



HARRY DUFF BADMINGTON

Brother of Richard Charles Badmington

Henry Duff Badmington was born 1895, Manly, New South Wales, one of the five sons of Annie Elizabeth nee Dunlop and George Badmington, carpenter. His paternal grandparents, Edward Badmington and Jane nee Neate, had emigrated from Chippenham, Wiltshire, in 1856, and had found much to interest them in Manly, active in the building trade and in community interests including church, cricket, bowls and rifle club. Edward's children and grandchildren followed in the same spirit.

Father George died on 16 June, 1915 and was buried in the local Manly Cemetery. Annie was now reliant on her sons for income support. Maybe wartime pay packets offered an opportunity for Richard and his youngest brother Henry to provide that income. Richard, Henry and their cousin Sydney Oscar Badmington all enlisted in the same week of August 1915. Although relatives were often placed in the same unit, in this case, this was not to be. Richard and Henry named, as next of kin, their mother Annie Elizabeth Badmington, of 66 Birkley Street, Manly. Their brothers George, William and Frederick remained on the home front, with Uncle James Badmington as back-up support.

Initially, Henry's enlistment documents named him as Henry Duff Badmington, but the Henry was crossed through and "Harry" inserted. He had served a 2½ year carpentry apprenticeship under his father. Technically, Harry was under 21 and should have had parental permission for enlistment, but he gave his age as 21 years and 5 months. Having signed the enlistment papers at Holsworthy, over 50kms away from hometown Manly, this may not have been a matter discussed with his grieving mother Annie.

Prior to embarking for overseas services, Harry made a will naming Uncle James Badmington, builder, as Executor. Harry embarked Sydney embarked from Sydney, New South Wales, on board HMAT A29 *Suevic* on 20 December 1915. 16 February, 1916, Harry was allotted to 20th Battalion, 7th Reinforcements, then placed in 56th Battalion while in Zeitoun, Egypt. On 2 October, 1916, now on the Western front, Harry rejoined the 20th Battalion.

Medical concerns did not take long to surface:

- On 1 April, 1916, Harry was diagnosed with appendicitis. 11 April, 1916, he was transferred to No.1 Australian Stationary Hospital, 14 April, 1916 to No.3 Australian General Hospital, and 1 May, 1916 to British Red Cross Convalescent Hospital. Harry rejoined his unit from Fargo Military Hospital, Larkhill, Salisbury Plain on 8 August, 1916, following recovery from middle ear infection, diagnosed 2 August, 1916.
- 15 November, 1916, Harry's "sore feet" kept him out of action until 28 November, 1916
- 31 December, 1916, the Field Ambulance took Harry to the Camp Reception Service medical officers, admitted with enteritis. Moving to the 39th Casualty Clearing Station on 18 January, 1917, the diagnosis was listed as dysentery, and transferred to the 14th Stationary Hospital, Boulogne, the next day. From 30 January, 1917, the 7th Convalescent Home took care of him, rejoining the 20th Battalion on 12 March, 1917!
- 12 April, 1917, Field Ambulance took Harry to 2nd Divisional Rest Station, transferring 16 April, 1917, to 56th Casualty Clearing Station with a septic leg, then transferred to Rouen the next day, reporting back to his unit on 29 April, 1917.
- Next was a stint at the 20th General Hospital 11-14 May, 1917 with scabies.

Now fit for military involvement on the frontlines, Harry was killed in action on 9 October, 1917, at the Battle of Poelcapelle, a precursor to The First Battle of Passchendaele, which took place on 12 October, 1917. The appalling wet weather created havoc with the churned earth and shattered dyke walls, glue-pot mud making it impossible to have set better defences and passable plank roads. Earthworks for water drainage had been destroyed, and air reconnaissance had been impossible.

News travelled slowly. Harry's name was included in the Australian newspapers' Casualty lists printed from 8 December, 1917. It was no mean feat scanning the newspaper small print to find out who was wounded or had died, often not in alphabetic order and with so many names.

Following a "court of enquiry held in the field" on 4 December, 1917, official Army communique dated 18 December, 1917, confirmed Harry's death, and four weeks later, the family was in a position to announce his death in the newspapers on 9 January, 1918. The death of a soldier precipitated much documentation in regard to death certificates, Wills, memorialisation, legal matters, military financial concerns and personal effects.

As from 15 February, 1918, Harry's widowed mother Annie was awarded a pension of £2 per fortnight, the pension claimed because of Harry's death. Annie, at that point, was resident at "Glenelvie", Jeffrey Street, Canterbury. Then came a Memorial Scroll on 21 November, 1921. Harry was awarded Victory and British War Medals, forwarded 12 February, 1923 and Memorial Plaques for both Harry & his brother Richard were collected by their brother, Frederick Thomas Badmington, on 27 March, 1923.

Commonwealth War Grave Personal Inscription:

IN LOVING MEMORY FROM HIS MOTHER & BROTHERS IN AUSTRALIA

Brother Richard Charles Badmington died in a Prisoner of War camp in Germany from pleurisy and pneumonia, 14 October, 1918. Having been involved in one major battle (Battle of Fromelle on 19 July, 1917), he died just four weeks short of the Armistice.

Cousin Sydney Oscar Badmington received a severe gun shot wound, left chest at the same Battle of Fromelle on 19 July, 1916. He was well enough to be invalided home to Australia, leaving England on 21 July, 1917 aboard the H.S.a14 *Euripides*.

By 1920, Annie had moved to 22 Whistler Street, Manly, home of her late husband's sister Harriet and brother James. Between 1930-1936, she made a "tree change" to Blackheath, in the Blue Mountains, then moved back to 22 Whistler Street, Manly, where she died, age 90, on 15 November, 1945. Brother-in-law James died 23 February, 1935, and sister-in-law Harriet, having arrived in Sydney aged 2 on 22 August, 1856 with her parents and sister Jane, died 21 August, 1947. They are all buried in the Manly cemetery.

Annie's three remaining sons were all carpenters. George Edward Badmington remained unmarried, lived most of his life in Manly, except with a few years with brother William and his family in Balmain, and is buried with other family members in Manly Cemetery. William worked as a ship joiner and made his home in Balmain with wife Charlotte and children George, Isabel & Theresa. Frederick took his skills into the railways and lived in Ashbury with wife Clarice and daughter Dorothy.

- **Manly War Memorial** - <https://www.warmemorialsregister.nsw.gov.au/content/manly-anzac-war-memorial>
- **Manly Fishing And Sporting Association Ltd WWI And WWII Honour Roll** - <https://www.warmemorialsregister.nsw.gov.au/content/manly-soldiers-memorial-hall-honour-roll>
- **St Matthew's Honour Roll** - <http://monumentaaustralia.org.au/themes/conflict/ww1/display/22038-st-matthews-manly-roll-of-honour/>

- Tyne Cot Cemetery, Zonnebeke, Arrondissement Ieper, West Flanders (West-Vlaanderen), Belgium - <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/10838079>



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

A03216

HMAT A29 *Suevic*, which took Harry Badmington to Egypt, embarking Sydney on 20 December 1915.

<https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/C1005433>