

Norman was born in Ryde, NSW, the son of Layton Gent Sherman Gale and Eliza Jane, nee Nicholls. He enlisted in the AN&MEF on 12th August 1914 and on his attestation papers he gave his age as 20 years 2 months, his occupation as moulder and gave his brother, Stanley Gale, Bank St, Ryde, as his next of kin.

At the time of enlistment, he was with the 5th Army Medical Corps as a trainee and so was appointed to the AMC unit within the AN&MEF.

On 17th September 1914 he was appointed Lance Corporal and was discharged, time expired, on 4th March 1915 having served 205 days.

On 15th June 1916, he enlisted with the 18th Reinforcements, 18th Battalion, Service Number 6424, and embarked for England on 19th November, aboard the SUEVIC, arriving in Devonport on 30th Jan 1917. He remained with the 5th Training Battalion in the UK until 20th May where he joined his Battalion in Belgium.

On 21st July 1917 he was appointed Lance Corporal and on 20th September of the same year he was killed in action.

A report of his death by a Private J.C. Hurstwaite of his battalion states:-

“At Polygon Wood, Ypres on Sept. 20th. We had taken our objective and were consolidating. Gale was a couple of bays away from me. I saw him hit, sniped through the head and at the same moment another man said “Norman is hit”. We had to come out of the line next night, but he is certain to have been buried. Gale was a L/CPL. At the time of his death, and he belonged to D Coy. XV Pltn.”

Norman Gale is remembered on the Menin Gate, Ypres, Belgium and on Panel 85 at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra.