

**Leighterton Church Cemetery,
Leighterton, Gloucestershire, England
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



CADET

GEORGE FRANCIS JACK NEEDHAM

AUSTRALIAN FLYING CORPS

23RD APRIL, 1918 Age 27

There Is No Death

George Francis Jack NEEDHAM

George Francis Jack Needham was born at Burra, South Australia on 14th May, 1889 to parents Richard John & Emma Plumb Needham (nee Leach).

George Francis Jack Needham attended St. Peters College, South Australia.

Richard John Needham, father of George Francis Jack Needham, died on 17th August, 1911 at Parkside, South Australia.

George Francis Jack Needham was a 26 year old, single, Bank Accountant from 13 George Street, Parkside, Adelaide, South Australia when he enlisted on 27th January, 1916 in Adelaide, South Australia with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His religion was Church of England & his next of kin was listed as his sister – Miss E. D. Needham, c/o Union Bank of Australia, Adelaide, South Australia. George Needham stated on his Attestation Papers that he had served for 4 months with Engineers Corp at Broken Hill.

Private George Francis Jack Needham was posted to "B" Company, 2nd Depot Battalion on 27th January, 1916 for recruit training. He was appointed Provisional Corporal on 16th February, 1916 while posted with 17th Reinforcements of 10th Battalion. Provisional Corporal Needham was transferred to N.C.O. School, 4th Military District, Mitcham from 1st April, 1916. He was transferred to 13th Reinforcements of 27th Battalion on 16th May, 1916 & appointed Provisional Sergeant. On 1st June, 1916 he was transferred to Field Artillery with the rank of Gunner. Gunner Needham was transferred to Field Artillery Reinforcements at Maribyrnong from 22nd August, 1916 then transferred to Field Artillery Brigade, 6th Reinforcements from 19th September, 1916.

Emma Plumb Needham, mother of George Francis Jack Needham, died on 6th June, 1916 at Parkside, South Australia.

Gunner George Francis Jack Needham, Service number 27571, embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on HMAT *Borda* (A30) on 20th October, 1916 with the 14th Field Artillery Brigade, 6th Reinforcements & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 9th January, 1917.

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.

Gunner George Francis Jack Needham was admitted to 2nd Auxiliary Hospital at Southall, England on 31st January, 1917 with Influenza. He was discharged to duty at Parkhouse, Wiltshire on 5th February, 1917.

Gunner George Francis Jack Needham was marched out to Camp 21 at Larkhill, Wiltshire on 2nd February, 1917*. He was marched in to R.B.A.A. (Reserve Brigade Australian Artillery) at Larkhill, Wiltshire on 4th February, 1917*. (*Dates as listed on Casualty Form – Active Service).

Gunner George Francis Jack Needham was sent sick to Southall Hospital on 6th February, 1917 (whilst on Leave) from R.B.A.A. at Larkhill. He was discharged on 8th February, 1917.

Gunner George Francis Jack Needham was attached to Administrative Headquarters from 13th February, 1917 ex 14th F.A.B. (Field Artillery Brigade) "*for duty with Commonwealth Bank*". He was detached from attached duty with Commonwealth Bank on 30th September, 1917 & was marched out to A.F.C.

Gunner George Francis Jack Needham was marched in to A.F.C. (Australian Flying Corps) Details at Halton Camp, Wendover, England on 5th October, 1917. He was marched out to S.M.A. (School of Military Aeronautics) at Reading on 5th October, 1917 & was taken on strength as 2nd Air Mechanic on the same day & appointed Cadet (one record on Casualty Form – Active Service stated he joined No. 1 S. M.A. at Reading on 4th October, 1917).

2nd Air Mechanic (Cadet) George Francis Jack Needham was marched in to A.F.C. Details on 16th January, 1918 from Reading. He was marched out from A.F.C. Details on 22nd January, 1918 to No. 5 Training Squadron. He was attached for elementary instruction in aviation at No. 5 Training Squadron at Shawbury on 23rd January, 1918.

Cadet George Francis Jack Needham was marched out to No. 25 Wing Headquarters at Castle Bromwich on 21st March, 1918. He was attached to Headquarters 1st Wing for higher instruction & posted to No. 7 Training Squadron.

2nd Air Mechanic Needham was marched in to No. 7 Training Squadron on 25th March, 1918 from No. 54 Training Squadron.

The Australian Flying Corps (A.F.C.)

In 1914 Australia's only military aviation base, the Central Flying School, newly established at Point Cook, was equipped with two flying instructors and five flimsy training aircraft. From this modest beginning Australia became the only British dominion to set up a flying corps for service during the First World War. Known as the Australian Flying Corps (AFC) and organised as a corps of the Australian Imperial Force (AIF), its four-line squadrons usually served separately under the orders of Britain's Royal Flying Corps. The AFC's first complete flying unit, No. 1 Squadron, left Australia for the Middle East in March 1916. By late 1917 three more squadrons, Nos 2, 3, and 4, had been formed to fight in France. A further four training squadrons based in England formed an Australian Training Wing to provide pilots for the Western Front.

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It was different for AFC members who served in the Western Front squadrons. Arriving in England between December 1916 and March 1917 and doing eight-months' training before being sent to the front, Nos 2, 3, and 4 Squadrons began their active service at a time when the use of aircraft in war was far more developed. The days when enemy airmen waved to each other on reconnaissance flights were long gone. Aircraft now carried machine-guns as standard equipment, and interrupter gears, developed in 1915, enabled pilots in single-seat fighters to fire straight ahead through their propellers. By 1918 aircraft were being used in a variety of roles: some as fighters, others for reconnaissance or artillery spotting, and others for bombing operations inside enemy territory.

The AFC's best aircraft in the final year of the war were among the most technically advanced of the day. Bristol's BF2b, a two-seat fighter-bomber known as the Bristol Fighter, could climb to 10,000 feet in 11 minutes and fly at 113 miles an hour when it got there. The famous Sopwith Camel could reach 12,000 feet in 12 minutes, fully loaded with weapons and ammunition, and fly as quickly as the Bristol Fighter. Pilots and observers sat exposed to the elements in noisy open cockpits.

(Information from Australian War Memorial)



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

D00471

Leighterton, England.

A view of one of the two Australian aerodromes used by No. 7 (Training) Squadron, Australian Flying Corps (AFC) and No. 8 (Training) Squadron, AFC, showing the old and new camouflaged type of hangars.

On 23rd April, 1918 at 10.10 am Cadet / 2nd Air Mechanic George Francis Jack Needham was flying solo in B.E.2. E. B.6176 practising turns out of Leighterton Aerodrome.



Royal Aircraft Factory BE 2c/d/e/

B6176

Feb 18: Built as B6176 the 26th of 50 Royal Aircraft Factory B.E.2e aircraft built under license by British Caudron Co Ltd in their UK factory at Alloa, Clackmannanshire, Scotland. Built to Contract AS15178 dated 25 October 1917 in the Serial Range B6151 to B6200.

Note: The Serial Block B6151 to B6200 was originally allocated to the Sopwith 2F.1 Shipboard Camel but was changed in Oct 1917 to the B.E.2c.

Mar 18: Taken on charge by the Royal Flying Corps (RFC) for acceptance checks by the Aeronautical Inspection Department of No.6 Aircraft Acceptance Park at Renfrew, Scotland. Fitted with a 90Raf engine Serial No.954/WD5105.

Mar 18: Received for dispatch by J&B Weir Co Ltd Glasgow Scotland.

23 Mar 18: Received for use by No 19 Training Squadron at Camp Curragh, Kildare Ireland.

18 Apr 18: Received for acceptance checks by Aircraft Repair Squadron (ARS), 1st Wing, Australian Flying Corps (AFC) at RAF Station Leighterton, Gloucestershire UK.

20 Apr 18: Received for use by No 7 Training Squadron, 1st Wing AFC at RAF Leighterton.

23 Apr 18: The aircraft departed Leighterton airfield at 1010hrs for a routine solo training flight and at 1031hrs was seen by several witnesses to enter a spin and crash close to the airfield. The Court of Inquiry found that the pilot caused the machine to undergo excessive strain when recovering from a spin which in turn caused the rear upper main spar to break apart in the air. Cadet G.F Needham was found dead in the cockpit of the wrecked machine.

AFC 27571 Cadet George Francis Jack Needham (29) single of Parkside, Adelaide SA Buried with full Military Honours in Grave No.4 C of E Section of the Leighterton Church Cemetery, Leighterton, Gloucestershire UK. Needham is also remembered at Location 187 in the Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra ACT.

(Information from Aircrew Remembered)

Cadet / 2nd Air Mechanic George Francis Jack Needham was reported killed in aeroplane accident at 10.30 am on 23rd April, 1918 at Tetbury, Gloucester, England.

A Court of Enquiry was assembled at Leighterton Aerodrome on 23rd & 24th of April, 1918, by order of Major W. H. Anderson, Commanding, Leighterton Station, A.F.C., for the purpose of inquiring into the circumstances connected with accident on 23.4.18 a Leighterton, involving fatal injuries to No. 2757 Cadet Needham, G.F.L. A.F.C."

CERTIFIED TRUE COPY

G. S. Rigley
Lieut.
for Officer i/c Records.

16 JUL 1918

BRM 34/431

Army Form A. 2.

D. & L., London, E.C. Form
W. 559/Pan 250,000 1917 Sub. 2 A. 2
41

PROCEEDINGS of a COURT OF ENQUIRY.

*N.B.—The Form being applicable to any Board of Officers, or Committee, or Court of Inquiry, this blank to be filled in accordingly.

The proceedings should be signed by each Officer composing the Board, etc.

assembled at Leighterton Aerodrome.

on the 23rd. and 24th. of April 1918.

by order of Mjr. W.H. Andersonm Commanding
Leighterton Station. A.F.C.

for the purpose of enquiring into the circumstances
connected with accident on 23.4.18 at Leighterton,
involving fatal injuries to No. 2757. Cadet. Needham.
G.F.J. A.F.C.

PRESIDENT.

Capt. H.M. Rigley. A.F.C.

MEMBERS.

C.R.Thompson. Lieut. A.F.C.
H.B. Freeman. Lieut. A.F.C.

IN ATTENDANCE.

COMPOSITION OF THE COURT

RANK.	NAME.	UNIT.
President. Captain.	WRIGLEY H.N.	No.7. (T) C. A.F.C.
Members. } Lieut.	THOMPSON C.R.	No.7. (T) S. A.F.C.
	Lieut. FREIMAN H.B.	No.7. (T) S. A.F.C.
In attendance. Nil.		

LIST OF WITNESSES.

RANK.	NAME.	UNIT (if civilian state so)
Capt. :	TREGILLES F.E.	No. 7. (T) A.F.C.
Cadet. :	MOXHAM G.A.	No. 8. (T) S. A.F.C.
2/AM. :	PINKERTON C.W.	Station Transport, Leighterton Station.
Sgt. :	RIDGWELL L.A.	No.8. (T) S. A.F.C.
Capt. :	MARSHALL T.E.	A.A.M.C. Leighterton Station (Med Officer)
1/AM. :	ELEY C.T.	No.7. (T) S. A.F.C.
2/AM. :	NEEDLAND J.	No.7. (T) S. A.F.C.

The Court proceed to examine witnesses:-

1st. Witness. Capt. F.E. Tregilles states:-

I am Flight Commander of "A" Flight No. 7 (T) Squadron A.F.C., I was the Instructor of Cadet Needham. He was quite competent to fly the machine. I watched his flying for about 15 minutes and he was doing exceptionally well. I went into my Office and on coming out again, I saw a machine going down in a spin behind some trees with a portion of the wing detached, and went at once to the scene of the accident. On examining the machine, I found that the right hand rear spar of the top plane had broken and aileron hinges and fittings had pulled through same. I found the aileron 150 yards away from the machine. The strain on the machine when it was pulled out of the spin would be great enough to cause the accident.

Signed. F.E. Tregilles. Capt.
A. F. C.

2nd. Witness.
Cadet G.A. Moxham states:-

I am a Cadet under Instruction in No. 8. (T) Squadron A.F.C. I was standing on the Aerodrome at about 10.30 a.m. I saw Cadet Needham in B.E.2.E.B.5175 spinning at about 2,000 feet and about a mile in S.E. of the Aerodrome I saw him coming out of the spin, when part of the wing left the machine and he nose dived to the ground. The machine crumpled

(2)

I am a Cadet under Instruction in No. 8. (T) Squadron A.F.C. I was standing on the Aerodrome at about 10.30 a.m. I saw Cadet Needham in B.M.S.R. B.6176, spinning at about 2,000 feet and about a mile S.E. of the Aerodrome. I saw him coming out of the spin when part of the wing left the machine and he nose dived to the ground. The machine crumpled as it fell. He was flying well before the spin and seemed to be coming out of it O.K. when the machine commenced to collapse.

Signed G.A. Moxham. A.F.C.

3rd. Witness.

No. 2258. 2nd. A.M. C.W. Pinkerton M.T. Section A.F.C.
Leighterton Station states:-

I am a driver of the ambulance stationed at the Leighterton Aerodrome. At about 10.30 a.m. on 23.4.18 I was with my ambulance on Leighterton Aerodrome when I saw a machine spinning. The Pilot seemed to be coming out of the spin when the machine collapsed. I immediately cranked the car and proceeded to the scene of the accident, with Sgt Ridgwell of No. 8.T.S. A.F.C.

The Sergt. had the Pilot pulled clear, and covering with a coat when I arrived. He was dead, I drove him to the hospital hut.

Signed C.W. Pinkerton. A.F.C.

4th. Witness.

Sgt. Ridgwell No. 8. T.S. A.F.C. states:-

I am Sergeant of the No. 8. T.S. A.F.C. At about 10.30 a.m. on 23.4.18 I saw a machine collapse in the air. As I was the nearest H.C.O. I jumped in the ambulance and proceeded to the scene of the accident. I was the first to reach the wreckage. The Pilot was under the wreckage. I turned the fuselage, undid the belt and lifted the Pilot out. He was then dead. I assisted E/A.M. Pinkerton to put him in the stretcher when he was taken to the hospital in the ambulance.

Signed L.A. Ridgwell. A.F.C.

5th. Witness.

Capt. T.R. Marshall A.A.M.C. M.O. Leighterton states:-

I am the M.O. in charge of the Leighterton Station. I examined the body of Cadet G.F. Needham, this morning (23.4.18) and found life extinct. Death was due to a fractured skull (frontal region). He also had a fractured right thigh and severe injury to the right knee. Death must have been instantaneous.

Signed F.R. Marshall. Capt.
A.A.M.C.

6th. Witness.

No. 9617. 1st. A/M. C.T. Eley states:-

I am a mechanic in "B" Flight No. 7 (T) Squadron A.F.C. and was in charge of 90 H.P. R.A.F. Engine No. 5106, and found the engine in perfect order before Cadet Needham went up on his fatal Flight.

Signed C. Eley. A.F.C.

(3)

7th. Witness. 2/A.M. Medland No. 1615. No. 7 (T) Squadron. A.F.C states:-

I am a mechanic of "B" Flight, No. 7 (T) S. A.F.C. I was in charge of the rigging of the machine B.E.2.E. B. 6176. I examined the machine carefully on the evening prior to the fatal flight. Before the machine was flown on the morning of 23.4.18 it had been examined and found correct by me.

Signed J.M. Medland A.F.C.

(4)

(7) The flying experience of the occupants prior to this flight was:-

Name of occupant.	Type of Aeroplanes. or Aeroplanes.	Time flown on each type			
		Dual		Solo.	
		Hrs.	Mins.	Hrs.	Mins.
Cadet G.F.J. NEKDHAM.	M.F.S.H.	4.	30	-	45.
	D.H.6.	4.	-	5	45.
	B.E.2.E.	2.	40.	-	45.

(8) We have examined the following Aeroplane, Engine and Pilots Flying Log Books and have ascertained:-

Description of Book.	Remarks, including material facts supplement or confirming Evidence of Witnesses.
Engine Log Book.	Engine re-constructed had only been flown 2 hours, 40 minutes since re-construction on 13.3.18.
Aeroplane Log Book.	Aeroplane quite new. Had only been flown on three previous occasions.
Pilots Log Book.	His times agree with those shown on Page 3.

(9) We have visited the scene of the accident, the Aeroplane was removed, and found the following material facts:-

The right upper wing spars broken and right aileron had fallen about 150 yards N.E. of the machine.

(B) We have been unable to obtain the evidence of the following material witnesses:-

Name.	Rank.	Unit.	Reason precluding obtaining of evidence.	How concerned with accident.
Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil

(C) The cause of the accident was in our opinion .. (the Pilot being on duty) due to excessive strain, caused by forcing the machine out of a spin, causing the right upper rear main spar to break in the air

(D) This accident has been reported to the Accidents committee.

Signed by the President)
of the Court.

) H.N. Wrigley. Capt.
A.F.C.

Signed by Members of the)
Court.

) G.R. Thompson. Lt. A.F.C.
) H.B. Freeman. Lt. "

Date of signing 24.4.18.

The Court find that the accident was due to excessive strain caused by forcing the machine out of a spin causing the right upper rear main spar to break in the air.

A death for George F. J. Needham, aged 28, was registered in the June quarter, 1918 in the district of Tetbury, Gloucestershire, England.

Cadet / 2nd Air Mechanic George Francis Jack Needham was buried at 2 pm on 27th April, 1918 in Leighterton Church Cemetery, Leighterton, Gloucestershire, England – Grave No. 4. He has a Private Headstone, however his death is still acknowledged by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

From the burial report of Cadet George Francis Jack Needham - Coffin was Oak with brass fittings and breast plate. Military Funeral. Tombstone to be chosen and erected by Mrs Duric Parsons. Service held in Leighterton Church previous to interment, Rev. Jackson and Rev. Purdey officiating.

The Chief Accountant, Commonwealth Bank, Sydney, wrote to Base Records on 23rd May, 1918 with the following: *"We have been advised that No. 27571, Gunner G. F. J. Needham, 6th Reinforcements, 14th Field Artillery Brigade, A.I.F., an officer of the Bank has been killed in a Flying accident, and we should be glad if you would kindly forward us a Certificate of Death."*

Richard W. Needham, 13 George St, Parkside, South Australia, wrote to Base Records on 11th July, 1918 regarding the late Cadet G. F. Needham, A.F.C.: *"My brother above-mentioned was killed in a flying accident at Tetbury in Gloucester on 26th April 1918. He left a Will, of which I am the sole executor. In order to prove the same it is necessary for me to produce the official notification of his death. Will you there fore at you earliest convenience forward me the official notice and oblige."*

The Acting Deputy Commissioner of Taxation, Estate Duty Branch, Adelaide, South Australia, wrote to Base Records on 25th March, 1919 with the following: *"I should be pleased if you would verify the statement that the undermentioned person died whilst upon active service:- Cadet No. 27571 George Francis Jack Needham, Australian Flying Corps."*

Base Records replied to the Deputy Federal Commissioner of Taxation on 2nd April, 1919 confirming that *"...the late No. 27571, 2nd Air Mechanic G.F.J. Needham, Australian Flying Corps, was killed on 23.4.18 as the result of an aeroplane accident at Tetbury, Gloucester, England"*.

Richard W. Needham, c/o Bank of New South Wales, Mount Gambier, replied to Base Records on 17th July, 1919 with the following: *"Referring to your letter of 14th inst re my late brother No. 27571 G F J Needham A.F.C., I have to state that our mother the late Mrs E. P. Needham died on 5 June, 1916. I am myself the executor named in my brother's will but the Public Trustee of Adelaide at my request proved the will and divided the Estate. I was also sole administrator of my mothers estate. Yours faithfully Richard W Needham P.S. I am unable to supply you with any proof you may require of the above statements but if you have already written to Major Hamilton he will be able to supply you with particulars. RWN"*

Base Records contacted Miss E.D. Needham, c/o Union Bank of Australia, Adelaide, South Australia on 20th April, 1921 stating she was registered on the records of the late No. 27571 2/A.M. G.F.J. Needham, Australian Flying Corps as the registered next-of-kin but desired to know if there were any nearer blood relatives than herself & was specifically asked if his father was alive & if he had any brothers (stating the eldest) due to the "Deceased Soldiers Estates Act 1918" which stated that the War Medals & Mementoes of a deceased soldier were to be handed in the following order of relationship – Widow, eldest surviving son, eldest surviving daughter, father, mother, eldest surviving brother, eldest surviving sister etc.

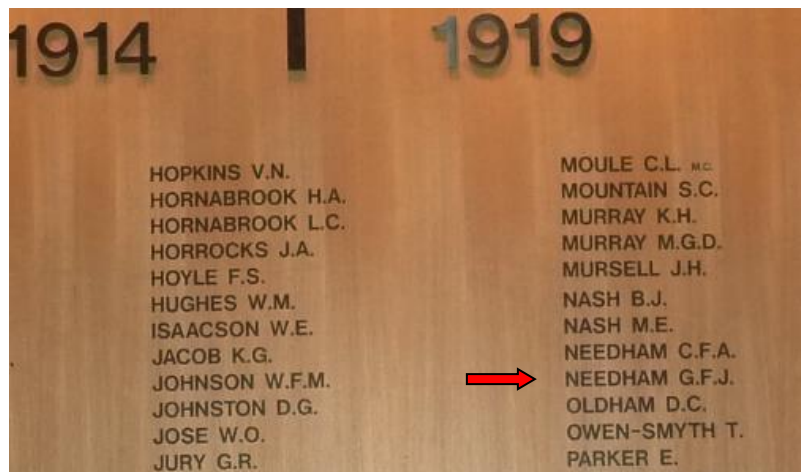
Air Mechanic 2nd Class George Francis Jack Needham was entitled to British War Medal only as he had not entered a Theatre of War. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to 2nd Air Mechanic Needham's brother - , as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent July, 1922 & Plaque sent October, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Air Mechanic 2nd Class George Francis Jack Needham – service number 27571, aged 29, of Australian Flying Corps. He was the son of the late Richard John & Emma Plumb Needham. His brother Charles Francis Albert Needham also fell.

G. F. J. Needham & his brother C.F.A. Needham are remembered on the World War 1 Honour Roll in the Memorial Hall at St. Peter's College, Adelaide, South Australia.



St. Peter's College WW1 Honour Roll (Photos courtesy of Ms Andrea McKinnon-Matthews, School Archivist)

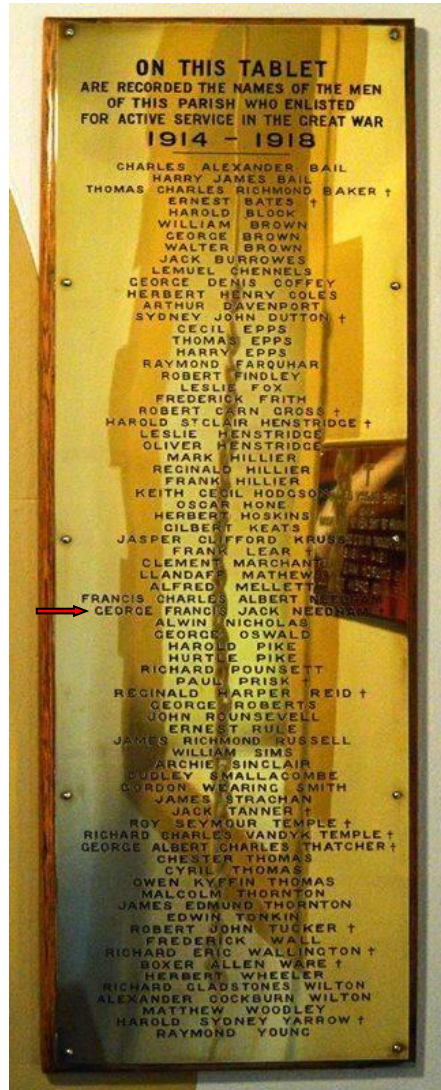


G. F. J. Needham is remembered on the Commonwealth Bank Honor Roll for WW1, located in Reserve Bank of Australia Museum, 65 Martin Place, Sydney, New South Wales.



(Photo from Reserve Bank of Australia Museum)

George Francis Jack Needham & his brother Francis Charles Albert Needham are remembered on St, John's Church Honour Roll, located in St. John's Anglican Church, 379 Halifax Street, Adelaide, South Australia.



St. John's Anglican Church, Adelaide (Photo from Monument Australia – Paul Scott)

G. F. J. Needham is remembered on the University of Adelaide Honour Roll for World War One, located in University of Adelaide, Mitchell Building, North Terrace, Adelaide, South Australia.





University of Adelaide Honour Roll for World War One (Photos from Monument Australia – Stephen Warren)

G. F. J. Needham & his brother C.F.A. Needham are remembered on the Memorial Arch in Memorial Gardens, Unley Road & Thomas Street, Unley, South Australia.



G. F. J. Needham & his brother F. C. A. Needham are remembered on the Unley City Honour Roll, located in the Town Hall, Unley Road & Oxford Terrace, Unley, South Australia.



Unley City Honour Roll (Photos from Monument Australia)



G. F. J. Needham 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)

Air Mechanic Class II G. F. J. Needham is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 187.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

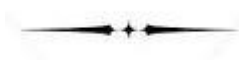
George Francis Jack Needham is remembered on the List of Australian Flying Corps Personnel buried at Leighterton, which is located in St. Andrews Church, Leighterton.



The Roll of Honour for the Australian Flying Corps Personnel buried at Leighterton in St. Andrews Church. (Photo courtesy of Kathryn's History Blog)

(87 pages of Air Mechanic 2nd Class George Francis Jack Needham's Service records are available for On Line viewing at National Archives of Australia website).

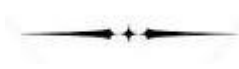
Information obtained from the CWGC, Australian War Memorial (Roll of Honour, First World War Embarkation Roll) & National Archives



Connected to George Francis Jack Needham:

Younger brother – Charles Francis Albert Needham: Enlisted on 5th November, 1915, aged 19 years & 10 months. Embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on 3rd October, 1917 as Driver, 29989, with 120th Howitzer Battery.

Killed in action in Belgium on 4th October, 1917. Buried The Huts Military Cemetery, Ypres, Belgium.



George Francis Jack Needham



Newspaper Notices

RIFLE CLUBS

The subjoined list of names and addresses of secretaries of rifle clubs in the metropolitan area will be read with interest by those desirous of joining a rifle club. All information pertaining to the rifle club movement can be obtained from the gentlemen named:- Adelaide – Mr M. H. Stanford.....Banks- Mr G. F. J. Needham, Commercial Bank, King William Street:.....

(The Advertiser, Adelaide, South Australia – 15 February, 1915)

Obituaries

Mr G. F. Jack Needham

A cable message from London reports the death, as a result of an aeroplane accident, of Mr G. F. Jack Needham, of Adelaide, who was being trained for service with the Australian Flying Corps. He went to England in 1916 with the artillery.

(Observer, Adelaide, South Australia – 4 May, 1918)

OUR FALLEN HEROES

The following further deaths of soldiers serving with the S.A. forces are officially reported:-.....27571, Cadet G. F. J. Needham, Parkside (April 23).

(Southern Cross, Adelaide, South Australia – 17 May, 1918)

399th CASUALTY LIST

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Died (result of accident)

27571, Cadet G. F. J. NEEDHAM, Parkside, 23/4/18.

(Chronicle, Adelaide, South Australia – 18 May, 1918)

BIOGRAPHICAL

The late Cadet George Francis Jack Needham, who was killed in a flying accident in Gloucestershire, England, on April 23, was the eldest son of the late Mr. R. John Needham (Chief Inspector of Stock). He was educated at St. Peter's College, and took a keen interest in sport, he was a member of his college tennis team in 1906. and he also won the junior championship of South Australia in tennis. Upon leaving college he continued his studies in his spare time, and later became an Associate in Commerce of the University of Adelaide. He was well known in banking circles, where his career was spent, with the exception of two years with Dalgety & Co.. Limited. Mr. Needham left Australia with the artillery in October, 1916, and on arrival in England was recalled to the Commonwealth Bank. London, where he spent some months. He then joined the Australian Flying Corps, and was training for his commission when the fatal accident occurred. His brother. Gnr. Francis C. A. Needham, was killed in action in Belgium in October, 1917.

(The Register, Adelaide, South Australia – 23 May, 1918) & (Observer, Adelaide, South Australia – 1 June, 1918)

OUR HEROES WHO HAVE DIED FOR KING AND COUNTRY

OUR HEROES WHO HAVE DIED FOR KING AND COUNTRY.



Major R. A. Fildes Sergeant G. W. W. Towner Private E. Taylor Sergeant H. Woodburn Captain J. B. Leslie Captain G. B. Brown Lieutenant St. Brakenburg



Major G. J. ... Sergeant ... Private ... Sergeant ... Captain ... Captain ... Lieutenant ...



Cadet G. F. J. Needham

(Observer, Adelaide, South Australia – 1 June, 1918)

THEIR NAME LIVETH FOR EVERMORE

.....

NEEDHAM – Cadet G. F. J. Needham, of Flying Corps and 14th F.A. Battery, who was killed on the 23rd April, 1918.

.....

(The Register, Adelaide, South Australia – 23 April, 1926)

THEIR NAME LIVETH FOR EVERMORE

.....

NEEDHAM – Cadet G. F. J. Needham, of Flying Corps and 14th F.A. Battery, who was killed on the 23rd April, 1918.

.....

(The Register, Adelaide, South Australia – 23 April, 1927)

THEIR NAME LIVETH FOR EVERMORE

.....

NEEDHAM – Cadet G. F. J. Needham, of Flying Corps and 14th F.A. Battery, who was killed on the 23rd April, 1918.

.....

(The Register, Adelaide, South Australia – 28 April, 1928)

Commonwealth War Graves Commission

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission cares for cemeteries and memorials in 23,000 locations, in 153 countries. In all 1.7 million men and women from the Commonwealth forces from WWI and WWII have been honoured and commemorated in perpetuity.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission, as part of its mandate, is responsible for commemorating all Commonwealth war dead individually and equally. To this end, the war dead are commemorated by name on a headstone, at an identified site of a burial, or on a memorial. War dead are commemorated uniformly and equally, irrespective of military or civil rank, race or creed.

Not all service personnel have a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. In some instances the relative chose to have their own memorial/headstone placed on the deceased's grave. These private headstones are not maintained by the CWGC as they have no jurisdiction to maintain them.

Air Mechanic 2nd Class George Francis Jack Needham has a Private Headstone.

Leighterton Church Cemetery, Leighterton, Gloucestershire, England

The cemetery is 500 metres north-east of Leighterton St. Andrew's Church. There is a war graves plot of 23 1914-18 graves in the North-east part.

During the 1914-18 war, there were a number of Australian Flying Corps training squadrons based in the vicinity of Leighterton. This cemetery contains the graves of 23 airmen who died whilst serving with these squadrons.

(Information from CWGC)



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

AWM2019.936.6

Australian Flying Corp (AFC) Cemetery, Leighterton. (May 1919)

This image is part of a larger collection relating to the service of the Cumming brothers: 5561 Second Lieutenant Roy Lytton Cummings, No. 5 Training Squadron, Australian Flying Corps; 1026 Second Lieutenant Eric Douglas Cummings DFC, No. 2 Squadron, Australian Flying Corps; and the First and Second World war service of 131/1457/N272662 Second Lieutenant Mervyn Harold 'Laddie' (or 'Lad') Cummings MM, No. 5 Training Squadron, Australian Flying Corps.



Leighterton Church Cemetery *(Photo by John Grech)*



(Photos by James Minty)



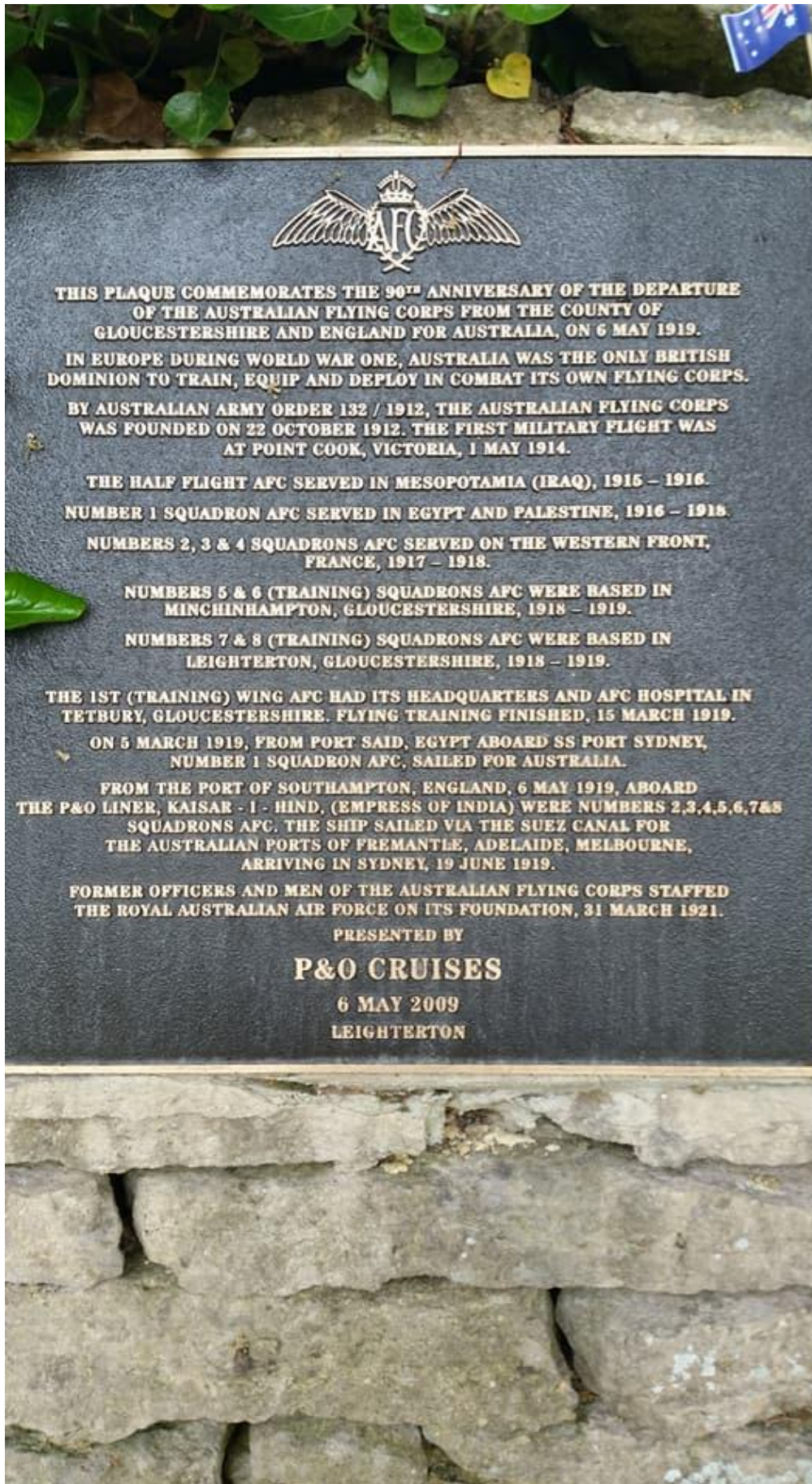


War Graves in Leighterton Church Cemetery *(Photo from Find a Grave – Paul Best)*



**Memorial to the Australian Flying Corps Fallen in Leighterton Church Cemetery
& also A.M 2nd Class Stronach in St. Mary's Churchyard, Lasborough, Gloucestershire**

(Photo by James Minty)



**Plaque Commemorating the 90th Anniversary of the Departure of the Australian Flying Corps
from the County of Gloucestershire**

(Photo by James Minty)

Photo of Cadet George Francis Jack Needham's Private Headstone in Leighterton Church Cemetery, Leighterton, Gloucestershire, England.



(Photo courtesy of William Young)