Private Patrick Vincent Daly (XC 1911–’13)

AWM ~ Roll of Honour
Patrick Vincent Daly

Service Number: 2848
Rank: Private
Unit: 8th Australian Infantry Battalion
Date of death: 15 May 1916
Age at Death: 20
Place of death: Near Armentieres, France
Cause of death: Killed in action
Place of association: Dalyston, Australia
Cemetery details: “Y” Farm Military Cemetery, Bois-Grenier, Lille, France

From “The Xaverian” 1916, p. 44

Patrick Vincent Daly (1911–’13) – Vin, as we knew him, is well remembered by masters and boys of his time at Kew. He made many friends here, and evidently continued to do so, for the short time given him after leaving Xavier. He enlisted on July 2nd, 1915, and sailed on September 10th, with reinforcements for the 8th Battalion. He was for some weeks on Gallipoli, which he left at the evacuation of the Peninsula on December. Christmas was spent at Lemnos, and after this he returned to Egypt. In March he went to France.

On May 14th his company moved up from billets to relieve other Australians, and on the way Vin, with four others, was detailed to guard a communication trench. He was relieved next day, and got into the firing-line about twelve o’clock. As he was taking his dinner in a dugout, a bomb from a trench mortar burst through the roof and exploded killing poor Vin and two others and wounding a fourth so badly that he died soon after.

Vin’s death was due to shock, as apart from a few cuts on the leg he was untouched. Fr Hearn writes that he said the Soldiers’ Mass on Easter Sunday in the parish church, at which Vin was present, and received his last Holy Communion.

One of his officers says of him that he “was a good soldier, and an excellent comrade, and will be much missed.”

He lies with many other Australians in the military cemetery near Fleirbaix, south of Armentieres. The sympathy of everyone goes out to those of his own, who knew him so soon disappointed, but have at least some

“Y” Farm Cemetery was named after a nearby farm, called Wye Farm by the Army. It was begun in March 1915 and used by units holding this sector until February 1918. At the Armistice it contained 335 burials, but it was then increased when graves were brought in from the battlefields south of Armentieres and from a number of other smaller cemeteries.