

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

**856 Private
Edwin George Headon**

13th Battalion



1300806I

13th Battn.

Pte Headon E. 856.

K Aug 11/18 Det D/B.

The Battn were at Sailly-le-Laret in dug-outs for a spell after the advance on Morricourt. Headon and two others went for a swim in the Somme after Dinner in the evening; they were examining trench Mortar bombs when one exploded and killed them all; Headon was blown to pieces.

Refer to Sgt Eastie, H. Q., M. G. coy, who will know about burial.

3759 Pte Gibley A. K. H. Q., M. G. coy.

Dartford 5/10/18.

N. B. P.

S

Written Cpl. Taster 23.10.18.

13th. Battn.

Headon, E. 856.

K. 11/8/18.

Pte. Don Fergusson who has since been killed told me he saw Pte. Headon, and Sgt. Baxter killed outright by a stokes Motor shell which burst as they were about to throw it at some fish at Sailly-le-Sec or Sailly Laurette. The Battn: pioneers buried him but I do not know wh re.

13th. Battn.

Farrell, K. Pte. 6517.

B. 29. Dartford. 29/10/18.

R.D.B.

W.S.

S

A.I.F. 13th Battn.

Headon
E.856

"Killed 11/8/18."

I saw his body an hour after he had been killed instantly, (being practically blown to pieces) by the premature explosion of a Trench Mortar bomb which he had been holding with the intention of throwing it into the water for killing fish in a canal connected with the Somme at Sailly-Laurette on August 11th 1918 at about 3.30 P.M. Sgt. Baxter 13th Bn., A.I.F. A. Coy, was also killed outright by the same bomb. They were taken out and buried. Headon's body was unrecognizable but not Baxter's. I did not know the former personally. He was in A. Coy. An original man, dark and the only man of his name in the Coy, as far as I know. His name was Edward.

Informant:- Lieut. H.W. Curtis,
13th Battn. A.I.F.
Trench Mortar Battery,
3rd London General Hospital,
Wandsworth.

A.G. Campbell.
3/10/18.
London
31/10/18.

S.

13th Battn.
A.I.F.

HEADON.
E. 856.

"Killed in Action 11-8-18"

I remember that Pte Ned Headon (13.A. Coy Cook) with Sgt Tom Baxter (13.A.) and Pte Pearce (13.A.) were carrying a shell, or Trench Mortar, down to the river bank, for the purpose of throwing it into the stream, to kill the fish. They intended somehow, to explode the shell in the water, but it exploded prematurely killing Pte Headon and Sgt Baxter instantaneously and wounding Pte Pearce so seriously that he died shortly afterwards. I went down to the spot, and heard all about it. We were cut of the line for a day or two at Sailly Laurette and everyone was going down to the river to swim. The ground was held.

Eye-Witness:- No.

Description:- Original, tall, we called him "Ned".

Home address:-

27 Lang Street.

Mosman, Sydney.

Informant:- Kingston, Carleton, 7587, Pte.

(Very intelligent. I left him as his dinner was brought up. When I returned I found that he had written out the whole account very neatly.)

13th Battn.
A.I.F.

-2-

HEADON.
E. 856.

13th Battalion: A.I.F. A.I.I. H.C.
3rd Southern General Hospital.
Cowley Section. OXFORD.

Hilda.M.Pickard Cambridge.
London.
4-11-18.
M.I.S.

S.

13th Battn.
A.I.F.

HEADON.
E. 856.Pte.

"Killed in Action 11-8-18"

I saw ltc Edward Headon killed instantly by a bomb
about 10.o'clock in the morning on 11th August 1918.
just outside Corbie. He was buried by our own men quite close
to the river in the Military Cemetery. His grave is marked
by a cross with his name and number on it. I have known him
many years and we left Australia together.

Eye-Witness:-

Description:-

Home address:-

Clepea, Le.

Smith St. Wollongong.N.S.W.

Chas.T.Allsop.

London.

4-11-18.

M.I.S.

Informant:- Williams.I.2536.Pte.(Intelligent)

13th Battn. A.I.F.

2/1st S.Gen: Hpl.

Dudley Rd.BIRMINGHAM.

S.

A.I.F. 13th Battn.

HEADON
E, 856

"Killed 11/8/18."

13th A.I.F. I knew him well. He was 5ft.9ins., dark, and about 31 years old. He, Baxter and Bance A.3147, all of the same Company were together near the river at Sully-le-Sec. Baxter was handling a hand bomb. This exploded prematurely wounding Bance, and killing Headon and Baxter instantly. They were buried together at place of Casualty. Padre Hensby E.C. officiating.

Informant:- Sgt. M.G. Hickling, 569,
13th Battn. A. Coy,
1. Platoon.

W.M.K.
London
14.11.18.
H.G.

S.