Australian Red Cross Society Wounded and Missing
Enquiry Bureau files, 1914-18 War
1DRL/0428

3012 Sergeant Thomas Baxter

13th Battalion



0281005G

13th. Battn. Baxter, T. 3012.

K. 11/8/18.

Pte. Don Ferguson, who has since been killed told me that he saw Sgt. Baxter or Pte. Headon 850 killed outright by a stokes Mortor shell which burst as they were about to throw it at some fish at Sailly-le-Sec or Sailly Laurette. Them Battn pioneers buried them but I do not know where.

13th. Battn. Farrell K. Pte. 6517.

B. 29. Dartford. 29/10/18.

R.D.B.

S

13th Battn.
A.I.F.

BAXTER.
T. 3012.

"Killed in Action 11-8-18"

I remember that Sgt Tom Baxter (13.A.) with one of the Company Cooks, Ned Headon (13.A.) and Pte Bance (13.A.) were carrying a shell, or Trench Mortar, down the river bank, for the purpose of throwing it into the stream, to kill the fish. They intended somehow to explode the shell in the water, but it exploded prematurely, killing Sgt Baxter and the Cook instantaneously, and wounding Pte Bance so seriously that he died shortly afterwards. I went down afterwards to the spot and heard all about it. We were out of the line for two days at Sailly Laurette and everyone was going down to the river to swim. The ground was held. Probably buried close by.

Eye-Witness:- No.
Description:- English, tall and fair, blue eyes.

Home address:-
27 Long Street.
Mosman. Sydney.

Informant:- Kingston.Carleton.7587.Pte.
(Very Intelligent)
13th Bn.H.Q. A.II. A.I.F.
3rd S.G.H. The Base.

Hilda.M.Pickard-Cambridge.
London.

6-11-18.
H.G.

OXFORD.

S,

Havre. 30th. October. 1918.

13th. Australians. Baxter, T. 3012.

K. August. 11/1918. Dets. D/B.

I knew Sergeant Tom Baxter, D.C.M. in A. 3 ? I saw his Grave in the open on the bank of the Canal near Sailly Laurette in August 1918. I was not at the Funeral but the Grave was pointed out to me. A 45th. Battalion man gave me Baxter's Ribbon; a German watch and some letters and his pay book cover. These I handed to B.H.Q. There was nothing on the Grave to indicate who was buried there. I heard that he was accidently killed while fishing with Stokes Mortar bombs in the Canal.

Inf:- Private. W. J. Varney. 6818.
13th. Australians. A. 3.
Australian Conv. Camp.
Rouelles.

S.

RDM. CP.

Plé. (Bob) R. Bruffey
Head Quarters
13 Pion Bn

Aboard
3012.
C.S.M. J. Baxter
13 Bn.
A.D.71

Killed Aug 11/16.

D.N.B

Written 23/10/16

FRONT France

ION AS TO

K.D.R.—V. 12/98.

Rank	Battalion and Regiment.	Co.	Platoon	Casualty.
Pte	44 a.2-4	—	—	K Mar 28/18 Det DR.

N BY

Rank	Battalion and Regiment.	Co.	Platoon	Home Address.
Pte	— " —	C	—	Ward K5

OF INFORMANT

in first person).

Men Bapaumeme & Corbie
= (Capt Tuke) were K by
ad to return, but on advancing
search was made for
they fell was known.
had been buried by the
by Cpl Heaven who
buried them again.
the marker.

ER THE FOLLOWING :—

st, give name, number, etc., the man who told him.

formant says a man was killed, death instantaneous, and was body buried, and if so where? see above

there any other man of same in Co. or Battalion?

Signature of Searcher

Date of Report 12 Sept/18

13th Battn.
A.I.F.

BAXTER.
C/S/M. T. 3012.

"Killed in Action 11-8-18"

Pte Bruffey.R.(Bob) 13th Battalion. H.Q. Pioneers. was one of 2 men who collected his remains and buried him and could give some particulars.

Informant:- Pte Whittingham.R.3957.
H.Q. 13th Battn.

London.
5-11-18.
H.G.
Note:-mWritten Bruffey 23-10-18. S.

[redacted]

A.I.F. 13th Battn.

Sgt. BAXTER
T. 3012.

"Killed 11/8/18."

13th A. I. F. 5ft.11ins., fair and about 26 years. At Sailly-le-Sec on August 11th 1918, whilst the Company were behind the lines resting, Baxter was handling a bomb when it exploded prematurely, killing him and E. Headon, 856 13th A.I.F. and wounding A. Bance 3147 13, A.I.F. The latter died of wounds at Casualty Clearing Station. Baxter and Headon were buried at place of Casualty near the river, but not in a Cemetry. Crosses were erected. Padre Hensby, E.C. officiated.

Informant:- Sgt. M.G. Hickling, 569,
13th Battn.
Headquarters.

W.M.K.
London
14.11.18.
H.G. Note:- Hickling says he wrote to Baxter's Mother telling her all about the accident, and the circumstances which led to it. S.

A.I.F. 13th Battn.

Sgt.BAXTER
T. 3012.

"Killed 11/8/18."

A Company, 1st Platoon, 5ft.11ins., fair about 26 years. At Sailly-le-Sec, to the left of Vaire Wood on August 11th 1918, the Company were resting behind the lines, when Baxter was accidently killed with a bomb he was handling, down near the river. The hand bomb exploded prematurely. He was a Sgt and had gained the D.C.M. I know nothing of Burial.

Informant:- 1722 F.C. Smith,
13th Battn. D. Coy,
14th Platoon.

W.M.K.
London
14.11.18.
H.G.

S.

[redacted]

13th Bttn.
A.I.F.

BAXTER.
T. 3012.

"Killed in Action 11-8-18."

In reply to your letter
re C.S.M. T.Baxter, enquiring for particulars of the above named, I have to inform you that he was killed between Sailly-le-sec and Sailly-Laurette on the 11-8-18. He was buried on the following day close to the spot where he fell, by Chaplain Justice of the 45th Bttn. A.I.F.

Letter from T.B.Webster, Lt.
Adjutant,
13th Bttn. A.I.F.
Headquarters.

London.
14-11-18.
J.E.A.

S.

A.I.F. 13th Battn.

BAXTER
Sgt. Thomas 3012.

"Killed 11/8/18."

I was with the Battalion near Sailly-le-Sec on 11th August; we were resting in reserve. Baxter, with Pte. Headon, were on the banks of the canal and were killed by shell fire. They were buried near the spot by the battalion Pioneers. Though I did not actually see the occurence I know the facts as a certainty. The ground was heavy. Death was instantaneous.

Informant:- 2457 Sgt. Alfred H.Lowe,(quite reliable.)
B.A.I.F.
Headquarters,
Southwark Military Hospital.

G.S. Fowler.
London
20.11.18.
J.E.A.

Home Address.
25 Binfield Rd.
Clapham. SW.

S.

3012
T. Baxter
13 Bn
Rec'd. 11.8.18
S
2

Headquarters,
13th Battalion, A.I.F.,
31st October, 1918.

The Secretary,
Aust. Red. Cross Society,
36, Grosvenor Place,
LONDON S.W.1.

No. 3012 C.S.M. T. BAXTER (deceased)

In reply to your letter ~~of the~~ enquiring for particulars of the above named, I have to inform you that he was killed between SAILLY-LE-SEC and SAILLY-LAURETTE on the 11-8-18. He was buried on the following day close to the spot where he fell, by Chaplain Justice of the 45th Battalion, A.I.F.

T. R. Mc Bride Lieut.
Adjutant, 13th Battalion, A.I.F.

GA894

J.E.A.