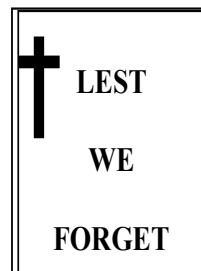


A SOLDIER'S STORY



Service No.: 524
Name: Aleck Hartley BAX
Nickname: Alec or Alick or Alex



Medals and Decorations

1914 - 15 Star
British War Medal
Victory Medal

Rank: Trooper
Service: Army
Enlisted: 21 Sep 1914
DOW: 30 May 1915

Alec was born on 8 Aug 1894 at Mount Pleasant (SA) to Charles Forbes Bax and Elizabeth Jane Bax (nee Bolt). He was the third youngest of 8 children in the family, 7 boys and a girl. His family lived at Mount Pleasant in the Talunga District (SA), his father being a horse trainer.

Alec went to school in the Mount Pleasant district. On completion of schooling he moved to a number of country areas where he worked as both a jockey and a horse trainer, his final employ being in the Lipson area until his enlistment in the Army at Morphettville at the age of 20. At that time he recorded his occupation as jockey.

On enlistment Alec was sent to Base Light Horse at Mitcham for training on completion of which he was allocated to A Squadron, 3rd Light Horse Regiment on 16 Oct 1914. A week later (23 Oct 1914) he embarked with his unit aboard HMAS "Port Lincoln" at Adelaide bound for the Middle East and disembarked at Alexandria.

The 3rd Light Horse Regiment was raised in Adelaide in Sep 1914. Although most of its recruits were enlisted in SA, one of the regiment's three squadrons was composed of Tasmanians and was raised and trained in Hobart. The two components sailed from their home ports, arriving in Egypt in the second week of Dec 1914. Here, they joined the 1st and 2nd Light Horse Regiments to form the 1st Light Horse Brigade and undertook further training at Alexandria, before they took part in the North African campaign defending the Suez Canal.

The 1st Light Horse Brigade deployed to Gallipoli without its horses and landed there on 12 May 1915, joining the Australian and New Zealand Division. Here the Regiment fought in the Anzac Cove area and the Battle of Sari Bair, but spent most of the campaign in a defensive posture.

It was near Anzac Cove, in Monash Valley, that Alec was Wounded in Action on 29 May 1915 with a penetrating gunshot wound to the head, only a fortnight after landing at Gallipoli; Monash Valley was known as "*Sniper Alley*". Shrapnel Gully, leading into Monash Valley, was the artery of Anzac, where daily resupply was effected. This was known to the Turks and lethal sniping positions had been camouflaged along the ridgeline. To provide some protection from the danger, sandbag walls had been constructed, between which men dashed as they made their way along the valley floor.

As an aside, it was also in this location that Simpson was killed by a sniper whilst he was bringing a wounded man down Monash Valley on his donkey.

Alec was evacuated from the slopes of the Valley to a dressing station on the beach and then transferred to the HS "*Gascon*". A day later, 30 May 1915, he died of wounds aboard the Hospital Ship and was buried at sea on the same day at 11 am, 3 miles from Gaba Tepe in the Dardanelles.

Alec is commemorated on the Lone Pine Memorial, Gallipoli Peninsula, Canakkale Province, Turkey, along with 5200 other Australians who have no known grave. His name is also recorded on the Tumby Bay Memorial.



1914-15 Star

British War Medal

Victory Medal

Trooper
BAX, ALEC HARTLY

Service Number 524

Died 30/05/1915

Aged 20

3rd
Australian Light Horse

Son of Charles F. and Elizabeth J. Bax, of Mount Pleasant, South Australia.



Lone Pine Memorial, Gallipoli