

# Sutton Veny War Graves

## World War 1



*Lest We Forget*



**1842 SERJEANT**

**T. F. BAILEY**

**AUSTRALIAN FIELD ARTILLERY**

**6TH JULY, 1919**

*Commonwealth War Graves Headstone for Serjeant T. F. Bailey is located in  
Grave Plot # 94. N. 1. of St. John the Evangelist Churchyard, Sutton Veny*

## Thomas Francis BAILEY

Thomas Francis Bailey was born in on 6<sup>th</sup> April, 1879 at Cuttack, Orissa, India, the youngest son of the Rev. Thomas Francis Bailey, Baptist Minister in Orissa, India & his wife Lydia Bailey. Thomas Francis Bailey was baptised on 12<sup>th</sup> April, 1879 at Cuttack, Bengal, India. He attended High School at Nottingham, England. Mr T. F. Bailey & Miss L. E. Bailey were listed as passengers aboard the *Runic* that had departed from Liverpool, England, on 17<sup>th</sup> January, 1907, via Cape Town & arrived at the port of Albany, Western Australia on 20<sup>th</sup> February 1907. Thomas was previously on the staff as a Bank Official at the Bank of Bengal, India & then at W.A. Bank. (From information supplied by Ernest Bailey for the Roll of Honour for soldiers that died in WW1 – Ernest Bailey had stated that his brother Thomas had arrived in Australia in 1906 & he had also listed the details about his brother working in the Banks).

Thomas Francis Bailey, Bank Clerk, was listed on the 1910 Australian Electoral Roll living at Murrin Murrin in the Division of Coolgardie, sub –division of Mt. Leonora, Western Australia.

Thomas Francis Bailey, Farmer, was listed on the 1916 Australian Electoral Roll living at Lake Hinds, Wongan Hills in the Division of Dampier, sub-division of Irwin, Western Australia. His brother Ernest Hague Bailey was listed in the same sub-district, also a farmer at Wongan Hills.

Thomas Francis Bailey was a 36 year old, single, Farmer from Lake Hinds, Wongan Hills, Western Australia when he enlisted at Perth on 20<sup>th</sup> October, 1915 with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Light Horse Brigade, 10<sup>th</sup> Light Horse Regiment – 13<sup>th</sup> Reinforcements of the Australian Army (A.I.F.). His service number was 1842 & his religion was Methodist. His next of kin was listed as his brother – Ernest Haigh Bailey of Lake Hinds, Wongan Hills, Western Australia. (Parents deceased). Thomas Bailey had previously volunteered in the Military – 1 year with Calcutta Light Horse & 1 year with Rangoon Volunteer Rifles Mounted. Thomas Bailey stated on his Attestation Papers that he had previously been rejected as unfit to serve “cause unknown”.

Pte Thomas Francis Bailey embarked from Fremantle on HMAT *Borda* (A30) on 17<sup>th</sup> January, 1916.

Pte Bailey was taken on strength with 3<sup>rd</sup> Light Horse Reserve Regiment at Heliopolis (Cairo, Egypt) on 6<sup>th</sup> March, 1916 & was transferred to 4<sup>th</sup> Division Artillery on 1<sup>st</sup> April, 1916 at Heliopolis. Pte Bailey was taken on strength with 4<sup>th</sup> D.A.C. mustered Gnr at Serapeum. He was promoted to Temporary Bombardier on 24<sup>th</sup> May, 1916.

T/ Bmdr Bailey proceeded to join the British Expeditionary Force at Alexandria aboard the *Oriana* & disembarked at Marseilles, France on 13<sup>th</sup> June, 1916. He was promoted to Bombardier on 28<sup>th</sup> June, 1916.

Bmdr Bailey was transferred to 12<sup>th</sup> B.A.C. on 28<sup>th</sup> January, 1917.

Bmdr Bailey was transferred to 3<sup>rd</sup> Army Field Artillery Brigade on 26<sup>th</sup> March, 1917 in France. He was sent to hospital & admitted to New Zealand S. Hospital in France on 4<sup>th</sup> May, 1917 with Alveolar abscess. He was discharged to duty on 7<sup>th</sup> May, 1917 & rejoined his Unit the following day.

Bmdr Bailey was transferred to 1<sup>st</sup> Australian Div. Artillery on 26<sup>th</sup> June, 1917 & reverted to the rank of Gunner (at his own request) on 47<sup>th</sup> July, 1917.

Gunner Bailey was transferred to 2<sup>nd</sup> Field Artillery Brigade in Belgium on 17<sup>th</sup> October, 1917 & posted to 5<sup>th</sup> Battery on the following day.

Gunner Thomas Francis Bailey was wounded – Gassed in Belgium on 3<sup>rd</sup> November, 1917. He was admitted to 56 General Hospital at Etaples, France on 4<sup>th</sup> November, 1917 & was to be transferred back to England. He embarked for England on 8<sup>th</sup> November, 1917. Notification was sent to Bombardier Thomas Bailey's brother – Ernest Bailey advising him that Thomas had been “Gassed will advise anything further received.”

Notification was sent to Thomas Bailey's brother – Ernest Bailey advising him that Thomas had been admitted to 1<sup>st</sup> Southern General Hospital at Birmingham, England on 9<sup>th</sup> November with a gunshot wound to left hand – severe. Ernest Bailey was updated with his brother condition on 18<sup>th</sup> December, 1917 – “Bombardier Thomas Bailey Improving” & again on 8<sup>th</sup> January, 1918 with “Bombardier Thomas Bailey progressing favourably.”

Gunner Bailey was given furlough from 18<sup>th</sup> January, 1918 until 1<sup>st</sup> February, 1918 where he was to report to No. 1 Command Depot at Sutton Veny, Wiltshire. He was marched on 2<sup>nd</sup> February, 1918 & classified as Class B1 A2 (Medical categories were introduced to ascertain the physical condition of a soldier) - Fit for overseas training camp in three to four weeks.

On 4<sup>th</sup> March, 1918 Bailey was promoted to T/Corporal while with No. 1 Command Depot at Sutton Veny & same day was taken on strength as Permanent Cadre (Cadre was a group of instructors that trained non-commissioned officers) of No. 1 Command Depot.

Corporal Bailey was appointed Acting Sergeant on 2<sup>nd</sup> April, 1918 while at Sutton Veny. He was still with No. 1 Command Depot on 14<sup>th</sup> March, 1919.

Acting Sergeant of 6<sup>th</sup> Australian Field Artillery Brigade was Mentioned in Despatches 4<sup>th</sup> February, 1919.

Sergeant Thomas Francis Bailey was admitted to 1<sup>st</sup> Australian General Hospital at Sutton Veny on 6<sup>th</sup> July, 1919 at 1.20 a.m. He had been knocked over by a motor car about an hour earlier. He was haemorrhaging from both ears & had several deep punctures on his face which were bleeding freely.

Sergeant Thomas Francis Bailey died at 6 a.m. on 6th July, 1919 at the Military Hospital, Sutton Veny with injuries to his head.

A death for Thomas F. Bailey, aged 40, was registered in the September quarter, 1919 in the district of Warminster, Wiltshire.

Sergeant Thomas Francis Bailey was buried on 9<sup>th</sup> July, 1919 in St. John the Evangelist Churchyard at Sutton Veny – Grave no. 94. From the burial report of Sergeant Bailey - *Coffin was elm with Brass Mounts – Deceased was buried with full Military Honours. The coffin draped with the Australian flag being borne to the graveside on a Gun Carriage, preceded by a Firing Party from No. 2 Australian Group, Sutton Veny. Six of Deceased's late Unit comrades supported the Pall. The "Last Post" was sound and volleys fired over the grave. A large number of Australians followed the remains and were present at the graveside ceremony. Flowers were sent by "Sister, Miss Bailey", "His Comrades" & "Mrs and Miss Ball". Headquarters A.I.F. Depots in United Kingdom were represented at the funeral.* The late Sergeant Thomas Francis Bailey's sister – Miss Bailey of "Coverdale", Truscott Ave, Bournemouth was present at the funeral.

Sergeant T. F. Bailey is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 11.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

Sergeant Thomas Francis Bailey was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal as he had entered a Theatre of War. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Sgt. Bailey's brother, being the closest next-of-kin (the only other relative was a younger sister) – Mr Ernest Haigh Bailey (sent December, 1921 & April, 1922)

The personal effects of Sergeant Thomas Francis Bailey were sent to his sister – Miss L. E. Bailey "Coverdale", Truscott Ave, Bournemouth

The CWGC lists Sergeant T. F. Bailey, 1842, of 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade, Australian Field Artillery. No family details are listed.

(82 pages of Sergeant Thomas Francis Bailey'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.*



## **Newspaper Reports**

### **GENERAL NEWS**

The military authorities desire to communicate with the next of kin of the following soldiers – No. 1842 Acting Sergeant T. F. Bailey, 2<sup>nd</sup> Field Artillery, late 10<sup>th</sup> Light Horse; next of kin, brother, Ernest Bailey, 116 Grosvenor-road, North Perth.

*(The West Australian, Perth, WA – Tuesday 15 July, 1919)*

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### **DIED ON SERVICE**

**BAILEY** – On July 6 on active service, accidentally killed in England T. F. Bailey, late 2<sup>nd</sup> Field Artillery, youngest son of Rev. T. Bailey, Orissa, India and brother of E. H. Bailey, Nevill-street, Bayswater; formerly of Bank of Bengal and W.A. Bank; aged 40 years. English, Indian and Burmese papers please copy.

*(Western Mail, Perth, WA – Thursday 24 July, 1919)*

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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 at St. John the Evangelist Churchyard at Sutton Veny. 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 dated 1<sup>st</sup> July, 1921 was sent from Base Records to Mr E. H. Bailey of Nevill Street, Bayswater, W.A. (brother of late Sgt. Bailey) stating that a form enabling the next-of-kin to submit an inscription on the headstone at Sutton Veny had not been answered. Non-receipt of a reply within 21 days would be accepted as indicating that no further action be taken.

Serjeant Thomas Francis Bailey does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.



Photo of Serjeant T. F. Bailey's Headstone in St. John the Evangelist's Churchyard, Sutton Veny, Wiltshire.



*(Photo courtesy of David Milborrow)*





**War Graves at Sutton Veny** *(Photos from CWGC)*

