

## PASSING OF EX-SERGEANT PERCY BAKER

(By S. C. Rose).

On Thursday morning ex-Sergeant Percy Baker answered the last roll call at his residence, "Somerset," Wentworth Falls. He was late of the 54th Battalion, A.I.F. When the Great War broke out he was in the banking service but resigned in order to serve his king and country. After doing his bit amidst the mud and slush of the Somme, he eventually settled in Wentworth Falls, with impaired health but with an unbroken spirit.

Here he helped every worthy movement as much as he could. The day before his death he was busy with his duties as Warden and honorary secretary and treasurer of Holy Trinity Church, Wentworth Falls. If he undertook anything he carried it out. He never complained or grouched. He had an alert and original mind. He was always ready to notice a joke and quiz anyone in a kindly way.

In the firing line he held his own with those who had greater physical strength. Sickness at times prostrated him; but he always came up again smiling.

His pluck was impressive.

In his fight for health he was greatly helped by a good wife who loyally assisted him in every way. His eldest son, Guy, is employed in the Bank of New South Wales; the second son, Alan, is attending the Katoomba Intermediate High School and an infant son, Donald, predeceased his father.

The late Mr Baker was an active member of the Bowling Club, and was always ready to give assistance in any way. For a time he acted as assistant-secretary to the club. His cheery jokes and witty remarks will be missed. He was a member of the Wentworth Falls Branch of the R.S. & S.I.L.A., and also a member of Lodge Jamieson of the U.G.L.

The Rector and officers of Holy Trinity will miss his valued assistance and support.

On Friday afternoon a service was held in the church. The Rector (Rev. Lloyd Dunstan) conducted and he was assisted by Rev. Canon Langford-Smith, Rev. Barwick of Lawson, and ex-Padre Percy Baker, sometimes Rector of Wentworth Falls. The coffin, covered with a Union Jack, was carried by ex-soldier comrade — Messrs F. W. Hughes (President of the Sub-Branch), C. Duncan, C. Dunlop, and D. Hogarth.

Mrs Leaver presided at the organ and there was a large attendance. At the request of the Rector, the Rev. Percy Baker (ex-Padre) gave the address. It was rather

the Rev. Percy Baker (ex-Padre) gave the address. It was rather strange that the deceased and the Padre should serve in the 54th Battalion A.I.F. and, after the war, both should come to live at Wentworth Falls.

The padre gave an excellent and impressive address and touched upon the different characteristics in an admirable way. He made sympathetic reference to the widow and two sons and concluded an eloquent address with a quotation from one who said that the late ex-Sergeant Percy Baker was "one of the whitest men God ever made."

After the singing of the hymn, "Abide With Me," the funeral proceeded to the cemetery.

After the burial service, in which Revs. Dunstan, Barwick, and Canon Langford-Smith participated, Rev. Padre Baker conducted the Masonic funeral service. All the principal residents were around the grave, including many ladies.

Although it was not desired, several beautiful wreaths were sent. The funeral arrangements were well carried out by Mr. Hayden, local representative of T. J. Andrews.

Chief mourners included Mrs Baker and her two sons, Mrs Knight and her husband, from Hazelbrook, and representatives from Katoomba and other mountain towns.

Mr. C. Crips (President) and a many members of the Bowling Club were also present.

The late Mr. Baker's passing was as he would have wished it, as there was —

No earthly clinging  
No lingering gaze;  
No strife at parting  
No sore amaze;  
But sweetly, gently,  
He passed away  
From the world's dim twilight  
To endless day.