

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

**2748 Private
Norman Alexander**

3rd Machine Gun Company



00503019

Thos. Hooper, Esq.,
4, New Burlington Street,
Regent Street, W.1.

14th May, 1918.

Dear Sir,

In further answer to your enquiry for -

2748 Pte. NORMAN ALEXANDER, 3rd Machine Gun Coy. A.I.F.

We have received the following unofficial information in a
from
letter of Lieut. J.C. Hoge who writes for the O.C. 3rd Machine
Gun Coy. He stated that Pte. Alexander was killed in action
on 13-3-18, and buried in Spoil Bank Military Cemetery. The
map reference of which is Sheet 28. 1/40000 Part of Belgium and France
A temporary cross was erected and his disc nailed on same, with the
inscription 2748 N. Alexander, M.G.C. Presbyterian.

We are continuing our enquiries for definite details and will
advise you when any information is obtained.

Assuring you his relatives of our sincere sympathy.

Yours faithfully,

(Miss)

SECRETARY.

L.B.

applying to "Director of Graves Registration
& Enquiries, War Office, Winchester
House, St James's Square, London SW1.

They may be able to give you particulars
regarding his grave & number, as we

had to return to the line on completion
of the burial.

As regarding his
personal appearance, he was middle size
fairly well built, brown hair, age

about 27 to 30, but not looking that

age. Rather neat in appearance. He joined

this company about the end of October

or beginning of November. If any

more particulars that you require can

be furnished by me, I will gladly do so.

Yours faithfully

699 Pte L.O. Gibbs
901st Amal Division Reinforcement Wing

F.I.F. France

Adm. H. P. C.
4.6.18
9.5

2748 (cd) Norman Alexander
3rd M. G. Coy
Rm A 13.3.18

S
P
4

594 Pte H. D. Gibb
2nd Army Coy

90 1st Army Div Reinft
France

29/5/18

Wing

Re particular regarding
2748 Pte H. Alexander
Killed in action 18/8/18

expedited way of it at the present
Madame

can furnish a few particulars
regarding this soldier's death, as I happened
to be one of the party that buried him.
He was killed on date above with a
piece of shrapnel which penetrated his
back thus breaking his spine & death

was instantaneous. He laid there all that
night, owing to the severe shelling & next
morning a party of four of us carried
him away to a place of burial, which was
about 2 miles behind the front line a
place called "Spout Bank", where his grave
will be registered by the proper party. By

12/10/18

Thomas Hooper, Esq.,
4, New Burlington Street,
Regent Street, W.1.

May 22nd, 1918.

Dear Sir,

We beg to inform you that we have received another
unofficial report respecting -

2748 Pte. NORMAN ALEXANDER, 3rd Machine Gun Coy, A.I.F.
which confirms the reports already sent you.

Sgt. H.J. Broom, 3rd Machine Gun Coy, stated that Pte.
Alexander was killed near Hollebeke on March 13th, 1918 and buried
by his comrades in "Spill Bank" Cemetery, where he has not doubt that
the grave would be registered. He describes Pte. Alexander as of
average height, with a slight stoop, and a ~~dark~~ complexion and
adds that he had a very quiet disposition. He had known him well,
so had no doubt as to his identity. We hope this may be of some
use to his friends and should we obtain further information will
immediately advise you.

Yours faithfully,

(Miss) F. J. G.

SECRETARY.

Thomas Hooper, Esq.,
4, New Burlington Street,
Regent Street, W.1.

30th April, 1918.

Dear Sir,

In answer to your enquiry about -

2748 Pte. NORMAN ALEXANDER, 3rd Machine Gun Coy, A.I.F.

We beg to inform you that we have received an unofficial report which confirms the official statement that he was Killed in Action.

4527 L/Cpl. Mounsey, of same unit, now at the 3rd Australian Auxiliary Hospital, Dartford, states that he did not see Pte. Alexander wounded, but saw him dead, very soon after. He believes he was hit by a fragment of shell at the back of the neck, and died almost instantly in the arms of Sgt. Broome, who went to his assistance, although himself Cpl. Mounsey knew that he was buried, but can give no particulars. He refers us to Sgt. Broome and to Lieut. Baker-Finch of the same unit and to both of whom we have written and will at once advise you of any further information we may obtain.

Regretting that this evidence is not more definite.

Yours faithfully,

(MISS) *F. S. G.*

SECRETARY.

CANCELS

March 8th, 1916.

AUSTRALIAN LIST

SECRET

Due C. 3757 Name.	51st Bttn. Unit please add this enquiry.	M. Sent. 3/16. Casualty.	Will searchers Cause or Cancels.
Polglase B. 6809	2nd Bttn.		Sufficient.
Smith-Sir H. W. J. 630	2nd "		"
Taylor C. 4374	" "		"
Kernan Lieut. E.	5th "		"
Webster G. A. 6609	9th "		"
White H. 4501	17th "		D. P. of W.
Easther E. 7245	11th "		Sufficient.
Frost E. E. 989	14th "		H. of W.
Jeffrey J. A. 2263	" "		" "
Tillettson J. S. 4621	" "		Bal. Killed.
Seabrook G. R. 6174	17th "		Sufficient.
Seabrook T. L. 6147	17th "		"
Johnson W. 468	22nd "		"
Scott S. A. 5411	22nd "		"
Scott A. J. 2453	23rd "		"
Plowright R. 932	24th "		"
Thomson Cpl. A. 769	30th "		"
Summers H. H. 2644	33rd "		"
Williams A. A. 985	33rd "		"
Stewart J. 7053	37th "		"
Ridley Dvr. H. H. 712	44th "		Killed.
Summers R. C. 1995	50th "		Sufficient.
Smith A. 3616	53rd "		"
Sheehan J. H. 6663	4th Pioneers		"
Hanson T. 33874	6th Bde. F. A.		"
Jackson W. H. 633	7th F. A. B.		"
Landen G. A. 3052	9th F. A. B.		"
Polglase B. 6809	1st L. T. M. Bty.		"
Graham Lieut. R. W.	2nd L. T. M. Bty.		"
Taylor R. H. 3530	V 2/A H. T. Mortar Bty.		"
Wakefield B. 9690	11th Flt. Coy. Engrs.		"
Seymour R. R. 9767	1st Flt. Amb.		"

3rd April 1918.

Thomas Hooper, Esq.,
4, New Burlington Street,
Regent Street, W.1.

Dear Sir,

In answer to your enquiry about - 2728 Pte. NORMAN
ALEXANDER, 3rd M.G. Coy, A.I.F. (not 3rd Bttn) - We deeply
regret to inform you that he is officially reported Killed
in Action March 13th, 1918. No details have been received
yet but we are making enquiries and will advise you as soon
as we obtain any.

With sincere regret at having to confirm this
sad news.

Yours faithfully,

F. St. George
SECRETARY.

TELEPHONE - 1275 GERRARD.

TELEGRAMS. SYD LON BEL. REG. LONDON.

HOOPER & HARRISON LTD
IMPORTERS OF
WOOLLENS & TAILORS TRIMMINGS.

REGISTERED OFFICES,
44, KING STREET,
SYDNEY, N.S.W.

AND AT

MELBOURNE, HOBART,
BRISBANE & ADELAIDE.

4. New Burlington Street,
Regent Street.

2748 N. Alexander London, W.1 23rd. May, 1918

3rd Machine Gun Coy. A.I. 7

The Secretary,
The Australian Red Cross Society,
36, Grosvenor Place, S.W.1.

Dear Madam,

We are duly in receipt of your favour of yesterday's
date, with further information concerning the death of Pte.
NORMAN ALEXANDER. We are forwarding copy of your letter to
the mother of deceased, and this is all the information that
is required.

Thanking you for your kind attention to our enquiry,

We are,

Yours faithfully,

HOOPER & HARRISON LIMITED.

Thos Hooper

Director.

2748
N. Alexander
3rd Machine Gun Coy.
A.I. 7

272
AUSTRALIAN
MACHINE GUN COY

3/8/37
30/1/12

To
NA
Secretary
1st Aust MG Coy

27th Regt 1st Australian
3rd Aust MG Coy

Ref. attached correspond-
ence.
The above named section
was called in action 13/2/18 and
was killed in Spout Burn
Military Cemetery at 1.33 a.m.
1900. It was 28.4.4000 Port of
Belgium and France.

A. Membership Card was
issued and this place would
be same as the member:-
27th Regt 1st Australian
MG Coy
P.M.S.

31
J. H. H. H. H. H.
J. H. H. H. H. H.

Tel.: VICTORIA { 8576
8577
8578



ALL COMMUNICATIONS
TO BE ADDRESSED TO
"THE SECRETARY,"
WOUNDED AND MISSING
— ENQUIRY BUREAU —
AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY.

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY.

36 GROSVENOR PLACE,

LONDON, S.W. 1.

Lieut. A. Baker-Finck
3rd M. G. Coy
A I F
B. I. F.

23 4 18

Dear Sir,

We are making enquiries about a man of your unit,

2748 Pte Norman Alexander. 3rd M. G. Coy
A I F
Reported killed in action 13.3.18

and have been told that you may be able to help us by supplying some information.

We should be most grateful for any details you can send us concerning him, but our enquirers wish especially to know whether he was buried, if so, whether it was on the field, or in a soldiers' cemetery, where the grave would be registered. We would also be glad if you could add a short description of his personal appearance or any points that might help to prove his identity.

In your reply kindly quote name, initials and number, as without these particulars delay and confusion might be caused in identifying the soldier about whom you have written.

Yours faithfully,

(Miss) *Vera Deakin*

Secretary. *per R. J.*

Cedarvale
9-5-18
9/1

2748

April 28. 1918

Norman Alexander
3rd M. G. Coy

France.

To The Sect. Enquiry Bureau K. M. A

13.3.18

Dear Miss,

In answer to your enquiry concerning
No 2748 Pte. N. Alexander, 3rd Machine Gun Coy. A. I. F.
He was killed near Arras on 13 March 1918. & was
buried by us in a soldier cemetery known as Spoil Bank Cemetery
& I have every reason to believe the grave would be registered.
Pte. Alexander was fair complexion, average height, slight
build, & of a very quiet disposition. There is no doubt as
to the real identity of the man as he was well known
by us.

Sgt H. J. Kroome

3rd Machine Gun Coy.

A. I. F.

TELEPHONE - 1275 GERRARD.

TELEGRAMS. SYD. LON. MEL. REG. LONDON.

HOOPER & HARRISON LTD
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WOOLLENS & TAILORS TRIMMINGS.

44, KING STREET,
SYDNEY, N.S.W.

AND AT

MELBOURNE, HOBART,
BRISBANE, & ADELAIDE.

4, New Burlington Street,
Regent Street.

March 27 London, W.1. 26th March 1918.

p.c. 27 3.
18.
Lie. Col. Murdoch,
Australian Red Cross,
36, Grosvenor Place,
S.W.1.

Dear Col. Murdoch,

I am sorry to trouble you in these busy times, but we have just received a cable advice from Sydney that one of the young fellows from our warehouse has been killed and his mother is anxious to try and gain some particulars.

The name is,

Pte. N. Alexander, 2748,
5th Reinforcements,
3rd Battn, Pioneer Engineers,
A.I.F.

Will you kindly let me know the best source to make these enquiries. Thanking you in anticipation and with kindest regards,

Yours sincerely,

Thos Hooper

3rd M.G.Coy.
A.I.F.

ALEXANDER
H. 2748

"Killed 13-3-18"

I saw him killed at Zillebeke. He was caught by pieces of shell which hit him about the legs and back, death being almost instantaneous. He was in a pill box at the time with several others, and a shell landed in the doorway. I did not know him very well, he had not been with us very long. He was the only man in the Coy. of this name. I do not know place of burial, and I cannot refer to anyone for details.

Informant. Field Pte. J.W.S. 7243
3rd M.G.Coy.,
3rd A.A.H.,
DARTFORD.

W. Oman
London
30-5-18

S.

3rd Bn-Ge
3rd M.G.Cc.
A.I.F.

ALEXANDER
Norman. 2748.

"Killed in Action" 13-3-18.

Re particulars regarding 2748 Pte H. Alexander killed in action 13-3-18. I can furnish a few particulars regarding this soldier's death, as I happened to be one of the party that buried him. He was killed on date above with a piece of shrapnel which penetrated his neck, thus breaking his spine and death was instantaneous. He lay there all that night, owing to the severe shelling and next morning, a party of four of us, carried him away to a place of burial, which was about 3 miles behind the front line. A place called "Spcil Bank", where his grave will be registered by the proper party. By applying to the Director of Graves Registration and Enquiries, War Office, Winchester House, St James' Square, London S.W.1. they may be able to give you particulars regarding his grave and number, as we had to return to the line on completion of the burial. As regarding his personal appearance, he was middle size, fairly well built, brown hair, age about 27 to 30, but not looking that age. Rather neat in appearance. He joined this company about the end of October or beginning of November.

Letter from:- Gibbs. Pte. L.D. 599.
3rd Aust. M.G.C.
C/O Aust Div Rfts. Wing.
FRANCE.

London.
6-6-18.

S.
P I.

I. P. 3rd Machine Gun Coy.

ARMY MEDICAL
N. 2740.

KILLED 18/8/18.

I saw him killed at Spoil Bank Wythchaetle. He was caught by pieces of shell, which hit him about the head and neck, death being instantaneous. I knew him very well. He was the only man in the Company of this name. I did not see his grave but I believe he was buried in the cemetery at place of casualty. Refer to Pte. L.D. Gibbs 599 - 3rd Machine Gun Coy., who is now in France, he assisted to carry his body to the cemetery and can give full details.

Witness:- 555 Pte. R.M. Edmonds,
3rd Machine Gun Company,
S A.A.H. Dartford.

NOTE:- Written Pte Gibbs.
17/8/18.

G. Oman.

London.
18/8/18.

5

A.I.F. 5th M.G.C.
5/3rd Bn
late Pioneer Engrs

Herman ALLENBENDER
2748

"In Action"

Killed in action 13-3-18 - no details to hand yet
Capt. by A.I.F. Engrs 13-3-18

London
28-3-18

P.I.

3rd Marching Gun Corps

A.I.F

Alexander, E 2743

(11. March 13. 18.
Dets D & B).

" Alexander was killed by a shell instantaneously.
This happened north of Hollebecq and he was buried there.
I was commander of No. 1 Section. The Coy. Commander sent
him without asking me to another section, where he was killed."

Eye witness-The officer in charge, Lieut. Finch, told
Informant.

Description

Informant :- Lieut. E. Bethune,
3rd Machine Gun Corps, Aus. Imp F.
3rd London General Hospt, Wandse-
worth, London, S. W.

Home address :-
Tasmania.

18.5.18.
A.A. Needham.

S 21
J-4

A.I.F. 6th H.Q. Coy.

ALEXANDER
H. 2748.

KILLED in ACTION 15/8/18.

Re 2748 Pte H. Alexander 6th Australian Machine Gun Company.

The above named soldier was killed in action 15/8/18 and buried in Spoil Bank Military Cemetery at L.36. a S.6. Map Ref. Sheet 28 1/40000 Part of Belgium and France. A temporary Cross was erected and his disc nailed on same (disc inscribed:- 2748 H. Alexander, H.Q.C. Pres.

Letter from:- J.C.Hoge Lieut.

*For Col. 3rd M.G. Coy.
30.4.18*

London
6.5.18.

3
P.L.

A.M.G.C. 3.

ALEXANDER, N. 2748.

K. March 13th 1918. Dets.

Sgt Broom, 3 Co 2 Section was wounded by the same shell that killed Alexander. He said they were at Bluff Bank, Wytschaete near Hill 60. They were holding the line at the time. I heard this from a man (name unknown) not long after. There is no reason why Alexander should not have been buried at the time but I have no definite information. He came from BS Wales, Paddington and was a warehouseman, single, 23 or 24, joined about Oct 1917, not wounded before. Sergt Broom rejoined and has been wounded again since. He went to a CCS first and after the second wound to hospital.

Inf: Pte N.W. Harder. 6613.

No. 1 C.C.

BOULOGNE. 17.5.1918.

WG

3rd M.G.Ccy.
A.I.F.

ALEXANDER
Norman 2748

"Killed in Action 13-3-18"

Re 2748 Pte. N. Alexander, 3rd M.G.Ccy. He was killed near Hollebeke on 13th March, 1918, and was buried by us in a soldiers' Cemetery, known as Spcil Bank Cemetery, and I have every reason to believe the grave would be registered. Pte. Alexander was fair complexion, average height, slight stoop, and of a very quiet disposition. There is no doubt as to the identity of the man, as he was well known by us.

Letter from:- Brocm Sgt. H.J.

3rd M.G.Ccy.,

FRANCE. 26-4-18

London
11-5-18

P.I.
S.