

Casualty Details

Rank : Serjeant
Initials : R J
Surname : BAXTER
Forenames : RONALD JOSEPH
Unit Text : 2nd Bn.
Regiment : Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders
Service No : 3321646
Age : 25
Date of Death : 29th December 1941.

Commemoration : TAIPING WAR CEMETERY
Malaysia
2. B. 2.

Additional Information:

Son of George and Louisa A. Baxter, of West Wickham, Kent. Sp. Mem "C."

Original Register Text:

BAXTER, Sjt. RONALD JOSEPH, 3321646. 2nd Bn. The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders. 29th December, 1941. Age 25. Son of George and Louisa A. Baxter, of West Wickham, Kent. Sp. Mem "C.". 2. B. 2.

Cemetery Location Information:

Taiping is a town in Perak State, about 97 kilometres south-east of Penang in the north-west of Malaysia. It can be reached by motorway either from Penang or from Ipoh, capital city of the state. Both Penang and Ipoh have airports.

The cemetery is 2 kilometres from the town, past the open park on the road to the waterfall and swimming pool. Locally known as Perkuburan Peperangan Taiping; the Cemetery is on the Jalan Bukit Larut (Bukit Larut Road).

Historical Information.

At the time of the Japanese invasion of Malaya, Taiping was on the British line of retreat down the west coast. Its normal garrison of one Indian Infantry Battalion had been augmented, a casualty reception station organised, arrangements made with the civilian authorities for the provision of 500 beds for military patients, and 20 Combined General Hospital (Indian Army) had been posted there. During the fighting the Indian 6th and 15th Brigades used Taiping as a rest and re-fitment centre for a few days; and, as the withdrawal southwards developed, numerous Indian Army medical units worked there for short periods before each in turn had to move towards Singapore with the fighting forces.

Taiping War Cemetery was created by the Army after the defeat of Japan for the reception of graves brought from the battlefields, from numerous temporary burial grounds, and from village and other civil cemeteries where permanent maintenance would not be possible. There are separate entrances to the two parts, the plots of Christian graves lying on the south-eastern side of the road and the Muslim and Gurkha graves on the opposite side. In the Muslim and Gurkha section the Stone of Remembrance stands in front of a high bank which forms the north-western boundary. The two small shelters in the cemetery have been constructed of local stone, and a low stone wall flanks the road on each side.
