

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

**2401 Private  
Richard Thompson**

**38th Battalion**



2730811M

A. May 29th 1917. Dets. D/B.

Thompson - name Dick - was killed at Ploegsteert a fortnight I should say before the Messines hop over. A heavy strafe was on and he was killed in the trench by a shell. I was in the next bay and saw him a quarter of an hour afterwards. He was not wounded but killed by the concussion. He would most likely be buried at Hyde Park Corner Cemetery, as that is where they used to take them from the front line, but the cemetery has been much torn up by shells. Thompson was in my Pltn. XVI. a man of ordinary build, age about 23 or 24 lightish hair.

Inf: Pto. G.A. Haffernan. 2082. D.XVI.  
55, Gen. Hosp.  
BROFODGE. 17.10.17.

JT.

M

58th Batn  
A.I.F. *Dis.*

THOMPSON  
R. 2410

Killed 29.5.17."

I saw him killed by concussion at Ploegstreet Wood whilst on gas post duty. I do not know place of burial and cannot refer to anyone. I knew him well he came from Sydney and left Australia the same time as I did.

Witness:- Pte. A. Norris 2012  
58th Batn D. Coy., 16th Pltn.  
3rd A.A. Hospital,  
Dartford.

W. Omen

London. 18.10.17.

M

A.I.F. 38.

THOMPSON, R. 2410.

K. May 29th 1917. Dets D/B.

I was told by Pte Bateman of the same battn. and who came over with me in the 4th Reinf from Melbourne on the 20th Oct 1916 that he was talking to Thompson in the trenches when receiving no answer he found that Thompson was dead. He thinks he must have died from heart failure.

Inf: T.Handel. 2336. B.Coy.  
No. 2 Aust Gen  
BOULOGNE. 30.10.17.

ED

M

38th. Battn., A.I.F. Thompson, R. 2410.

K. May 29/17.

" I saw Thompson killed in the line with me on the night before the Messines push. He was hit by a shell & a piece went into his spine. He was killed at Ploegsteert, and buried outside there," I believe. He was killed instantaneously."

Eyewitness:- Yes.

Description:- Short, round shoulders, called " Dick".

Informant:- W.E.Thompson, 3403.

38th Battn. A.I.F.

Howard de Waldon Hosp., K. 12, Maidstone.

M

2/11/17.

Mabel Hannen.

38th Bn D. Coy.,  
A.I.F.

THOMPSON  
R. 2410

"Killed 29.5.17."

I did not see him killed but I saw him immediately after the casualty. I cannot say exactly what hit him but death was instantaneous.

It happened at Ploegstreet. I knew him very well his father was a blacksmith in Newtown-Sydney and he was the only man of that name in the Coy. We were holding the front line at time of casualty.

He was buried at Ploegstreet but I did not see the grave and cannot refer to anyone for particulars.

Witness:- Pte. F.A. Beves 2520

3rd Bn D. Coy., 14th Pltn.

3rd A.I. Hpl.

Dartford.

London.

13.11.17.

M

A. I. F. 38.

THOMPSON, R. 2410.

K. May 28th, 1917.

He was killed by a shell while on gas guard in <sup>Aircraft</sup> ~~insc~~roft Avenue in the Floegsteert Sector on May 28th at 10 p.m. Nothing definite known as to burial. Pte Bateman (batman to Lt. Bowden) was on duty near him that night and could probably give additional information.

SA.

Eyo Witness: Cpl. W.L. Travaskie.

Cert. by Adj. 38th Battn.  
Sanlecques.

*m. ed*  
*rw* Staples  
8.11.17.

36th Btn.

THOMPSON. R.  
Pte. 2410

Killed in action 29/5/17.

"I knew Casualty. I don't know how he was killed but his body was handed to me for identification. He was buried at Charing Cross Cemetery, Finsgatect, in Row D. Plot C. Grave No. 10. He was C.of.E. and the service was conducted by Captain Hayden. He was well liked by his comrades."

Informant:- Pioneer Sgt. J. Bedworth.  
36th Battalion.

T.C.F.  
28/12/17.

Private address:-  
40 O'Grady Street,  
South Melbourne.

*M. C. Long*

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS INFORMATION BUREAU-MELBOURNE.