

**Tidworth Military Cemetery,  
Tidworth, Wiltshire, England**

**War Graves**



*Lest We Forget*

**World War 1**



**62335 PRIVATE**

**E. A. NEALE**

**27TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.**

**7TH SEPTEMBER, 1919 Age 20**

*The Lord Gave*

*And The Lord Hath Taken Away*

## Ernest Alfred NEALE

Ernest Alfred Neale was born at Tea Tree Gully, South Australia on 28th April, 1899 to parents William James and Eliza Hall Neale (nee Whiting).

Ernest Alfred Neale attended the public school at Hope Valley, South Australia.

Ernest Alfred Neale was a 19 year old, single, Labourer from Hope Valley, South Australia when he enlisted on 9th July, 1918 at Adelaide, South Australia with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 62335 & his religion was Methodist. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr W. J. Neal, Hope Valley, South Australia. Ernest Neale stated on his Attestation Papers that he had served 4 years with Senior Cadets then transferred to Citizen Forces – 79th Infantry.

As Ernest Alfred Neale was under the age of 21 years – his parents were required to consent to their son enlisting in the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.) for active service abroad.

The Enrolling Office wrote a letter to D.A.A.G. Headquarters, 4th Military District on 12th July, 1918 advising: *“Herewith Attestation Papers and Objection for Pte E. A. Neal. Forwarded for your information under Def: Circular 129.”*

A reply was sent from D.A.A.G. Headquarters, 4th Military District on 17th July, 1918 to Recruiting Depot advising: *“... The Recruit is to be enlisted in accordance with instructions from Executive of State Recruiting Committee. Applicant has been advised.”*

Private Ernest Alfred Neale was posted to “B” Company on 30th July, 1918 at Mitcham, South Australia for recruit training. He was transferred to 5th General Reinforcements – South Australia on 24th August, 1918.

Private Ernest Alfred Neale entrained from Adelaide, South Australia on 29th August, 1918 & embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on HMAT *Barambah (A37)* on 31st August, 1918 with the 5th (South Australian) Reinforcements & disembarked at London, England on 14th November, 1918.

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

Private Ernest Alfred Neale was marched in to No. 2 Camp Details, Parkhouse, Wiltshire, England on 14th November, 1918 from Australia. He was allotted to Reinforcements of 27th Battalion on 14th November, 1918 from General Service Reinforcements.

Private Ernest Alfred Neale was sent to Military Hospital, Tidworth, Wiltshire on 17th November, 1918 & then admitted to Isolation Military Hospital, Brimstone Bottom, Wiltshire on the same day with Mumps. He was discharged on 7th December, 1918 & was discharged to Training Depot the same day.

Private Ernest Alfred Neale was admitted to No. 4 Group Hospital, Codford, Wiltshire on 23rd December, 1918 from 5th Training Battalion. He was discharged to his Unit on 1st January, 1919 & returned to 5th Training Battalion the same day.

Private Ernest Alfred Neale proceeded overseas via Southampton on 28th January, 1919 from 5th Training Battalion at Codford, Wiltshire. He was marched in to Australian Staging Camp on 29th January, 1919 & reported sick the same day. He was admitted to 34th Stationary Hospital at Abancourt on 29th January, 1919 with Tonsillitis. Private Neale was discharged on 3rd February, 1919 & was marched in to Australian Staging Camp the same day.

Private Ernest Alfred Neale was marched out from Australian Staging Camp on 3rd February, 1919 & was taken on strength of 27th Battalion in France on 6th February, 1919.

Private Ernest Alfred Neale reported sick on 25th February, 1919. He was admitted to 7th Australian Field Ambulance on 25th February, 1919 with VD then transferred the same day & admitted to 55th Casualty Clearing Station. Private Neale was transferred to Ambulance Train 25 on 28th February, 1919 & admitted to 7th General Hospital in France on 2nd March, 1919. He was transferred to England on 4th March, 1919.

## 27th Battalion

The 27th Battalion was raised in South Australia in March 1915, from recruits previously earmarked for the 24th Battalion, a large number of whom hailed from the suburbs of Adelaide. The battalion left Australia in June, and, after two months spent training in Egypt, landed at Gallipoli on 12 September.

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The Battalion's last actions of the war were fought as part of the effort to break through the Beurevoir Line in the first week of October 1918, but it was not disbanded until 4 June 1919.

*(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)*

Private Ernest Alfred Neale was admitted to 1st Australian Dermatological Hospital at Bulford, Wiltshire, England on 4th March, 1919 with VD. He was discharged to Military Hospital, Delhi (Tidworth) on 1st September, 1919.

Private Ernest Alfred Neale was admitted to Military Hospital, Tidworth, Wiltshire, England on 1st September, 1919. He was reported to be seriously ill with Appendicitis on 4th September, 1919.

Private Ernest Alfred Neale died on 7th September, 1919 at Military Hospital, Tidworth, Wiltshire, England from Cholecystitis Appendicitis.

A death for Ernest A. Neale, aged 20, was registered in the September quarter, 1919 in the district of Andover, Hampshire, England.

A communication was sent from Base Records on 9th September, 1919 to William Neale, Hope Valley, South Australia, father of Private Ernest Alfred Neale, advising that Private Ernest Neale had been admitted to Tidworth Military Hospital, England on 4th September with Appendicitis. A follow-up communication sent on the same day advised "*Private Ernst Neale seriously ill. Progress report expected.*"

Private Ernest Alfred Neale was buried on 10th September, 1919 in Tidworth Military Cemetery, Wiltshire, England – Plot number C. 389 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Private Ernest Alfred Neale - *Coffin was Elm. Brass Mounts. Deceased was buried with full Military honors the coffin draped with the Australian Flag being borne to the graveside on a Gun-carriage preceded by a Firing Party from Headquarters A.I.F. Depots in United Kingdom. Six of Deceased's late Unit comrades supported the Pall. The "Last Post" was sounded and volleys fired over the grave. A number of Australiana attended as mourners and were present at the graveside ceremony. Headquarters A.I.F. Depots in United Kingdom were represented at the funeral.*

Mrs Eliza Neale, Hope Valley, South Australia, wrote to Base Records on 1st October, 1919 requesting, in duplicate a Certificate of Death "*in respect to death of my son No. 62335 Private E. A. Neale, 27th Battalion Australian Imperial Force...*".

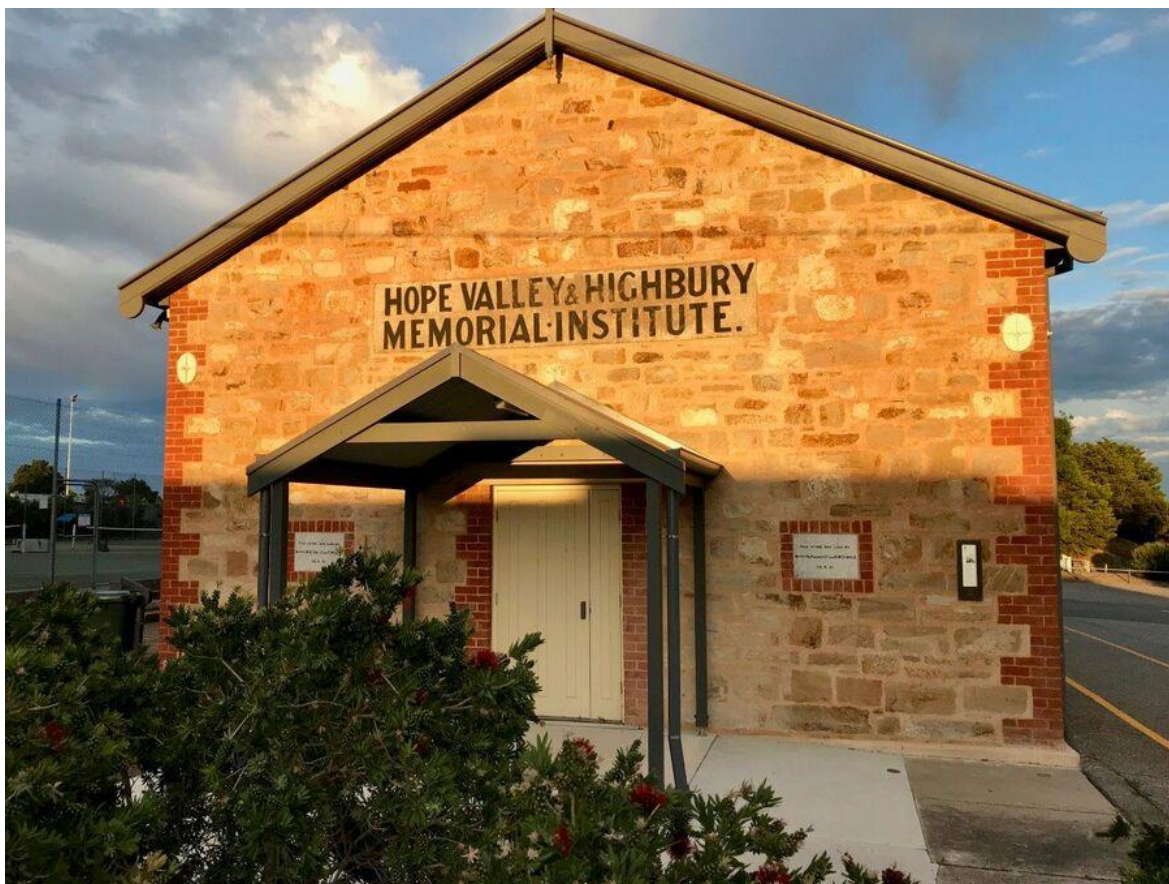
Base Records replied to Mrs E. Neale on 14th November, 1919 enclosing a certificate in duplicate of report of death of the late No. 62335 Private E. A. Neale, 27th Battalion.

Private Ernest Alfred Neale requested in his Will dated 30th July, 1918 that all his "*property whatsoever and wheresoever including military estate to my mother Eliza Neale, of Hope Valley South Australia whom I appoint sole executrix.*"

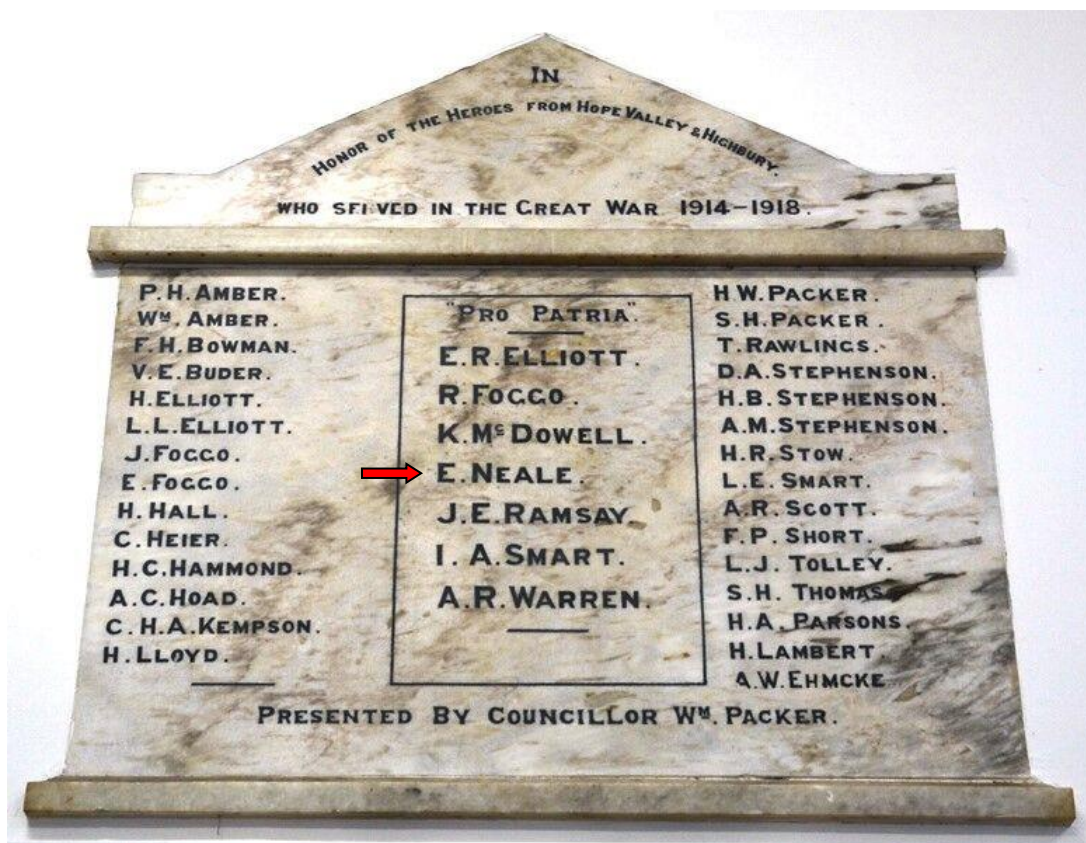
Private Ernest Alfred Neale was entitled to British War Medal only as he had not entered a Theatre of War. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Neale's father – Mr W. J. Neale, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent July, 1921 & Plaque sent December, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Ernest Alfred Neale – service number 62335, aged 20, of 27th Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of William James and Eliza Hall Neale, of Hope Valley, South Australia.

E. Neale is remembered on the Hope Valley & Highbury Honour Roll, located in Hope Valley & Highbury Memorial Institute, 65 Valley Road, Hope Valley, South Australia.

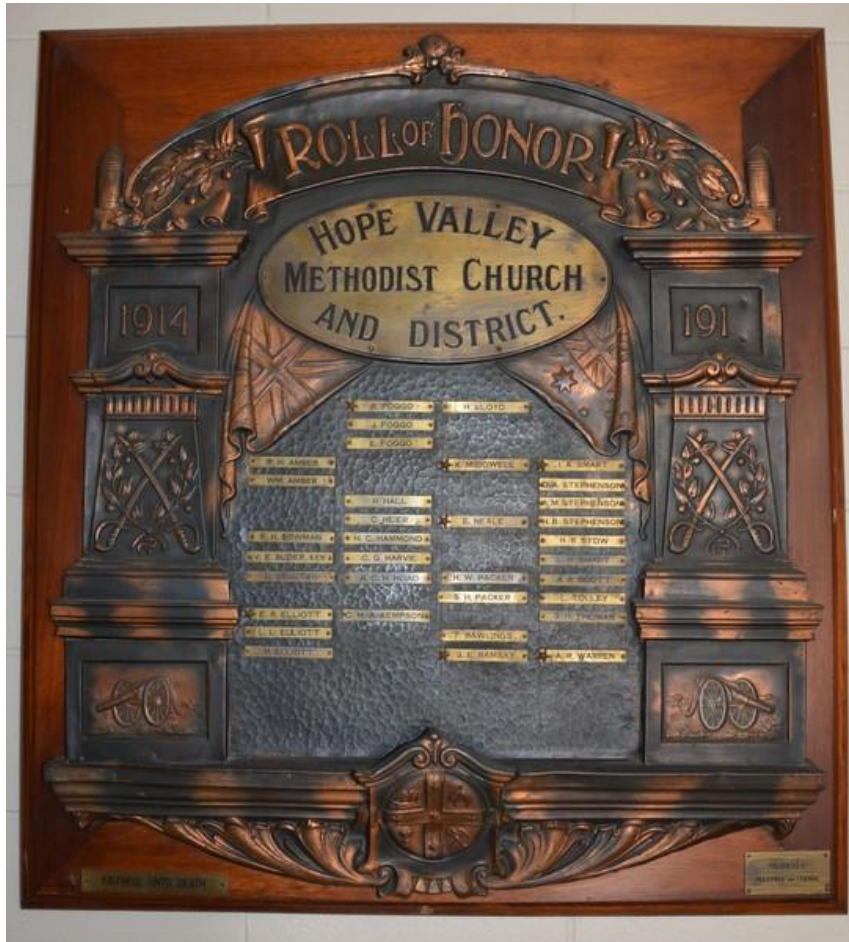


Hope Valley & Highbury Memorial Institute (Photo from Monument Australia – Stephen Warren)



Hope Valley & Highbury Honour Roll (Photo from Monument Australia – Georgina Bliss)

E. Neale is remembered on the Hope Valley & District Methodist Church Roll of Honour, located in Tea Tree Gully RSL, Tea Tree Gull Community Hall, Memorial Road, Tea Tree Gully, South Australia.



Hope Valley & District Methodist Church Roll of Honour (Photo by Contemplari)



E. A. Neale is remembered on the National Soldiers Memorial in Adelaide. The Adelaide National War Memorial commemorates those from South Australia that served in the First World War. The names of those that died are listed inside the Memorial, which is located on the corner of North Terrace & Kintore Avenue, Adelaide.



**National War Memorial – Adelaide** (Photos by Bilby)

Private E. A. Neale is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 111.



*Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia*

(56 pages of Private Ernest Alfred Neale's Service records are available for On Line viewing at National Archives of Australia website).

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



## **Newspaper Notices**

### **THE ROLL OF HONOR**

#### **CASUALTY LIST No. 474**

Died – 62355 Private E. A. Neale, Hope Valley, illness (p.r. died, cause not stated), 27th Battalion

*(The Advertiser, Adelaide, South Australia – 14 October, 1919)*

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### **THE AUSTRALIANS**

#### **CASUALTY LIST OF ONE NAME**

Casualty list No. 474, issued on Monday contains but one name:- 62335 – Pte Ernest Alfred Neale, 27th Battalion, Hope Valley, 7/9/19 died of illness (p.r. died, cause not stated).

*(Observer, Adelaide, South Australia – 18 October, 1919)*

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### **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. 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 E. A. Neale does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

*The Lord Gave*

*And The Lord Hath Taken Away*

## Tidworth Military Cemetery, Wiltshire, England

Tidworth Military Cemetery, which contains burials of both wars, was directly connected with training grounds on, or near, Salisbury Plain.

During the First World War, the cemetery was used for burials from Tidworth and Fargo Military Hospitals and the 417 graves, many of them of Australian or New Zealand servicemen, are scattered throughout the cemetery.

There are 106 Second World War graves in the cemetery, two substantial groups of which can be found in sections F and D. The rest are scattered.

The cemetery also contains 40 war graves of other nationalities, many of them Polish.

*(Information from CWGC)*



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

D00327

*The AIF Tidworth cemetery under snow. – March 1919.*

*Identified graves marked by a cross and headstone in the foreground*

*Front row: 50727 Private Rowland James Dickson, Australian Machine Gun Corps, died 14 October 1918.*

*Second row, left to right: 18282 Driver John Thalma Jackson, Details Australian Engineers, died 30 October 1917; 17445 Pte Roland Travers Woodville, Australian Army Medical Corps, died 13 September 1917; 31712 Gunner John Alexander McDonald, 15th Field Artillery Brigade, Australian Field Artillery, died 30 July 1917, aged 37, at Tidworth Military Hospital; 3062 Pte Even Thomas Kennedy, 3rd Australian Pioneers, died 7 August 1917.*

*Note Gunner McDonald has a large headstone which reads in part 'erected by his sorrowing comrades of the Australian Field Artillery. His duty done.'*





AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

D00481

### Tidworth Military Cemetery – 12 June, 1919

*A corner of the Australian cemetery. Front row, left to right: 5840 Private F. W. Heede, 25th Battalion died 3 June 1917; 7350 Private A. E. Campbell, 8th Battalion, died 2 August 1917; 1824 Driver A. C. Jones, 4th Company, Australian Machine Gun Corps, AADC, died 8 August 1917; 8009 Corporal W. J. Giles, Australian Tunnelling Company, died 17 March 1918.*



**Tidworth Military Cemetery** (Photo by julia&keld – Find a Grave)



**Tidworth Military Cemetery, Wiltshire** (Photo courtesy of John Prestidge)



**Tidworth Military Cemetery, Wiltshire** (Photo by Chris Talbot 2009)



*(Photo courtesy of Portsmouth Remembers – Kevin)*



*(Photo from CWGC)*

Photo of Private E. A. Neale's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Tidworth Military Cemetery, Wiltshire, England.



*(Photo courtesy of Selena Hardie)*

