

Private George Baird Died 22nd May 1918

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Royal Scots
Cap Badge

The Stirling Observer of Tuesday 11th June 1918 reported Private George Baird of the Royal Scots who had been reported the previous week as missing was reported as being wounded and a prisoner of war. George's parents were Thomas Baird and Ann Baird and were living at Crossroads Cottages in Logie. Prior to the war George had been employed as a gardener in Bridge of Allan.

George had served in France prior to this and had been wounded and had just returned to the front.

George did not survive the war and was reported as having died of his wounds whilst serving in the 16th Bn Royal Scots in France. The date of his death was 22nd

May 1918. At the time of his death George was a Lance Corporal. There seems to have been some confusion about his condition i.e. missing then wounded and a prisoner of war. It would appear that George was a prisoner of war when he died of his wounds as a prisoner and was buried in Hamburg Cemetery, Germany. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission note that George had a daughter Janet S. Baird, of 1, Station Rd., Dunblane.

The 1901 census shows that the Bairds were living in Crossroads, Logie and that the father Thomas Baird was 61 years of age and his employment was gardener. His mother Ann was 62 years of age and he had a sister called Jane aged 25 years and a general servant. George was 22 years and a shepherd.

There appears to have been an elder brother called Thomas Baird who was 19 years and a joiner's labourer at the time of the 1891 census.

Historical Information

During the First World War, Hamburg Cemetery was used for the burial of over 300 Allied servicemen who died as prisoners of war. In 1923, it was decided that the graves of Commonwealth servicemen who had died all over Germany should be brought together into four permanent cemeteries. Hamburg was one of those chosen, and burials were brought into the cemetery from 120 burial grounds* in Schleswig-Holstein, Mecklenburg, Oldenburg, Hanover, Saxony, Brunswick and Westphalia. The majority died as prisoners, but a few were sailors whose bodies were washed ashore on the Frisian Islands.

There are now 708 First World War servicemen buried or commemorated in the Commonwealth plot at Hamburg. This total includes special memorials to three casualties buried in Parchim Prisoners of War Cemetery whose graves could not be found, and 25 unidentified sailors whose remains were recovered from HM Submarine E24, which was sunk by a mine off Heligoland in March 1916, when the vessel was raised in July 1974.

The Commonwealth section of the cemetery also contains 1,466 Second World War

burials, mostly of servicemen who died with the occupying forces, or airmen lost in bombing raids over Germany. There are also 378 post Second World War graves and 14 war graves of other nationalities.

* The following cemeteries are among those from which graves were brought to Hamburg:

GUSTROW PRISONERS OF WAR CEMETERY, Mecklenburg-Schwerin. 59 burials of 1914-1918. Gustrow was one of the main camps in which prisoners in Germany were registered.

HANNOVER (LIMMER) MILITARY CEMETERY, Hannover. 31 burials of 1914-1918.

HELIGOLAND CHURCHYARD, Helgoland. one burial of 1916.

MINDERHEIDE PRISONERS OF WAR CEMETERY, Westphalia. 55 burials of 1916-1918.

MUNSTER CAMP PRISONERS OF WAR CEMETERY, Hannover. 130 burials of 1917-1919.

PARCHIM PRISONERS OF WAR CEMETERY, Mecklenburg Schwerin. 83 burials of 1917-1919.

SOLTAU PRISONERS OF WAR CEMETERY, Hannover. 25 burials of 1916-1918.

VERDEN GARRISON CEMETERY, Hannover. 29 burials of 1916-1918.

