

# Durrington 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

*Commonwealth War Graves Headstone for Pte T. H. Baldey is located in Grave Plot # 129  
of Durrington War Graves Cemetery*

## Thomas Henry BALDEY

Thomas Henry Baldey was born at Tenterfield 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 24<sup>th</sup> December, 1914 with the 9<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion, 3<sup>rd</sup> Reinforcements of the Australian Army (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.

Pte Thomas Henry Baldey embarked from Brisbane on HMAT *Seang Choon* (A49) on 13<sup>th</sup> February, 1915 & disembarked at Egypt.

Pte Baldey was returned to Australia via S.S. *Ceramic* on 4<sup>th</sup> May, 1915 from Suez, arriving in Melbourne on 25<sup>th</sup> May, 1915.

Pte Baldey was discharged on 8<sup>th</sup> 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 17<sup>th</sup> January, 1916 with the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

Pte Thomas Henry Baldey embarked from Sydney on HMAT *Demosthenes* (A64) on 18<sup>th</sup> May, 1916 & disembarked at England.

Pte Baldey was marched in from Parkhouse on 27<sup>th</sup> July, 1916 & Taken on Strength in England on 29<sup>th</sup> July, 1916. On 7<sup>th</sup> August, 1916 he was Taken on Strength by 3<sup>rd</sup> Division Cyclist Corp at Perham Down. On 7<sup>th</sup> September, 1916 Pte Baldey was transferred to 9<sup>th</sup> Battalion.

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

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

Pte Thomas Henry Baldey died at 2 p.m. on 13<sup>th</sup> December, 1916 at Fargo Military Hospital of broncho pneumonia.

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

Pte Thomas Henry Baldey was buried on 16<sup>th</sup> December, 1916 at Durrington Cemetery, Wiltshire – plot number 129.

Pte Thomas Henry Baldey was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte Baldey's father – Mr J. H. Baldey (February, 1922 & November, 1922). A letter dated 19<sup>th</sup> January, 1921 from Base Records to Headquarters 1st Military District concerning the 1914/15 Star for 1517 Pte T. H. Baldey, 9<sup>th</sup> 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. 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)*

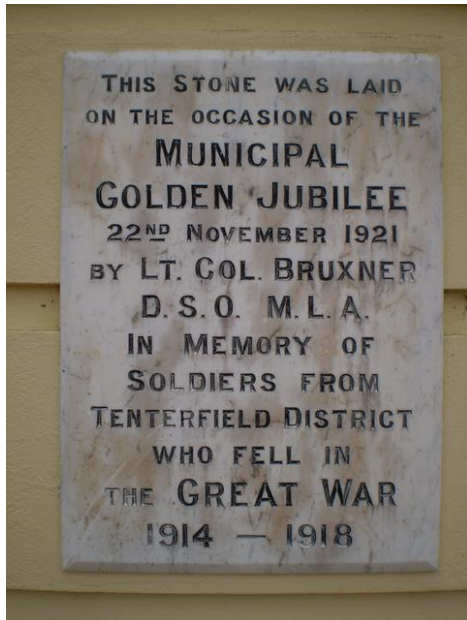


*Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia*

Private T. Baldey is also remembered on the Roll of Honour 1914 – 1919 of Tenterfield and Districts Fallen Soldiers Infantry Deceased (8<sup>th</sup> 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)*

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 Pte 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. (7<sup>th</sup> August, 1915)*

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

(73 pages of Pte 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*



## Newspaper Reports

### ROLL OF HONOUR

BALDEY – At Military Hospital, Fargo, on 13<sup>th</sup> Dec., 1916. Private Thomas Henry, 3<sup>rd</sup> 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*

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### AUSTRALIAN CASUALTIES – Lists 257 and 258

#### DIED OF ILLNESS

Queensland – T. H. Baldey, Tenterfield

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

Pte T. H. Baldey does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

*A Tired Though Courageous Heart Deeply Mourned at Home*



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

Photo of Pte T. H. Baldey's Headstone at Durrington Cemetery, Wiltshire.



*(Photo © Ian King - with permission)*