

A SOLDIER'S STORY



Service No.: 2859
Name: John Richard BOUNDEY
Nickname: Jack



Medals and Decorations

British War Medal
Victory Medal

Rank: Trooper
Service: Army
Enlisted: 28 Feb 1916
KIA: 31 Oct 1917

Jack was born at Black Rock (near Orroroo, SA) on 22 Jun 1890 to Richard Boundey and Mary Jane Boundey (nee Carter). There were 12 children in the family, 3 boys and 9 girls, of which he was the second youngest. His father was a farmer.

The family, less the 3 eldest daughters, moved from Orroroo to Lincoln Gap at the turn of the century and commenced farming there. After 3 years of drought the family walked off the farm, leaving all their equipment behind, and moved to a cottage in Durdin's Road, near Tumby Bay.

On the movement of the family to Tumby, Jack worked on a number of local farms, as well as mines in the Tumby Bay area until his enlistment in the Army in Feb 1916; at that time he listed his occupation as labourer. This was his second attempt at enlisting, the first failing on medical grounds.

After enlistment he was posted to Base Light Horse at Mitcham for training, on completion of which he was transferred to 20th Reinforcements/3rd Light Horse Regiment (3rd LH Regt). On 27 Jul 1916 he embarked at Outer Harbour (Adelaide) aboard RMS "Malwa" bound for the Middle East, arriving on 25 Aug 1916, and was immediately placed into an isolation camp at Moascar because of mumps. He was eventually released from hospital and joined his unit on 5 Nov 1916.

The 3rd LH Regt was raised in Adelaide in late 1914 with one of its three squadrons (sqns) being raised in Tasmania. It, along with 1st and 2nd LH Regts, were part of 1st LH Brigade (Bde) and saw action in Gallipoli, without their horses, before returning to Egypt in Dec 1915. Back in Egypt, the 3rd Light Horse joined the ANZAC Mounted Division. Between January and May 1916, the regiment was deployed to protect the Nile Valley from bands of pro-Turkish Senussi Arabs. On 18 May, as part of 1st LH Bde, it joined the forces defending the Suez Canal. It played a significant role in turning back the Turkish advance on the canal at the battle of Romani on 4 Aug 1916. In the ensuing days the regiments of the brigade participated in the immediate follow-up of the defeated

Turks, and were then withdrawn to rest.

The 3rd LH Regt rejoined the Allied advance across the Sinai in Nov 1916 and was subsequently involved in the fighting to secure the Turkish outposts on the Palestine frontier at Maghdaba on 23 Dec 1916. It was during this action that Jack was wounded in action (WIA) with gunshot wounds to neck and shoulder and again was sent to hospital, this time back to 14th Army General Hospital in Cairo (Egypt). After almost 2 months in hospital he returned to his unit, which was now located at El Arish.

A stint of protective duty along the line of communications through the Sinai followed. The 3rd LH Regt's next major engagement was the abortive second battle of Gaza on 19 Apr 1917 and it was during this action that it was again back to hospital for Jack, and again it was back to Cairo; this time with a shoulder injury suffered when his horse was shot and rolled on him. After a further 2 months in hospital he returned to his unit on 7 Jun 1917.

Gaza finally fell on 7 Nov 1917, after a wide outflanking move via Beersheba, in which the 1st LH Bde played a major part. With the capture of Gaza, the Turkish positions in southern Palestine collapsed. Unfortunately Jack did not get to see any of this as he was killed in action (KIA) by a shell on 31 Oct 1917 in Palestine during these actions. He is buried in Beersheba War Cemetery.

A note from the Army to his mother states in part "... please remit by money order direct to London for a copy of War Graves of the British Empire Cemetery Register." Not a particularly caring missive.

Jack's mother received a pension of one pound (\$2) a fortnight for the loss of her son!



British War Medal Victory Medal



Dead Man's Penny



Beersheba War Cemetery, Israel