

Durrington, Wiltshire, England

War Graves

World War 1



Lest We Forget



5A PRIVATE

T. H. BALDEY

9TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

13TH DECEMBER, 1916 Age 39

A Tired

Though Courageous Heart

Deeply Mourned at Home

**Also has a Service Number of 1517*

Thomas Henry BALDEY

Thomas Henry Baldey was born at Tenterfield, New South Wales to parents John Henry & Mary Holmes Baldey (nee Reid). His birth was registered in 1876 in the district of Tenterfield, NSW.

Thomas Henry Baldey was a 39 year old, single, Clerk from Tenterfield, NSW when he enlisted on 24th December, 1914 in the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 1517 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his father – John Baldey of Tenterfield, NSW.

Private Thomas Henry Baldey embarked from Brisbane on HMAT *Seang Choon* (A49) on 13th February, 1915 with the 9th Infantry Battalion, 3rd Reinforcements & disembarked at Egypt.

Private Baldey was returned to Australia via S.S. *Ceramic* on 4th May, 1915 from Suez, arriving in Melbourne, Victoria on 25th May, 1915.

Private Baldey was discharged on 8th July, 1915, after serving 197 days – medically unfit - cause of discharge – VD.

Thomas Henry Baldey was a 40 year old, single, Station Hand from Brisbane, Queensland when he re-enlisted at Brisbane on 17th January, 1916 with the 3rd Divisional Cyclist Company of the Australian Army (A.I.F.). His service number was 5 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs Mary Baldey of Tenterfield, NSW.

Private Thomas Henry Baldey embarked from Sydney, NSW on HMAT *Demosthenes* (A64) on 18th May, 1916 & disembarked at England.

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 Baldey was marched in from Parkhouse, Wiltshire on 27th July, 1916 & taken on strength in England on 29th July, 1916. On 7th August, 1916 he was taken on Strength of 3rd Division Cyclist Corp at Perham Down, Wiltshire. On 7th September, 1916 Private Baldey was transferred to 9th Battalion.

On 28th October, 1916 Private Baldey was Absent without Leave from midnight 20th October to 7.30 p.m. on 21st October, 1916 whilst at Larkhill, Wiltshire. He was awarded a total forfeiture of 4 days pay.

Private Baldey was admitted to hospital for 2 days from 14th – 15th November, 1916 with a sebaceous cyst (Scabies).

Private Thomas Henry Baldey died at 2 p.m. on 13th December, 1916 at Fargo Military Hospital, Wiltshire, England from broncho pneumonia.

A death for Thomas H. Baldey, aged 41, was registered in the December quarter, 1916 in the district of Amesbury, Wiltshire.

Private Thomas Henry Baldey was buried on 16th December, 1916 at Durrington Cemetery, Wiltshire, England – plot number 129.

Private Thomas Henry Baldey was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Baldey's father – Mr J. H. Baldey (February, 1922 & November, 1922).

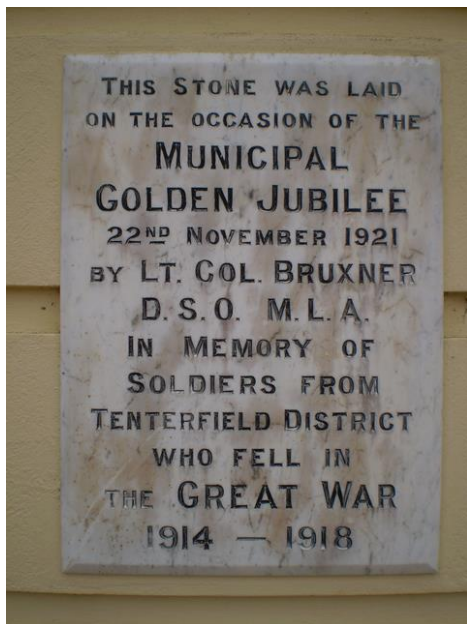
A letter dated 19th January, 1921 from Base Records to Headquarters 1st Military District concerning the 1914/15 Star for 1517 Private T. H. Baldey, 9th Battalion states "*I have to advise that a revised ruling has now been obtained from the Adjutant General, that discharge for medical unfitness due to V.D., will not in itself operate to disqualify a soldier from receiving War Medals. No further action to recall the above-mentioned Star will now be necessary.*"

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Thomas Henry Baldey – service number 5A as being 39 years old & served with 9th Battalion Australian Infantry. He was the son of John Henry and Mary Holmes Baldey. Born at Tenterfield, New South Wales.

Private T. Baldey is also remembered on the Roll of Honour 1914 – 1919 of Tenterfield and Districts Fallen Soldiers Infantry Deceased (8th name left hand side), located in Molesworth Street, Tenterfield, NSW.



Tenterfield and Districts Fallen Soldiers Roll of Honour



(Photos kindly supplied by David Stewart - President Tenterfield RSL through Jenny Stoker – Acting Senior Librarian, Tenterfield Public Library)

T. H. Baldey is remembered on 42nd Infantry Battalion Roll of Honour, located in Shrine of Remembrance Crypt, Anzac Square, Ann Street, Brisbane, Queensland.



42nd Infantry Battalion Roll of Honour



Private T. H. Baldey is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 55.



(Photos by Cathy Sedgwick)



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

Information from the Roll of Honour – which was completed by relatives after the death of the Soldier – to the question “Was he connected with any other member of A.I.F. who died or distinguished himself?” Mary Baldey – the late Private Thomas Baldey’s sister replied –

“His nephew Pte J. R. Baldey was killed in Action the same date but the following year. (Belgium)

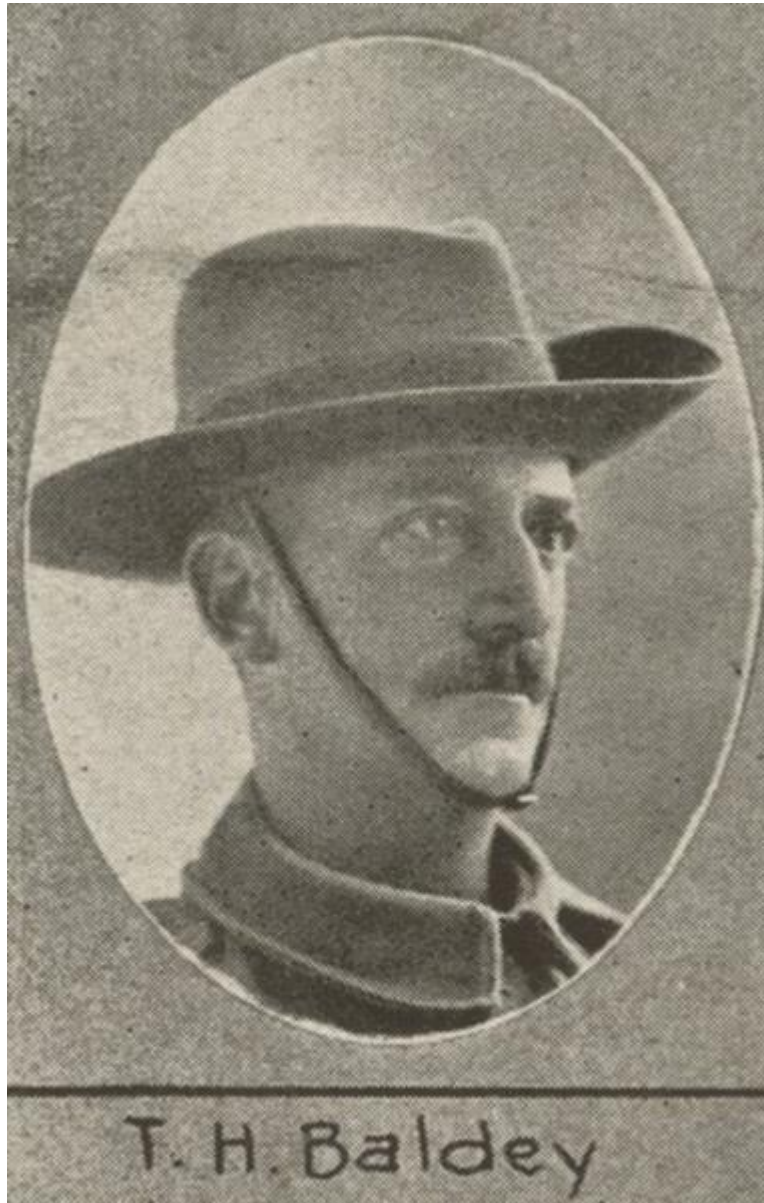
His cousin Major Moffat Reid was killed in Action at Gallipoli. (7th August, 1915)

His cousin Captain Woodward received MM & his Uncle Pte Sid Butt also received MM.”

(73 pages of Private Thomas Henry Baldey’s Service records are available for On Line viewing at National Archives of Australia website).

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





(*Queenslander Pictorial* – 13 February, 1915)



Newspaper Reports

ROLL OF HONOUR

BALDEY – At Military Hospital, Fargo, on 13th Dec., 1916. Private Thomas Henry, 3rd Divisional Cyclists' Corps. Second eldest son of Mr and Mrs J. Baldey, of Tenterfield, of bronchial pneumonia.

(*Tenterfield Star*, NSW 21 December, 1916)

* *With thanks to Jenny Stoker – Acting Senior Librarian Tenterfield Public Library*

AUSTRALIAN CASUALTIES – Lists 257 and 258

DIED OF ILLNESS

Queensland – T. H. Baldey, Tenterfield

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria, Wednesday 27 December, 1916)

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 at Durrington War Graves Cemetery. 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 T. H. Baldey does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

A Tired Though Courageous Heart Deeply Mourned at Home

Durrington Cemetery, Wiltshire, England

Durrington Cemetery contains burials of both wars. The 204 First World War burials were mostly from nearby Larkhill Camp. Many of the graves are of Australian servicemen and there is a separate Australian memorial in the cemetery. The Second World War burials number 22. In addition to the war graves, there are a number of post-war service graves in the cemetery, mostly of the Royal Air Force.

(*Information from CWGC*)



Durrington Cemetery, Wiltshire (Photo above by Dave Healing 2013)

Photo of Private T. H. Baldey's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone at Durrington Cemetery, Wiltshire, England.



(Photo © Ian King - with permission)



(Photo from CWGC)