

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

All correspondence should be addressed to:
THE SECRETARY OF DEFENCE,
PRIVATE BAG, WELLINGTON, N.Z.

Telephone 726 499

Telex: NZ 3513



In reply please quote:

P/F 13624/Pers Admin

DEFENCE HEADQUARTERS
WELLINGTON, N.Z.

31 March 1987

Mr John L Baird
36 Reynolds Avenue
CHRISTCHURCH 5

Dear Mr Baird

Thank you for your letter of 27 June 1986.

The following information about your relative John Baird is compiled from his personal records.

13624 LIEUTENANT JOHN RUSSELL BAIRD

Personal Details

Date and place of birth: 14 March 1916, New Zealand

Religion: Methodist

Marital Status: Single

Occupation: Painter and Paper Hanger

Address: 30 Healey Street
Westport

Employer: Self Employed

Description: Height: 6 feet 2 inches

Weight: 12 stone 9 pounds

Complexion: Dark

Eyes: Brown

Hair: Dark Brown

Next of Kin

Father: Mr John James Baird

Address: Rosstown
Reefton

Place of birth: Australia

War Time Service

Attested at: Westport on 8 May 1940

Marched into: Burnham Camp on 13 June 1940

Rank: Private

Unit: 26 Battalion, New Zealand Infantry

Chronological sequence of postings/promotions/hospitalisation:

Appointed temporary Lance Corporal 24 July 1940

Posted to Trentham for Officer Training Course 30 August 1940

Appointed to a commission in the rank of 2nd Lieutenant
12 November 1940

Transferred back to Burnham Camp 20 November 1940

Embarked from New Zealand on His Majesty's New Zealand Troop Ship

Number: 25 SS Mauretania

From: Wellington on 7 April 1941

Disembarked at: Egypt on 15 May 1941

Marched into 33 Battalion 15 May 1941

Marched out to School of Instruction 2 August 1941

Marched into Infantry Training Depot 20 August 1941

Admitted to No 3 NZ General Hospital 13 October 1941

Marched into Reception Depot and attached to NZ Infantry
Training Depot 29 October 1941

Marched out to Guard Duties 24 November 1941

Returned to NZ Special Infantry Training Depot 3 December 1941

March out from Training Depot 7 December 1941

Posted to and reported safe with 26 NZ Battalion 8 December 1941

Promoted to Lieutenant 7 April 1942

Attached to Headquarters 10 April 1942

Attached to Infantry Training School of Platoon Weapons course
7 May 1941

Marched out from Advanced Base 2 NZEF and returned to 26 Battalion
2 June 1942

Attached to Special New Zealand Infantry Reinforcements (33 Battalion)
4 July 1942

Returned to 26 Battalion 25 July 1942

Wounded in action (gun shot wounds to right chest and arm)
and admitted to 6 Field Ambulance 25 August 1942

Died later that day from shock and haemorrhage

Medals Awarded: 1939-45 Star
Africa Star
War Medal, 1939-45
NZ War Service Medal

The following War History was written about his unit and may
be available from your library:

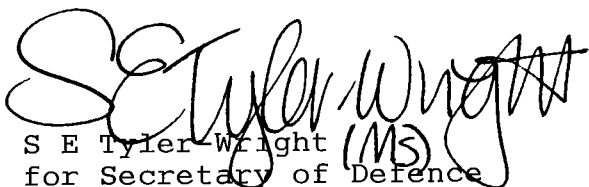
Title: 26 Battalion

Author: F D Norton (1952)

Publisher: War History Branch, Department of Internal Affairs,
Wellington, New Zealand

This resume has been prepared free-of-charge. However should
you wish to make further requests for resumes, a payment will
be required. You will be advised of the required payment on the
receipt of your request. This payment must be paid to the
Public Account before work commences.

Yours faithfully


S E Tyler-Wright (MS)
for Secretary of Defence