

Sutton Veny War Graves

World War 1



Lest We Forget



1937 SERJEANT

A. G. BALDING

AUSTRALIAN MACHINE GUN CORPS

4TH FEBRUARY, 1918 Age 40

At Rest

*Commonwealth War Graves Headstone for Serjt. A. G. Balding is located in
Grave Plot # 321. D. 11. of St. John the Evangelist Churchyard, Sutton Veny*

Andrew Gerald BALDING

Andrew Gerald Balding was born on 2nd July, 1878 in Brisbane, Queensland to parents Richard George & Helen Balding (nee Todd).

Andrew Gerald Balding married Lillian K. B. Maclean on 24th February, 1904 at Gladesville, Sydney, NSW. Their marriage was registered in the district of Ryde in 1904.

Andrew Gerald Balding was a 38 year old, married, Commercial Traveller from Sydney when he enlisted at Gladesville, Sydney on 13th December, 1916 with the 62nd Battalion of the Australian Army (A.I.F.). His service number was 1937 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his wife – Mrs Lillian Kathleen Balding, of Gladesville, Sydney, NSW.

Pte Andrew Gerald Balding embarked from Sydney on RMS *Osterley* on 10th February, 1917 & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 11th April, 1917.

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.

Pte Balding was marched in to No. 3 Camp at Parkhouse from Australia on 11th April, 1917.

Pte Balding was taken on strength with the 62nd Battalion on 24th April, 1917 from Perham Downs, England.

Pte Balding was promoted to Temporary Sergeant on 26th May, 1917 & promoted to Sergeant on 18th July, 1917 at Headquarters, Tidworth, Wiltshire.

Sgt. Balding was transferred to 1st Battalion on marching out to 61st Draft Battalion at Fovant, Wiltshire on 19th September, 1917.

Sergeant Andrew Gerald Balding was transferred to Machine Gun Corps on 29th October, 1917.

Sergeant Andrew Gerald Balding was marched out to Overseas Training Brigade at Longbridge Deverill, Wiltshire on 12th November, 1917. He was marched in to Hurdcott, Wiltshire on 9th December, 1917.

Sergeant Andrew Gerald Balding was admitted to the Military Hospital at Sutton Veny, Wiltshire on 23rd December, 1917 with an inflammation of middle ear – Otitis Media.

Sergeant Andrew Gerald Balding died at 12.50 p.m. on 4th February, 1918 at the Military Hospital, Sutton Veny. A post mortem examination was held on 5th February, 1918 with a diagnosis of acute purulent meningitis, secondary to Middle ear Disease. Sgt Balding's Casualty Form – Active Service states cause of death as Inflammation of Middle ear & Inflammation of membrane of brain.

A death for Andrew G. Balding, aged 39, was registered in the March quarter, 1918 in the district of Warminster, Wiltshire.

The Red Cross Wounded & Missing File for Serjt. Andrew Gerald Balding contains a request from the Red Cross on behalf of his relatives to obtain the fullest details possible of the illness, death & burial. A reply from the Assistant Matron, Military Hospital, Sutton Veny reads:

“Sgt A. G. Balding died after an operation on his ear for mastoid. He was ill for some time & at length became unconscious & died quite peacefully. He was in a little War by himself but many men who knew him used to go & see him. It was a merciful release for him when he died, for I am afraid had he lived it might have affected his brain. He is buried in Sutton Veny Churchyard with military honours.”

Another memo reads *“Photos of grave were went to N.K. – wife on 16-3-18 (one photo) & 30-3-18 (one photos) by different posts in case of loss. Cert. by A.I.F. Hqrs 7-6-18.”*

Sergeant Andrew Gerald Balding was buried on 8th February, 1918 in St. John the Evangelist Churchyard at Sutton Veny - Grave no. 321. From the burial report of Sgt. Balding - *Coffin was polished elm with Brass fittings – Deceased was buried with full Military Honours.*

A War Pension was granted to Lillian Kathleen Beatrice Balding, widow of late Sergt. Andrew Gerald Balding, in the sum of £2-13-9 per fortnight granted from 7th April, 1918. A pension was also granted to Ronald Andrew Balding, son of late Sergt. Andrew Gerald Balding, in the sum of £1 per fortnight granted from 7th April, 1918.

Sergeant A. G. Balding is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 180.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

Serjeant Andrew Gerald Balding was entitled to British War Medal only as he had not entered a Theatre of War. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Serjt. Balding's widow – Mrs L. K. Balding now living at Leura, Blue Mtns, NSW (Received November, 1922 & August, 1922)

The CWGC lists Sergeant Andrew Gerald Balding, 1937, of Australian Machine Gun Corps, as the son of Richard & Helen Balding; husband of Lillian K. B. Balding, of "Derwent", Powell St. Coogee, New South Wales. Born at Brisbane, Queensland.

(85 pages of Pte Sgt. Andrew Gerald Balding'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, Red Cross Wounded & Missing) & National Archives.



Newspaper Reports

LAW REPORT DIVORCE COURT

(Before Mr Justice Gordon)

BALDING v BALDING

Mr McKean, instructed by Mr E. R. Abigail, appeared on behalf of Andrew Gerald Balding, who petitioned for a decree for restitution of conjugal rights against Lilian Kathleen Beatrice Balding (formerly McLean), to whom he was married at Gladesville on February 24, 1904, according to the rites of the Church of England.

The respondent, for whom Mr Perry, instructed by Mr Atkinson, appeared, denied that reasonable opportunity had been offered for her to cohabit with the petitioner, and stated that she had just cause and excuse for refusing to do so; inasmuch, it was alleged, as he had repeatedly assaulted, insulted and abused her; had misconducted himself with a certain woman between September, 1910 and January, 1911, and had neglected to support her. She prayed that the petition should be rejected.

The petitioner admitted the misconduct complained of, which, he said, had been condoned; but denied the other allegations set out by the respondent.

His Honor reserved his decision.

(*The Sydney Morning Herald*, NSW – Wednesday 9 June, 1915)

PERSONAL NOTES

Information has been received of the death at the Front of Andrew (Drew) Balding, third son of Mr and Mrs R. G. Balding (late of Spring Hill) and brother of Mr W. R. Balding (Toowoomba), Mesdames R. Kenyon (Auchenflower), J. Tate (Kangaroo point) and C. Butlin (Sydney).

(*The Brisbane Courier*, Qld – Tuesday 19 February, 1918 & *The Queenslander* – Saturday 23 February, 1918)

ROLL OF HONOUR

BALDING – Died in France February 4, 1918, Andrew Gerald (Drew) Balding, in his 39th year, beloved son and brother of Mrs Helen Balding and Mrs C. Butlin, Waverley. At Rest.

(*The Sydney Morning Herald*, NSW – Saturday 2 March, 1918)

ON ACTIVE SERVICE

BALDING.-In loving memory of Andrew Gerald, who died on active service February 4, 1918. Inserted by his loving wife and son. Our gift to the Empire.

BALDING.-In loving memory of my dear son and my brother, Andrew Gerald (Drew), who died at Sutton-Veney Hospital, February 4, 1918.

We miss him most who loved him best.

Inserted by his loving mother and sister.

(*The Sydney Morning Herald*, NSW – Tuesday 4 February, 1919)

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)

Serjeant Andrew Gerald Balding does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

At Rest



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



Photo of Serjeant A. G. Balding's Headstone in St. John the Evangelist's Churchyard, Sutton Veny, Wiltshire.



(Photo courtesy of David Milborrow)