

BARON, Harley James



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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

Harley James Baron, had been a student at Hurlstone Agricultural High School so was able to start his studies at HAC in his second year with a scholarship, which he did from February 1911. Harley's father, Henry, was a professional artist engaged in graphic design and botanical illustration collaborating with Joseph H Maiden, the Director of Sydney's Royal Botanic Gardens on a publication. The family lived in Drummoyne, Sydney. Harley completed that year and went on to his final year but failed his exam in December 1912, apparently due to poor application to the

practical components of his course. He then worked on a dairying property near Clunes, northern coastal NSW in 1913, but moved back south to the central coast where he worked on an orchard and started looking for his own property. He wrote to the College, remarking that his College mate, "Len" (Donald WL) McFadyen, had secured one of the last good blocks in the district. McFadyen was at HAC 1910-12, and they both later served briefly together in Belgium; McFadyen surviving the war after contracting typhoid while on Gallipoli.

Baron enlisted with the 3rd Btn in June 1915, and he and fellow 1911 student, Dallas F Love both embarked aboard the same vessel, the *Grampian*, in March 1916, bound for Marseille, France, arriving there at the end of the month.

Of his son's work in France, Henry Baron wrote;

"... . Was specially trained for and participated in raiding stunts on the way down the "line" from Saily-Sur-Lys [sic] to Albert. Was actively engaged during the initial Somme advance and was promoted Sergeant for his good work in battle of Pozières, when, on the second night the battalion was in action, he volunteered & took a party back to procure rations, being permitted his request to select his own men for the task. He often took out wiring parties at night."

Both Baron and Love were serving as Sergeants in 'A' Company and engaged with their battalion at Hill 60, Belgium, when on 2 September 1916, Baron was shot through the head by a sniper and two days later on the 4th, Love was shot in the stomach by a sniper while sandbagging the parapet at night. Harley Baron was 22.

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.