

A Soldier of the Great War.


Rodger CAUGHEY AIF



Rodger Caughey came from Hughenden in Queensland and was working as a teamster in Landsborough when he enlisted in the AIF on the 10th September 1915. His regimental number was 3784. He would become part of the 26th Battalion 9th Reinforcements. His sister Mrs

Sazrah Anne Lowe from Prairie in Qld was listed as his next of kin.

1 MP

AUSTRALIAN  MILITARY FORCES.
AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

Attestation Paper of Persons Enlisted for Service Abroad.

No. 3784 Name Baughey Rodger
 Unit 26th Inf
 Joined on 10 9 15

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Questions to be put to the Person Enlisting before Attestation.

1. What is your Name!	1. <u>Rodger Baughey</u>
2. In or near what Parish or Town were you born!	2. In the Parish of <u>Hughenden</u> in or near the Town of _____ in the County of _____
3. Are you a natural born British Subject or a Naturalized British Subject! (N.B.—If the latter, papers to be shown.)	3. <u>YES</u>
4. What is your age!	4. <u>24 years 4 months</u>
5. What is your trade or calling!	5. <u>Teamster</u>
6. Are you, or have you been, an Apprentice! If so, where, to whom, and for what period!	6. <u>NO.</u>
7. Are you married!	7. <u>NO.</u>
8. Who is your next of kin! (Address to be stated)	8. <u>elder sister Sister MRS. S. Lowe Prairie N.W. Queensland</u>
9. Have you ever been convicted by the Civil Power!	9. <u>NO.</u>
10. Have you ever been discharged from any part of His Majesty's Forces, with Ignominy, or as Incurable and Worthless, or on account of Conviction of Felony, or of a Sentence of Penal Servitude, or have you been dismissed with Disgrace from the Navy!	10. <u>NO.</u> <i>Medals etc to elder sister</i>
11. Do you now belong to, or have you ever served in, His Majesty's Army, the Marines, the Militia, the Militia Reserve, the Territorial Force, Royal Navy, or Colonial Forces! If so, state which, and if not now serving, state cause of discharge	11. <u>Cadets 2 months</u>
12. Have you stated the whole, if any, of your previous service!	12. <u>YES</u>
13. Have you ever been rejected as unfit for His Majesty's Service! If so, on what grounds!	13. <u>NO.</u>
14. (For married men, widowers with children, and soldiers who are the sole support of widowed mother)—Do you understand that no separation allowance will be issued in respect of your service beyond an amount which together with pay would reach eight shillings per day!	14. <u>YES</u>
15. Are you prepared to undergo inoculation against small pox and enteric fever!	15. <u>YES</u>

3. Rodger Baughey do solemnly declare that the above answers made by me to the above questions are true, and I am willing and hereby voluntarily agree to serve in the Military Forces of the Commonwealth of Australia within or beyond the limits of the Commonwealth.

And I further agree to allot two-fifths of the pay payable to me from time to time during my service for the support of my wife and children.

Date 10 9 15 *R. Baughes* Signature of person enlisted.

0.37/131-C.602. *This clause should be struck out in the case of unmarried men or widowers without children under 18 years of age. †Two-fifths must be allotted to the wife, and if there are children three-fifths must be allotted.

National Archives of Australia NAA: B2455, CAUGHEY R

The Anzac Corps had already been on Gallipoli for 6 months and had experienced significant losses.

The 26th Battalion was originally raised in April 1915 as part of the all-volunteer [Australian Imperial Force](#) (AIF). Drawing recruits from [Tasmania](#) and [Queensland](#), the battalion concentrated at [Enoggera](#), Queensland, where it formed part of the [7th Brigade](#), which was attached to the. Further training was undertaken in [Egypt](#), after which the battalion was sent to [Gallipoli](#) when the 2nd Division was despatched to the peninsula to reinforce the troops that had been fighting there since April. The 26th Battalion landed on 12 September. By that time, the campaign had become a costly stalemate and shortly after their arrival, as winter came and conditions worsened, the decision was made to evacuate the peninsula. As a result, the battalion did not take part in any major actions, and fulfilled only a defensive role, defending positions such as "Courtney's Post", "Steel's Post" and "Russell's Top", before it was withdrawn from the peninsula on 12 December. (Wikipedia)

Rodger would embark on the 31st January on HMAT 62 Wandilla bound for Egypt and more training. The 26th had been withdrawn from Gallipoli and would eventually be reorganised in the Middle East ready for deployment in France.

After the reorganisation in Egypt that saw the AIF expanded from two infantry divisions to five. Rodger would find himself in the 31st Battalion.

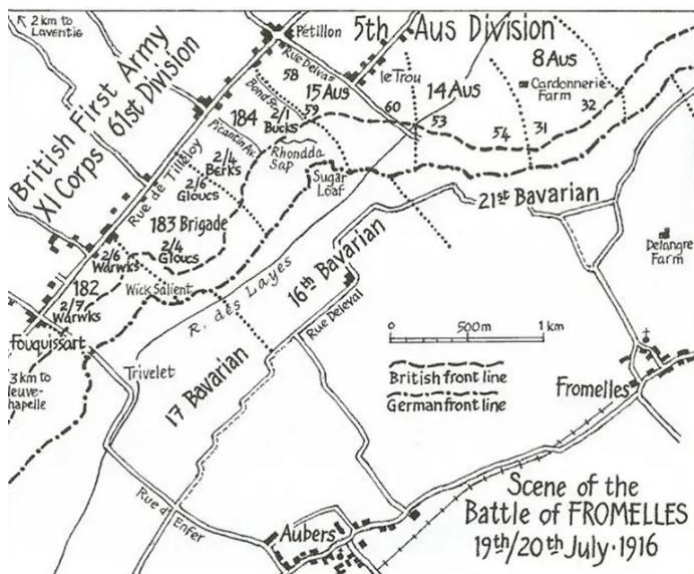


The 31st Battalion fought its first major battle at Fromelles on 19 July 1916, having only entered the front-line trenches 3 days previously. The attack was a disastrous introduction to battle for the 31st - it suffered 572 casualties. There were over 5000 Australian casualties.

Rodger would be part of the 5th Division attack on German trenches at Fromelles.



He would be part of the attack making it to a portion of the German 2nd line and held by the 31st Battalion, AIF, throughout the night during the Battle of Fleurbaix which took place on 19 July 1916 and 20 July 1916.



Rodger would be declared missing in action ,his body was not recovered . At a later Court of Enquiry he would be declared having been killed in action.

Red Cross reports corroborate his death.

31st A. I. F.

Caughey, R. 3784.
C Coy.

(M. July 21/16.)

Informant states that on 19th July 1916 at Fleurbaix near Armentieres, he saw Caughey killed during an advance. Informant saw him lying in the same place and posture when he came back.

Eye witness:-- Yes.

Informant:-- Pte. Chas. O'Rourke, 3862,
31st. Australians,
Beesh House Military Hospital,
16The Avenue, Brondesbury, N.W.

Home address:-- 30, Cologne Road,
Clapham Junction,

{ 31st A.I.F.

Caughey R. Pte. 3784,

(M. July 21st 1916)

"I was informed by his mate Pte. O'Neill of A. Coy. that he was beside Caughey and saw him killed at Fleurbaix. This occurred on our own parapet just before making the charge in July last".

Eye-witness: No. Was told by Pte. O'Neill of 31st A.I.F. A. Coy.

Description: Was in A. Coy. A little thin fellow from Richmond, Queensland.

Informant: Pte. W.B. Hunt 3815,
31st A.I.F., D. Coy. XVI. Plt.
Horton County of London War Hospt.,
Home address: Epsom.

Queensland.

Feb. 9th 1917,
P.L. Waterhouse.

Handwritten notes:
O'Neill
Coy. XVI
D. Coy.

FRANCE.

A.I.P. 31.

CAUGHEY, R. 2784.

H. July 21. 1916

He was killed on July 19 at Fleurbaix in the charge. I saw him fall, apparently killed outright. He was a 9th. to the 26th. Reinforce, and was drafted into the 31st. Batt.
He was a Quonalander; I knew him very well. He belonged to C.Co.

Reference: Pte. C.O'Rourke, 3862, B.Co.
No 5 A.D.B.D. Etaples.
30.11.1916.

SA.
3/11

Throughout the next few days, some wounded soldiers were brought back to Australian lines, but for many were stranded in No Mans Land many to die.

The Battle was over, but the war was to continue. This was the Australians first attack on European soil and its deadliest night. Countless lives of soldiers and their families were to be impacted. For families back home of soldiers that fell, the wait would be long to find the truth of what happened, for those injured or repatriated, the scars would continue and for the soldiers who survived, haunting memories of a fateful night that took so many.

(Fromelles Association of Australia)

Recently it was thought that Rodger may in fact be one of the 210 soldiers found in a mass grave at Fromelles. Subsequent DNA tests proved negative. It is possible that he may have been buried in a trench filled in by Germans after the battle. This is still to be proven.

Nevertheless Rodger is remembered in a mass grave at VC Corner Cemetery at the site of the battle. The truth will probably never be known.



PRIVATE

ANDERSON L. W.

BAIN W. E.

BAKER W. H.

BEAN R. A.

BENSON C. R.

SERVED AS

HARRISON C. F.

BROWN I. C.

BRIMBY W. C.

CAUGHEY R.

COGHILAN J.

COLLIER A. A.

CURRAN F. J.

Casualty Form—Active Service.

Regiment or Corps 31st BATTALION A.I.F. (Late 9th

Rank Private Surname CAUGHEY Christian Name R.

Religion _____ Age on Enlistment _____

Enlisted (a) 16-9-15 Terms of Service (a) War & 4 Mos Service reckons from _____

Date of promotion to present rank _____ Date of appointment to lance rank _____

Extended { _____ } Re-engaged { _____ } Qualification (b) _____
 or Corps Trade and Rate _____

Report		Record of promotions, reductions, transfers, casualties, etc., during active service, as reported on Army Form B. 212, Army Form A. 25, or in other official documents. The authority to be quoted in each case.	Place of Casualty
Date	From whom received		
8-4-16	C.O. 31st Bn B213	Taken on strength of 31st Battalion Disembarked	Field
17-6-16	O.C. Troops	Embarked to join B.E.F.	Alexandria
27-6-16	do	Disembarked ex H.M.A.T. "Manitou"	Marseilles
21-7-16	C.O. 31st Bn B213	Reported Missing	Field
1-8-17	C.O. 31st Bn	Court of Enquiry held on 1-8-17. Previously reported Missing now pronounced KILLED IN ACTION	Field

[Handwritten Signature]

ANZACSECTION 3rd Echelon G.H.Q.

British Expeditionary Force

O i/c

(a) In the case of a man who has re-engaged for, or enlisted into Section D, Army Reserve, particulars of such re-engagement or enlistment will be entered in the appropriate section of the record.

(b) Signaller, Shipping-Smith, &c.

Army Form B. 103.

Regimental Number 3784

Casualty Form—Active Service.

Regiment or Corps 31st BATTALION A.I.F. (Late 9th Refts 26th BATTN)

Rank Private Surname CAUGHEY Christian Name R.

Religion _____ Age on Enlistment _____ years _____ months.

Enlisted (a) 16-9-15 Terms of Service (a) War & 4 Mos Service reckons from (a) _____

Date of promotion to present rank _____ Date of appointment to lance rank _____

Extended { _____ } Re-engaged { _____ } Qualification (b) _____
or Corps Trade and Rate _____

Signature of Officer. _____

Report		Record of promotion, reduction, transfers, casualties, etc., during active service, as reported on Army Form B. 213, Army Form A. 26, or in other official documents. The authority to be quoted in each case.	Place of Casualty	Date of Casualty	Remarks Taken from Army Form B. 213, Army Form A. 26, or other official documents.
Date	From whom received				
8-4-16	C.O. 31st Bn B213	Taken on strength of 31st Battalion Disembarked.	Field	6-4-16	AL466 DO27/1533
17-6-16	O.C. Troops	Embarked to join B.E.F.	Alexandria	17-6-16	AP9055
27-6-16	do	Disembarked ex H.M.A.T. "Manitou"	Marseilles	25-6-16	LR5932
21-7-16	C.O. 31st Bn B213	Reported Missing	Field	21-7-16	AQ1297D052/3966 VL 3-8-16CIB1272.13/8/16
1-8-17	C.O. 31st Bn	Court of Enquiry held on 1-8-17. Previously reported Missing now pronounced KILLED IN ACTION	Field	21-7-16	19/561/6 D033/5214 VL433, 9-8-17

ANZAC SECTION 3rd Echelon G.H.Q.
British Expeditionary Force

(SGD) H. L. FEINS
..... Captain
O i/c Records

(a) In the case of a man who has re-engaged for, or enlisted into Section D, Army Reserve, particulars of such re-engagement or enlistment will be entered.
(b) Signaller, Sheringham, etc.

