

BEGG, Lancelot D'Arcy



University Archives Ref. AI-35936 HAC Journal (Bound) – Volume 12 - May 1915 p.77

Lance was the seventh and youngest child born to George and Marion Begg of Waverley. He was born on 16 December 1896. He enrolled, aged 17, at HAC in Short Courses from 22 July 1914 completing six months on the orchard and piggery by December. His father was a "Hide Merchant" and the family lived at 'Windemere' on Old South Head Rd, Waverley. He joined the Veterinary Corps, as Reg. No. 45 with the rank of Private on 29 October 1914 prior to completing his studies, his Attestation at Holsworthy signed by Captain Max Henry who had been on staff as Lecturer in Veterinary Science and Practice at HAC. The front page of his attestation states he was then 19 years and 11 months, but this is impossible – he would have been just 17 years and 10 months. On another page it states he was 17 years and 11 months. He embarked from Sydney aboard the *Ajana* on 19 December 1914, aged 18 years 3 days, and while in Egypt was admitted to the Mena hospital with appendicitis on 21 February 1915 and operated upon the following night. By the 27th he was discharged, the medical report stating he was "Improving rapidly". His death from appendicitis was recorded on 11 March 1915 at the Cairo Citadel Hospital. The July 1915 HAC Journal carried a brief obituary and a photo of his grave (sent by his mother). The cross on the grave bears the inscription, "In Memory of Private Lance Begg who died 11th March 1915 aged 19 years. Erected by Officers N.C.O.'s and men 1st Australian Veterinary Section", many of whom were HAC men. He was actually 18 years 3 months. His mother had written to the College on 8 June saying;

"I have had letters from his doctor, who performed the operation, and from Captain Henry and some of his comrades, and they are worth having. They all speak very highly of him. He was a general favourite, and what is better he was a good boy".

Lance was the first HAC casualty of the Great War and he lies today in the Cairo War Cemetery.