



The Men on the Board 1914-1918

Honour Roll Great War

Based on detailed research by Lieutenant Colonel Christopher Akeroyd (Ret'd).



These *History and Heritage Notes* are intended for private use by USC Members. They are deliberately informal in style and aim to be relaxed and conversational rather than academic in structure. They are without source acknowledgements/referencing. Members are therefore requested not to reproduce or distribute them outside our membership. Please contact the Club if you have additional information or comments that will assist to improve these Notes.

Overview

The purpose of these Background Notes is to begin to tell the stories of the men on the Honour Board, those Club Members who did not return from the Great War. They were all young men. The youngest was only 22 and the oldest was 47 years of age: 10 were in their twenties, 10 were in their thirties, and two were in their forties.

They are buried, or commemorated on Memorials, near where they were killed or died:

- 12 are still on the Gallipoli peninsular¹;
- eight lie on the Western Front;
- one is buried at Beersheeba;
- one was lost in the Russian lakes near Archangel.

Their loss was once keenly felt throughout the United Service Club (then known as the United Service Institution) especially as our membership was much smaller then and most Members knew and perhaps had served with each other. It is likely that at least some of the men knew each other as fellow Members from before the war as they met again on the battlefield. On 25 April 1915 Major Robertson, Lieutenant Rigby, and Captain Lalor were all killed in the same action within a few minutes and a few metres of each other; and Major Logan and Lieutenant Hinton were both killed within a few metres and a few seconds of each other in a failed attack on 7 August 1915.

A Table summarising the key details of each of the men on the Great War Honour Board (and the location of his gravesite or memorial) is shown overleaf arranged in alphabetical order. A chronological summary is shown in the Table below.

1915	1916	1917	1918	1919
25 Apr 1915 Lieut Costin J W Capt Lalor J P Lieut Rigby W J Major Robertson S B 3 May 1915 Capt Willis W O 6 May 1915 Capt Leslie W A 10 May 1915 Lieut Armstrong F L Lieut Wareham E G 31 July 1915 Lt Col Harris H J I, VD 7 Aug 1915 Lieut Hinton H G Major Logan T J 8 Aug 1915 Major Cannan D H	6 Aug 1916 Major Chapman D 21 Aug 1916 Capt Chambers R W L	12 Feb 1917 Lieut May R W 3 Mar 1917 Capt Raymond A H 31 Jul 1917 Capt MacDonald J S R 20 Sep 1917 Major Hockley R R, DSO 31 Oct 1917 Lt Col Markwell W E, DSO	17 Apr 1918 Capt Herbert J E, MC 6 Aug 1918 Lt Col McSharry T P CMG, DSO*, MC	16 Aug 1919 Capt Cholmeley R J, MC

The stories of the men behind the names are outlined in the following pages, also arranged in alphabetical order. They are deliberately brief and meant to provide only an overview of their life story, a glimpse of their personalities, and an insight into their experiences.

These stories are summarised from the mass of detail researched, compiled, and tabulated by a Club Member, Lieutenant Colonel Christopher Akeroyd (Retd). His painstaking dedication and time-consuming attention to detail has made this project possible. The Tables he compiled contain a wealth of information and are held on file. Our sincere appreciation and thanks go to him for his labour of love.

The USCQ Western Front Battlefields Study Tour in late 2013 included visits to the graves of each of the eight in France or Belgium. We paid our respects with a small commemoration ceremony at each graveside, and eerily, the sun broke through cloudy skies on each occasion.

Those visits inspired this project, and we visited them again during our 2017 Western Front Battlefields Tour. We hope that these stories inspire other Members to arrange visits to all sites in due course.

¹ Six other members survived the Gallipoli campaign only to be killed elsewhere later in the war.

Summary of Key Information

Honour Board Name	Brief Personal Information and Date of Death	Cemetery Name and Location	Memorial Site	Pre-war Employment
Lieut Armstrong F L	Francis Leofric ARMSTRONG Infantry 34 years 10 May 1915	Quinn's Post Cemetery Gallipoli Peninsula TURKEY	Sp. Mem. 29	National Bank of Queensland, bank officer
Major Cannan D H	Douglas Herman CANNAN Infantry 35 years 8 Aug 1915	Lone Pine Memorial Gallipoli Peninsula TURKEY	43	Metropolitan Fish Market Board, secretary and manager
Capt Chambers R W L	Robert William Laws CHAMBERS Infantry 23 years 21 Aug 1916	Regina Trench Cemetery Grandcourt Department of Somme FRANCE	IX. N. 2	Draftsman
Major Chapman D	Duncan CHAPMAN Infantry 28 years 6 Aug 1916	Pozieres British Cemetery Ovillers la Boisselle Department of Somme FRANCE	III. M. 22	Paymaster
Capt Cholmeley R J, MC	Roger James CHOLMELEY Military Cross Cheshire Regiment 47 years 16 Aug 1919	Archangel Allied Cemetery Arcangel, Primorskiy rayon Arkhangel'skaya oblast RUSSIAN FEDERATION	East Wall Memorial	University of Queensland, classics lecturer
Lieut Costin J W	Joseph William COSTIN Infantry 23 years 25 Apr 1915	Lone Pine Memorial Gallipoli Peninsula TURKEY	30	Telephone and telegraph engineer
Lt Col Harris H J I, VD	Hubert Jennings Imrie HARRIS Volunteer Decoration Light Horse 44 years 31 July 1915	Shell Green Cemetery Gallipoli Peninsula TURKEY	I. A. 6	Queensland Ambulance Transport Brigade, general secretary
Capt Herbert J E, MC	James Edward HERBERT Military Cross Infantry 37 years 17 Apr 1918	Warloy-Baillon Communal Cemetery Extension Department of Somme FRANCE	II. F.1	Hoffnungs and Coy, commercial traveller
Lieut Hinton H G	Herbert Gerald HINTON Light Horse 36 years 7 Aug 1915	Shrapnel Valley Gallipoli Peninsula TURKEY	IV. D. 14	Commercial traveller
Major Hockley R R DSO	Rupert Reginald HOCKLEY Recommendations Distinguished Service Order [2] Distinguished Service Order Mention in Despatches Pioneers 39 years 20 Sep 1917	Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery Poperinge, West-Vlaanderen BELGIUM	XXIV. H. 1	Store and Engineering Works, manager
Capt Lalor J P	Joseph Peter LALOR Infantry 30 years 25 Apr 1915	Baby 700 Cemetery Gallipoli Peninsula TURKEY	Sp. Mem. 4	Army officer, Captain, Administration and Instructional Corps
Capt Leslie W A	Walter Aland LESLIE Recommendation: Distinguished Service Order but deceased Field Artillery 27 years 6 May 1915	Shell Green Cemetery Gallipoli Peninsula TURKEY	I. I. 1	John Reid and Nephews, Secretary

Honour Board Name	Brief Personal Information and Date of Death	Cemetery Name and Location	Memorial Site	Pre-war Employment
Major Logan T J	Thomas James LOGAN Light Horse 38 years 7 Aug 1915	Quinn's Post Cemetery Gallipoli Peninsula TURKEY	Sp. Mem 14	Farmer
Capt MacDonald J S R	James Shaw Rose MACDONALD Field Artillery 22 years 31 Jul 1917	Dickebusch New Military Cemetery Extension Nr Dikkebus West-Vlaanderen BELGIUM	III. G 1	Commercial Banking Corporation of Sydney, clerk
Lt Col Markwell W E DSO	William Ernest MARKWELL Distinguished Service Order Mentions in Despatches [2] Recommendation: Brevet Major Light Horse 27 years 31 Oct 1917	Beersheba War Cemetery HaAtsmaut Be'er Sheva ISRAEL	D. 55	Grazier
Lieut May R W	Richard William MAY Infantry 39 years 12 Feb 1917	Cite Bonjean Military Cemetery Armentieres Department Nord FRANCE	IV. E. 5	Bank manager
Lt Col McSharry T P CMG, DSO*, MC	Terence Patrick MCSHARRY Commander of Saint Michael and Saint George Distinguished Service Order and Bar Military Cross Mentions in Despatches [4] Recommendation: Mention in Despatches Recommendation: Brevet Major Infantry 35 years 6 Aug 1918	Corbie Communal Cemetery Extension Corbie Department Somme FRANCE	Plot 2. Row F. Grave 17	Surveyor
Capt Raymond A H	Archibald Hewland RAYMOND Field Artillery 23 years 3 Mar 1917	Flatiron Copse Cemetery Mametz Department Somme FRANCE	II. I. 4	
Lieut Rigby W J	William John RIGBY Infantry 23 years 25 Apr 1915	Lone Pine Memorial Gallipoli Peninsula TURKEY	30	South British Insurance Coy, clerk
Major Robertson S B	Sydney Beresford ROBERTSON Infantry 29 years 25 Apr 1915	Beach Cemetery Gallipoli Peninsula TURKEY	I. A. 39	Law clerk
Lieut Wareham E G	Edward Graham WAREHAM Infantry 24 years 10 May 1915	Lone Pine Memorial Gallipoli Peninsula TURKEY	43	Messrs. Dalgetty & Co, customs clerk
Capt Willis W O	William Organ WILLIS Infantry 37 years 3 May 1915	Lone Pine Memorial Gallipoli Peninsula TURKEY	43	Army officer, Captain Administration and Instructional Corps

LIEUTENANT FRANCIS LEOFRIC ARMSTRONG

15th Battalion



Francis Leofric Armstrong was born in Brisbane on 15 October 1880, the ninth of 13 children to Octavius Charles Armstrong (grazier and magistrate) and Jessie Augusta Armstrong (nee Francis). Sadly, four of his siblings died in infancy and his parents died within days of each other in January 1917, less than two years after Frank's death.

He was educated at private schools including Brisbane Grammar School before serving in the Queensland Volunteer Rifles between 1896 and 1900, including one year as a private and six months as a lieutenant.

Frank resigned from the Queensland Volunteer Rifles to go to South Africa to serve in the South African War (Boer War). It appears that he was not selected to be part of the Queensland contingent but he was determined to serve and made own way to South Africa to enlist in a unit raised there, probably in Durban. He served initially in Prince of Wales Light Horse and then the 3rd NSW Imperial Bushmen, during which time he was promoted to corporal.

Corporal Armstrong was invalided home to Australia, arriving in Sydney on 25 June 1902. His service in South Africa in 1901 and 1902 was recognised by the Queen's South Africa Medal and four clasps (Cape Colony, Orange Free State, South Africa 1901, South Africa 1902).

Frank returned to Capetown after the Boer War (possibly departing Sydney on *Damascus* on 3 October 1902) and was employed there by the Bank of Africa before his return to Australia in 1910. He was reported back in Queensland around 4 June 1910.

He worked with National Bank of Queensland at Laidley where he was involved community activities including fishing, local cricket, band, school of arts and chamber of commerce, and a military officers' association.

At the end of 1910 he was transferred to the bank's Head Office in Brisbane.

Armstrong re-joined the militia in 1910, serving in 7th Infantry (Moreton) Battalion until 1914, during which time he was appointed lieutenant on 12 October 1913.

Frank married Annie Endeavour Munro Mackay in Brisbane on 1 June 1914.

He volunteered for overseas service by enlisting in the AIF and on 9 October 1914 he was appointed 2nd Lieutenant, 15th Battalion which landed at Anzac late in the afternoon of 25 April 1915.

The unit's War Diary records on 16 July 1916 that Armstrong and 13 others were mentioned in despatches *for work done* during the period 6 May to 28 June 1915. All were killed in action and inexplicably, but perhaps not unusually at the time, none of the 14 MIDs were gazetted.

On the night of 9/10 May 1915 the battalion attacked to seize the Turkish lines in front of Quinn's Post. Armstrong went forward to the centre of the assault party occupying part of the Turkish trenches when he heard that the commander of the centre assault party had been shot.

The Australians were forced to withdraw as daylight broke on 10 May. Armstrong remained to the last and then ran with his sergeant back to the Australian lines across No Man's Land.

Frank Armstrong was the last of his party to reach Quinn's. He was acutely distressed for his men. *All my boys are killed or wounded out there*, he said, and at once endeavoured to climb out to see if any wounded remained. The men with him tried to pull him down but he struggled to the parapet and was killed.

He was buried later that day at Lower Quinn's Post by Reverend Power.

Frank Armstrong was 33 years old when he was killed during the Gallipoli Campaign on 10 May 1915, a couple of weeks after the Landing. He was one of the 12 USC members killed in action at Gallipoli and the most junior of the four of those who were in 15th Battalion.

He never saw his three-month old baby son, Francis Mackay Armstrong, who was born on 22 February 1915.

He now lies in Quinn's Post Cemetery, Anzac (Gallipoli).



MAJOR DOUGLAS HERMAN CANNAN

15th Battalion



Douglas Herman Cannan was born in Townsville on 14 April 1880, the third of five children to John Kearsey Cannan and Elizabeth Christian Cannan (nee Hodgson). The family moved around Queensland due to his father's career as a bank officer, and the children were born in various locations (Roma, Warwick, Ipswich and Townsville).

Cannan attended Queensland State School and then Brisbane Grammar School before building a successful career. By 1914 he was a Fellow of the Queensland Institute of Accountants and was Secretary and Manager of the Metropolitan Fish Market Board.

Cannan never married, but in addition to his militia service, he had a wide range of interests; his name appeared frequently in the press as he rowed, sailed, played tennis and represented Queensland in lacrosse.

He served in the militia prior to the Great War, in 9th and then 8th Infantry Regiments. He was appointed lieutenant in January 1904 and promoted to captain in October 1912.

He joined the AIF and was appointed as Captain, 15th Battalion on 23 September 1914, landing at Anzac late in the afternoon of 25 April 1915.

Cannan was serving during the desperate fighting at Quinn's Post where the opposing lines were as close as six yards apart. He was part of the unsuccessful on the Turkish trenches in front of Quinn's Post on the night of 9/10 May.

He was promoted Temporary Major 11 Jul 1915.

Three months later 4th Brigade was ordered to capture Hill 971 on the night of 6/7 August. After some initial success, about 4.15 am and still well short of the start point for its assault, the battalion began to suffer heavy casualties from the withering fire of eight machine guns. Shortly after, a general retirement of the brigade was ordered and all but five officers of 15th Battalion were killed or wounded.

Cannan was originally reported as wounded and missing, but was later reported as killed in action on 8 August 1915 near Abdul Rahman ridge. He was one of the 12 USC members killed in action at Gallipoli and the most senior of the four of those who were in 15th Battalion.

His remains were never recovered.

His name is inscribed on the Lone Pine Memorial at Gallipoli.



Note: He is recorded on that memorial as captain as that was his substantive rank, ie his promotion on 11 July 1915 was to Temporary Major (not substantive major).

CAPTAIN ROBERT WILLIAM LAWS CHAMBERS

9th Battalion



Robert William Laws Chambers was born in Brisbane on 5 April 1893, the third of four children of Claude William Chambers (architect) and Eveline Clara Dalrymple Chambers (nee Cowan) of Merthyr Road New Farm. He was educated at Brisbane Central Boys State School (three years) and Brisbane Grammar School (five years). At Grammar, he was a member of the school's Rifle Team.

On leaving school he was articled as a draftsman in his father's architect firm and by 1914 he was employed as a draftsman.

Chambers served three and a half years in the Militia prior to the war with 9th Infantry (Moreton) Regiment and during this time he appears to have been quite social and popular. He was mentioned in the Brisbane newspapers on occasions, usually in the context of dances and parties, athlete, marksman and citizen force soldier.

He enlisted in the AIF and was appointed Second Lieutenant, 9th Infantry Battalion on 28 August 1914. Chambers was promoted to lieutenant in Egypt on 1 February 1915.

The 9th Battalion landed at Gallipoli in the first wave on 25 April 1915 but Chambers was wounded in the arm a few hours later. He was evacuated to Cairo, re-joining his unit on the peninsular on 22 June 1915. On 8 October he was evacuated due to illness, initially to Malta but then sent-on to England on 31 October 1915.

Chambers returned to his unit, by then in Alexandria, on 4 March 1916 and a week later was promoted to captain.

He went with his unit to France, arriving on 2 April 1916. The Australians were initially deployed to the *Nursery Sector* near Armentieres, before being moved south to rear area behind the Somme battlefields.

The Australians were committed to the battle to capture Pozieres, attacking on the night of 22/23 July and capturing the shattered village in hard and intense fighting. Captain Chambers was the only remaining company commander in the unit by the end of the attack.

On 19 August 1916, 9th Battalion was back in the line, facing the strongpoint of Mouquet Farm. Captain Chambers was killed there by shell-fire on 21 August 1916.

He was 23 years old and one of the eight USC members killed on the Western Front. Chambers had survived the Gallipoli campaign and survived the battle of Pozieres without injury but was killed a few weeks later.

The precise location of his death is not clearly stated, but it is believed to be in or near trenches occupied by C Company on the Australians' left flank.

Captain Chambers now lies in the Regina Trench Cemetery, Grandcourt, France.



MAJOR DUNCAN CHAPMAN

45th Battalion



Duncan K Chapman was born in Maryborough on 15 May 1888, the third-youngest child of Robert Alexander Chapman (draper) and Eugenie Maud Chapman (nee Humphry). As his mother had died when he was five years old, his older sisters played a central role in raising him and were greatly distraught by his death and remained affected for the rest of their lives.

‘Chappie’ was educated at Maryborough Boys Grammar School before gaining employment as a paymaster. It seems likely that, based on his service and on his father’s address, he moved about Queensland during his early years, including Townsville, Bundaberg, and Brisbane.

He was later described as 5ft 7in (170cm) high, a bit on the gingery side in appearance, well-liked and a fairly well made man.

Chapman served four years in the militia; six months in the Wide Bay Regiment, six months in the Kennedy Regiment, and three years in the 7th Infantry Regiment.

Shortly after the outbreak of the Great War he volunteered for service in the AIF. He was appointed as Lieutenant, 9th Battalion which was then being formed at Enoggera.

When his boots touched the gravel on the western shore of Gallipoli Peninsular at dawn on 25 April 1915, the 27 year-old platoon commander Lieutenant Duncan Chapman made history as the first man ashore during the Gallipoli Landings, and earned the right for 9th Battalion to proudly call refer to itself as *First Ashore*.

In a letter to his brother he said: *In the Trenches, Gallipoli, July 8, 1915. The landing of our troops you no doubt have read about, as full accounts have appeared in all the papers. I happened to be in the first boat that reached the shore, and being in the bow at the time, I was the first man to get ashore. I was one of the covering party who had been chosen to go ahead, and, as our boats sneaked on in the early morning light, many of us wondered who would be, the first to go.*

Dr Charles Bean (Australia’s Official Historian) later confirmed his conclusion that Chapman was the first man to land, despite conflicting claims probably due to the darkness and confusion.

He was promoted to captain the day after the Landing and survived the Gallipoli campaign, despite some confusing and alarming false reports that he had been wounded and then later reported as missing.

As the AIF was expanded on its return to Egypt, Chapman was transferred to 49th Battalion on 25 February 1916 and then to 45th Battalion and promoted to major in mid-March.

In June 1916 Major Chapman arrived on the Western Front with 45th Battalion. 4th Division (of which 45th Battalion was part) was initially rotated through the *Nursery Sector* near Armentieres before moving south in readiness for the Australians’ part in the Battle of the Somme.

The intensity, ferocity and duration of the German artillery fire during the Pozieres battles was the heaviest experienced on the Western Front to that time, and required the frequent relief of the troops in the line. 1st Division was relieved by 2nd Division which was later relieved by 4th Division.

45th Battalion went into the line on 5 August as part of the system of reliefs. Chapman was killed almost immediately as he led his company through the trench system towards their planned location in the Pozieres position.

An eyewitness described the circumstances: *He was leading into Pozieres, saw him killed by a shell, he was hit by the shrapnel and only lived a few minutes – was buried on the top of the trench next morning – he was about 5ft 7in (170cm) high, bit on the gingery side in appearance, was well-liked by the Company, was wearing plain top boots, was fairly well made man, smart in his movements and a good officer.*

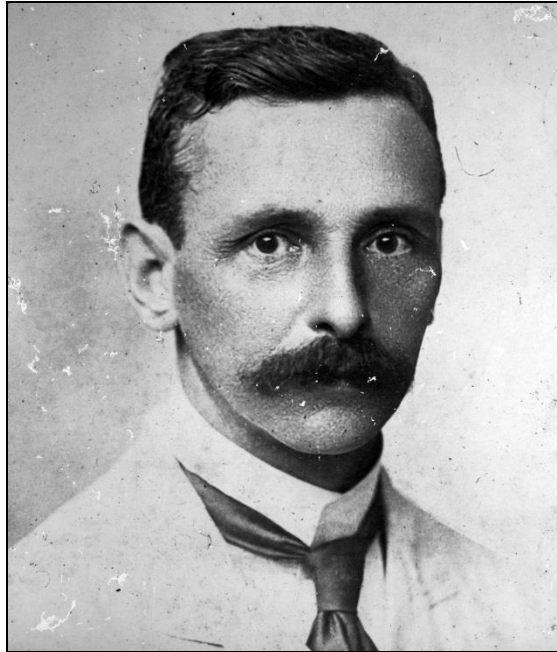
The exact spot of Major Chapman's death has not been clearly stated but it is believed to be in the vicinity of a point about 400 yards east of Pozieres. He was 28 years old and one of eight USC members killed on the Western Front.

He now lies in the Pozieres British Cemetery.



Maryborough Military and Colonial Museum displays a wooden bust of Chapman and the Maryborough community has raised funds for a bronze statue that was unveiled on the eve of Anzac Day 2015.

CAPTAIN ROGER JAMES CHOLMELEY MC



The story of Captain Roger James Cholmeley MC is extraordinary in many respects. He served in the South African War (Boer War), the Great War, and after the Armistice he served in the Russian Civil War.

Cholmeley was an Englishman who became a Member of the United Service Club Queensland when he moved to Brisbane as a lecturer at the University of Queensland. He returned to England to join the British Army on the outbreak of the Great War. He was 47 years old when he was killed.

Cholmeley was born in Swaby, Lincolnshire (UK) on 4 January 1872, one of four children of The Reveren James Cholmeley and Flora Sophia Cholmeley (nee Maclean).

He attended St Edwards, Oxford between 1885 and 1890, and then studied at Corpus Christi College, Oxford, graduating with a Bachelor of Arts in 1894.

He was described as slight of build, below average height, spare of frame and none too robust, a scholar to his fingertips [but] a born fighter. Perhaps not surprisingly given his physique, he was a Cox of Eight at Oxford in 1893.

After leaving Corpus Christi his teaching appointments included Manchester Grammar and City of London Boys School.

When he was 24, he married Lillian Mary Lamb in Headington (UK) in 1896.

Cholmeley served in the Boer War, enlisting in 1900 as a Trooper with the City Imperial Volunteers, Imperial Yeomanry (Base Company). He earned the Queen's South Africa medal with two campaign clasps (*Cape Colony* and *Orange Free State*) for his service.

He returned to London around September 1900 and gained a position at Merchant Taylors School.

His military service prior to the Great War included as a lieutenant in the Cadet Corps, with 4th Volunteer Battalion of the East Surrey Regiment, and with 23rd (County of London) Battalion.

Cholmeley moved overseas to appointments at Rhodes University College (South Africa) in 1905, Scottish College Melbourne in 1909, and then to the infant University of Queensland in 1911. He resigned his commission on 16 April 1913, as by then he was in Brisbane and had been overseas for some five years.

On the outbreak of the Great War, Cholmeley returned to England and on 9 August 1915 he was appointed Temporary Second Lieutenant with the Cheshire Regiment.

In 1917 he was serving as a Brigade Intelligence Officer in France and he was awarded a Military Cross for his actions around Messines: *His keenness in volunteering for every raid or patrol and his fearlessness and untiring energy in collecting information for his brigade have earned the unanimous appreciation and admiration of all commanding officers in his brigade.*

After the Armistice, Cholmeley was transferred to a force constituted to arrange the evacuations of Allied forces that had intervened in the Russian Civil War from North Russia.

Captain Cholmeley was lost at sea on 16 August 1919. He was on board the Russian steamship *Azod*, one of the lake flotilla on Lake Onega, and on the night of 16 August 1919 he was washed overboard in a very heavy sea while overhauling machine guns required for action at day-break.

His body was never recovered.

Captain Cholmeley is memorialised on Stone 8, Archangel Memorial.

He is also commemorated on the Honour Board of University of Queensland, and on the Honour Roll of Corpus Christi College. Extracts of the latter describe him as:

Cox of Eight in 1893, slight of build, ... spare of frame as he was and none too robust, a scholar to his finger-tips and getting on towards middle age, he was still a born fighter, and he left his Greek class and his Library to join in the great conflict....

He leaves behind him a widow and one daughter. Cholmeley will be remembered for his edition of 'Theocritus', a work of great promise, first published in 1901, while he was serving in the South African War... He was an omnivorous reader. In the trenches he read the 'Odyssey' twice, the 'Iliad', some Plato and Herodotus; also 'Caesar', and in hospital in Oxford, suffering from a painful wound, he was found poring over the 'Republic' and Leaf's 'Homer and History'.

LIEUTENANT JOSEPH WILLIAM COSTIN

9th Battalion



Joseph William Costin was born in Brisbane on 1 September 1891, the only son and eldest of the four children of William Charles Costin (Clerk of Parliament) and Ellen O'Donnell Costin (nee Sutton).

He was educated at Brisbane Grammar School between July 1905 and December 1908 when he was successful in the Sydney Junior Examination.

Joe was described as *quite short-sighted and slight of build*. His employment was recorded as telephone and telegraph engineer (Junior Assistant Engineer in the Post Master General's Department).

He acquired some military experience prior to the Great War; three and half years in senior cadets, and three and half years in the militia (Moreton Regiment).

Costin applied for a commission when enlistments for the AIF commenced and was appointed Lieutenant, 9th Battalion on 20 August 1914.

Three weeks after he had joined the AIF, Joe became engaged to Miss Viola Foss Larsen on 9 September 1914.

9th Battalion was the first ashore at Gallipoli, landing under rifle fire. The troops pushed inland until Turkish reinforcements held them and forced them back on 400 Plateau. Lieutenant Costin was the battalion's Machine Gun Officer and although he and his section landed in the second line of infantry, he was one of the leaders in the advance from the beach.

Lieutenant Costin was killed by a direct hit by shellfire later that day, 25 April 1915. He was one of 12 USC members killed in action at Gallipoli, and one of three from 9th Battalion killed on the first day.

Three eye witnesses described the circumstances of his death:

...the men speak in the highest terms of their officers. Joe Costin....did great work with his machine gun.....all of his men had been shot down, and he and his sergeant were firing two guns themselves.

About 12 o'clock I came across the Queensland machine gun section of the 9th Battalion. They were putting up a magnificent fight, and drawing the fire of guns and machine guns on to themselves all the morning. There was only Bob Lockett and Lieutenant Costin left in the section when I joined it and if ever two men deserved the D.S.O. those two did. Then Lockett was wounded in the leg and Costin took the gun himself until he was wounded.

Lieutenant Costin ...would stop at nothing. Unfortunately a shell burst and killed him instantly. Next morning (Monday) there were only two machine gunners left out of the 14 who landed.

A nurse in Cairo recorded what she had heard from patients:

Joe Costin (Lieutenant J. W. Costin) did grand work, they say. All his men were out, they say - and the last the boys saw of him was alone at his gun working for all he was worth...

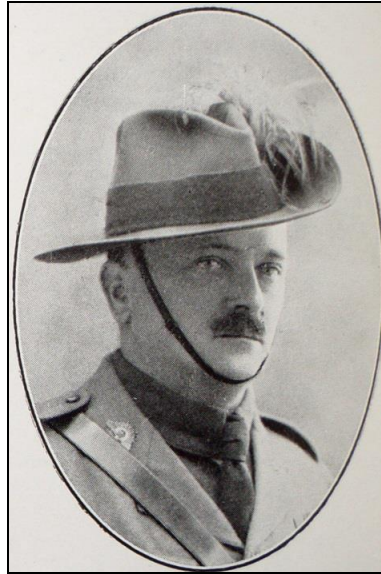
Lieutenant Costin was only 23 years old. His remains were never recovered.

He is commemorated on the Lone Pine Memorial above Anzac Cove.



LIEUTENANT COLONEL HUBERT JENNINGS IMRIE HARRIS, VD

5TH Light Horse Regiment



Hubert Jennings Imrie Harris was a long-time member of the United Service Institute (now USC) including a period as its Honorary Secretary, and one of the 12 Members killed in action at Gallipoli. He was born at Dalby on 19 January 1871, the second of six children of Alfred Edward Harris (mercantile agent, nominated alderman, licensed auctioneer, sharebroker, and citizen soldier) and Jessie Esther Baily Harris (nee Imrie). Hubert's mother died when he was only six years old and his father later remarried, producing a further nine children. Hubert was educated at the Normal School (Brisbane) prior to attending Brisbane Grammar School between January 1884 and December 1886 where he was a member of the school's cadet unit.

Hubert was employed in a variety of roles. Until 1896 he was employed by the Australian Joint Stock Bank (now Westpac), then worked as a sharebroker, auditor (1898) company secretary (1899), Freemason Secretary to the Hiram Lodge (1899), Honorary Secretary of United Service Institute (1901-1904), Brisbane Hospital Organiser (1907), Organiser of the General Hospital (1911) and General Secretary to the Ambulance Brigade (1911-1913).

He also served as a citizen soldier, joining Queensland Volunteer Rifles on 23 December 1886 at 15 years of age as a bugler, rising to the rank of corporal until he was promoted provisionally to lieutenant on 16 October 1890.

Between May and June 1891 Hubert and about 50 others were called-up and deployed in the Central District during the Shearer's Strike. In 1897 he was posted to Moreton Mounted Infantry and on 20 June 1899, Acting Lieutenant Harris was appointed lieutenant in the colony's land force.

On November 30 1898, at Sandgate, Harris married Leila Margaret O'Mahony, with whom he had four children.

On 30 December 1899 his inclusion in the Second (Queensland Mounted Infantry) Contingent to the war in South Africa was announced. The contingent left Brisbane for the Boer War on 13 January 1900. Harris arrived back in Brisbane on 4 May 1901. He was awarded the Queen's South Africa Medal and five clasps.

Two months after his return, Lieutenant Harris was posted to command B Company 1st Battalion QMI and on 13 November 1903 he was recorded in 15th Light Horse Regiment. On 11 November Harris was promoted major commanding 13th Australian Light Horse after serving as squadron leader, quartermaster and adjutant. He was then promoted to lieutenant colonel.

On the outbreak of war, Harris volunteered for the AIF and was appointed Lieutenant Colonel, 5th Light Horse Regiment on 28 October 1914. The unit travelled by rail to Sydney and departed Australia from there on 21 December 1914. The unit disembarked in Egypt on 1 February 1915 and

arrived at Gallipoli, without their horses, on 20 May. During his time on Gallipoli, Harris wrote to the president of the Queensland Ambulance Transport Brigade regarding the performance of the QATB members serving at Gallipoli. Interestingly, he conveys the news that, *All our Q.A.T.B. bearers in the 3rd Field Ambulance are doing excellent work. Colonel Sutton² speaks in glowing terms of them... I have had copies of nearly all the branch centre reports sent me, and am pleased to see that notwithstanding the drain on the country owing to the war, the good old Q.A.T.B. still holds its own.*"

Lieutenant Colonel Harris was killed on the night of 31 July 1915. 5th Light Horse Regiment, as part of 2nd Light Horse Brigade, was tasked to man the trenches and support by fire an attack by 3rd Infantry Brigade on 31 July 1915. The Regiment's War Diary recorded the circumstances of his death: *Lieutenant Colonel Harris took up position in a machine gun Observation Post. At 2200 the infantry exploded mines and attacked. This provoked heavy shell fire by Turks. A bullet entered the loophole of the Observation Post striking Harris at the base of the neck and he died within two minutes.* The precise location of his death was not recorded, but it was within Tasmania Post.

Later reports separately described him as:

No more popular officer has ever left this State. Both in civil and military life he won for himself by his geniality and good nature a host of friends, by whom the keenest regret will be expressed at the passing of so brave and gallant a gentleman.

In a special order issued by General Birdwood next day, reference was made to the excellent qualities of Colonel Harris, and to the conspicuous ability he had shown during the few months he had led his regiment on Gallipoli. We of the Sixth knew his value, and liked him, but the Queenslanders loved him, and would follow him anywhere.

So here in the hills of Gallipoli there passes to the Great Beyond another good Australian, a brave and gallant officer, a kindly and courteous gentleman....the Fifth Regiment may well feel that the spirit of Hubert Harris will go with them on to victory.

We buried him next night. The Dean of Sydney, Chaplain Colonel Talbot, officiated, assisted by Chaplain Captain Gordon Robertson³. Officers and men of the regiment—all who could be spared from the trenches—attended, with Major Wilson, who assumed command of the Fifth. Also present were Brigadier-General Ryrie and staff, Lieutenant Colonel Cox of the Sixth, and Lieutenant Colonel Arnott of the Seventh. As the earth was shovelled in, the Brigadier remarked sadly, "The brigade has lost a gallant officer and Australia a patriot."

Lieutenant Colonel Harris was 44 years of age and left a widow and three children, the eldest 15 years old and the youngest about eight years of age.

He now lies in Shell Green Cemetery.



² Sutton was CO 3rd Field Ambulance, was also a USC Member, and was our first elected President in 1910.

³ Chaplain Captain Gordon Robertson was the brother of Major S Beresford Robertson, also listed on the United Service Club's Honour Board and the subject of a separate story within this Note.

CAPTAIN JAMES EDWARD HERBERT MC

26th Battalion



James (Jim) Edward Herbert was born in Toowoomba on 4 June 1881 and his story remains a bit of a mystery. There seems to be little known about his early life or personality, and there may be unusual aspects of the circumstances of his death.

Jim was one of 10 children of James Herbert and Emily Ada Herbert (nee Johnson). The family lived at Yuelba and Nerang.

After a State-School education, Jim was a shopkeeper at one stage but later he represented merchant and importers, S. Hoffnung and Co.

His interests in later years included duties as Secretary Nerang Show Society and the Nerang Race Club and he provided chess problems to the local newspaper. There are a number of newspaper reports about his involvement in Rifle Club shoots associated with military interests, but it seems he was a fairly average shot with no significant individual or team successes recorded.

His mother died in Yuelba when Jim was 25 years old on 29 July 1906. His father remarried twice more before Jim left for the war.

Prior to the Great War, he had served for five or six years with 9th Infantry Regiment and had passed the exams for lieutenant in 1909 and was probably later placed on the Unattached List.

He married Amelia Mabel Preston at Nerang on 24 May 1909, but she died in 1912. When he joined the AIF to serve overseas he left his three-year old daughter in the care of his father, then living at Coorparoo.

Herbert was appointed to the AIF as Lieutenant, 26th Infantry Battalion on 1 May 1915. He was later promoted to captain on 12 May 1916. 26th Battalion landed at Gallipoli on 12 September 1915 and in 1916 moved to the Western Front.

26th Battalion's first major attack was at Pozieres. Captain Herbert was wounded there on the night of 29/30 July 1916. During the assault he received a severe gunshot wound in the left arm and shoulder and was evacuated to England to recover and convalesce. He was retained in the hospital, convalescent, and reinforcement systems until 1 June 1917.

On 3 July 1917, only about a month after his return to the unit, Herbert was sent to the Fifth Army Infantry School returning on 8 August 1917 to his unit which was preparing for its next major battle. The four months of preparation came to an end on 12 September when 26th Battalion was deployed for the Third Battle of Ypres.

26th Battalion played a minor role in the Battle of Menin Road (19/20 September), but was heavily committed in the Battle of Broodseinde on 4/5 October 1917. Captain Herbert was awarded a Military Cross for his actions during this battle:

He led his company skilfully into the attack, and displayed great energy and resource in consolidating the captured position and then reorganizing the troops on the whole Battalion frontage. He set a fine example to his men throughout the whole 48 hours, and was largely responsible for making the operations of the Battalion a success.

At the end of October 1917 Herbert took five days leave in Paris. A few days after he returned, he was evacuated to hospital for disease treatment. He re-joined the battalion in January 1918 and in February he went to England for two weeks, returning on the 23 February.

In early April the brigade moved to Somme-Baizieux and 26th Battalion went into the line on night 11/12 April.

Captain Herbert was hit by sniper fire on the night of 16/17 April 1918 and died of his wounds a few hours later. The battalion's Adjutant later wrote to Herbert's daughter:

...he [Herbert] was wounded on 16th April, 1918, while he was out in "No Man's Land" supervising the burial of another officer. He received a bullet wound in the back, from which he died, and he was dead on admission to the 5th Australian Field Ambulance at 12-30 a.m. on the 17th April, 1918. He was buried on the 18th at Warloy Communal Cemetery Extension.

Captain Herbert now lies in Warloy-Baillon Communal Cemetery Extension, near Corbie in France.



LIEUTENANT HERBERT GERALD HINTON

2nd Light Horse Regiment



Lieutenant Hinton and his comrades (including Major TJ Logan, another Club Member) were killed in an attack on a Turkish position near Quinn's Post on 7 August 1915. They were killed before they had gone five yards in a failed assault where every man but one in the first line was killed or wounded. It was all over in less than two minutes.

Herbert Gerald Hinton was born in Queensland (probably Brisbane) on 23 February 1879, the second son and one of seven children of John Edward Hinton (soldier and Superintendent of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade) and Mary Elizabeth Hinton (nee O'Reilly) of Graceville. He was educated at Boys Central State School and later gained employment in the pearl industry on Thursday Island then as a salesman in Brisbane and finally as a commercial traveller.

He was also a citizen soldier, serving in the ranks with Queensland Volunteer Rifles and Queensland Field Artillery. Private Hinton was also a keen and capable shooter, a member of QVR's second rifle team on 24 August 1896, and a member of No 2 Battery Queensland Field Artillery Rifle Club on 16 January 1899.

Hinton served in the South African War (Boer War), being selected as a private (sometimes called trooper) in the First (Queensland Mounted Infantry) Contingent on 28 October 1899. He departed Brisbane for South Africa on *Cornwall* on 1 November 1899.

In about August 1900 he was medically evacuated and invalided to England with Enteric Fever. On 16 January 1901 arrangements were made via Queensland's Agent General in London for him to be attached to the Royal Horse Artillery *for instruction* while he was there. Apparently this attachment did not proceed as Hinton joined Warren's Mounted Infantry⁴ in South Africa (presumably arranging his own travel) and served with that unit from 16 January until 8 August 1901. He then secured a commission in the South African Light Horse and served with it from 8 August 1901 to June 1902, after which he returned to Australia.

For his Boer War service, Hinton was awarded two medals (Queen's South Africa Medal and King's South Africa Medal) and clasps for: Relief of Kimberley, Paardeberg, Driefontein, Cape Colony, South Africa 1901, and South Africa 1902.

On his return to Queensland in 1902 Hinton took up pearl fishing at Thursday Island, but after a few years he returned to Brisbane and worked for Butler and Sons. He married Mabel Cecilia Mahony in Brisbane on 9 August 1909, and they later had four children, three sons and a daughter.

Hinton re-joined the militia in about 1912, serving two years with 2nd Light Horse. On the outbreak of the Great War he volunteered for the AIF and was appointed to 2nd Light Horse Regiment (a unit of 1st Light Horse Brigade). Second Lieutenant Hinton passed his promotion examination on 28 October and was promoted to lieutenant on 1 February 1915.

⁴ Warren's Mounted Infantry was raised by the Cape Colonial Government in January 1901 and taken over by the Imperial Government on 20 July 1901.

The 2nd Light Horse Regiment sailed from Brisbane on HMAT A15 *Star of England* and trained in Egypt before being landed at Gallipoli (without their horses) on 12 May 1915. They were to reinforce the infantry divisions which had suffered heavy losses since the Landing. On arrival the unit moved towards Monash Valley to relieve 4th Brigade, where sporadic but intense fighting had occurred at Pope's, Quinn's, and Courtney's Posts.

On 13 May the regiment relieved 15th Battalion at Quinn's Post. Lieutenant Hinton was slightly wounded in the eye on 14 May but returned to duty. At Quinn's with the Turkish line a mere 15 yards away, inexperience saw early heavy casualties among 2nd Light Horse Regiment (2LHR). Following the failure of an attack by the regiment on 15 May, it was relieved by 15th Battalion and a system of 48-hour rotation of units through the post was introduced. A heavy operation was commenced on 6 August with attacks planned in several locations including Quinn's Post, Pope's, Russell's Top, and German Officers' Trench. 2LHR's task was to capture Turkish trenches opposite Quinn's Post. 2LHR attacked at 4.30am on 7 August 1915. The troops were to emerge from tunnels preceded by preparatory activities including the taking of other objectives, the firing of a mine, the provision of artillery support and the element of surprise.

Surprise was impossible and the enemy was perfectly prepared. Extracts from the Official History provide more detail:

...The 2nd Regiment knew before dawn that German Officers' Trench was still in the hands of the enemy. As for the bombardment...the fire of field-guns against such a position was useless except to repel attack. It followed that... the assault would be dependent for success solely upon surprise, and since all night long the enemy had been roused not only by the fighting at the Pine and German Officers', but also by demonstrations-intended to cover the advance of the main columns--loyally and thoroughly carried out by the very troops who were to attack at Quinn's, Pope's, and Russell's Top, there was small chance that surprise would be achieved.

Nevertheless the troops who were to make the assault, though their intelligence showed them that every condition was now against them, faced their task with a grim determination.

But here, as at The Nek, the enemy was perfectly prepared. As the troops scrambled from the trenches, intense fire was opened upon them. One Turkish machine-gun was shooting from the direct front, two from Dead Man's Ridge, and a fourth from German Officers'. Major Logan, who led the line, was killed before he had gone five yards.With one exception, every man of the first line was killed or wounded, the majority before they had gone six yards. Many owed their lives to the fact that they were struck when on the parapet and fell back wounded into the trench. ...In this action Major Logan, Lieutenants Burge and Hinton, and 14 others had been killed.

Herbert Gerald Hinton was 36 years old when he was killed on 7 August 1915. He left a widow and four young children, then residing at Sandgate. Lieutenant Hinton now lies in Shrapnel Green Cemetery.



MAJOR RUPERT REGINALD HOCKLEY DSO

2nd Pioneer Battalion



Left: Major Rupert Reginald Hockley DSO.

Right: 31st Battalion officers en route to Egypt. Captain Hockley is second from left, second row (circled)

Rupert Reginald Hockley was born in Maryborough on 1 February 1878, the third of three children of James Hockley (ironmonger) and Elizabeth Hockley (nee Skinnerty).

He was educated at Maryborough Grammar School before being employed the family firm. He was manager of Hockley's Ltd which ran an engineering foundry and made Albion stoves.

Hockley was a member of the Technical College Committee, was popular in business and private life. He was very social, being frequently reported in Queensland newspapers during the period 1900-1914.

He served in the militia (Wide Bay Infantry) for nineteen years, was the holder of a Hythe Certificate⁵ and held the rank of captain prior to joining the AIF.

Hockley was appointed to the AIF as Captain, 31st Battalion on 30 August 1915 and promoted major on 18 October 1915 (in Egypt).

31st Battalion did not leave Victoria for Egypt until 9 November 1915 and was therefore not deployed to the Gallipoli campaign. On arrival in Egypt, the battalion undertook canal protection duties and soon after began training for operations in France.

The AIF was expanded and reorganised after the withdrawal from Gallipoli. This caused much turbulence, including the need to establish new specialised units and train the men for them. Hockley was transferred from 31st Battalion to the 2nd Pioneer Battalion and promoted to Major, arriving as second in command on 19 March 1916.

The first major battle for the unit and for Hockley was part of the Battle of the Somme, as the Australian divisions were tasked to capture Pozieres and Pozieres Heights in late July 1916. Pioneers were engaged in various repair and construction tasks. The constant shellfire made these tasks very hazardous. After this battle the Australian troops were deployed to the quieter Ypres area for recovery, but were moved back to the Somme sector before Christmas for a miserable winter near Flers.

⁵ The Hythe Certificate was issued by the School of Musketry at Hythe in Kent on completion of one of its courses and was regarded as a differentiating qualification especially for infantrymen. (Hockley visited England and other countries in the period 1906-09 at his own expense ie at no cost to the Commonwealth.)

On 14 November 1916 the Commanding Officer of 2nd Pioneer Battalion was wounded and Hockley was appointed to command the battalion. He was appointed Temporary Lieutenant Colonel on 28 December. He 'relinquished' this temporary rank, reverting to his substantive rank of major on 10 February 1917 upon the return of the Commanding Officer after his recovery.

In February 1917 the Germans began a fighting withdrawal from their positions in front of Baupaume the Australians pursued them. Pioneers were used extensively to fix the problems caused by the Germans' *scorched earth* tactic (on tasks such as railway and road clearance and reconstruction, drains, bridging and culverts, water supply, huts and encampments, dry-stand for horses etc).

Temporary Lieutenant Colonel Hockley was awarded a DSO for his work at this time: *For consistent good service and devotion to duty as second in command of the Pioneer Bn. Period October 1916 to February 1917. During the operations on the SOMME he has shown himself to be a courageous and capable officer, is most zealous and a good organizer.'*

Hockley was Mentioned in Despatches by Field Marshall Haig on 9 April as the battalion supported the attacks on the Hindenburg Line in the first and second attacks at Bullecourt.

On 7 September 1917 the battalion moved to the vicinity of Swan Chateau outside Ypres in preparation for the Battle of Menin Road, planned for 20 September.

On 19 September 1917 a German shell exploded in the garden at Swan Chateau, headquarters of the 2nd Pioneers, and Major Hockley was severely wounded.

Major Hockley died of wounds the following day, 20 September 1917, aged 39 years. He was one of eight USC members killed in action on the Western Front. His parents predeceased him; his father died in 1913 and his mother died in 1916, and he had never married.

He now lies in Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery, Poperinge, Belgium.



CAPTAIN JOSEPH PETER LALOR

12th Battalion



Joe Lalor has a story with more than a touch of romantic mystery.

Joseph Peter Lalor was born on 12th August 1884 at Richmond, Victoria, the eldest of four children of Dr Joseph Peter Lalor (medical practitioner) and Agnes Lalor (nee McCormick).

The family was very well known. His grandfather, Peter Lalor, was leader of the 1854 Eureka Stockade insurrection, and later a Minister and then Speaker of the Victorian Legislative Assembly. His father was a medical practitioner and his brother was also a medical practitioner, later the first Medical Officer at Royal Military College Duntroon.

He was educated at Xavier College, Kew Victoria until 1893. He claimed to have matriculated from Melbourne University in 1899 but his name does not appear on the list of matriculants.

His mother stated that he served in the Royal Navy (*HMS Royal Arthur*, the flagship of the Australian Station 1897-1904) before reputedly deserting before joining the French Foreign Legion in 1905. This service is undocumented. There is also an unsubstantiated story that he served in a South American revolution.

Newspapers described him as: *immensely popular with all ranks...was fully 5ft. 2in. high, and his features were of the characteristic Anzac type - bronzed and aquiline. His close cropped hair was a feature and his mannerisms were expressive of the parade ground at all times. His geniality off parade was a stimulant to junior officers. Dr CEW Bean referred to him as a fiery little officer ...all for pushing ahead.*

Lalor served in the militia unit, 1st Battalion, Victorian Rangers and on 20 July 1910 he was appointed as lieutenant on probation to the Administrative and Instructional Staff (Officers), ie part of the permanent forces. Two days later he was en route from Melbourne to Fremantle to take up an appointment in Western Australia.

Soon after arrival in WA, he married a Melbourne girl, Hestor Loughrey, at Subiaco on 4 January 1911. They had a daughter who died soon after birth and a son, Peter Bernard Lalor, who was born in Perth on 17 April 1913.

He served in 21st Brigade in Kalgoorlie and then as Brigade Major in 22nd Brigade in Perth. On 7 November 1913 it was announced that Lalor was leaving for a similar appointment in 2nd Brigade in Queensland.

On the outbreak of war, he joined the AIF, being appointed Captain, 12th Battalion and sailed with the unit from Fremantle on 2 November 1914.

At dawn on 25 April 1915 the 12th Battalion landed on the Gallipoli Peninsular. At 8.30am, Captain Lalor led his men in an advance up Baby 700. Baby 700 was won and lost twice during the day and during the fighting the Commanding Officer was killed and Major Elliot was wounded. Lalor was then the senior officer of 12th Battalion in this action.

Against all regulations, he carried with him a treasured family sword, the hilt of which was wrapped in khaki cloth to prevent it glistening in the sun. Lalor dropped the sword at the Nek where it was later retrieved but it was lost again later.

At about 3.30pm another attempt was made to retake Baby 700 by moving across Malone's Gully and attacking round the north shoulder. The story is told in the 12th Battalion's history:

Lalor then moved forward on to the seaward slope of 'Baby 700' where the fighting was thickest. Although the mental strain and anxiety, which he had experienced since landing early in the morning had been enormous, he nevertheless rallied his men and, waving his arms, shouted, 'Come on, the 12th'. The words had hardly passed his lips when he fell dead, and 'the 12th' (the last words he uttered) lost one of its most gallant and capable officers.

The Official History states:

Fire was coming from the lower knolls down by the beach. Lalor stood up to see, and resolved to charge forward. "Now then, 12th Battalion," he cried; and, as he said the words, a Turkish bullet killed him.

He was 30 years old when he was killed about 12 hours after the Landing on 25 April 1915. He left a young wife and two-year old son. Lalor was one of 12 USC members killed at Gallipoli, and one of three killed in the same action. (Fellow USC members Major Robertson and Lieutenant Rigby, both of the 9th Battalion, were also killed nearby and their stories also appear in this series.)

Captain Lalor now lies in Baby 700 Cemetery at Anzac, Turkey.



CAPTAIN WALTER ALAND LESLIE

3rd Field Artillery Brigade



*Left: Captain Walter Aland Leslie
Right: 7th Battery, 3 Field Artillery Brigade on SS Rangatira en route to Egypt. Capt Leslie is circled.*

Walter Aland Leslie was born in Hamilton Brisbane on 19 August 1887, fourth-youngest of a family of (eventually) 15 children to Alexander Smith Leslie (saw-miller and draper) and his second wife, Martha Elizabeth Leslie (nee Aland). He and two of his brothers were killed in action in the Great War and another brother was later a Rhodes Scholar.

On 26 January 1901 Walter won a scholarship awarding free education at a grammar school. He attended Brisbane Grammar School 1901-1903, and served as a private in the School's cadets.

There is no record of his pre-war civilian employment but he was a member of the militia as an officer in the Australian Field Artillery from 1909 until he joined the AIF in 1914. His service included postings to 3rd Field Battery (Fd Bty), 11th Fd Bty and 17th Fd Bty.

He joined the AIF soon after the declaration of war, was appointed lieutenant on 20 August 1914 and less than a month later was promoted captain and posted as a Battery Captain in 3 Field Artillery Brigade (3 FAB). Leslie was posted to 7th Field Battery along with other Queenslanders.

The Brigade trained in Egypt until early April 1915 when it left for Lemnos Island and sailed from there intending to land on 25 April. However the brigade's War Diary records that four guns were disembarked the following day:

The three guns of 7th Battery⁶ were on the right, near Bolton's Ridge and the battery was being fought each gun independently. Captain Leslie commanded No 1 Gun. The ground was such that the guns had to be deployed well forward. They were so close to the front line that they acted like giant shotguns, with devastating effect on the assaulting Turkish infantry.

By early May there were still no other positions for the other 3 FAB guns. The men of the other batteries were rotated through the Bolton Ridge positions to enable rest and to gain experience across all batteries.

⁶ Interestingly, the major commanding 7th Battery at this time was also a USC Member, Major Francis Augustus Hughes (later Lieutenant Colonel Francis Augustus Hughes DSO VD) and later President in 1920 and 1931 and Life Member 1937

On 5 May the enemy began heavy shell fire on Bolton's Ridge from a new battery that had not been located before.

The Official History states:

Captain Leslie and Lieutenant Ross, with two guns' crews of the 7th Battery, though completely exposed in their position in the firing line, gallantly turned their pieces against the hidden position from which the bombardment seemed to be coming, and continued to fire until it ceased;

Next morning the same guns opened again, shelling [our] batteries as well as the whole right of Anzac ...The Bolton's Ridge guns again answered this battery, but Leslie and Ross were unable to locate it definitely...Leslie was mortally wounded and died during the morning ...

Captain Leslie had been badly wounded by a shell and died of his wounds.

The records state that he was evacuated to the Hospital Ship A36 *Gloucester Castle*, died onboard on 6 May 1915 and was reported by the Captain as buried at sea.

But, puzzlingly, the citation recommendation states he died while being removed to the ship, and he is recorded by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission as buried in Shell Green Cemetery, Gallipoli.⁷

He had been recommended for decoration to recognise his earlier actions but for some reason, possibly connected to his Commanding Officer's absence after being wounded, the recommendation was deleted and never approved. A copy of his recommended citation was annotated by an unknown person somewhere 'in the system': *would have been recommended for DSO had he lived.*

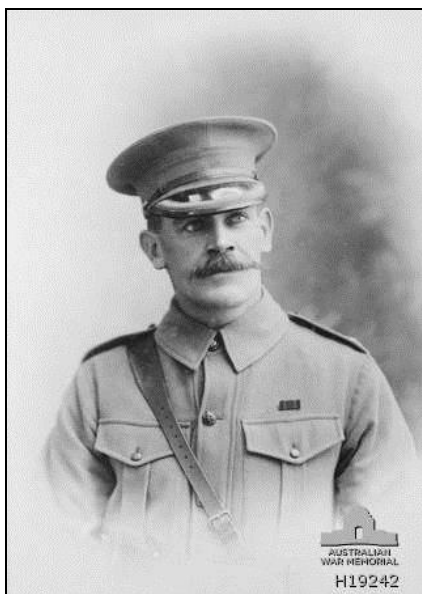


⁷ It is likely a memorial cross erected in the cemetery by his comrades was later mistaken for a headstone.

MAJOR THOMAS JAMES LOGAN

2nd Light Horse Regiment

NOTE: Preliminary version only. Research work is still in progress and an updated version will be posted as soon as research is complete.



Major Thomas James Logan of Forest Hill was killed in action during an attack on trenches opposite Quinn's Post on 7 August 1915. The attack was doomed to failure and Logan was killed. He was one of 12 USC Members killed in the Gallipoli campaign. He and a fellow Member, Lieutenant Hinton, were killed within a few seconds and within a few yards of each other. The first line including Logan and Hinton was mown-down by Turkish fire within a few seconds and a few yards from the start point for the attack.

Thomas James Logan was born on 30 March 1877 at Brookfield and was educated Brisbane Grammar School.

He served as a private with the 1st Queensland Mounted Contingent during the South African (Boer) War.

He volunteered for the AIF on the outbreak of the Great War and was posted to 2nd Light Horse Regiment. The regiment sailed from Brisbane on HMAT A15 *Star of England* and trained in Egypt before being landed at Gallipoli (without their horses) on 12 May 1915. On arrival, the unit moved towards Monash Valley to relieve 4th Brigade where sporadic but intense fighting had occurred at Pope's, Quinn's, and Courtney's Posts.

On 13 May the regiment relieved 15th Battalion at Quinn's Post. At Quinn's with the Turkish line a mere 15 yards away, inexperience saw early heavy casualties among 2nd Light Horse Regiment (2LHR). Following the failure of an attack by the regiment on 15 May, it was relieved by 15th Battalion and a system of 48 hour rotation of units through the post was introduced.

A heavy operation was commenced on 6 August with attacks planned in several locations including Quinn's Post, Pope's, Russell's Top, and German Officers' Trench. 2LHR's task was to capture Turkish trenches opposite Quinn's Post. 2LHR attacked at 4.30am on 7 August 1915. The troops were to emerge from tunnels preceded by preparatory activities including the taking of other objectives, the firing of a mine, the provision of artillery support and the element of surprise.

Surprise was impossible and the enemy was perfectly prepared. Extracts from the Official History provide more detail:

...The 2nd Regiment knew before dawn that German Officers' Trench was still in the hands of the enemy. As for the bombardment....the fire of field-guns against such a position was useless except to repel attack. It followed that... the assault would be dependent for success solely upon surprise, and since all night long the enemy had been roused not only by the fighting at the Pine and German Officers', but also by demonstrations-intended to cover the advance of the main columns--loyally and thoroughly carried out by the very troops who were to attack at Quinn's, Pope's, and Russell's Top, there was small chance that surprise would be achieved.

Nevertheless the troops who were to make the assault, though their intelligence showed them that every condition was now against them, faced their task with a grim determination.

But here, as at The Nek, the enemy was perfectly prepared. As the troops scrambled from the trenches, intense fire was opened upon them. One Turkish machine-gun was shooting from the direct front, two from Dead Man's Ridge, and a fourth from German Officers'. Major Logan, who led the line, was killed before he had gone five yards.With one exception, every man of the first line was killed or wounded, the majority before they had gone six yards. Many owed their lives to the fact that they were struck when on the parapet and fell back wounded into the trench. ...In this action Major Logan, Lieutenants Burge and Hinton, and 14 others had been killed.

An obituary in the *Pastoral Review* on 16 Sep 1915 stated:

Major Thomas James Logan, a member of the well-known Queensland pastoral family of that name, has been killed in action at the Dardanelles. He was generally liked—in fact was one of the most popular officers in Queensland—and his death is greatly regretted. He was the eldest son of Mr. Whitmore Logan, and was born at Brookfield in 1877, taking up military work early in life. He was a member of the first Queensland contingent of Light Horse men who volunteered for active service in South Africa during the Boer War, leaving Brisbane in November 1899, and going through an arduous campaign. He was slightly wounded, and was awarded the Queen's Medal with five clasps. On his return from South Africa he gradually rose in military rank, till he was second in command of the 2nd Light Horse regiment to Lieut.-Col. R. M. Stodart, in which capacity he was one of the first officers to enlist for active service in the present war. A photograph will appear in next month's issue.

Major Logan now lies in Quinn's Post Cemetery.



NOTE: Preliminary version only. Research work is still in progress and an updated version will be posted as soon as research is complete.

CAPTAIN JAMES SHAW ROSE MACDONALD

2nd Field Artillery Brigade



James Shaw Rose Macdonald was born in Brisbane on 8 November 1894, third-youngest of nine children to Alexander Rose Macdonald (cane grower and senior public servant) and Nancy Ayrey Macdonald (nee Armitage), of 'Hill View', Greenslopes in Brisbane.

He was educated at Bowen House School for four years and two years at Brisbane Grammar School where he won track and field events.

When he left school he was employed by the Bank of New South Wales.

Macdonald spent three years in the senior cadets and three years in the militia (Australian Field Artillery), and was appointed second lieutenant on 16 June 1913.

After the news of the Gallipoli landings reached Australia, he applied for commission in the AIF and was appointed as Lieutenant, 3 Field Artillery Brigade (3 FAB) on 1 May 1915 and reached HQ 3 FAB on Gallipoli on 3 September.

A few days later he was attached to 3 FAB Ammunition Column (3 BAC) for three days, returning to Egypt to join 1st Division Ammunition Column (1 DAC) on 21 September. The terrain at Gallipoli prevented the deployment of more than one battery of 3 FAB's guns, so there was probably little need for a full complement of officers in the ammunition column and he was sent back to Egypt to gain more experience and to reduce the resupply burden and/or reduce the chance of unnecessary casualties.

He sailed to the Western Front with his unit, disembarking at Marseilles on 2 April 1916. He was posted to 21 FAB on 15 May 1916. Captain Macdonald was in battle with 21 FAB at the major battles at Pozieres in July 1916, where Australian and German shelling and counter-battery fire was very intense and prolonged. 21 FAB supported the action at Pozieres from 20 July to 7 August despite 1st Division being relieved by 2nd Division on 26 July. (Artillery provides support for all units within range regardless of their divisional affiliation.)

Macdonald was also involved in the battles around Flers (November 1916, when 1st Division artillery supported 5th Division), including a period when he took charge of his battery when his commander was disabled by wounds.

21 FAB was rotated into and out of battle over some months in these battles, and was returned to the line from 16 to 23 August, from 17 September to 14 October, and from 26 October to 18 November 1916.

He was promoted to captain on 21 January 1917. When 21 FAB was disbanded as part of the artillery reorganisation he was posted to 2 FAB a few days later, on 24 January 1917. During the period February to June 1917, he was in battle with 2 FAB supporting the advance/pursuit from Bapaume to the Hindenburg Line and the attacks at Bullecourt.

On 23 June 2 FAB returned to the Ypres sector, firing interdiction missions until 6 July when its guns were withdrawn for service/replacement. From 19 to 30 July it began a program of bombardments to support British attacks in the Third Battle of Ypres.

On 30 July 1917 it moved forward to Dickebusch (2.5 miles from Ypres) and then further forward again, to the vicinity of Sanctuary Wood, on 31 July. However the earlier reports of the success of the British infantry in securing the area were incorrect and the batteries came under severe German artillery and machine gun fire as they deployed and they suffered heavy casualties.

The brigade remained in action throughout the day, but at 9.30am Captain MacDonald was killed by artillery fire while in action with his battery near Sanctuary Wood outside Ypres.

He was only 22 years old when he was killed by shellfire near Ypres on 31 July 1917. He is one of the eight members of USC who were killed in action on the Western Front.

Captain Macdonald now lies in Dickebusch New Military Cemetery Extension, Kerkstraat, Ieper (Ypres) Belgium.



LIEUTENANT COLONEL WILLIAM ERNEST MARKWELL DSO

2nd Light Horse Regiment

NOTE: Preliminary version only. Research work is still in progress and an updated version will be posted as soon as research is complete.



William Ernest (Willie) Markwell was born in Beaudesert on 23 December 1889, the son of John Markwell and Agnes (nee McDonald).

He volunteered for the AIF on the outbreak of the Great War and was posted to 2nd Light Horse Regiment. The regiment sailed from Brisbane on HMAT A15 *Star of England* and trained in Egypt before being landed at Gallipoli (without their horses) on 12 May 1915.

Willie survived the dismounted operations during the Gallipoli campaign without wound or illness, and deployed with his unit to Palestine for mounted operations against the Turks.

Markwell was killed in action on 31 October 1917 during the Battle of Beersheba in the Palestine campaign. He was 27 years old and had been twice Mentioned in Despatches and awarded a Distinguished Service Order for his actions in the war.

The Queenslander reported on Saturday 17 March 1917:

Major W. E. Markwell, who is mentioned in a recent cable as having had the D.S.O. conferred on him, is a comparatively young officer, who has seen a great deal of service in the present war. He left Queensland with the first contingent as a captain in the 2nd Light Horse Regiment, commanded by Colonel R. Stodart, who had with him such well-known and honoured officers as Major Glasgow (now Brigadier-General), Logan, Graham (killed in action), and Bourne (now Lieut.-Colonel and D.S.O.).

At the opening of the Gallipoli campaign the regiment volunteered for infantry work, and arrived at the Peninsula a few days after the famous landing. As in the case of all other units, the months of strenuous work in the trenches claimed its heavy toll of the regiment, but Major (then Captain) Markwell was one of the very few who escaped both injury and illness. He received his Crown on the battlefield at the early age of 24.

On returning to Egypt, the regiment was reorganised, and placed for arduous desert work under General Chauvel, work which culminated in such famous victories as Romani, ElArish, Maghaba, and Rafa. It was for conspicuous work on these fields that the honour now bestowed in Major Markwell was gained. The gallant young soldier has the rather unique record of having served 2½ years on active service without once having to leave the regiment through illness or injury.

In a letter recently received from a chaplain at the Front, the following reference to Major Markwell appeared: "He led the final attack the pothor day n fine style, and his example went a long way towards making the charge as irresistible asit proved to be."

Major Markwell is the only son of Mr and Mrs John Markwell, Kargora, Beaudesert.



Major William Ernest Markwell DSO now lies Beersheba War Cemetery, Be'er Sheva, (now Israel).

NOTE: Preliminary version only. Research work is still in progress and an updated version will be posted as soon as research is complete.

LIEUTENANT RICHARD WILLIAM MAY

42nd Battalion



Richard William May, one of five sons and two daughters of the Reverend John Henry and Helena Jane May (nee Dunn), was born on the 16th of March 1877 at Geelong in Victoria. He was raised by his mother, widowed in 1881, in the Victorian country town of Kyneton. In 1893 he gained his University of Melbourne matriculation at Brighton Grammar and in due course was employed by the Union Bank of Australia (now ANZ Banking Group).

After Brighton Grammar, one or two references mention an early interest in boxing. Most frequently his name is associated with the Banks Rowing Club, Melbourne, notably in the crews from Victoria who won the Men's Interstate Eight-Oared Championship in Melbourne in 1903 and again in 1904 in Brisbane. Until 1909 he continued to participate in all aspects of club management and competition organisation.

May was then appointed by his employer to the Forbes NSW branch as its accountant. There he was very active in the local tennis club until February 1912 when he left on promotion to manage the bank at Kilcoy in Queensland.

In Queensland he maintained his connection with the community. Occasionally he gave a recitation at a social event; and he won prizes for roses entered in the Kilcoy show in May 1913. An absence of reports thereafter suggests promotion to another position elsewhere, possibly Brisbane where on 15 November 1915 he stated his home address was 'Sydenham', Wickham Terrace, Brisbane. It seems likely his membership of the then United Service Institute was effected after leaving Kilcoy.

On 16th of August 1915, in his 38th year, Richard William May enlisted in the Australian Imperial Force (AIF) and was allotted to the 12th Reinforcements, 9th Battalion.

Doubtless his education, skills, personality and character were recognised early and in just over a month he was promoted to acting sergeant at No 2 Depot Battalion. Unsurprisingly this led to his application in early November for a commission in the AIF.

A month later on the 9th of December 1915 he was appointed second lieutenant to the just-raised 42nd Battalion, a unit of 3rd Division. The battalion then began an intensive period of individual and unit training in Australia which continued in Britain after its arrival there on the 23 July. A few weeks later on 1 October 1916, May was promoted to lieutenant.

At the end in November 1916 the 42nd entered the Armentieres Sector in France. A severe winter saw it either in the front line undertaking sub-unit and unit patrols, or rotating to rear areas where training and labouring continued in support of other units then in the front line

Important activities included development of personal skills in bombing, sniping, scouting, weapon handling, communications, bayonet fighting, gas protection and officer inspections of front line trenches.

On the first day of the New Year, May with two other officers and 80 other ranks began a week of training in the conduct of raids. A month later the first operation by this group clearly demonstrated skilful conduct and execution albeit unsuccessful, due to the presence of intense, unsuppressed enemy machine gun fire.

For the efforts made by May during the raid, his Commanding Officer said: *I wish to specially mention the cool manner in which Lieut May handled the retirement. Any loss of nerve or control would quite easily have resulted in disaster.*

It was but a few days later on the night of 11/12 February that retaliatory indiscriminate artillery fire wounded May. Unit stretcher bearers took him to the 10th Australian Field Ambulance where his death was recorded at ten minutes past twelve.

He was the third of eight Club members who fell on the Western Front.

Lieutenant May now lies in the Cite Bonjean Military Cemetery, Armentieres, France.



LIEUTENANT COLONEL TERENCE PATRICK McSHARRY CMG DSO* MC

15th Battalion



Studio portrait in France (AWM 01931) and oil portrait by William McInnes (AWM ART 06344)

Lieutenant Colonel McSharry CMG, DSO*, MC, was the most highly-decorated of the eight members of the United Service Club who were killed in action on the Western Front.

Terence Patrick McSharry was born on 9 August 1880 at Townsville, Queensland, one of six children of Matthew McSharry (contractor and later accountant) and Margaret McSharry (nee Pottinger). His family nick-name as a child was *Jockey Jim* for his love of horses,

He was educated at Christian Brothers' St Joseph's College on Gregory Terrace in Brisbane, and passed the Sydney University Junior Examination in 1895. Terry was a bookkeeper in Brisbane in 1903-08, joined the Metropolitan Water and Sewerage Board, and was a surveyor by 1912. He was apparently terminated for *playing up* or some similar disciplinary matter.

McSharry played football for North Brisbane Harriers and was a boxer. He was described as *cheery and energetic, he was short, of jockey weight ... with biting sarcasm if matters did not go his way ... Outspoken to a degree of bluntness that at times was most alarming, intermingled ... with a caustic wit.*

He served in the militia before the Great War. On 25 March 1912 he was commissioned in the Australian Intelligence Corps and in February 1914 was appointed a staff officer (Queensland District).

On the outbreak of war he volunteered to join the AIF, and on 21 August 1914 he was appointed Lieutenant, 2nd Light Horse Regiment (2 ALH) which sailed from Pinkenba on 24 September.

The regiment landed at Gallipoli, without their horses, on 12 May 1915 to fight as infantry. 2 ALH played an important role in the defences at Quinn's Post and when it was decided to establish a small 'permanent HQ' (a small number of officers who would remain there to command the position while the troops were rotated through defence duties at Quinn's) McSharry was selected as permanent post adjutant and works' officer.

Although senior officers were present during the critical Turkish attack on 29 May 1915, it was McSharry who, *with his thorough knowledge of the post and eminent coolness and decision, most fully grasped and controlled the situation.* He rallied the men with the call *Come on, Australia!* as he

led a party which halted the enemy with improvised bombs (grenades made on the beaches from jam tins packed with improvised shrapnel). He survived a near-miss when a Turkish bullet went through his hat.

Lieutenant McSharry was awarded the Military Cross for his *exceptional bravery and resource*, in this action and another action on 4 June.

McSharry was promoted to captain and was transferred to the 15th Battalion as Adjutant in June and was promoted major in Egypt in January 1916. He sailed with the battalion to France in June 1916.

He was promoted temporary lieutenant-colonel and took command of the 15th Battalion on 30 August 1916 when the then Commanding Officer (Lieutenant Colonel Cannan) was promoted to Brigadier-General.

He led 15th Battalion for almost two years, except when detached to temporarily command 4th Brigade from 13 to 25 July 1918. This was an exceptionally long period during which he commanded it in the major battles of Stormy Trench (January-February 1917), 1st Bullecourt (April 1917), Messines (June 1917), Polygon Wood (September 1917) and Hamel (July 1918).

McSharry was one of the notable Australian battalion commanders in France. He was held in high esteem and Charles Bean said of him *that there was no wiser head in the force*.

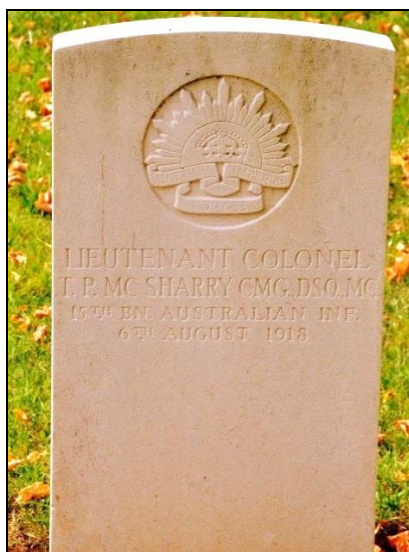
He was Mentioned in Despatches four times during this period, was awarded the Distinguished Service Order in June 1917 and appointed CMG in June 1918.

McSharry was mortally wounded in a bombardment while helping a wounded man to shelter at Vaire-sous-Corbie, on the Somme. He died on 6 August 1918, three days short of his 38th birthday. He was buried near Corbie.

He was remembered as *a lovable comrade ... a gallant and intellectual soldier*. With hair parted in the middle, and an upturned nose, he was short, described by the battalion historian as *of jockey weight ... with a small voice with more than its share of biting sarcasm if matters did not go his way ... Outspoken to a degree of bluntness that at times was most alarming, intermingled ... with a caustic wit ... There are hundreds of stories relating to his contempt for danger ... he could tell and appreciate a good joke*.

He was posthumously awarded a Bar to the DSO.

Lieutenant Colonel McSharry now lies in Corbie Communal Cemetery Extension, France.



CAPTAIN ARCHIBALD HEWLAND RAYMOND

2nd Field Artillery Brigade



Left: Signed photo sent to TSS on 12 March 1916

Right: Archibald (Archie) Hewland Raymond (circled) pictured with two friends.

Archibald (Archie) Raymond was born in Brisbane on 4 April 1893 to a large family of 11 children from his father's two marriages. His father was Alfred John Raymond (carpenter saw-miller and builder) and his mother was Jessie Catherine Raymond (nee Shearer).

The family was well-known. Archie's father was a long-time Alderman, and a one-time Mayor of Brisbane. He had remarried after the death of his first wife and Archie was the third of nine children of the second marriage. The family lived in Kangaroo Point; at *Avonmore* in Salston Street, and later in *Clifton* on River Terrace. The Pineapple Sportsground behind the Pineapple Hotel was reserved in 1888, subsequently being named Raymond Park in his father's honour.

Archie was educated at The Southport School (TSS) where he played Australian Rules, cricket, competed in athletics, and paraded in the school cadet unit for over three years, rising to Sergeant.

After completing school he was employed as a mercantile clerk in his father's business and served in the militia as a Lieutenant, 2nd Battery of 1st Field Artillery.

He joined the AIF and was appointed second lieutenant on 20 Aug 1914 and posted to 3rd Field Artillery Brigade (3 FAB), Brigade Ammunition Column (3 BAC).

The unit was located in Adelaide and Raymond joined it there on 9 September 1914, just six weeks before it sailed for Albany on HMAT A7 *Medic* on 20 October 1914. The first convoy left Albany on 1 November and arrived in Egypt in early December 1914. Raymond was promoted lieutenant on 1 February 1915.

3 FAB had guns in action on the Gallipoli Peninsular firing from Bolton's ridge, from the day after the landing. The brigade's War Diary mentions that the ammunition column was serving there: *3rd BAC did wonderful work in supplying ammunition by hand from beach to guns, being under fire continuously.*

Neither the FAB's War Diary or the BAC's War Diary mentions the names or locations of the BAC officers at this time, but it is almost certain that Raymond would have spent at least some time there.

Raymond's postings about this time were: from 3 BAC to Mediterranean Expeditionary Force Gallipoli on 4 May 1915; from 3 BAC to 1 Field Artillery Brigade Ammunition Column (1 BAC) at Alexandria on 10 September 1915; and from 1 BAC back to 3 BAC, re-joining it at Heliopolis on 17 December 1915.

The reasons for his postings from 3 BAC during the Gallipoli campaign are not recorded. It is probable that as 3rd FAB had only one battery of four guns in operation at Gallipoli there was no need for a full complement of officers in 3 BAC and that he was sent to these postings to broaden his experience and/or to reduce unnecessary risk of casualties and/or reduce the resupply burden to Gallipoli.

Raymond was with 3rd FAB when it was sent to the Western Front, disembarking at Marseilles in March 1916 and was promoted to Temporary Captain on 15 March. He had a number of Ammunition Column postings in May and June 1916 as the artillery was reorganised before finally joining 2nd FAB on 25 January 1917.

Although not mentioned by name in the War Diaries or in the Official History, his battery supported the AIF's raids, patrols and battles, and interdiction, defensive, and counter battery firing in May and June.

He was killed in France by shellfire on 3 March 1917 at Flers Road, near the village of Les Boeufs at Eaucourt L'Abbaye. HQ 1st Division Artillery reported that he was killed and another officer severely wounded by the same shell.

Witness reports stated that they were *going up with the guns* when a 5.9 inch shell exploded, killing Captain Raymond and severely wounding a Lieutenant Miller, both of 4th Battery. Both were buried in the same cemetery. He was described as *rather small* and *well liked*.

He was only 23 years old when he was killed in action, one of eight USC members killed on the Western Front.

Captain Raymond now lies in Flat Iron Copse Cemetery, Mametz, France.



LIEUTENANT WILLIAM JOHN RIGBY

9th Battalion



Left: Lieutenant William John Rigby

Right: Officers of the 9th Battalion aboard HMAT Omrah (A5). Lt Rigby, is circled

William John Rigby was born in Brisbane on 9 December 1891, the fourth of six children of William Alfred Rigby (insurance manager) and Julia Rigby (nee Mitchell).

He attended Brisbane Grammar School in 1906 and 1907 after which he worked as a clerk in the insurance company of which his father was the Queensland branch manager.

His military experience prior to the Great War consisted of three years in the cadets (old organisation), three years in the Australian Garrison Artillery, one year senior cadets, and three years (1911-14) as a lieutenant with 9th Infantry.

Rigby applied to join the AIF on the outbreak of war and was appointed Lieutenant, 9th Infantry Battalion on 20 August 1914. He sailed with the unit on HMAT A5 'Omrah' that left Brisbane from Pinkenba on 24 September and disembarked at Alexandria in Egypt on 6 December 1914.

The battalion was selected as part of the Covering Force for the Gallipoli Landing and Rigby landed with the first wave at dawn, as a platoon commander with B Company which was commanded by Major Robertson.

On landing, A and B companies of 9 Battalion found that they were put ashore not in the vicinity of Gaba Tepe and on the right of the covering force where they expected, but a mile to the north and on the left of 10th Battalion. Immediate confusion ensued but soon the troops started moving up the hills.

Major S.B. Robertson led B Company, including Rigby, up the broken cliffs towards Baby 700 as Captain Lalor of 12th Battalion did likewise, both arriving at The Nek about 7 am.

The Official History records the circumstances of Rigby's death near Gaba Tepe:

About 8.30 a.m. Robertson and Lalor ordered an advance to Baby 700 ... On the seaward slope the firing line was under Major S. B. Robertson of the 9th Battalion. From the outset the fighting on this slope was heavy.

The line on the left of Baby 700, whenever it went forward was exposed to fire, not only of the Turks behind the nearer spurs, but of others who were now filtering back upon the lower ends of those spurs, not far above the beach. Officers and men lying in the scrub were caught, one after another, by the scattered bullets. Major S. B. Robertson, thrice wounded, raised himself to look forward and was shot.

"Carry on, Rigby," he said to a junior beside him, and died. Lieutenant W. J. Rigby "carried on" until he too was killed.

Rigby was only 23 years old when he was killed on the heights above Anzac Cove only a few hours after landing. He was one of 12 USC members killed at Gallipoli and one of three killed in the same action. (Major Robertson, his 9th Battalion company commander, and Captain Lalor of the 12th Battalion were both killed nearby and have separate stories in this series of Notes.)

Lieutenant Rigby's remains were never recovered.

He is commemorated on Lone Pine Memorial, not far from where he was killed.



MAJOR SYDNEY BERESFORD ROBERTSON

9th Battalion



Sydney Beresford Roberston (his mother asserted he was always known as S. Beresford Robertson) was born on 28 October 1886, the second-youngest of six children of Reverend Joseph Robertson MA (Congregational Minister) and Catherine Ross Robertson (nee Wilson).

His father's vocation as a Congregationalist Minister must have required moving the family around Australasia as the children were born in a number of locations (Hawthorn Victoria, Auckland NZ, Adelaide South Australia). By late 1914 the family was living at Quarry Street Ipswich.

He was educated at Prince Alfred Grammar School Adelaide (First prize Lower Fifth Form 1901) and in 1902 he attended Muirden College where he was awarded bookkeeping and typewriting certificates.

Robertson had an initial aspiration for an army commission but when this hope was frustrated by the formation of the Australian military college, he took up a position as a law clerk.

He served in the militia from 1907 to 1914, including as a lieutenant in 9th Battalion and captain in Australian Intelligence Corps (1912).

Descriptions of his personality and qualities include: *splendid personality, manly bearing, and general kindness; lofty ideals and fine thoughts; adored by his men; and a great favourite with his brother officers because of his happy disposition, and faculty for keeping everybody happy.*

On the outbreak of war he applied to join the AIF and was appointed Captain, 9th Infantry Battalion on 20 August 1914. He sailed with the unit from Pinkenba on 24 September and disembarked at Alexandria in Egypt on 6 December 1914. He was promoted Major on New Year's Day 1915.

The battalion was selected as part of the Covering Force for the Gallipoli Landing. B Company, commanded by Major Robertson, landed with the first wave at dawn.

On landing, A and B companies of 9th Battalion found that they were put ashore not where they expected on the right of the covering force but under on the left of 10th Battalion. Immediate confusion ensued but soon the troops started moving up the hills.

Robertson led his Company up the broken cliffs towards Baby 700 as Captain Lalor of 12th Battalion did likewise, both arriving at The Nek about 7 am.

The Official History records the circumstances of Robertson's death:

About 8.30 a.m. Robertson and Lalor ordered an advance to Baby 700 ... On the seaward slope the firing line was under Major S. B. Robertson of the 9th Battalion. From the outset the fighting on this slope was heavy.

The line on the left of Baby 700, whenever it went forward was exposed to fire Officers and men lying in the scrub were caught, one after another, by the scattered bullets. Major S. B. Robertson, thrice wounded, raised himself to look forward and was shot.

"Carry on, Rigby," he said to a junior beside him, and died. Lieutenant W. J. Rigby "carried on" until he too was killed.

An eyewitness wrote to his parents from a hospital ship on 29 April:

...Going up that hill was just awful...I was just alongside Major S. B. Robertson, and never left him. I was in charge of his person and signalling staff....

Our chaps were by this time nearly a mile inland...On the ridge here we started to entrench, and were just getting the trenches a bit ship-shape when the order to advance came along. Then came the worst part of the battle...The Turks had come back with reinforcements, and a howitzer battery.... It was hardly possible for a rabbit to live in the fire we were under. Put your head up, and whiz went past half-a-dozen bullets. Our chaps, and the officers especially, were going down by the dozens. I had some awfully narrow escapes.

About 4 o'clock Major Robertson got one, and almost died at once. I went from officer to officer of the company, but they were nearly all hit.

Robertson was only 29 when he was killed after being wounded three times, only about twelve hours after the Gallipoli Landing. He was one of 12 USC members killed in action during the Gallipoli Campaign, and one of three who were killed in this action. (Captain Lalor and Lieutenant Rigby were USC members killed nearby. Their stories are part of this series of Notes.)

Major Robertson now lies in Beach Cemetery Gallipoli.



LIEUTENANT EDWARD GRAHAM WAREHAM

15th Battalion



Edward Graham Wareham was born in Townsville on 21 July 1890, the only son and elder of two children of Edward Bull Wareham (company manager) and Clara Isabella Wareham (nee Macdonald).

When his father became Queensland Manager for the Adelaide Steamship Company the family moved to Brisbane and the young Wareham was educated at Normal State School and then Brisbane Grammar School where he was in the school's Cadet unit for two years.

On leaving school he was later employed as a customs clerk by Dalgety Limited.

As a younger man he was *somewhat less than careful about his own safety, perhaps even foolhardy*. Little else about his nature has been discovered except that he did have admirers.

Wareham served in the militia before the Great War for over two and a half years, commissioned in the Moreton Regiment. He applied for a commission in the AIF on 16 September and he was appointed to the AIF as a lieutenant on 1 January 1915.

He was allotted to 3rd Reinforcements, 15th Battalion which at that time was training in Egypt. He sailed from Brisbane on 13 February 1915. By the time of his arrival the 15th Battalion was fighting on Gallipoli and he was held on board ship with other reinforcements until 2 May 1916.

He arrived in 15th Battalion's lines on 4 May 1915. By then 15th Battalion was in action around Quinn's Post.

On the night of 9/10 May the battalion assaulted Turkish trenches in front of Quinn's Post and occupied them, but were forced to withdraw with heavy casualties at 6am on 10 May. Lieutenant Wareham was killed in this action.

The following accounts combine to give a reasonable picture of the circumstances of Wareham's death.

The Official History states:

About 2 a.m. Cannan [CO of 15th Battalion] had sent for Lieutenant Little, in charge of No. 6 Subsection of Quinn's and ordered him to take a number of men to the extreme left and safeguard that flank ... Little tried to discover who was on his right. Getting no satisfactory answer, he asked for Lieutenant Smith or Wareham. The reply was: "Both dead." Wareham had apparently been killed while firing at a Turkish officer; Smith had been mortally wounded.

Wareham's batman wrote to the family after the action:

On May 2 we landed at Gallipoli Peninsula for active service - Lieut. Wareham and 40 men. Our chaps went into trenches on May 4, and again on May 5 for twelve hours each time. On the 8th we went in for 48 hours, and during this period Lieutenant Wareham was hit by a hand grenade, which happily did not explode. After this we were supposed to have 48 hours' rest. On the night of the 12th we were led by your son in a charge against the enemy, which he did most bravely. Early in the fight he received a wound in the head, but kept on, and it was just at dawn on 13th, whilst firing at the enemy, that he was shot dead. Previous to going into the fight he asked Private Morley to take his field glasses for further use in the campaign should he not return for them himself...and Private Morley hopes to return Lieutenant Wareham's field glasses to you personally. The company of men who came from Enoggera in February count the loss of your son as a personal loss, every one holding him in the utmost respect.

The batman had reported the date of death as 13 May, but is recorded in the War Diary (and officially) as 10 May 1915. The conflicting dates are confusing but understandable in the circumstances where it would have been easy for him to lose track of dates.

An article in the *Sydney Morning Herald* almost a year later on 4 April 1916, quoting Sergeant Gore of the 15th Battalion, said:

Lieutenant Wareham, who was killed in May and was formerly a well-known Brisbane business man, was also beloved by soldiers. He was brave and almost reckless fighter, and was invariably in the thick of a battle. Sergeant Gore said that this officer was always 'after' Germans, and this led to his death. One day, during an advance, he saw a Turkish rifleman, and covered him with his revolver. At that moment a German helmet caught his eye. "By Jove, there's a German" he exclaimed, and swung his revolver round on to the more hated foe. Immediately the Turkish rifleman shot him dead.

Wareham was only 25 years when he was killed, a week after his arrival in the combat zone. He was one of 12 USC members killed at Gallipoli, and one of four from 15th Battalion killed there. (Lt Armstrong, Maj Cannan, and Captain Willis are other USC members of 15th Battalion who still lie at Gallipoli. They each have a story in this series of Notes.)

His body was buried on 24 May during the armistice.

Lieutenant Wareham is commemorated on the walls of the Lone Pine Memorial at Gallipoli.



CAPTAIN WILLIAM ORGAN WILLIS

15th Battalion



Top: Captain William Organ Willis

*Bottom: Group portrait of officers of the 15th Battalion prior to embarkation overseas.
Capt William Organ Willis, the Adjutant is circled.*

Captain William ('Billy') Organ Willis was a talented and experienced infantry officer who had extensive military experience before joining the AIF, including service in the Boer War, militia and the permanent force. He was Adjutant of the 15th Battalion when he was killed in action near Quinn's Post on the Gallipoli Peninsular on 3 May 1915.

William Organ Willis was born in Malvern Victoria on 1 August 1877, the second-youngest of six children of William Samuel Willis (locksmith) and Alice Holland Willis (nee Roberts). His father died on 14 July 1891, when Billy was 13 years old. Billy was educated to matriculation standard at Wesley College Melbourne and passed the educational qualifying exam required to join the Army's Administrative and Instructional (A & I) staff.

His personality was described as: *Genial. Very good athlete. Excelled at long distances. He was a harrier, cricketer, and rower... Brave and gay ... with a cheery smile always doing his job. He was calm and confident, and always ready.*

He served as a private in the South African War (Boer War) with the Fourth Victorian Contingent, leaving Australia on 1 May 1900 and arriving in South Africa between May and Jun 1900. Sickness

forced his return to Australia on 8 November but on 23 January 1901 he re-joined his unit in South Africa until the contingent returned home. He was discharged on 13 July 1901. For his service he received the Queen's South Africa Medal with three campaign clasps (Rhodesia, Orange River Colony, and Cape Colony).

After the Boer War he pursued pastoral interests near Beechworth Victoria. He also served in the militia between 1907 and 1911 (2nd Lieutenant 30 July 1907, promoted Lieutenant 10 August 1908, Lieutenant A&I Corps 1910, and promoted Captain 29 August 1910).

Willis joined the Permanent Forces in 1911 and served as a permanent officer (regular army officer in today's parlance) until he joined the AIF in 1914: Lieutenant 1 February 1911; promoted Captain 19 October 1912; and posted to the position of Brigade Major HQ 1st Brigade Area, Rockhampton from 1 July 1913. On the outbreak of war he applied for commission in the AIF and on 20 Nov 1914 he was appointed Captain and Adjutant of 15th Battalion being raised at Enoggera.

The 4th Brigade (including 15th Battalion) landed at Anzac late in the afternoon of 25 April 1915 and was involved in the desperate fighting at Quinn's Post where the opposing trenches were as close as six yards. The brigade was tasked for a major assault in early May. The 15th Battalion's War Diary for 3 May records: *The enemy made an attack upon our position early in the morning but was repulsed, we losing Capt. Willis killed...*

A letter from Gallipoli, written by a fellow officer, written to the Willis family was published in *The Argus* on 20 July 1915:

...The few days of this struggle brought Billy to the fore in a wonderful way. Brave and gay, he led on, with a cheery smile always doing his job. He was calm and confident, and always ready. He was a gallant fellow, and my loss of my friend seems very poignant just now. He sleeps like a warrior, at peace, on the hill side where he passed away. A little wooden cross marks the place.

The story of the incident which brought us such grievous loss is this. A battalion from the British naval division had replaced some Australians in the firing line, and Billy's battalion was taking as much rest as is possible under the conditions here existing, while they remained in the scrub covered valley in support....heavy fire had broken out along the front. As his duty demanded, he went up to investigate along with another officer. Just as they rounded the point into the trenches, a bullet struck him, high up in the neck, about the base of the skull. He passed away peacefully without any pain almost at once. I am glad to be able to say it was no rashness on his part that led to his death.

Willis was in his prime when he was killed at 37, one of 12 USC members who were killed at Gallipoli, four of whom were members of the 15th Battalion⁸. He had been married for two years and left a young widow but no children.

Captain Willis has no known grave and is commemorated on the Lone Pine Memorial.



⁸ Lt Armstrong, Major Cannan, Lt Wareham and Captain Willis all still lie at Gallipoli and each has a story in this Note.