

LOVE, Dallas Fairbairn



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Headstone at Larch Wood
Photograph © P.R. Lister 27 June 2014



Baron & Love graves (each marked with a poppy) in same row Larch Wood
Photograph © P.R. Lister 27 June 2014

Dallas Fairbairn Love was born at Kogarah in Sydney, NSW, and aged 18, arrived at HAC at the beginning of 1911. Love's father was a civil engineer at Coffs Harbour, NSW, at the time Dallas arrived at Hawkesbury. Love completed his first year in 1911, then abandoned his diploma after failing the second year in 1912, and enrolled in the second year of the Dairy Science course, completing it in 1913 and gaining the Hawkesbury Diploma in Dairy in January 1914. He immediately accepted a position as milk and cream tester for a dairy co-op in Singleton, NSW, and by years end was employed by the Colac Herd Testing Association, Victoria, the first of its kind there.

Love, a "twenty two year old Dairy Expert", joined the 1st Mobile Veterinary Section in March 1915 and embarked from Sydney at the end of June. While at Serapeum, Egypt, in February 1916 he transferred to the 3rd Battalion. Harley J Baron, who had also been at HAC 1911-12, had enlisted with the 3rd Btn in June 1915, and they both embarked aboard the same vessel, the *Grampian*, in March 1916, bound for Marseille, France, arriving there at the end of the month.

Both Baron and Love were serving as Sergeants in 'A' Company and engaged with their battalion at Hill 60, Belgium, when on 4 September 1916, Love was shot in the stomach by a sniper while sandbagging the parapet at night – he died in a matter of minutes. Baron had been shot through the head by a sniper two days earlier. Dallas Love was 24.

The Chaplain of the 3rd Battalion wrote to Love's father on 11 September 1916, a transcription appearing in the College Journal;

"Your son had not been associated with us long, but he had distinctly made himself felt, and his rapid promotion gives a true estimate of the opinion the officers had of him. I had two very sad days, one when your son was killed, and the day before when a sergeant, a personal friend of his, was also killed. They were both men for whom I had the greatest respect and liking, for I used to see a good deal of them both in the trench and out of it. He had absolutely no fear, and set a splendid example to his men. He was always ready to take the most dangerous place. They are men like Sergeant Love who have won for Australians the position they hold to-day in military circles and throughout the world. I buried your son in a little cemetery just behind our lines, and we have marked the grave with a cross of wood made by the men of his unit. The funeral was conducted under shell fire at night".

Examination of the unit war diary shows that the friend referred to by the chaplain, was Harley Baron, killed on 2 September 1916.

Today they lie in the Larch Wood Cemetery (previously known as Railway Cutting) south of Zillebeke, and 4 kms from Ieper, Belgium. They are in the same row, separated by just three graves.

On 10 January 1921, Love's mother, Margaret, was sent some poppy seed from the Royal Botanic Gardens, Sydney, that had been collected from France and Flanders battlefields, to sow in their garden in remembrance of their son.