret Cathcart.

William Rea Cathcart attended Starryville Boys School at Ballymena & Ferguson's Intermediate School, Ballymena, Ireland.

The 1901 Ireland Census listed William Cathcart as a 14 year old, Attending School, living with his family at Queen Street, Ballymena, Antrim, Ireland. His parents were listed as Thomas Cathcart (Carpenter, aged 54) & Margret Cathcart (Housekeeper, aged 50). William was one of five children listed on this Census – Mary (Dressmaker, aged 25), Thomas (Tenter, aged 20), then William, Eliza (School, aged 11) & James (School, aged 10).

According to the information collected for the Roll of Honour, submitted by his brother, James Cathcart of Ballymena, Ireland, William came to Australia when he was 24 years old.

A "W. R. Cathcart" (occupation – Bookeeper) was listed as a passenger on the *Otranto* travelling from London to Fremantle, Western Australia. The Ship arrived on 14th November, 1911.

The 1916 Australian Electoral Roll for the Division of Perth, Subdivision of North Perth, Western Australia recorded William Rea Cathcart, Clerk, living at 32 Beaufort Street.

William Cathcart was a 30 year old, single, Bookkeeper from Perth, Western Australia when he enlisted on 22nd May, 1917 in Perth, Western Australia, with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His religion was Roman Catholic* & his next of kin was listed as his father – Thomas Cathcart, of Windsor Terrace, Ballymena, County Antrim, Ireland. (*James Cathcart, brother of William stated that the Roman Catholic religion marked on William's Attestation Paper was incorrect & should be Presbyterian.)

Private William Rea Cathcart, Service number 7716, embarked from Sydney, New South Wales on HMAT *Medic* (A7) on 1st August, 1917 with the 16th Infantry Battalion, 26th Reinforcements & disembarked at Liverpool, England on 3rd October, 1917.

Reinforcements were only given basic training in Australia. Training was completed in training units in England. These were located in the Salisbury Plain & surrounding areas in the county of Wiltshire.

Private William Rea Cathcart was marched in to 4th Training Battalion at Codford, Wiltshire on 3rd October, 1917.

Private William Rea Cathcart was admitted to No. 4 Group Clearing Hospital at Codford on 19th November, 1917 & transferred to the N.Z Hospital on 22nd November, 1917. Private Cathcart's Medical Case Sheet has the following information:

22.11.17 -Admitted from Australian Camp Hospital with diabetes. He is very weak can hardly walk- is emanciated-eating very little – constant drinking...

His illness began on transport 3 months ago. Pains left chest & lumber region. Abdomen hollow.... skin dry, tongue coated – dry tip...

23.11.17 – Patient rapidly becoming worse.

24.11.17 – Pains in arms & legs, Very restless. Very sluggish. 10 p.m. Patient suffering from very severe neuritis. Patient rapidly sank & died at 1.50 a.m. 25.11.17

Private William Rea Cathcart died at 1.50 a.m. on 25th November, 1917 at No. 3 New Zealand Military Hospital, Codford, Wiltshire, England from diabetes.

A death for William R Cathcart, aged 30, was registered in the December quarter, 1917 in the district of Warminster, Wiltshire, England.

Private William Rea Cathcart was buried on 28th November, 1917 in was buried in St. Mary's New Churchyard, Codford, Wiltshire, England - Grave No. 99, Australian Section.

From the burial report - Coffin was elm with Brass Pedestals. Mr James Cathcart, William's brother, from Windsor Terrace, Ballymena, Ireland was present at the funeral. Private Cathcart was buried by a Presbyterian Clergyman, who also visited him before his death. *"Loved by all who knew him."*

Private W. R. Cathcart requested in his Will, dated 10th July, 1917 that his father – Thomas Cathcart of Ballymena, Ireland to be the Executor of his Will & for his father to receive his real & personal estate.

Private William Rea Cathcart was entitled to British War Medal only as he had not entered a Theatre of War. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte Cathcart's father – Thomas Cathcart, Ballymena, Ireland, 1922.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private William Rea Cathcart – service number 7716, aged 30, of 16th Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of Thomas Cathcart, of Windsor Terrace, Ballymena, Co. Antrim, Ireland.

Private W. R. Cathcart is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 79.



(Photos by Cathy Sedgwick)



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

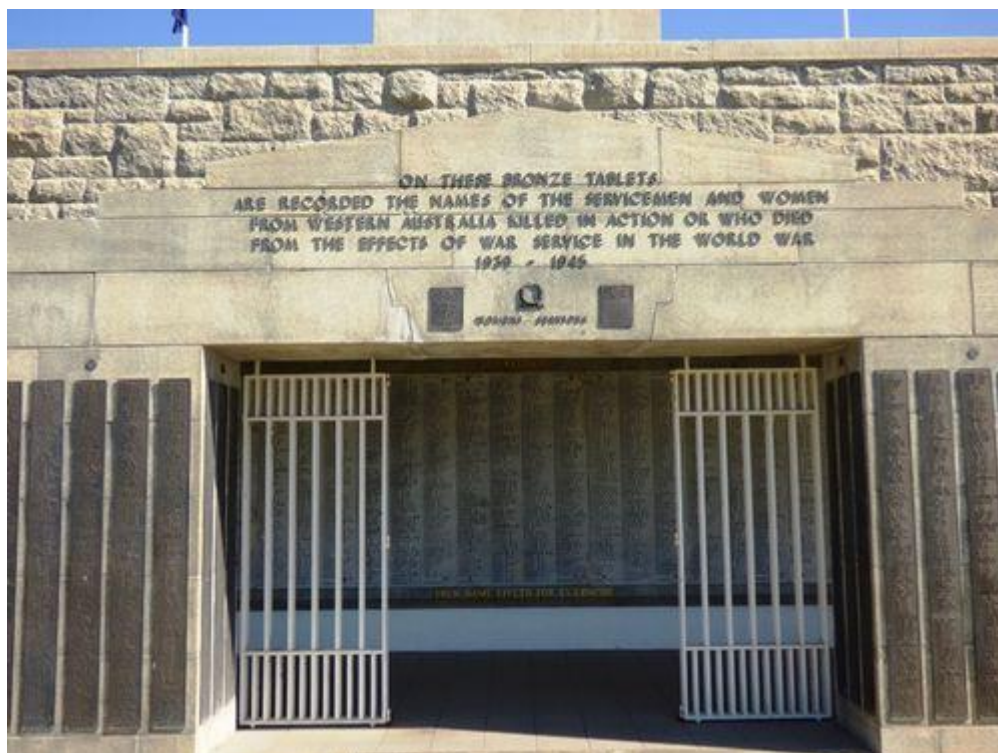
W. R. Cathcart is remembered on the Western Australia State War Memorial which is located at the top of Kings Park and Botanic Garden escarpment, ANZAC Bluff, Fraser Avenue, Perth, Western Australia. The memorial was developed around an 18 metre tall obelisk as the principal feature, which is almost a replica of the Australian Imperial Force Memorials erected in France and Belgium.

The heavy concrete foundations are supplemented by heavy brick walls which enclose an inner chamber or crypt. The walls surrounding the crypt are covered with The Roll of Honour; marble tablets which list under their units the names of more than 7,000 members of the services killed in action or as a result of World War One.



**Western Australia State War Memorial Cenotaph, Kings Park (above)
& (below) The Crypt with the Roll of Honour names**

(Photos from Monument Australia – Kent Watson/Sandra Tattersall/Graeme Saunders)



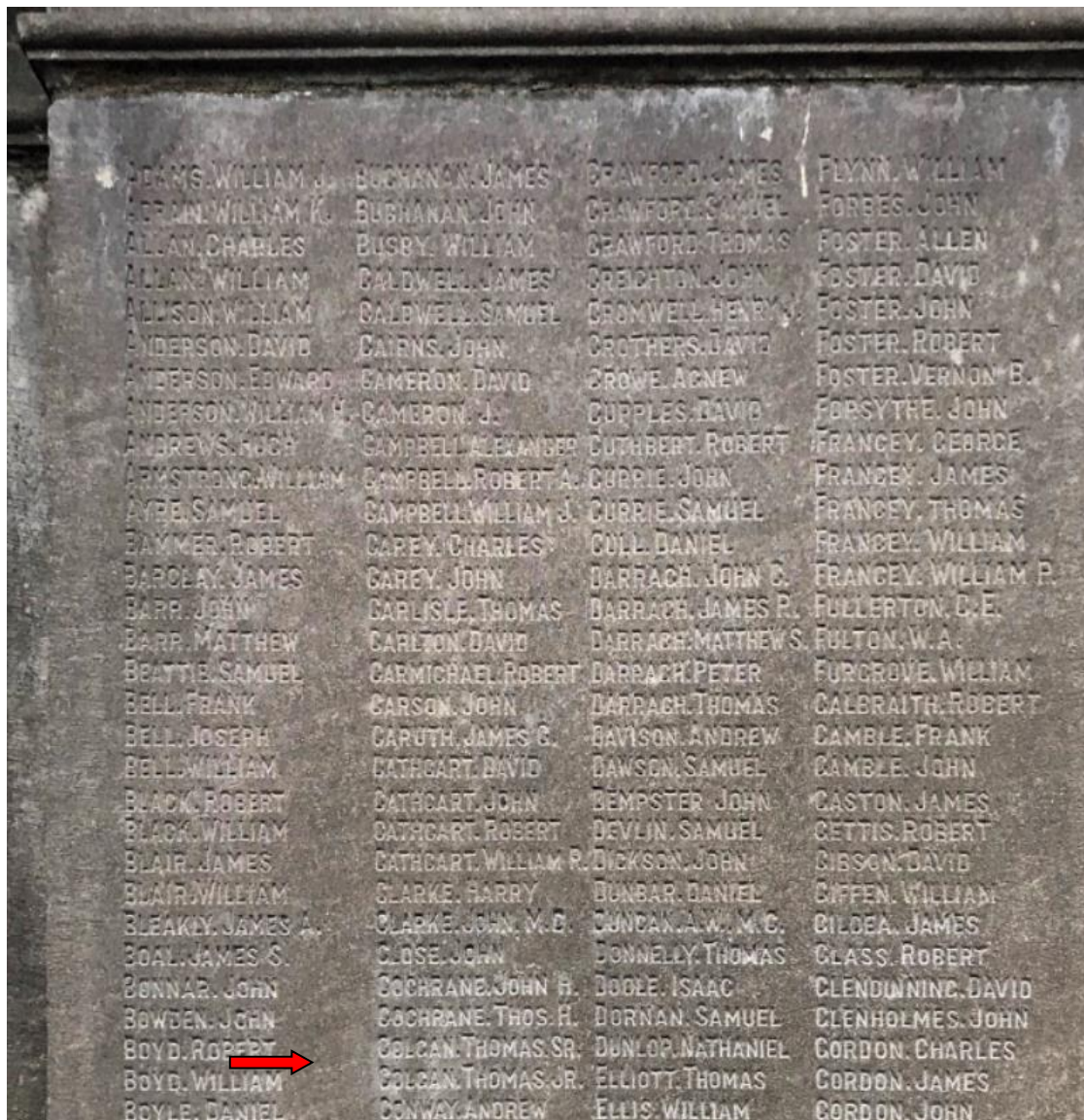


16th Battalion Panel (Photo courtesy of Gordon Stuart)

Private William Rea Cathcart is also remembered on the Ballymena War Memorial for 1914-1918, in the Memorial Park located at Galgorm Road, Ireland.



Ballymena War Memorial (Photo from War Memorials Online)



Ballymena War Memorial (Photo from Irish War Memorials)

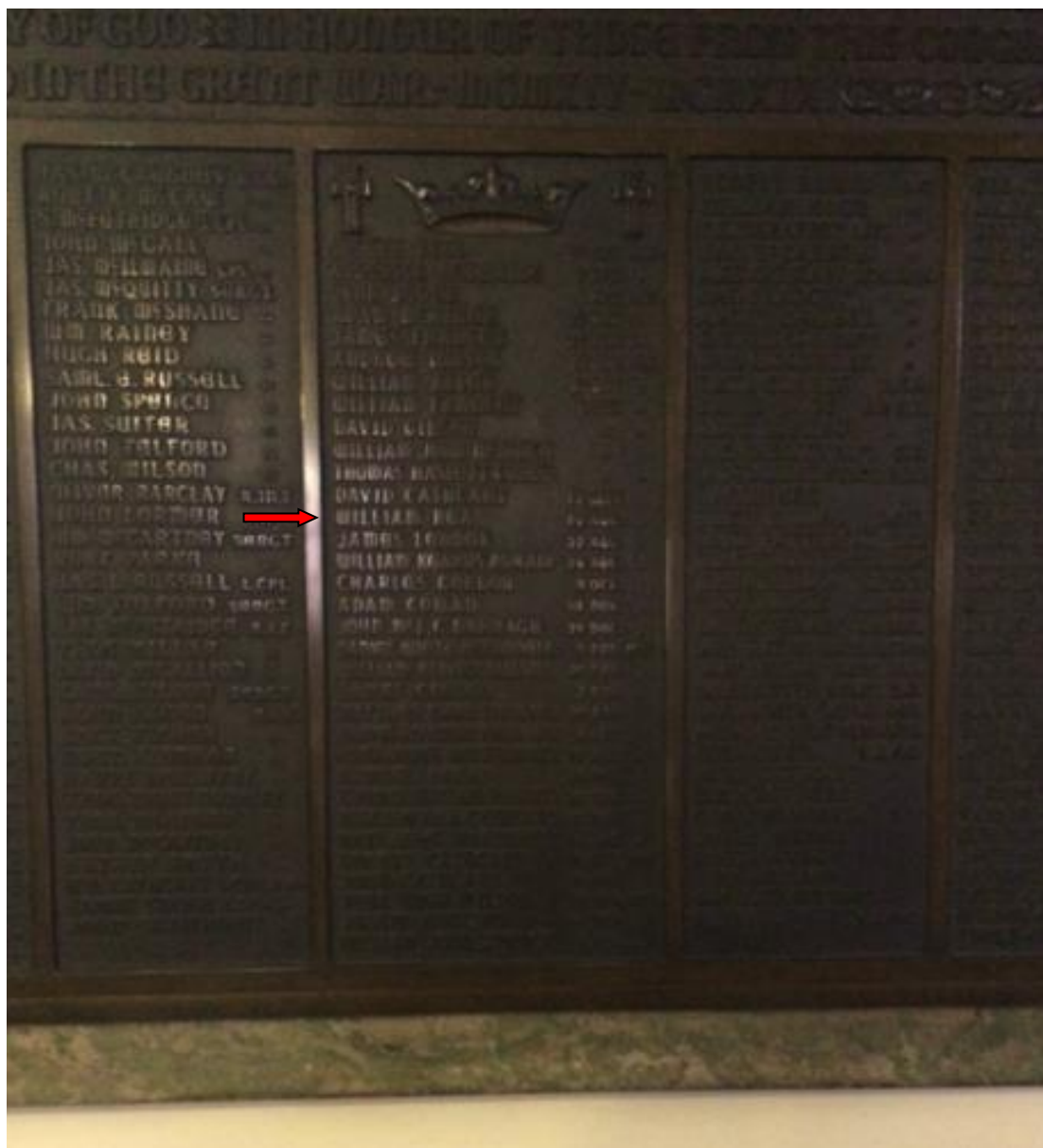
William Rea Cathcart is also remembered on the World War 1 War Memorial at Broughshane First Presbyterian Churchyard, Broughshane, County Antrim, Northern Ireland.



Broughshane First Presbyterian Churchyard, Broughshane Village, County Antrim, Ireland.

(Photo by Mike Faherty)

William Rea Cathcart is also remembered on the Memorial Roll in the First Ballymena Presbyterian Church, Ballymena., Co. Antrim, Ireland.

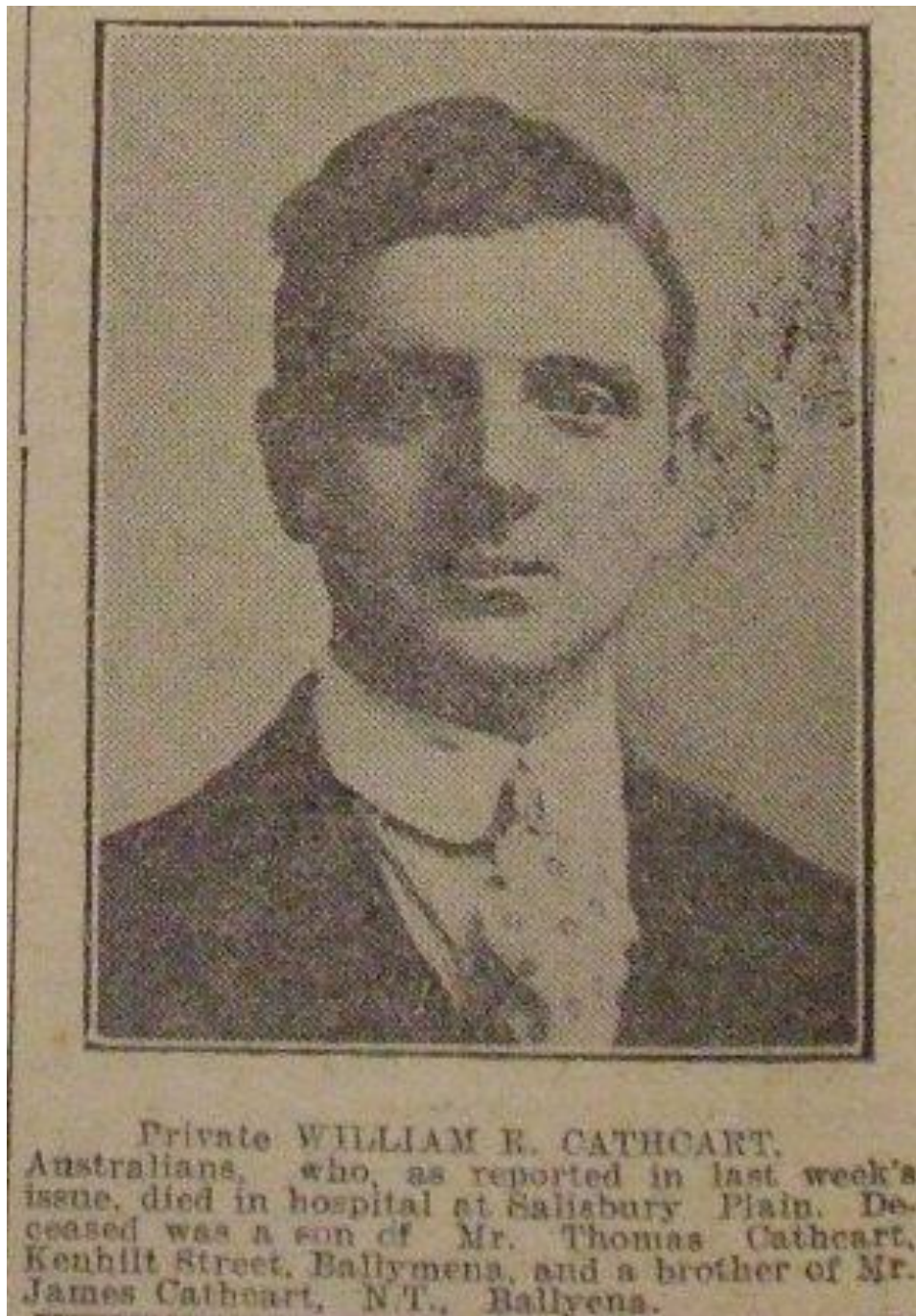


Memorial Roll in the First Ballymena Presbyterian Church, Ballymena

(Photo courtesy of William Sinclair)

(48 pages of Private William Rea Cathcart's Service records are available for On Line viewing at National Archives of Australia website).

Information obtained from the Australian War Memorial (Roll of Honour, First World War Embarkation Roll) & National Archives

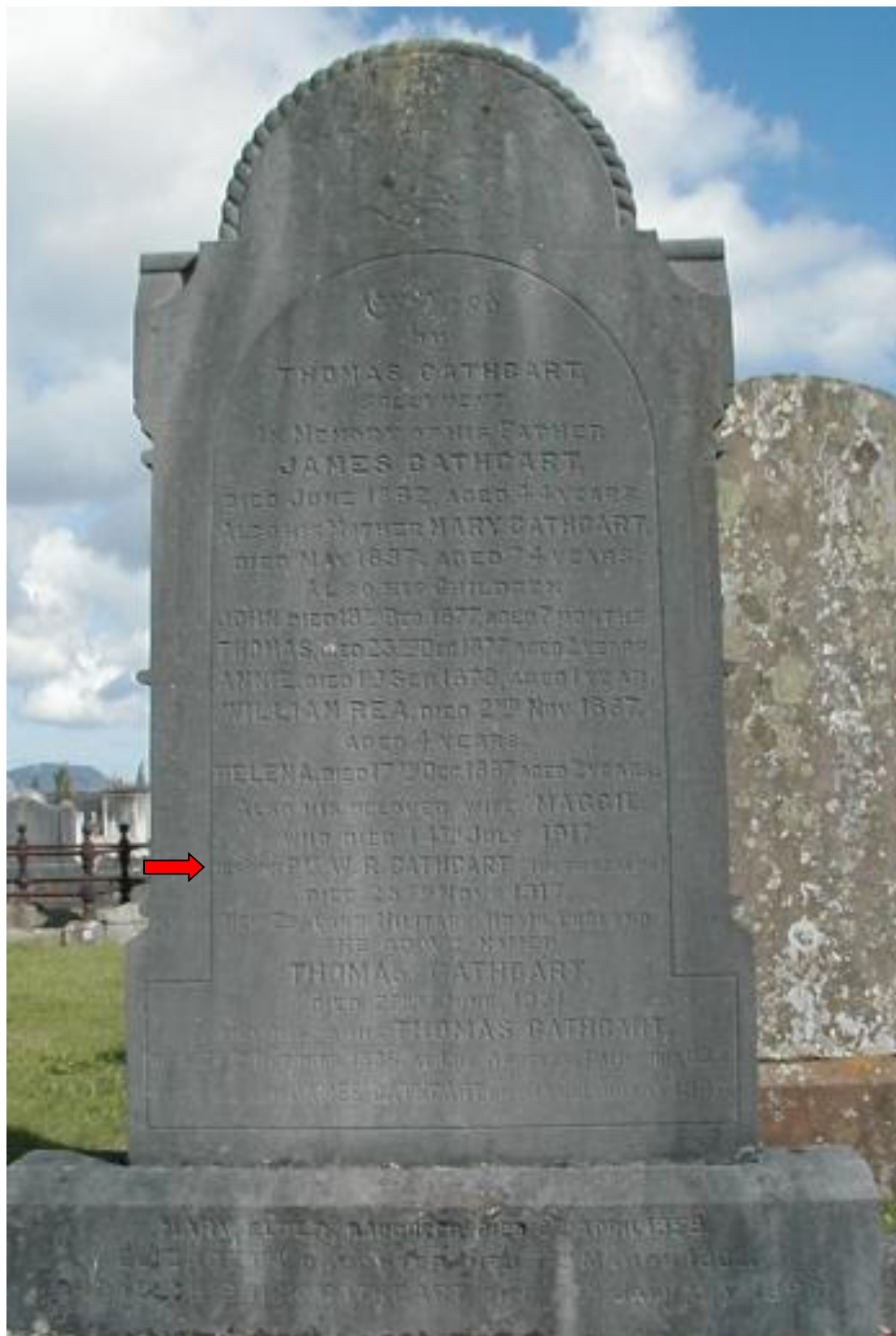


Private William R. Cathcart



Pte W. R. Cathcart is also remembered on the family headstone in Ballymena Cemetery, County Antrim, Northern Ireland.

(Information regarding William Rea Cathcart states, incorrectly, that he died of wounds. He was also linked with Kinhilt Street, Ballymena.)



Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstones

The Defence Department, in 1920/21, contacted the next of kin of the deceased World War 1 soldiers to see if they wanted to include a personal inscription on the permanent headstone at Codford War Graves Cemetery. Space was reserved for 66 letters only (with the space between any two words to be counted as an additional letter) & the rate per letter was around 3 ½ d (subject to fluctuation).

The expense in connection for the erection of permanent headstones over the graves of fallen soldiers was borne by the Australian Government.

(Information obtained from letters sent to next of kin in 1921)

Private W. R. Cathcart does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

St. Mary's New Churchyard, Codford, Wiltshire, England

The New Zealand Command Depot was established at Codford in June 1916 and the No 3 New Zealand General Hospital followed in July. The New Churchyard was established by deed of gift as the "Military Burial Ground," with a small part reserved for future burials from the parish. The war graves plot contains 98 burials, mostly of New Zealand and Australian forces. There is only one burial of the Second World War in the New Churchyard.

(Information from CWGC)

There are 31 WW1 Australian War Graves & 66 WW1 New Zealand War Graves located here. There is one WW1 British Royal Army Medical Corp Grave & one WW2 Welsh Guards grave located in this Churchyard.



(Photos courtesy of Romy Wyeth)



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

D00275



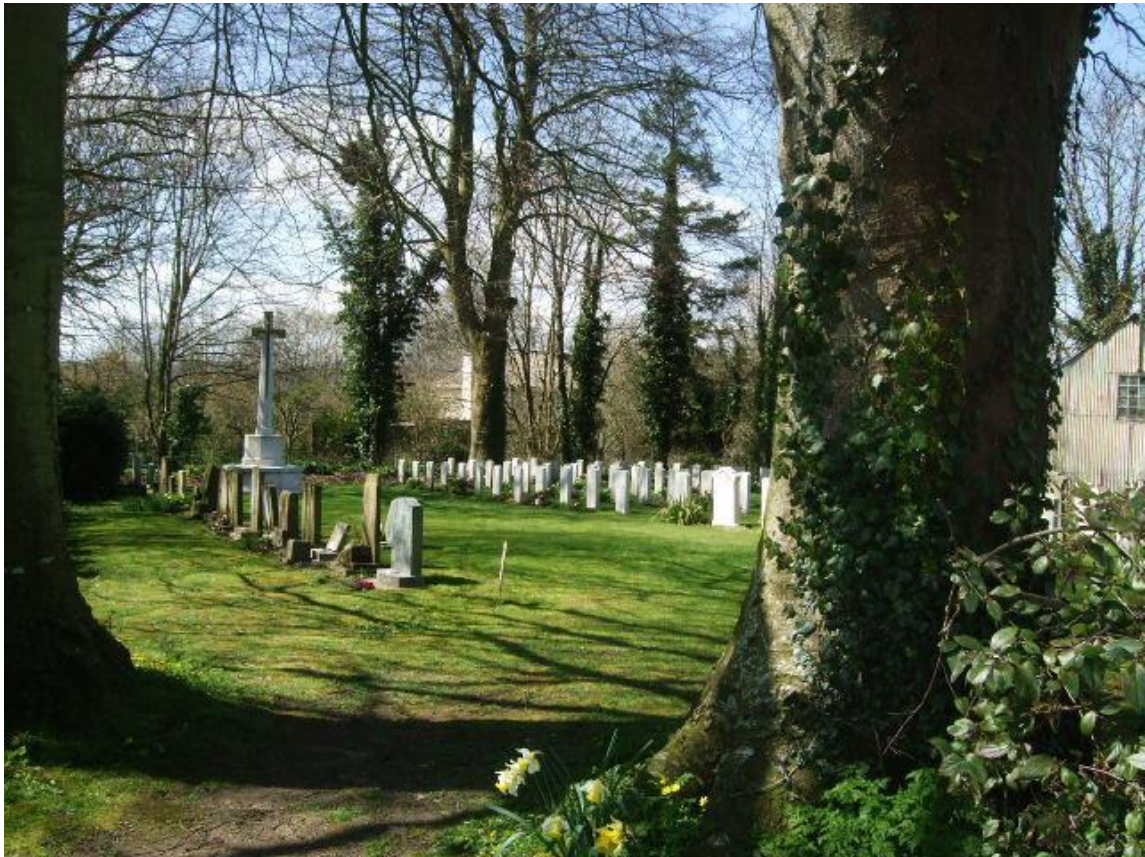


New Zealand Section of Codford Anzac War Graves Cemetery *(Photo by Romy Wyeth 2013)*

Photo of Private W. R. Cathcart's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in St. Mary's New Churchyard, Codford, Wiltshire, England. Also known as Codford Anzac War Graves Cemetery, Wiltshire.

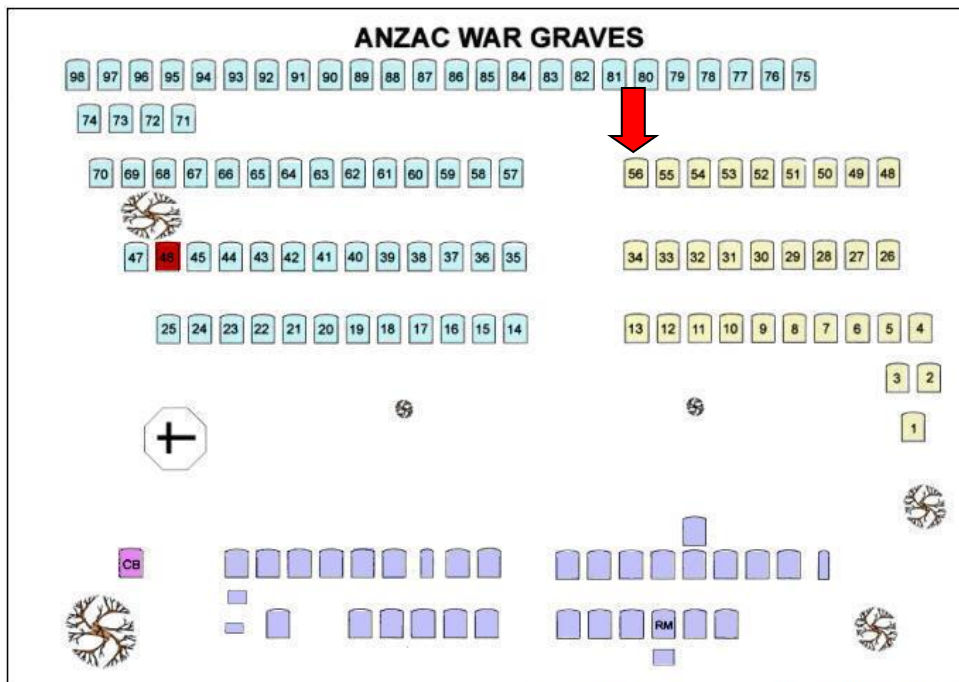


(Photo courtesy of Romy Wyeth)



(Photo by Romy Wyeth)

Commonwealth War Graves Headstone for Pte W. R. Cathcart is located in Main Third Row (Right Hand Side) Grave Plot # 56 of Codford War Graves Cemetery (CWGC Reference - Grave # 99)



- Australian Soldiers
- New Zealand Soldiers
- UK Soldier
- Welsh Soldier
- Local Burials

Codford War Graves map adapted from Brian Marshall courtesy of Romy Wyeth