

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

**6075 Private
William George
Needham**

38th Battalion



1981008R

A.I.F. 38th Btn

W.G. NEEDHAM
6075

"K. in A 26-12-16"

Killed in action 26-12-16 - Buried at Cite Bonjean M. Cemetery
Armentieres

Cert. by A.I.F. Hrs 13-10-17.

London
15-10-17

M

A.I.F. 38th Bgtn.

NEEDHAM.
W.G. 6055

Killed in Action. 26.12.16.

Killed in Action.

Buried in the Honour Cemetery Armentières in grave
109, Section 3, Block 3, Row A.

Cert by German list of graves in cemetery.
See letter Capt. Mills. 28.7.19.

NAME

UNIT

COMPANY

CAUSE OF DEATH

London.
3.10.19.

TESTIMONY

CAUSE

38th Battn.
B.Coy.
A.I.F.

Needham.
W. G. 6075

"Killed 26.12.16."

I saw him killed at Hoop Lines at Armentieres. He was shot through the head by a sniper death being instantaneous. I knew him very well, he was the only man of that name in the Coy. We held the ground but I do not know place of burial, and I cannot refer to anyone for particulars. I think most probably he would have been buried at Armentieres.

Witness:-

Pte. R. Watt 699

38th Battn. B.Coy. 7th Pltn.

3rd Aust. Aux. Hospital.

Dartford.

W. Oman.

London.

14.11.17.

H,

See 32nd Batt.

38th Btn.

NEEDHAM, W.G.
Pte. No. 6075

Killed in action 26/12/16.

"Casualty was killed on the 26th December, 1916 at Armentieres in the front line trenches, on sentry duty. He was shot through the head at night. He was buried at the River Iys at Armentieres. I myself put him on a stretcher. I carried him there."

Informant:- Captain Ackeroyd
38th Btn.

Private address
Vida Street,
Essendon.

H.A.B.
2/10/17.

*Final Casualty
November 1914.*

M.

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS INFORMATION BUREAU-MELBOURNE.

38th Btn.

NEEDHAM, W.G.
Pte. No. 6075

Killed in action 26/12/16.

"Casualty was in B. Company 38th Btn. Casualty the 1st man killed in B. Coy. He was shot through the head whilst in the trench on sentry duty. Death was instantaneous. I had this information from Cpl. Branch of the 38th Btn. still with the unit in France."

Informant:- Pte. W.J. Roberts
No. 6101 38th Btn.
Private address
11. Rose Street,
Richmond.

H.A.B.
17/10/17.

Final Casualty

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS INFORMATION BUREAU-MELBOURNE.

M.

38
A.I.F.

Needham, Pte.W.G. 0075.

16
K. Dec.26/18/ Det.D/B.

" I did not see Needham killed but I knew him well & knew about it at the time. He was shot through the head while on sentry duty. He was the only one of the name in the company. He was buried in the cemetery at Armentieres & I believe I have seen his grave but would not like to say so positively."

Eyewitness:-

Description:-

Informant:- L/cpl.F.Perry, 645.
35th.A.I.F. B Co.
Red Cross Hosp., Weir, Balham.

5/11/17.
B.H.M.Riddel.

M. J. 1918

A.I.R. 38.

K. 26.12.16.

NEEDHAM W.G. 6075.

He was killed on the night of 29th.Dec.(not 26th.Dec.) in the trenches, E. of Armentieres, in the Houplines Sector. Pte.J.J. Roberts, 652, B.Co. who was present with Needham, states that just as he was about to take over from him, Needham put his head above the trench and was shot and killed instantly by a chance bullet. His dead body fell back into the trench. Place of burial not known.

SA.

Reference: Eye-witness: P.J.J. Roberts. 652.
B.Co.

Cert.by Adj. 38th.Bn.
Senlecques.

Staples.
9.11.17.

Qm.

Ad. suff.

38th Battn.
A.I.F.

Needham.
W. G. 6075

"Killed 26.12.16"

He was observing at night over the top of the trench when a stray bullet hit him through his head killing him right out. I saw him a few minutes after he was hit. He was of short build and dark hair. He had not been in the battalion long. We were in Hoop Lines Armentieres when he was hit. He is buried in Armentieres Cemetery.

Witness:-

Pte. H. Ostood 634

38th Battn. A.I.F.

Sutton Veny.

F. Mackay

London.
14.11.17.

M.

38th. Battn.
A.I.F.

Needham
W.G. 6075.

Killed 26.12.18.

I was about 2 bags away in Hoop line sector when a stray bullet got him in the head and killed him outright. I carried him behind the line to Stretcher Bearers who took him away for burial in Montieres Cemetery. We were both B. Co. All those who would have seen his grave there are killed.

Inf: Madill, Sgt. A.E. 595,

S.P.J.
London.
20/11/17.

M.

38th. Battn.
A.I.F. B Coy.

Needham
W.G. 6075.

Killed 26.12.16.

I saw him dead in the trench at Hooplins, Armentieres. I carried him out of the trench where he had been killed. He was shot through the head by a sniper, death being instantaneous. Casualty was at night time, and I was only a few yards away at the time. I knew him very well, he came from Helber, I think he kept a book shop somewhere near there. I did not see his grave, but he was buried in the cemetery at Armentieres, and the grave was marked with a cross bearing his number, name and unit.

Witness: Ure, Cpl. D. T. 679.
38th, Batt. B. Coy. 5th. Pltn.
3rd. A.A. Hospital.
Dartford.

W. Oman.
London.
20.11.17.

M.

38th Btn.

NEEDHAM, W. G.
Pto. 6075.

Killed in action 26/12/16.

"I knew Casualty. He was a man about 5 ft. 11 ins. dark complexion, prominent cheek bones, moustache, about 33 years of age. Casualty was on sentry post front line, Houplines, Armentieres. He was looking over the parapet at about 11 p.m. and a stray bullet hit Casualty in the head killing him instantly. I was 40 yds. away and I helped to carry him out. We took him as far as the Avenue and the stretcher bearers took charge of him. He was buried in the Armentieres Cemetery and a cross was erected with his name and number. I was an eye-witness. He was well known and liked by all his comrades."

Informant:- Sgt. A.E. Madill.
No. 595, 88th Btn.

Private address:-
Undera,
Mooroopna.

T.C.F.
11/2/18.

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS INFORMATION BUREAU-MELBOURNE.

38th Btn.

NEEDHAM, W. G.
Pto. 6075

Killed in action 26/12/16.

"I knew Casualty. He was a man, about 5 ft. 11 ins. dark complexion and dark moustache, a married man, about 35 years of age. Casualty was an observer on a bombing post on the right of trench 86, Houplines, Armentieres. He was sniped through his helmet in the head killing him instantly. I was trench sergeant at the time. I saw him at his post when on my rounds and on coming back he was being taken away on a stretcher dead. He was buried in a small cemetery on the right leading to Cambridge House."

Informant:- Sgt. G. Grover,
No. 555.

Private address:-
Korang, P.O.

T.C.F.
8/3/18.

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS INFORMATION BUREAU-MELBOURNE.

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DUP

38th Btn.

HEEDHAM, W. G.
Pte. 6075

Killed in action 26/12/16.

"I knew Casualty. He was a man about 5 ft. 7 ins. well built, dark complexion, about 35 years of age. Casualty was on Observation Point front line trench at the Houplines. It was evening and Casualty was observing when he was hit in the head by a rifle bullet which killed him instantly. I was standing behind him and he fell on me when hit. He was taken by the stretcher bearers to Advanced Dressing Station and I do not know where he was buried. I was an eye-witness."

Informant:- Sgt. G. E. Tilley,
No. 677, 38th Btn.

Private address:-
Vincent Street,
Castlemaine.

T.C.F.
26/7/18.

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS INFORMATION BUREAU-MELBOURNE

*True and
M*