

Richard Henry Beindge Baynes



Lieutenant Richard Baynes
1st Battalion, Royal Welsh Fusiliers
British Imperial Army

Born: 1889

Died: 14 July 1916, Bazentin-le Petit, France

Richard Henry Beindge Baynes was born in 1889, the son of Richard Beindge Baynes and Annie Augusta Baynes (nee Bell) of Fernhill, Mulgoa. His father had served on Mulgoa Council since 1902, serving as mayor until 1912 and after its amalgamation with Nepean Shire served on its Council until the family left the district in 1925.

Baynes graduated from Sydney University in 1914, obtaining a Bachelor of Arts degree and a Diploma of Military Science. He was among the first Australian university graduates to receive a commission in the British Imperial Regular Army. Baynes was gazetted a second lieutenant in the Royal Welsh Fusiliers on 17 September 1914 and was promoted to temporary lieutenant on 24 October 1914. He left Australia aboard P&O's ocean liner SS Mooltan for London on 23 January 1915 where he would join the Royal Welsh Fusiliers at Wrexham. After 7 months he was sent in command of a guard of 100 men to a fort on the Mersey, near Liverpool.

On 20 October 1915, Baynes was sent to France. He was killed on 14 July 1916, leading his men at the taking of the village of Bazentin-le-Petit, during the Battle of the Somme in France. Baynes' was described as having 'led his men most heroically all day with great valor and was leading a fierce charge when he received his fatal call'. News of his death was announced in newspapers across Australia.

A brother, 20-year-old George Nepean Beindge Baynes died in Kent, England in 1917 in the service of the British Army. Another brother Reginald Frank Beindge Baynes trained as an aviator for the British during the war.

Memorial Details:

- Honour Roll, Thiepval Memorial, France
- Honour Roll, Penrith Superior Public School

Sources:

- [Australian Commemorative Roll](#)

Trove:

- [Nepean Times 29 July 1916, p3 c4](#)

Acknowledgment: Thank you to Peter Crocker (Director of the Royal Welch Fusiliers Regimental Museum, Caernarfon Wales) for providing information on Baynes military service.