

BALDWIN, RICHARD FREDERICK 160824 Gunner 195th Siege Battery

ROYAL GARRISON ARTILLERY

Born Leyland Enlisted and Living Leyland

Died of Wounds France / Flanders 31 Jan 1918

Ref: 'Soldiers Died in the Great War, 1914-1919', Part 3, and 'C.W.G.C.'

Chorley Guardian and Leyland Hundred Advertiser 16th February 1918

Official intimation has been received that Gunner Frederick Baldwin, R.G.A., died from wounds in France on January 31st, 1918. Prior to joining the army in May last he worked at Wood-Milne Ltd.

He was 27 years of age and leaves a widow and one son, who reside at 6 George Street, Leyland; he was, also, a member of the Farington Band and connected with St. James's, Lostock Hall (a similar report appears in the Preston Guardian of the same date).

Chorley Weekly News 16 February 1918

A similar report to that in the C.G. additionally states that the widow was the daughter of P.C. Bush, and that he was formerly connected with St. James's, Lostock Hall.

Chorley Guardian and Leyland Hundred Advertiser 23 February 1918

Précis: This report gives his age as 25 which tallies with information given me by his grand daughter – see later. Also:- Mrs Baldwin has received a letter of sympathy from the officer of the Battery, who states that 'the deceased died in hospital, from wounds received by a splinter'(a photo appears in this issue).

Preston Guardian 23 February 1918

A Memorial Service was held on Sunday evening, February 17th, for Richard Frederick Baldwin at St. James's Mission Church, Lostock Hall.

Lancashire Daily Post Tuesday February 12th, 1918

"Died of Wounds"

BALDWIN: In loving memory of Gunner F. Baldwin, R.G.A., who Died of Wounds Jan. 31st 1918.

'Christ shall clasp the chain closer when we meet again'

Deeply regretted by his sorrowing Wife and Child, Father, Mother, Sisters and Brothers
and all who loved him, 6 George Street, Leyland.

Continued

Gunner Baldwin's name appears on the following local memorials:-

War Memorial, Church Road, Leyland.
St. Ambrose Memorial, Moss Lane, Leyland.
Lostock Hall Memorial, Tardy Gate.
St. Paul's Memorial Window, Farington.
St. James's Memorial, Lostock Hall.

Commonwealth War Graves Commission

Richard Frederick Baldwin died 31 Jan 1918 and is buried in the:-

ROCQUIGNY-EQUANCOURT ROAD BRITISH CEMETERY, FRANCE

Plot 9 Row E Grave 27

Next-of-Kin :- His widow, Clara Baldwin, 6 George Street, Leyland.

Rocquigny and Equancourt Road are two villages in the Department of the Somme, some 13 km north of Péronne and 12 km south-east of Bapaume. The villages are approximately 8 km apart and the Rocquigny-Equancourt British Cemetery lies about halfway between the two on the north side of the road just west of the crossing road from Etricourt to Ytres.

Following a request for information that I placed in the 'Citizen' local newspaper, I received a phone call from a Mrs Tearle of Preston, granddaughter of the above R. F. Baldwin.

She told me that her father had died recently and that she now had in her possession items relating to her grandfather: a newspaper cutting from 1918 and a photograph of his grave in France. She had also been to the Lancs. Record Office and had seen the 'Soldiers Died' volume of the R.G.A. . Also, the age given in the 'Chorley Guardian' is wrong - the age given a week later (25) is correct.

Leyland St. Andrew's Parish Magazine May 1914

Married at St. Ambrose, Leyland: April 11th, 1914
Richard Frederick Baldwin of Lostock Hall to Clara Bush of Leyland.

Note:- The information on Gunner Baldwin in the R.G.A. volume of 'Soldiers Died' is incorrect as to date and place of death, hence the additional use of the C.W.G.C. information in the introduction. The Lancashire Daily Post of February 12th, 1918, confirms his date of death as January 31st, 1918, as does the Chorley Guardian report of February the 16th.

Baldwin, Richard Frederick.

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