

Duncan BAXTER



Pre-enlistment:

- Duncan was born on 20 August 1868, in Glasgow, Scotland to parents Neil and Ann Brown BAXTER
- He was educated at the Highland Society School in Scotland
- He came to Australia at the age of 33 years
- His home was Townsville, Qld
- He was married to Annie Baxter, Easdale, Paxton Street, Townsville
- He had 7 children, the eldest Pte Neil Baxter was killed at Gallipoli, the second, Lieutenant Angus Baxter returned to Australia
- Prior to enlisting with the AIF, Duncan was a Sergeant in the first Lanarch Royal Engineers Volunteer Corps from 1890 to 1903
- Duncan Baxter's son was 1308 Private Neil Baxter 15th Battalion, killed in action at the Anzac Landing 26th April, 1915, at the age of 21
- Duncan attended to his son, Neil's affairs after his death at Gallipoli until he and his son Angus decided to enlist.

Military Records

- Service Number 1200
 - Duncan enlisted on 17 January 1916 with his second eldest son, Angus.
 - Both men were original members of C Company of the 42nd Battalion
 - Duncan's rank was CQMS - Quarter Master Sergeant
 - On 5 June 1916, he embarked from Sydney, NSW, on board HMAT A30 Borda
 - CQMS Duncan Baxter was severely wounded in both feet, during an action that occurred on St Patrick's Day 1917.
 - His son Angus had been with him in the same dugout, when they had been bombarded by high explosive shells. Duncan was evacuated to a clearing station, then hospitalised, but did not survive the severity of his wounds. Angus was unable to be by his side however, was there at his burial Boulogne.
 - CQMS Duncan BAXTER 'Died of Wounds' on 31 March 1917 at Polygon Wood, Belgium, aged 48
- Duncan Baxter was described by his company commander, Major Heron, as a man that was "an example of grit and determination, and willingness to do one's duty cheerfully."

Cemetery &/or Memorial

- Bologne Eastern Cemetery (Plot VIII, Row A, Grave No. 180), France
- Memorials: Australian War Memorial Roll of Honour, Panel Number 135
- 42nd Infantry Battalion AIF Roll of Honour
- Townsville Cenotaph

Honours & Awards

- British War Medal
- Victory Medal

Rifle Shooting

- Duncan Baxter was a member of Townsville Rifle Club

ACWM Commemoration Service

Reference Links

- recordsearch.naa.gov.au/SearchNRRetrieve/Interface/ViewImage.aspx?B=3058906
- awm.gov.au/collection/R1639315
- aif.adfa.edu.au/showPerson?pid=16767
- vwma.org.au/explore/people/278872
- trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/177987649?searchTerm=Father%20and%20Son%20-%20Angus%20and%20Duncan%20Baxter
- trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/62577619?searchTerm=BAXTER%2C%20Duncan%20and%20Angus#