

# **Wandsworth Cemetery, London, England War Graves**

**(also known as Earlsfield Cemetery, Magdalen Road Cemetery, Wandsworth Earlsfield Cemetery)**



*Lest We Forget*

## **World War 1**



**511 TROOPER**

**CYRIL HASTINGS BACON**

**6TH AUSTRALIAN LIGHT HORSE**

**24TH OCTOBER, 1915 Age 21**

## Cyril Hastings BACON

Cyril Hastings Bacon was born on 5th January, 1894 at Waverley, Sydney, New South Wales to parents Francis William and Mary Frances Bacon (nee Phelan).

Cyril Hastings Bacon attended St. Ignatius College and Sydney Grammar School, New South Wales.

Cyril Bacon was a 22 year old, single, Grazier from Warrigal Club, Sydney, NSW when he enlisted at Liverpool, Sydney, NSW on 5th November, 1914 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 571 & his religion was Roman Catholic. His next of kin was listed as his father – F. W. Bacon, Warrigul Club, Sydney, NSW.

[Note: The Australian War Memorial's Roll of Honour & The Commonwealth War Graves Commission both have the service number as 511. The Embarkation Roll has Private Cyril Hastings Bacon's service number as 571. Some Attestation Papers have been marked with both service no's 571 & 511]

Trooper Cyril Bacon was posted to 6th Light Horse Regiment, 2nd Reinforcements, Australian Imperial Force on 5th November, 1914 for recruit training. He was transferred to "B" Squadron on 14th November, 1914.

Private (as listed on Embarkation Roll) Cyril Hastings Bacon embarked from Sydney, NSW on HMAT *Suevic* (A29) on 21st December, 1914 with the 2nd Light Horse Brigade, 6th Light Horse Regiment "B" Squadron.

Trooper Cyril Bacon proceeded to join M. E. F. (Mediterranean Expeditionary Force) at Gallipoli on HMT *Lutzow* on 15th May, 1915 (from Alexandria).

Trooper Cyril Bacon was sent sick to No. 2 Field Ambulance at Anzac Cove, Gallipoli on 10th August, 1915 with Appendicitis. He was transferred to Hospital Carrier *Georgian* on 11th August, 1915 to Mudros then transferred to Hospital Ship *Aquitania* on 14th August, 1915.

### 6th Light Horse Regiment

The 6th Light Horse Regiment was raised in Sydney in September 1914 from men who had enlisted in New South Wales, and became part of the 2nd Light Horse Brigade. Sailing from Sydney on 21 December 1914, the regiment disembarked in Egypt on 1 February 1915.

The light horse were considered unsuitable for the initial operations at Gallipoli, but were subsequently deployed without their horses to reinforce the infantry. The 2nd Light Horse Brigade landed in late May 1915 and was attached to the 1st Australian Division. The 6th Light Horse became responsible for a sector on the far right of the ANZAC line, and played a defensive role until it left the peninsula on 20 December 1915.....

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

Trooper Cyril Hastings Bacon was admitted to 4th London General Hospital at Denmark Hill, England on 23rd August, 1915.

Trooper Cyril Hastings Bacon was admitted to 3rd London General Hospital, Wandsworth, London, England on 25th August, 1915 with Dysentery. The Hospital Admissions form recorded "*Cause – Active Service (Dardanelles). Nature – Convalescent from dysentery. Still some abdominal pain.....*" He was discharged on 1st October, 1915.

Mr F. W. Bacon, Warragal Club, Sydney, NSW was advised by Secretary Defence on 13th September, 1915 that Private C. Bacon had been admitted sick to Hospital in London.

Trooper Cyril Hastings Bacon died on 24th October, 1915 at Duchess Home, Beaumont St off Weymouth, London, England from after an operation for appendicitis.

A death for Cyril Bacon, aged 22, was registered in the December quarter, 1915 in the district of Marylebone, London, England.

Mr F. W. Bacon, Warragal Club, Sydney, NSW was advised by Base Records on 25th October, 1915 that Private C. Bacon was seriously ill with Appendicitis. He had been operated on & admitted on 21st October to Duchess Nursing Home, Beaumont Street, London.

Trooper Cyril Hastings Bacon was buried at 2.30 pm on 28th October, 1915 in Wandsworth (Earlsfield) Cemetery, London, England – Grave number 27.

*From the burial report of Trooper Cyril Bacon – “.... The body of the deceased was transferred to the 3rd London General Hospital, Wandsworth, from which institution the funeral took place on the 28th October, 1915, at 2.30 pm. The deceased was interred at Wandsworth Cemetery and the grave number is 27 in section F. B. 18. The High Commissioner was represented by Lieut. Col. H. W. Lee of the Australian Imperial Force and a number of the deceased's comrades were present as were also Mrs Huck, Mrs J. Sinclair Ross and Mr Kneebone of the Australian Natives Association. At the burial, the Rites of the Church of England were observed, the officiating Chaplain being the Rev. T. T. Haines of the 3rd London General Hospital, Wandsworth, S.W. Wreaths were sent from Mr and Mrs Francis Bacon, on behalf of the parents and sisters, and there were also other floral tributes from the following:- Australian Light Horse, Australian Natives Association (Anzac Buffet), Mrs G. Norton-Halleran, P. C. Walker, C. Nicholson, Miss Beatrice Huck & Mr & Mrs J. Campbell Walker.”*

A letter was sent to The Secretary, Department of External Affairs (for transmission to the Department of Defence) on 1st November, 1915 from Australian Military Office, London which contained advice regarding the death of Private Cyril Bacon & details of his Funeral. The letter concluded with the following: *“In conclusion, I desire to say that a cablegram was received in London on the 28th October, 1915, at 1.56 pm from Mr Frances Bacon of Sydney, which was handed in at Delungra, NSW and which read in the following terms:-*

*“Send body Cyril Bacon No. 521 Sydney”*

*Immediately on delivery of the message at this Office, the Hospital were telephoned but it was too late for any action to be taken to give effect to the request in the message from Mr Bacon, to whom I accordingly cabled as follows:-*

*“Cable received too late burial Cyril Bacon took place 2.30 28th October.”*

Base Records wrote to Mr F. W. Bacon, Warragal Club, Sydney, NSW on 17th April, 1920 to advise that the remains of his son, the late No. 511 Private C. Bacon, 6th Light Horse Regiment, had *“been exhumed from grave No. 27, block 18, Wandsworth Cemetery, and re-interred in grave No. 4 Australian Section, Wandsworth Cemetery, Wandsworth, London. This work is carried out with every measure of care and reverence in the presence of a Chaplain.”*

Mr F. W. Bacon, Warragal Club, Sydney, NSW replied to Base Records on 24th April, 1920 stating *“I am at a loss to know why this was done without my consent being obtained. I arranged and paid for the grave No. 27 & I don't see why there should have been any change, perhaps you will inform me.”*

Base Records forwarded a copy of Mr Bacon's letter on to the Office in Charge Australian Graves Service, London, on 5th May, 1920 adding *“If, as intimated, Mr Bacon purchased the site of his son's grave, presumably it was a single grave, and the reason for exhumation as quoted in your letter would not apply in this instance. Will you please advise in order that a suitable reply may be sent to next-of-kin.”*

Australian Graves Services, London, wrote to Base Records on 14th August, 1920 stating: *“In answer to your letter of May 5th with reference to the exhumation of the late 511 Pte C. Bacon, 6th Light Horse from a separate grave in Wandsworth Cemetery, I have to inform you that prior to the application being made to the Home Office for the necessary licence for exhumation, a representative from this office interviewed the cemetery authorities who informed him that the grave had not been purchased outright, not had any arrangements been entered not for its care and maintenance.*

*Acting on this information immediate steps were taken to obtain the necessary permission from the Home Secretary, and the remains of the above named soldier were exhumed and reinterred in the Australian plot in which are now interred 33 late members of the A.I.F. in separate single graves. Prior to exhumation, all late members of the A.I.F. were buried in scattered parts of the Wandsworth Cemetery, and following the policy approved by the Australian Government steps were taken to have them concentrated in our own plot, hence the removal of the late Pte Bacon.*

*The Borough Council concerned credited us with the cost of three graves which were unconditionally surrendered to them after the exhumation had been completed, and if this explanation meets with the approval of the respective next of kin, and he desires this office to obtain for him a similar concession, it will be necessary for the Title Deed now in his possession to be returned here. Upon receipt of this a communication will be immediately forwarded to the Wandsworth Borough Council."*

The details of the above letter from Australian Graves Services was included in a letter to Mr F. W. Bacon, Warragul Club, Sydney, NSW, by Base Records on 28th September, 1920.

Mr F. W. Bacon, Warragal Club, Sydney, NSW replied to Base Records on 8th October, 1920 stating "... *The Officer who interviewed the Cemetery Authorities must have been very careless as I have the deed of the land containing the grave under date as you will see, the 18th July, 1917. As requested I enclose this deed, so I would ask you to write to the Wandsworth Borough Council and get me the cost of the grave refunded.*"

Base Records wrote to Mr F. W. Bacon, Warragal Club, Sydney, NSW on 12th April, 1921 with the following : "*With reference to the Title Deed for the former grave of your son, the late No. 511 Pte C. Bacon, 6th Light Horse Regiment., the following is an extract from a letter just received from the Officer in Charge, Australian Graves Services, London:-*

*"In answer to your letter of the 13th October last, with regard to surrendering the Title Deed for Grave No. 27, Class F, 18 in Wandsworth Cemetery and the request that Mr F. W. Bacon, Warragal Club, Sydney, NSW, might be refunded the amount of the original purchase, I have to inform you that this matter was taken up with the Wandsworth Borough Council and to-day we have received from them a cheque for £5 (Five Pounds). This has been passed forward to the High Commissioner's Office with a request that same may be paid to Mr Bacon."*

*You will therefore receive the amount in due course."*

F. W. Bacon, Norwich Chambers, Hunter St., Sydney, NSW wrote to Base Records on 6th July, 1921 in reply to their letter & stated "...*I am quite sure that I wrote to you some time ago in connection with the erection of a permanent Headstone on the last resting place of my son late Pr. C. Bacon, 6th Light Horse Regiment. However, I am filling up another form and sending it to you. In connection with this matter I had a letter from you some time ago stating you had sold the former grave of my late son and that you would send me the proceeds, viz £5. I have not yet received the amount. Your attention to the above will oblige.*"

Trooper Cyril Hastings Bacon's burial location in Wandsworth (Earlsfield) Cemetery, London, England is now recorded by the CWGC as Aust. 4. He has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

Trooper Cyril Hastings Bacon was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Bacon's father – Mr F. W. Bacon, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent July, 1921. The Plaque was sent August, 1922 to Private Bacon's eldest brother – Mr F. C. Bacon (Kingaroy, Queensland) as both parents were deceased (Mary F. A. Bacon (mother) died in 1917 & F. W. Bacon (father) died in 1921).

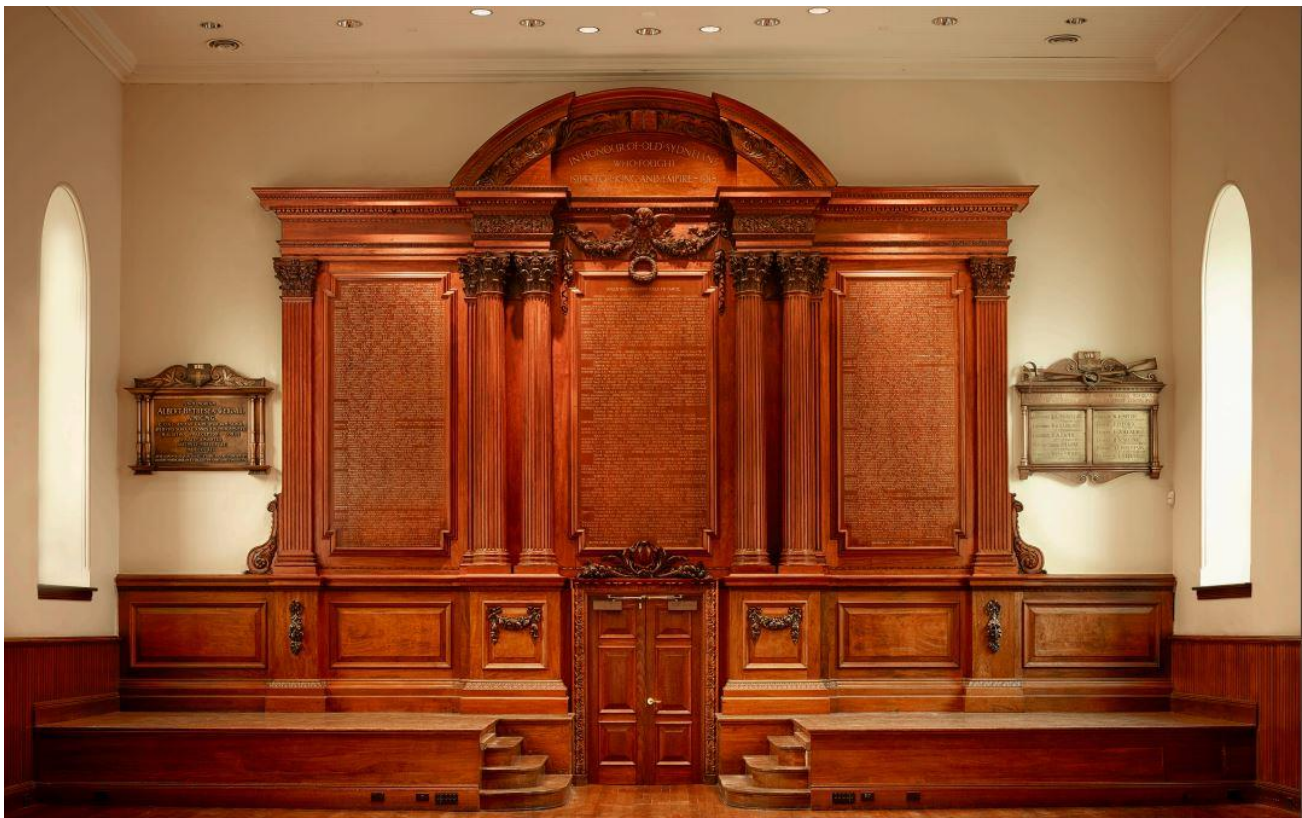
The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Trooper Cyril Hastings Bacon – service number 511, aged 21, of 6th Australian Light Horse. He was the son of Francis William and Mary Frances Bacon, of Warregal Club, Sydney, New South Wales.

Trooper C. H. Bacon is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 5.

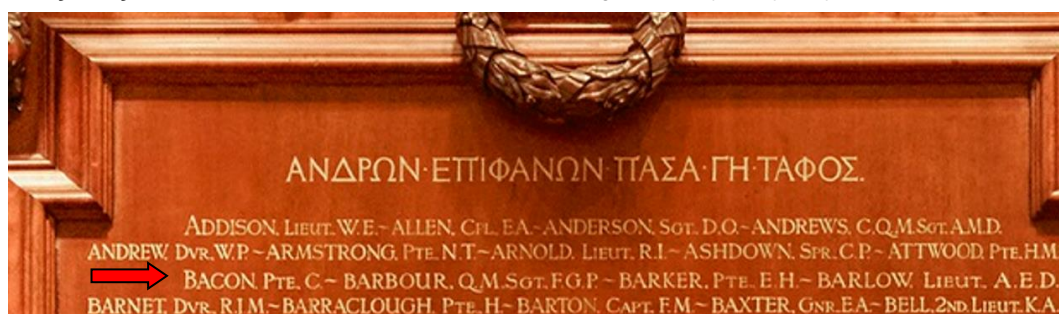


*Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia*

Pte C. Bacon is remembered on the Sydney Grammar School Honour Board, located at Sydney Grammar School, College Street, Darlinghurst, Sydney, NSW.



**Sydney Grammar School Honour Board** (Image courtesy of Sydney Grammar School)

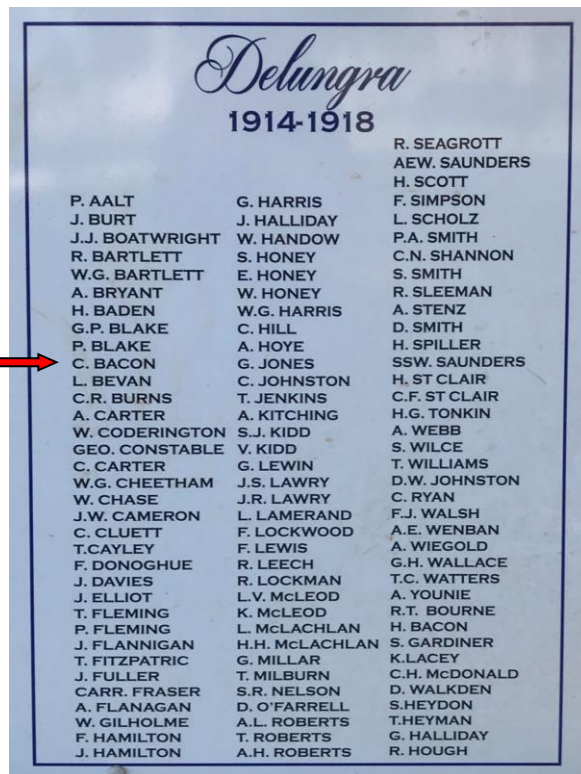


C. Bacon is remembered on the Delungra War Memorial, located at Delungra Anzac Park, corner Macintyre and Railway Streets, Delungra, NSW.



Delungra War Memorial (Photos from War Memorials Register NSW)



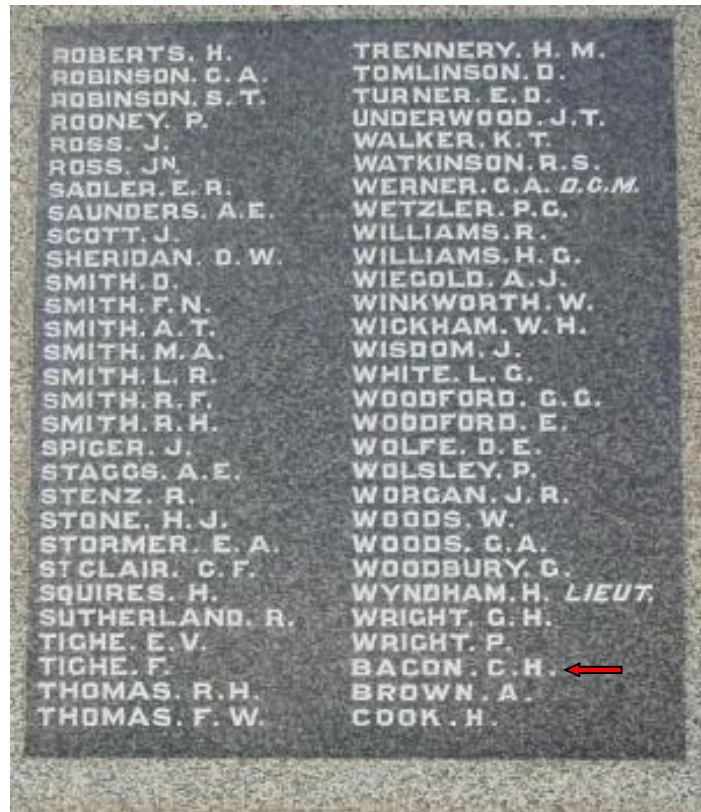


**Delungra War Memorial**

C. H. Bacon is remembered on the Inverell WW1 Cenotaph, located in front of the Inverell & District Memorial Olympic Swimming Pool, Evans & Lawrence Streets, Inverell, NSW.



**Inverell WW1 Cenotaph** (Photos from Inverell Remembers)



Inverell WW1 Cenotaph

C. Bacon is remembered on the Christ Church Anglican War Memorial, Bathurst & Young Streets, Brewarrina, NSW.



Christ Church Anglican War Memorial, Brewarrina (Photos from Monument Australia)



C. Bacon is remembered on the Brewarrina & District War Memorial, located in Memorial Park, near Visitor Centre, Bathurst Street (Kamilaroi Highway), Brewarrina, NSW.



Brewarrina & District War Memorial (Photos from Monument Australia)



(70 pages of Trooper Cyril Hastings Bacon'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**

### **IN SOCIETY AND OUT**

Among the young Australians who left recently with the 6th Light Horse were Messrs Cyril and Harley Bacon, the younger sons of Mr Francis Bacon, of Sydney.

*(The Sun, Sydney, NSW – 1 January, 1915)*

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### **War Notes**

Cyril and Harley Bacon, the youngest sons of Mr F. W. Bacon, of Sydney, who was in\_\_\_\_\_ in the Coraki Estate purchase, have left for Egypt with the 6th Light Horse. Harley Bacon, a playful and jovial character, resided her for some time a couple of years ago, when his imposing Mexican mustang saddle was a constant source of wonderment, not so say amusement to the younger generation. There will be no chance of Harley getting "snowed" on the sun-baked sands of Egypt.

*(The Richmond River Herald and Northern Districts Advertiser, NSW – 5 January, 1915)*

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### **Social Chat of the Day**

Mrs Francis Bacon and her daughter, Mrs Perry, left Sydney for Egypt this week, to be near Messrs. Cyril and Harley Bacon, in case either should be wounded. Mr Francis Bacon and the eldest son, Mr Cedric, remain in NSW to look after their pastoral interests here.

*(The Newsletter: an Australian Paper for Australian People, Sydney, NSW – 4 September, 1915)*

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Mr Cyril Bacon, youngest son of Mr Frank Bacon, is in a London hospital, having been wounded in the Dardanelles. Mrs Bacon and her daughter are on their way to Egypt, having had a presentiment that one of the sons might be ill or wounded.

*(The Newsletter: an Australian Paper for Australian People, Sydney, NSW – 25 September, 1915)*

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### **The Roll of Fame**

News has just been received of the death in hospital, London, of Trooper Cyril Bacon, youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Bacon, formerly of Mumble Station, Brewarrina, N.S.W., and now of Sydney. Early in August he was invalided to England from the Dardanelles, after seeing four months' fighting, and the last news received from him was that he was quite recovered and out on furlough. It was a great shock when word was received yesterday that he had died

on Sunday last after an operation for appendicitis. Immediately after the war broke out he offered his services to the authorities but was rejected on account of chest measurement. But, nothing daunted, he went in for physical exercises, and on again presenting himself for examination he passed with flying colors, and sailed for Egypt in December as a trooper in the 6th Light Horse. Educated at the Sydney Grammar School, he distinguished himself at aquatics, having coxed the winning crews of both colleges at their annual regattas, as well as winning numerous prizes in diving contests. On leaving school he followed pastoral pursuits, gaining his experience in N.S.W. and Queensland, among the places he worked on being Gunnee, where he served a year under Mr. A. F. Warner. Prior to enlisting he was with his brother Mr. Cederic Bacon at Yamala. The deceased trooper was a splendid shot, and a good horseman, and while in Egypt gained the reputation of being one of the crack riders of the regiment. Both at school and in after life he endeared himself to everyone by his bright and manly nature, and wherever he went made friends readily. Only 21 at the time of his death, his life was cut short at the beginning of what was expected to be a most promising career.

(The Inverell Times, NSW – 29 October, 1915)

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## **MEN OF GALLIPOLI**

### **TROOPER CYRIL BACON**

News has been received in Inverell of the death in hospital in London of Trooper Cyril Bacon, youngest son of Mr and Mrs F. W. Bacon, formerly of Dumble, Brewarrina, and now of Sydney. Early in August he was invalided to England from Dardanelles, after seeing four months' fighting, and the last news received from him was that he was quite recovered and was on furlough. He died on Sunday last after an operation for appendicitis. He was educated at St. Ignatius College and Sydney Grammar School. He "Coxed" the winning crews of both colleges at their annual regattas.

(*The Daily Telegraph*, Sydney, NSW – 30 October, 1915)

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## **INVERELL SOLDIER DEAD**

INVERELL, Thursday

News has just been received of the death in hospital in London of Trooper Cyril Bacon, youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Bacon, formerly of Dumble, Brewarrina, and now of Sydney. Early in August he was invalided to England from the Dardanelles after seeing four months' fighting, and the last news received from him was that he was quite recovered and was on furlough. It was a great shock when news was received that he had died on Sunday last after an operation for appendicitis.

Immediately after the war broke out deceased soldier offered his services to the authorities, but was rejected on account of chest measurements. Nothing daunted, he went in for physical exercises, and on again presenting himself for examination, passed with flying colors and sailed for Egypt in December as trooper in the 6th Light Horse. Educated at St. Ignatius' College and Sydney Grammar School, he distinguished himself at aquatics, having coxed the winning crews of both colleges at their annual regattas, as well as winning various prizes in diving contests. On leaving school he followed pastoral pursuits, gaining his experience, in New South Wales and Queensland, among the places he worked on being Gunnee, Inverell, where he served a year under Mr. A. F. Warner. Prior to leaving to enlist he was with his brother, Cedric Bacon, at Yamala, Delungra. He was a splendid shot and horseman, and while in Egypt gained the reputation of being one of the crack riders of the regiment. He was only 21 at the time of his death.

(*The Tamworth Daily Observer*, NSW – 30 October, 1915)

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## **ROLL OF HONOR**

BACON – October 24, at Duchess Nursing Home, London, Private CYRIL H. BACON, 6th Australian Light Horse. Invalided to London from Dardanelles for blood poisoning. Recovered and on furlough - died after operation for appendicitis. Aged 21 years. Youngest son of Francis and M. F. Bacon, of Sydney, and “Yamala”, Delunga.

*(The Sun, Sydney, NSW – 31 October, 1915)*

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*(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 1 November, 1915)*

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## **All About People**

Trooper Cyril Bacon, whose death is reported in hospital in London, was the youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Bacon, formerly of Dumble, Brewarrina, and now of Sydney. He was educated at St. Ignatius' College and Sydney Grammar School, and 'coxed' the winning crews of both colleges at their annual regattas. In August last, after four months' fighting at the Dardanelles, he was invalided to England. Subsequently it was reported that he was quite recovered and was on furlough. He died last Sunday after an operation for appendicitis.

*(The Catholic Press, Sydney, NSW – 4 November, 1915)*

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## **Social Chat of the Day**

The death from appendicitis of Mr. Cyril Bacon, son of Mr. Frank Bacon, comes as a great shock to his relatives and friends. He was invalided to England from the Dardanelles suffering from a shrapnel wound, from which he quite recovered, and was granted extended leave to meet his mother and sister in London, where they were on the way. A sudden illness made an operation necessary, with fatal results. Mr. Harley Bacon, the second son, is in the trenches, and Mr. Cedric (the eldest son) is managing the station property, his father being in Sydney. Mr. Cyril was only 21 years of age, a great favourite socially, and a very clever and capable young man.

*(The Newsletter: an Australian Paper for Australian People, Sydney, NSW – 6 November, 1915)*

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## **Australian Casualties**

### **Lists Nos 104 and 105**

New South Wales

Wounded

Seriously Ill

Pte C. BACON, 6th L.H. (Sydney)

*(Australian Town and Country Journal, Sydney, NSW – 10 November, 1915)*

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## Australian Casualties

### Lists Nos 111 to 113

New South Wales

Died of Illness

Pte C. BACON, 6th L.H. (Sydney)

(*Australian Town and Country Journal*, Sydney, NSW – 24 November, 1915)

## AUSTRALIAN HEROES

**AUSTRALIAN HEROES.**

			
<p>PRIVATE FRANCIS WALTER GIBSON (Newcastle). Killed in action.</p>	<p>PRIVATE RICHARD ALFRED MEECH (Queanbeyan). Wounded and missing.</p>	<p>PRIVATE C. W. TAPLIN (Glebe and Punchbowl). Died of wounds.</p>	<p>TROOPER CYRIL H. BACON (Delungra and Sydney). Died of illness.</p>




<p>TROOPER CYRIL H. BACON (Delungra and Sydney). Died of illness.</p>

(*The Sydney Morning Herald*, NSW – 1 March, 1916)

## **ROLL OF HONOUR**

BACON – In tender and loving memory of Lieut. Cyril Hastings Bacon, who died in London Oct. 24, 1915, aged 22 years, after four months' active service in Gallipoli, Inserted by his loving mother and family.

*(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 24 October, 1916)*

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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)*

A letter from Base Records, dated 1st July, 1921, to Mr F. W. Bacon, Warrigal Club, NSW advised that a letter from the Defence Dept. concerning an inscription on the headstone of his son, the late Private C. Bacon, 6th Light Horse Regiment, had not been answered & non-receipt of a reply within 21 days would have to be accepted as indicating that no further action was to be taken.

Trooper Cyril Hastings Bacon does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.

### **Wandsworth (Earlsfield) Cemetery, London**

This is to the North-East of Earlsfield Station and is bounded by the Magdalen Road on the East and the main railway line on the West.

It contains five 1914-1918 War Plots, (the general Military Plot, the Australian, the Newfoundland, the New Zealand and the South African plots). These are on the main path leading West from Magdalen Road and there are also over 200 burials in other parts of the cemetery. The Military Plot contains a Screen Wall bearing the names of those buried in it and those in unmarked graves in other parts of the cemetery. The majority of the 1939-1945 burials are scattered throughout the cemetery but there is one group of six burials together in a War Plot near the main entrance. Again, those whose graves are unmarked are also named upon the Screen Wall, Panel 1.

Many of the 1914-1918 burials are from the 3rd London General Hospital which was at Wandsworth. There are 477 Commonwealth burials of the 1914-1918 war and 115 of the 1939-1945 war here. There are also 5 non-war service burials here.

There are 34 Australian World War 1 Soldiers buried here & 1 Australian Soldier from 1925.

*(Information from CWGC)*



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

H16917

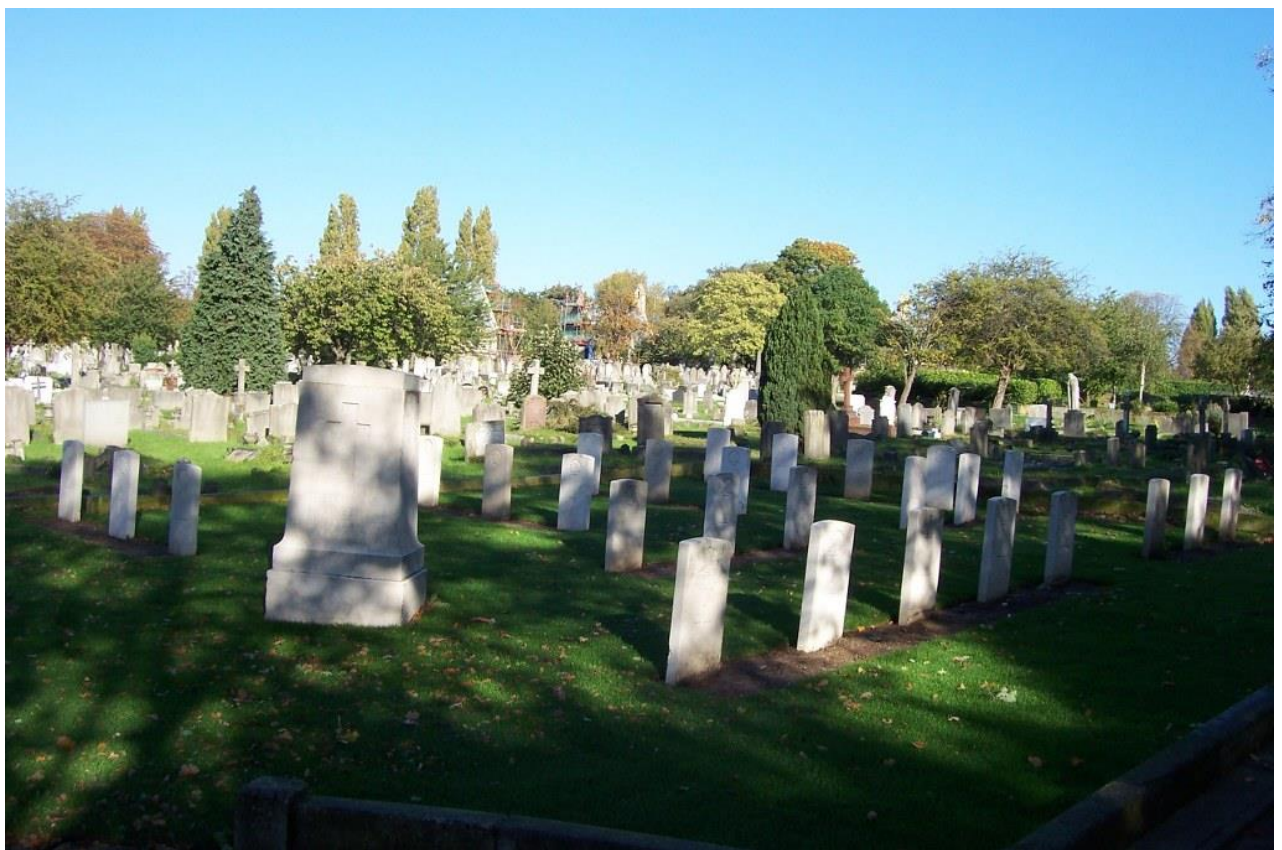
**A group of Soldiers' graves in the Australian Section of Wandsworth Cemetery, London** *(taken 15 April, 1931)*



*(Photo by Scotch Mist 2013)*



**The Australian Plot in Wandsworth Cemetery, London** *(Photos from CWGC)*







**Cross of Sacrifice** (Photos from CWGC)

Photo of Trooper Cyril Hastings Bacon's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Wandsworth (Earlsfield) Cemetery, London, England.



*(Photo from Find a Grave – Julia&keld)*