

BURNELL, Reginald Hubert



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Reginald Hubert Burnell was the third of four children born to Hubert Gray and Emmeline Kate. Reginald was born on 23 December 1888 at Granville, NSW, and his siblings were John Gurner b.1885, Mary W b.1886, and Jane K b.1892. Hubert, a bank manager, died in 1895. Emmeline raised the children alone, and was admired for her capability and strength of character (<http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/burnell-john-gurner-9636>).

Reginald was educated at The King's School, Parramatta, NSW, and was 17 years old when he enrolled at HAC in 1906. Reginald undertook the 2 year Diploma Course, leaving HAC in December 1907. After leaving the College, Reginald moved to Cooma, NSW, and then went on to the Wollongbar Experimental Farm in the Northern Rivers region of NSW. By 1913, Reginald was farming 550 acres of land at Mimosa (near Temora), NSW.

Reginald enlisted 5 September 1916 as a Driver in the Divisional Ammunition Column 4, Reinforcement 7, and became a Gunner in September 1916. He embarked from Sydney, NSW aboard HMAT A11 Ascanius on 25 October 1916.

Reginald, serving in France, transferred to the 12th Army Brigade Australian Field Artillery in August 1917.

Reginald was killed on 2 October 1917, by an exploding shell while asleep in his dug-out at Sanctuary Wood, Ypres, Belgium. He was 28 years old and is buried in The Huts Cemetery, Dickebusch, Belgium.

Reginald's brother- Captain John Gurner Burnell of the 5th Field Company Engineers, and recipient of the Military Cross and Croix de Guerre, returned to Australia on 30 October 1919.