

**Brookwood Military Cemetery,
Brookwood, Surrey, England
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



3063 L. CPL

E. E. BASCHBAUER

5TH AUSTRALIAN PIONEERS

9TH JUNE, 1917

Edward Ernest (Ted) BASCHBAUER

Edward Ernest Baschbauer was born on 8th October, 1887 at Window, Curland, Russia to parents John & Alvin Baschbauer.

Edward Ernest Baschbauer applied for a Certificate of Naturalization on 27th June, 1913 stating he was born in Russia & had arrived at Fremantle, Western Australia from England on 17th September, 1910 on S.S. *Australind*. He received his Certificate of Naturalization – Certificate No. 16580 on 11th October, 1913.

The 1916 & 1917 Australian Electoral Rolls for the division of Swan, subdivision of Katanning, Western Australia recorded Edward Ernest Baschbauer, Carpenter, c/o Mrs Truslove, Katanning.

Edward Ernest Baschbauer was a 29 year old, single, Millwright when he enlisted in Perth, Western Australia on 12th June, 1916 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 3063 & his religion was Church of Christ. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr John Baschbauer, Pitragen, Courland, Russia.

Private Edward Ernest Baschbauer was posted to 73 Depot on 12th June, 1916 for recruit training. He was transferred to 7th Reinforcements of 5th Pioneers from 19th September, 1916 & was appointed Corporal from 4th November, 1916.

Private Edward Ernest Baschbauer embarked from Fremantle, Western Australia on HMAT *Argyllshire (A8)* on 9th November, 1916 with the 5th Pioneer Battalion, 7th Reinforcements & disembarked at Devonport, England on 10th January, 1917.

5th Pioneer Battalion

The 5th Pioneer Battalion was an Australian infantry and light engineer unit raised for service during the First World War as part of the all volunteer Australian Imperial Force (AIF). Formed in Egypt in March 1916, the battalion subsequently served on the Western Front in France and Belgium, after being transferred to the European battlefields shortly after its establishment. Assigned to the 5th Division, the 5th Pioneer Battalion fought in most of the major battles that the AIF participated in between mid-1916 and the end of the war in November 1918. It was subsequently disbanded in early 1919.

The 5th Pioneers were established on 10 March 1916, at Tel-el-Kebir in Egypt, and were subsequently assigned to the 5th Division. The battalion was formed in the aftermath of the failed Gallipoli campaign when the Australian Imperial Force (AIF) was expanded as part of plans to transfer it from the Middle East to Europe for service in the trenches along the Western Front. This expansion saw several new infantry divisions raised in Egypt and Australia, as well as specialist support units such as machine gun companies, engineer companies, artillery batteries and pioneer battalions, which were needed to meet the conditions prevalent on the Western Front.

Trained as infantrymen, they were also tasked with some engineer functions, with a large number of personnel possessing trade qualifications from civilian life. As such, they were designated as pioneer units. The pioneer concept had existed within the British Indian Army before the war, but had not initially been adopted in other British Empire forces. In early 1916, the Australian Army was reorganised ahead of its transfer to the Western Front in Europe. A total of five pioneer battalions were raised by the AIF at this time, with one being assigned to each of the five infantry divisions that the Australians deployed to the battlefield in France and Belgium. Tasked with digging trenches, labouring, constructing strong points and light railways, and undertaking battlefield clearance, the troops assigned to the pioneers required construction and engineering experience in addition to basic soldiering skills.

The 5th Pioneer Battalion was formed from volunteers from the 5th Division who possessed relevant trade qualifications, or who were deemed to be suitable for manual labouring tasks. Many were skilled and experienced in mining and other artisanal trades. According to some sources a majority of the battalion's recruits were from South Australia, although others refer to a significant proportion originating from Western Australia.

(Extract of Pioneer Battalion information from Wikipedia)

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.

Corporal Edward Ernest Baschbauer was marched in to Pioneer Training Battalion Camp at Larkhill, Wiltshire England. He reverted to rank of Private on 11th January, 1917.

Private Edward Ernest Baschbauer was appointed Lance Corporal from 21st January, 1917.

Lance Corporal Edward Ernest Baschbauer proceeded overseas to France via Folkestone on 28th March, 1917 from Pioneer Training Battalion. He was marched in to 5 A. D. B. D. (Australian Divisional Base Depot) at Etaples, France on 29th March, 1917 from England. Lance Corporal Baschbauer was marched out to his Unit from 5th A. D. B. D. on 16th April, 1917 & was taken on strength of 5th Pioneer Battalion in the Field on 21st April, 1917. (The Casualty Form – Active Service recorded he reverted to ranks on joining Battalion.)

Lance Corporal Edward Ernest Baschbauer was wounded in action on 11th May, 1917. He was admitted to 8th Field Ambulance on 11th May, 1917 with right Forearm & arm mangled. Lance Corporal Baschbauer was transferred to 3rd Australian Casualty Clearing Station with shrapnel wounds to Right Forearm on 12th May, 1917. He was transferred to Ambulance Train on 13th May, 1917 & admitted to 22nd General Hospital at Camiers on 14th May, 1917 with G.S.W (gunshot wound/s) to Right Forearm – severe. Lance Corporal Baschbauer was transferred to England on 31st May, 1917 on Hospital Ship *Stad Antwerp* with G.S.W Right Arm (amputated).

War Diary – 5th Pioneer Battalion

Vaulx-Vraucourt – 11th May, 1917:

On 11th the work was more or less defined in the construction of a light railway line from VAULX NORTH to NOREVIL & beyond as far as possible – the procuring of 8000 yards of rails from back areas to enable this line to be pushed to QUEANT of necessary and also the construction of dugouts for artillery by their positions.

The maintenance of 2 CT's running from NOREUIL were also undertaken.

In consequence of shelling D Coy moved quarters to CRACOURT & C Coy to I.7.b.3.6.

These works were pursued continuously & by 19th the Railway was completed to 100 yard beyond NOREUIL including 4 loops en route. Over 8000 yds of line had also been brought up from the rear. 5 dugouts were started on 11th for artillery but one position was abandoned on 13th & another on 14th. Two further dugouts were started in lieu of these. First dugout (in easy ground) was completed on 18th.

On 18th we were detailed to carry mining timber up to Hindenburg Line for the Tunnelling Coy. Had 5 men gassed from gas shells on night of 18/19th returning from Hindenburg Line – they returned to camp all right but did not feel effects till morning.....

(Extract of War Diary from the Australian War Memorial)

Lance Corporal Edward Ernest Baschbauer was admitted to 3rd London General Hospital, Wandsworth, London, England on 31st May, 1917 with G.S.W. to Right Arm.

Lance Corporal Edward Ernest Baschbauer died at 12.15 am on 9th June, 1917 at 3rd London General Hospital, Wandsworth, London, England from wounds received in action in France – G.S.W. (Gunshot wound/s) to Right Arm – amputated.

A death for Edward E. Baschbauer, aged 29, was registered in the June quarter, 1917 in the district of Wandsworth, Greater London, England.

Lance Corporal Edward Ernest Baschbauer was buried on 12th June, 1917 in Brookwood Military Cemetery, Surrey, England – Australian Military Burial Ground - Plot number 179397.

From the burial report of Lance Corporal Edward Ernest Baschbauer - *Coffin was good. Polished Elm. The deceased soldier was buried with Military Honours. Firing Party and Bugler comprising members attached to the Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F. London were in attendance. The "Last Post" was sounded at the graveside. The coffin was shrouded with the Australian flag. The service was conducted at the graveside by Chaplain Green, A.I.F. No relatives at the funeral. Temporary oak cross to be erected by the Commonwealth Military Authorities.*

A slip of Paper in the Service Record file of Lance Corporal Edward Ernest Baschbauer shows the position of his grave as - Brookwood Military Cemetery Plot 11 Row D Grave 16.

This is now recorded by CWGC as Memorial reference – XI. D. 16. Lance Corporal E. E. Baschbauer now has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

The Red Cross Wounded & Missing file for Lance Corporal Edward Ernest Baschbauer contains a request from the Red Cross on behalf of the relatives to obtain the fullest details possible into his wounds, suffering, death and burial. Captain, R.A.M.C., 3rd London General Hospital, Wandsworth wrote the following letter: "3063 Pte E. E. Baschbauer, 5th Pioneer Battn. A.I.F. was admitted with a convoy from France on 31st May, 1917. He had sustained a serious Gun-shot wound of right arm, which limb had been amputated prior to admission here. Unfortunately Septicaemia supervened and he died on June 9th 1917. The body was removed by the Australian Authorities on 12th June for interment at Brookwood Cemetery. His money and Pay Book were forwarded to the Staff Paymaster, A.I.F. 13, Horseferry Road, S.W. and his other private effects to the Officer i.c. A.I.F. Kit Store 110, Greyhound Road, Fulham, S.W."

Reverend William Gilmour, Baptist Manse, 9 Manning St., Fremantle, Western Australia, wrote to Base Records in December, 1917 requesting the Official Death Certificate for No. 3063 Corporal E. E. Baschbauer, 5th Pioneer Battalion, to be sent to Miss E. Flavel, 9 Manning St., Fremantle, Western Australia.

Base Records sent a Certificate of Death to Miss E. Flavel on 27th December, 1917.

Edith Mabel Flavel of 516 Fitzgerald Street, Perth was prescribed as Legatee in regards to Letters of Administration with Will annexed for Edward Ernest Baschbauer. Edith Mabel Flavel, 9 Manning Street, Fremantle, Western Australia was recorded as Administratrix.

Lance Corporal Edward Ernest Baschbauer was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Lance Corporal Baschbauer's father – Mr J. Baschbauer (address listed as Nodene, Valdegale via Talsen, Latvia, Russia), as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll & Plaque to be issued from London in August, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Lance Corporal E. E. Baschbauer – service number 363, of 5th Australian Pioneers. No family details are listed.

Lance Corporal E. E. Baschbauer is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 174.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia



E. Baschbauer is remembered on the Katanning War Memorial, located in Prosser Park, Carew & Cliff Streets, Katanning, Western Australia.



Katanning War Memorial (Photos from AWM Places of Pride – James Wills)



E. E. Baschbauer is remembered on the Western Australia State War Memorial which is located at the top of Kings Park and Botanic Garden escarpment, ANZAC Bluff, Fraser Avenue, Perth, Western Australia. The memorial was developed around an 18 metre tall obelisk as the principal feature, which is almost a replica of the Australian Imperial Force Memorials erected in France and Belgium.

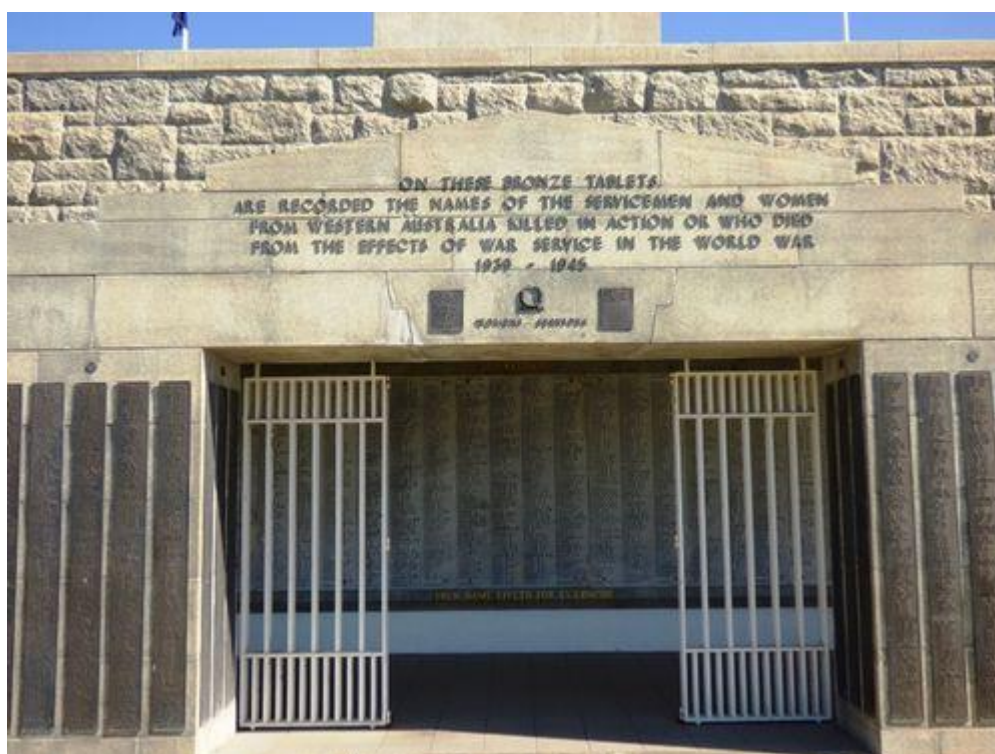
The heavy concrete foundations are supplemented by heavy brick walls which enclose an inner chamber or crypt. The walls surrounding the crypt are covered with The Roll of Honour; marble tablets which list under their units the names of more than 7,000 members of the services killed in action or as a result of World War One.



Western Australia State War Memorial Cenotaph, Kings Park (above)

& (below) The Crypt with the Roll of Honour names

(Photos from Monument Australia – Kent Watson/Sandra Tattersall/Graeme Saunders)



Newspaper Notices

THE CALL TO THE COLOURS

AND THE MEN WHO ARE ANSWERING

PERTH

...Baschbauer E. E.,

(Camp Chronicle, Midland Junction, Western Australia – 22 June, 1916)

W. A. Casualties

At the Fighting Fronts

310th CASUALTY LIST

WOUNDED

Edward Ernest Baschbauer

(The Daily News, Perth, Western Australia – 14 June, 1917)

W. A. Casualties

At the Fighting Fronts

315th CASUALTY LIST

DIED OF WOUNDS

PRIVATE EDWARD ERNEST BASCHBAUER, Russia, previously reported seriously ill.

(The Daily News, Perth, Western Australia – 25 June, 1917)

IN MEMORIAM

Anzac Heroes

BASCHBAUER – To the memory of my dear friend, Edward Baschbauer (Ted), who died of wounds, June 9, 1917.

A true friend, a hero in heaven.

-Inserted by Edie F.

(The West Australian, Perth, Western Australia – 10 June, 1918)

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)

Lance Corporal E. E. Baschbauer does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Brookwood Military Cemetery, Surrey, England

Located 30 miles from London in Surrey, Brookwood Military Cemetery is the largest CWGC cemetery in the United Kingdom. The cemetery contains the graves of more than 1,600 servicemen of the British Empire in the First World War and over 3,470 from the Second World War.

Brookwood Military Cemetery lies adjacent to Brookwood Cemetery (The London Necropolis), a vast space which covers 500 acres. In 1917, an area to the north of the cemetery was set aside as Brookwood Military Cemetery for men and women of Commonwealth forces who died, many of battle wounds, in the London district. This site was further extended to accommodate Commonwealth casualties of the Second World War. *(Information from CWGC)*

There are 446 Australian War Graves in Brookwood Military Cemetery – 351 from World War 1 & 95 from World War 2.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

D00185



Brookwood Military Cemetery (Photo from CWGC)



Brookwood Military Cemetery (Photos by Magicfingers)



Australian Graves in Brookwood Military Cemetery (Photos by Magicfingers)





(Photo courtesy of Ian Fletcher)



Australian War Graves *(Photo courtesy of Neil Bright 2020)*

Photo of Lance Corporal E. E. Baschbauer's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Brookwood Military Cemetery, Surrey, England.



(Photo courtesy of Neil Bright)



(Photo courtesy of Ian Fletcher)



(Photo courtesy of Ian Fletcher – Jan 2021)

