

**Reading Cemetery,
Reading, Berkshire
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



1049 CORPORAL

R. G. BAILLIE

22ND BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

1ST SEPTEMBER, 1918 Age 21

Robert George BAILLIE

Robert George Baillie was born at Camberwell, Victoria on 12th August, 1892 to parents Hugh & Mary Phillipa Baillie (nee Affleck).

Hugh Baillie, father of Robert George Baillie, died in December, 1892.

Robert George Baillie attended Princes Hill School, North Carlton, Victoria. He later attended Bradshaw's Business College.

Robert George Baillie became insolvent in 1914 due to a Court

Robert George Baillie was a 23 year old, single, Blacksmith & Farrier from 7 Garten Street, Princes(s) Hill, Melbourne, Victoria when he enlisted on 5th February, 1915 with the 6th Infantry Brigade, 22nd Infantry Battalion "B" Company of the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 1049 & his religion was Methodist. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs Mary P. Irwin of 7 Garten Street, Princess Hill, Melbourne, Victoria. Robert Baillie stated on his Attestation Papers that he had previously served with W. A. Senior Cadets for 2 years.

Private Robert George Baillie was posted to Depot for training then transferred on 1st April, 1915 to 22nd Battalion.

Private Robert George Baillie embarked from Melbourne on HMAT *Ulysses* (A38) on 10th May, 1915.

Private Robert George Baillie proceeded to join M.E.F. (Mediterranean Expeditionary Force) on the Gallipoli Peninsula on 30th August, 1915.

Private Robert George Baillie was admitted to 6th Field Ambulance at Anzac on 18th October, 1915 with Ulcers on the leg. He was taken to 1st Australian Casualty Clearing Station the same day. Pte Baillie embarked on Hospital Ship *Soudan* & admitted to Florana Hospital at Malta on 24th October, 1915 with multiple ulcers to leg & thigh. He was transferred to All Saints C. C. (Convalescent Camp) at Malta on 12th November, 1915. Pte Baillie embarked at Malta for Egypt on H. T. *Nile* on 2nd December, 1915 fit for active service. Pte Baillie returned from D. Camp at Tel-el-Kebir on 8th January, 1916.

Private Robert George Baillie proceeded to join B.E.F. (British Expeditionary Force) from Alexandria on 19th March, 1916.

Private Robert George Baillie was admitted to 5th Australian Field Ambulance with Rheumatism on 13th November, 1916 then transferred to C.R.S. (Camp Reception Station) the same day.

Private Robert George Baillie was admitted to 5th Australian Field Ambulance on 22nd December, 1916. He was transferred to 2nd Canadian General Hospital at Le Toquet on 25th December, 1916 with Influenza. Pte Baillie proceeded to England on 28th December, 1916 & embarked from Havre, France on Hospital Ship *Dunluce Castle* on 29th December, 1916 with Bronchitis.

Private Robert George Baillie was admitted to Norfolk War Hospital, Norwich, England on 30th December, 1916 with Bronchitis after contracting Influenza on 23rd December, 1916. He was discharged on 16th January, 1917 to go on furlough & then to report to Perham Downs.

Private Robert George Baillie was marched in to No. 1 Command Depot at Perham Downs, Wiltshire on 17th February, 1917, He was medically classified as B1 A 4 (fit for overseas training camp when passed dentally fit).

Private Robert George Baillie was marched out to Wareham on 19th March, 1917 & transferred to 65th Battalion on 23rd March, 1917.

Private Robert George Baillie was appointed (Temporary) Driver on 16th April, 1917 at Windmill Hill.

(Temporary) Driver Robert George Baillie was appointed to (Temporary) Corporal on 12th July, 1917 then appointed Corporal the same day while posted at Windmill Hill.

Corporal Robert George Baillie was transferred back to 22nd Battalion on 21st August, 1917 from No. 2 Group Rollestone.

Corporal Robert George Baillie attended the Course of Instruction at the School of Farriery at Tidworth, Wiltshire from 24th September, 1917 to 7th February, 1918 & qualified as Shoeing Smith.

Corporal Robert George Baillie proceeded overseas to France from 6th Training Battalion, Fovant, Wiltshire via Southampton on 4th March, 1918.

Corporal Robert George Baillie was marched in to A.I.B.D. (Australian Infantry Base Depot) at Havre, France on 5th March, 1918. He was marched out to his Unit on 7th March, 1918 & rejoined his Unit in the field on 9th March, 1918.

Corporal Robert George Baillie was wounded in action on 19th May, 1918. He was admitted to 5th A.F.A. (Australian Field Ambulance) with gunshot wounds to his leg. He was transferred to 61st Casualty Clearing Station then transferred by Ambulance Train on 23rd May, 1918. Corporal Baillie was admitted to 4th General Stationary Hospital at Etaples on 23rd May, 1918. suffering from gunshot wounds to left thigh, fractured femur – severe. Corporal Robert George Baillie was invalided to England on Hospital Ship *Princess Elizabeth* from Etaples, France on 3rd June, 1918.

Corporal Robert George Baillie was admitted to War Hospital at Reading, Berkshire, England on 3rd June, 1918 with gunshot wounds to left femur – severe. Corporal Baillie's mother was advised in a letter dated 15th June, 1918 that her son's condition was stationary. The letter was sent to her at 7 Garten Street, Princess Hill, Melbourne but letters were returned. Notification was placed in the papers asking for next-of-kin to contact Base Records.

Corporal Robert George Baillie died at 1.30 am on 1st September, 1918 in Section 2 Reading War Hospital, Reading, Berkshire, England from wounds received in action – Gunshot wounds to left thigh (amputated) & Septicaemia.

A death for Robert Baillie, aged 20, was registered in the September quarter, 1918 in the district of Reading, Berkshire.

The Red Cross Wounded & Missing file for Corporal Robert George Baillie contains a letter from a Red Cross Visitor who writes about Corporal Baillie's death: *"I am very sorry to have to tell you the above died on Sunday morning, Sept. 1st at 1.30 am. He was at Battle No. 2 War Hpl, we are all sorry about it. He was in the hospital for 4 months, and was always so bright & cheery. He told me on Thursday when I saw him, that he didn't at all mind having his leg up for 4 months, as he was soon going to walk again. It was quite well with it (?). However, the leg was amputated on Saturday morning & he died in the night, the doctor was with him"*.

Corporal Robert George Baillie was buried on 4th September, 1918 in Reading Cemetery, Reading, Berkshire – Screen Wall. 72. 16472. Those buried in Plot 72 & buried in other parts of the cemetery that do not have headstones marking their graves are named on the Memorial Screen Wall located near the Cross of Sacrifice. Their deaths are still acknowledged by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. From the burial report of Corporal Baillie - *Coffin was good, polished Elm. The deceased soldier was accorded a Military funeral, Bugler and Bearers being in attendance. The coffin was draped with the "Union Jack" and surmounted by some beautiful flowers sent by Comrades of Ward and the Matron and Nurses of Reading War Hospital. Prior to the interment a service was conducted at the graveside by Rev. V. M. James, and the "Last Post" was sounded. The Matron and Nurses of the Hospital attended the funeral, also a number of deceased comrades in hospital. Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F. London were represented at the funeral.*

Robert George Baillie requested in his Will dated 22nd February, 1917 that in the event of his death the whole of his property & effects be given to his mother – Mary Phillipa Baillie of 65 Blair St, Morland, Victoria.

Base Records contacted Mrs M. P. Irwin (remarried mother of late Cpl. Baillie), of 108 Moreland Road, East Brunswick, in October, 1920 asking if there were any nearer blood relatives than herself due to the "Deceased Soldiers Estates Act 1918" which stated that the War Medals & Mementoes of a deceased soldier were to be handed in the following order of relationship – Widow, eldest surviving son, eldest surviving daughter, father, mother, eldest surviving brother, eldest surviving sister etc. No reply was received & enquiries were continued as to her

whereabouts so that the War Medals for her son's service could be passed on to her if she was the closest next-of-kin. Mrs Mary Irwin (late Baillie) contacted the Army in February, 1921 advising that her present address was Post Office, Narracan, Gippsland, Victoria. She did not advise if her late son's father was living or deceased so another letter was written to her in March, 1921. Mrs Irwin contacted Base Records in March 1921 advising that she has "written so often saying I am a widow (and her son) was born a few months before his father's death. I remarried a second time in about 6 months I was again a widow and have remarried so I am now 74."

Corporal Robert George Baillie was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Corporal Baillie's mother - Mrs M. P. Irwin, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent August, 1921 & Plaque sent November, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Corporal R. C. Baillie – service number 1049, of 22nd Battalion Australian Infantry. No family details are listed.

Corporal R. G. Baillie is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 95.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

(103 pages of Corporal Robert George Baillie'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, Red Cross Wounded & Missing) & National Archives



Newspaper Notices

A MINOR IN LAW

VAILIDITY OF AN ASSIGNMENT QUESTIONED

HIGH COURT JURISDICTION

An action to recover money advanced to a young man who was "a minor in law" was before Mr Justice Duffy in the High Court yesterday, having been commenced on Monday. Plaintiff was Frederic Horatio Harris, 56 Leinster-street, Paddington, Sydney, and defendant was Robert George Baillie, of 88 Kerr-street, Fitzroy, Melbourne. Plaintiff's claim was for the sum of £400 1/8 for money owing by defendant by virtue of assignment in writing executed by defendant on 1st October, 1910, whereby defendant assigned to plaintiff all his interest under the will of George Danby, deceased, and for moneys paid by plaintiff for defendant at his request. Alternatively plaintiff claimed the same sum for moneys lent by him to defendant and for interest thereon.

The defence was that Robert George Baillie was born on 12th August, 1802, and was a (minor in law at the date of the assignment of 1st October, 1910, and of the other transactions alleged in the statement of claim. It was contended on behalf of defendant that he executed the assignment at the instigation and under the influence of plaintiff and without having any independent or professional advice; that plaintiff took undue advantage of his youth and his ignorance of business affairs; that the assignment and other transactions were unfair, harsh, and unconscionable, and were otherwise such that a court of equity would give relief. Defendant counter-claimed for a declaration that the assignment and other transactions between plaintiff and himself be set aside, and that the document be delivered up to him for cancellation.

In a reply, plaintiff asserted that if defendant were an infant at the time of the transactions the moneys claimed were advanced by plaintiff to enable defendant to provide himself with necessaries. It was also objected on behalf of plaintiff that the counterclaim disclosed no right or equity to the relief claimed.

Mr Cussen (instructed by Messrs Nolan and Nolan) appeared for plaintiff, and Mr H. I. Cohen (instructed by Mr A. R. Daly) for defendant. Mr Cohen contended that the action was really one for money lent, and plaintiff could not recover.

His Honor: I think that it was intended that the agreement should be carried out, and that the money was paid by plaintiff on the assumption that he would receive the assignment. Afterwards, however, defendant made up his mind that he would not give the assignment. I do not think all the money was given for the purpose of defendant purchasing necessaries.

Mr Cussen said the money was paid by plaintiff on the consideration of the assignment. He could not now get that assignment, defendant having repudiated it and objected to transfer. Plaintiff therefore received no consideration for his money, and was entitled to have it repaid to him.

Mr Cohen contended that the money was not advanced to defendant for necessaries, and as the latter was an infant in law at the time plaintiff could not recover.

His Honor: You repudiate the contract, but as a matter of equity, if the deed of assignment is declared void, should you not return plaintiff the money paid under it?

After further argument, Mr Cussen agreed to restrict plaintiff's claim to money paid in respect of necessities only.

Eventually the case was adjourned with a view to settlement.

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria – 26 February, 1914)

PLEA WITHDRAWN

Frederic Horatio Harris, of Lemster street, Paddington, New South Wales, sued Robert George Baillie, of Kerr street, Fitzroy, before Mr Justice Duffy, sitting in the original jurisdiction of the High Court in the Banco Court yesterday, to recover money due and owing in virtue of an assignment in writing executed by defendant on October 1, 1910, whereby defendant assigned to plaintiff all share and interest in the will of George Danby, deceased, and for moneys paid by the plaintiff for the defendant at his request. Alternatively, he claimed the same amount for moneys lent and interest thereon and moneys paid at his request. The amount was made up of sums lent between September 28, 1910, and June 29, 1911, £334/11/8, payments of premiums to the Australian Mutual Provident Society between September, 1910 and October, 1912, £27/5, and interest £47/5. The defendant denied liability, and, amongst other things, set up that at the time of the transaction, which occurred at the Boulder, Western Australia, where plaintiff was a storekeeper, defendant was 18 years of age. On this, plaintiff, in reply, claimed that part of the moneys was supplied to defendant to provide him with necessaries, and had been used for that purpose. The hearing of the case was opened in February, and it was then shown that the assignment made was with respect in the will of his grandfather, the total payments to be made being £750. It was a portion of his sum advanced by him that the plaintiff sought to recover. After he came of age in August last, the defendant mortgaged his interest for £500, and assigned the equity of redemption for value.

Mr Cussen (instructed by Messrs Nolan and Nolan) appeared for the plaintiff and Mr H. I. Cohen (instructed by Mr A. R. Daly) for the defendant.

Yesterday, when the hearing of the case was resumed, defendant withdrew the plea of infancy, and of himself consented to judgement for £360.

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria – 9 April, 1914)

NEW INSOLVENTS

Robert George Baillie, 770 Lygon Street, North Carlton, blacksmith. Causes of insolvency – Adverse judgment in the High Court in March, 1914. Liabilities, £380 10/; assets, £2,000/5/; surplus, £1,619/15/. Mr J. V. M. Wood, assignee.

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria – 7 July, 1914)

News of the Churches

NORTH CARLTON (Drummond-street) –

The church celebrated its 25th anniversary on Nov. 14th. The Sunday services were a great 'thanksgiving' after a period of continuous prayer, a method of church life in which the minister, the Rev. G. F. Dyson, has been signally blessed of God. The objective was an offering that would make the reduction of debt by £125 possible. The morning service was conducted by the Rev. G. F. Dyson, who unveiled the elaborate Honor Roll which has been placed permanently upon the church wall containing the following; names of the volunteers of the church, who are now serving in the war: — Gunner J. R. Smethurst (R.A.N.), **Robert George Baillie**, Alexander C. Cook, W. E. Cooper, A. Dunlop, G. A. Jones, R. Liversey, H. N. March, L. G. Painter, H. D. Painter, D. C. Parkhill, A. N. Rennie. Then followed the public recognition of 14 members who had been received, into church membership, and the administration of the Lord's Supper, when some eight persons took their first Communion.

(*Spectator and Methodist Chronicle*, Melbourne, Victoria – 3 December, 1915)

AUSTRALIAN CASUALTIES

110TH LIST

ILLNESS

Pte R. G. BAILLIE, Princes Hill

(*The Bendigo Independent*, Victoria – 16 November, 1915)

THE 433rd CASUALTY LIST

VICTORIAN NAMES

DIED OF WOUNDS

Corporal R. G. Baillie, Brunswick

(The Mildura Cultivator, Victoria – 16 October, 1918)

The next of kin of the undermentioned members of the Australian Imperial Force are requested to communicate with the Officer in Charge, Base Records, Victoria Barracks, at the earliest possible moment:—1,154, J. Cunningham, C Co., 22nd Battalion; 3,169, F. L. Beston, 16th Rfts., 23rd Battalion; 26, G. N. Searle. 22nd Battalion; 3,377, C. D. Cutting, 9th Rfts., 57th Battalion; **1,049, R. G. Baillie, B Co., 22nd Battalion**; 6,868, W. C. Olson, 20th Rfts., 22nd Battalion; 2,756, A. S. Normington, 6th Rfts., 22nd Battalion; 3,626, F. J. Coon, 8th Rfts., 3rd Pioneers.

(The Australasian, Melbourne, Victoria – 29 June, 1918)

Reading Cemetery, Reading, Berkshire, England

Reading Cemetery, Reading, Berkshire contains 248 War Graves, 17 of those being from Australian Forces – World War 1.

The War Graves Plot is situated at the back of the cemetery, in the right hand corner from the entrance. A Screen Wall Memorial commemorates those buried in Plot 72 and those buried in other parts of the cemetery whose graves are not marked by headstones. There are 207 Commonwealth burials of the 1914-1918 war and 41 of the 1939-1945 war. There is also 1 Serbian burial.

(Information & photos from CWGC)



Cross of Sacrifice & Memorial Screen Wall, Reading Cemetery, Reading, Berkshire *(Photos from CWGC)*



Photo of Corporal R. G. Baillie's name on the Screen Wall Memorial in Reading Cemetery, Reading, Berkshire, England.



(Photo courtesy of Phil Wood)