



OUR FALLEN

PENRITH CITY COUNCIL

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1915 OUR FALLEN

These men have been remembered in the Penrith/St Marys districts. Most of these soldiers were killed in action at Gallipoli. This is our tribute to their lives and sacrifice for our freedom.



STATEMENT OF RECOGNITION OF PENRITH CITY'S ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER CULTURAL HERITAGE

Council values the unique status of Aboriginal people as the original owners and custodians of lands and waters, including the land and waters of Penrith City.

Council values the unique status of Torres Strait Islander people as the original owners and custodians of the Torres Strait Islands and surrounding waters.

We work together for a united Australia and City that respects this land of ours that values the diversity of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural heritage, and provides justice and equity for all.

Compiled by Lorraine Stacker and the staff and volunteers at Penrith City Library

Sources:

National Archives of Australia Australian War Memorial Commonwealth War Graves Commission Penrith City Library Nepean Family History Society Family members of these fallen soldiers Kim Phillips

Cover image: Private William James Robertson

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They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old: Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun and in the morning,

We will remember them

For the Fallen, by Laurence Binyon

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INTRODUCTION

This booklet has been put together by Research Services staff at Penrith City Library for the 14th Annual Makings of a City History Conference held on Saturday 14 March 2015 in the Joan Sutherland Performing Arts Centre Penrith.

This is the first installment of a project to document the fallen servicemen memorialised in the Penrith area. The men listed here fell in 1915 - either in battle or as a result of wounds, illness or disease - during the early stages of Australia's involvement in the First World War.

In coming years further installments will be produced, uncovering the lives of the servicemen of the local area who lost their lives in the various battlefields and campaigns of World War I.

The men are listed in order of the day they died.



ROBERTSON, PRIVATE WILLIAM JAMES 9 MARCH 1915 AT MENA CAMP, CAIRO (EGYPT) 3rd Battalion, AIF Service number: 173

William James Robertson was born on 24 September 1892 in Aywick, East Yell, Shetland Islands, Scotland to Laurence and Margaret Robertson. He was a seaman in the merchant service before arriving in NSW sometime after 1911. He moved to the St Marys district and at the time of his enlistment he was employed in Martin Brell's tannery. He belonged to a number of clubs and associations including: the St Marys Rifle Club, the Druids and the Mechanics Institute. As a tribute after the war his mother, Margaret submitted his photograph and information for Shetland's Roll of Honour, published in 1920.

Robertson enlisted on 17 August 1914 and was allocated to A Company, 3rd Battalion. He left Australia aboard A14 HMAT Euripides which left Sydney on 18 October 1914 and arriving in Egypt in early December 1914, where the troops undertook extensive training in preparation for the Gallipoli campaign. Robertson was hospitalised in March 1915 and died of bronchial pneumonia on 9 March 1915.

- Cairo War Memorial Cemetery, Egypt
- Roll of Honor, Victoria Park, St Marys
- Roll of Honor, Shetland Islands



PYE, PRIVATE HAROLD HUME 27 APRIL 1915 AT SHRAPNEL GULLY, GALLIPOLI (TURKEY) 2nd Battalion AIF Service number: 666

Harold Hume Pye was born in Williamstown Victoria in 1891, the son of chemist and dentist William Henry Pye and his wife, Ada. The family moved to NSW and by 1901 William Pye had established his pharmacy and dental surgery at St Marys. Their children completed their education at St Marys Public School. Harold was also a dentist.

With the encouragement of his father, Harold Pye enlisted on 18 October 1914 and was allocated to D Company, 2nd Battalion. Pye embarked on A23 HMAT Suffolk on 18 October 1914 and arrived in Egypt on 8 December 1914. Pye underwent training in Egypt before embarking as part of the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force on the Derflinger on 5 April 1915. The battalion took part in the Gallipoli landing on 25 April 1915 as part of the second and third waves. Pye was killed in action on 27 April 1915 and was buried in the Shrapnel Gully Cemetery on the Gallipoli peninsula. There was a delay with notification and his the family were not officially notified until late July 1915. Barely a month later they would be notified of the death of their other son, Reginald, during the Battle for Lone Pine. William Pye served as Captain in the Dental Corps until 1917.

- Shrapnel Valley Cemetery, Gallipoli Turkey
- Honor Roll, Memory Park Penrith
- Honor Roll St Stephen's Church, Penrith



JACKSON, LANCE CORPORAL KENNETH HALSTEAD

28 APRIL 1915 AT GALLIPOLI (TURKEY) 3rd Battalion, AIF Service number: 141

Kenneth Halstead Jackson was born on 21 November 1887 at Bondi, NSW, the son of Frederick William and Jessie Elizabeth (nee Ferguson) Jackson and completed his schooling at Newington College. Prior to enlisting, Jackson worked as a clerk. His brother, Eric enlisted on the same day and served in the same battalion. Eric was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal during the Lone Pine campaign and on discharge in December 1918, held the rank of Lieutenant.

Jackson enlisted on 17 August 1914 along with his brother and was allocated to G Company 3rd Battalion. After a brief period of training, the battalion left Sydney aboard A14 HMAT Euripides on 18 October 1914. After stopping briefly in Albany, Western Australia, the battalion proceeded to Egypt, arriving on 2 December 1915. On 5 April 1915 Jackson embarked aboard the SS Derflinger bound for the Gallipoli peninsula. The battalion took part in the ANZAC landing on 25 April 1915 as part of the second and third waves. Jackson was killed on 28 April 1915. After the war, Jackson's mother requested that the following words be placed in the Lone Pine register "To live in hearts we leave behind is not to die" but was informed that the printed copy had already been prepared for publication. The inscription could not be included as a personal epitaph on the Lone Pine Memorial due to the large number of names listed on the memorial.

Memorial Details:

- Lone Pine Cemetery, Gallipoli Turkey
- Roll of Honor, Llandilo Public School
- Roll of Honor, Victoria Park St Marys



SHADLOW, PRIVATE STEPHEN 29 APRIL 1915 AT GALLIPOLI (TURKEY) C Company, Wellington Infantry Battalion Service number: 10/528

Stephen Shadlow was born on 12 December 1890 at St Marys, the son of Henry William and Frances Shadlow. After leaving school, Shadlow spent time in England and served with the North Lancashire Regiment for 18 months. At the outbreak of World War 1, Shadlow was working in New Zealand as a bricklayer for Haddock and Hassel at Marton.

Shadlow enlisted on 19 August 1914 at Wanganui and was appointed to C Company, Wellington Infantry Battalion. On 15 October, he left New Zealand with the New Zealand Expeditionary Force on Transport No 3 and arrived in Egypt on 4 December 1914. On 9 April 1915, New Zealand troops left on transports for Mudros, the main staging area for activities on the Gallipoli peninsula. On 25 April 1915, New Zealand forces landed alongside the Australian forces at Gallipoli. The Wellington Infantry including Shadlow landed on the first night. On 29 April 1915, during heavy shelling along the Anzac line, Shadlow was killed.

- Lone Pine Memorial Cemetery, Gallipoli, Turkey
- Roll of Honor, Colyton Primary School



HOWLETT, SAPPER CECIL WILLIAM ROBERT

2 MAY 1915 AT GALLIPOLI (TURKEY) Australian Engineers, 1st Field Company Service number: 60

Cecil Howlett was born at Luddenham in 1893 to Robert and Mary Howlett of Luddenham. After he left school he worked as a surveyor's assistant. He was a member of the Luddenham Squadron of Light Horse at the time of his enlistment. Howlett was also a member of the Luddenham Agricultural Show Society.

Howlett enlisted at Epping on 19 August 1914 with his brother Stanley when he was just 20 years old. Before their departure volunteers of the area were presented with a gold ring each as a token of respect and esteem from the residents of Luddenham. Howlett embarked from Sydney on the HMAT A19 Afric on 18 October 1914. Howlett had joined the 1st Field Company Engineers, which was raised in August 1914 in New South Wales and Queensland. After training in Egypt, his unit was among the first to land at Gallipoli on 25 April 1915. The company worked on trench consolidation during the first few day's fighting. Howlett was killed in action on 2 May 1915. By 1918 his parents had moved to Epping and they remembered their son on the Epping War Memorial.

- Shrapnel Valley Cemetery, Gallipoli, Turkey
- Roll of Honor, Penrith Presbyterian Church
- Epping War Memorial



DOUGLAS, CAPTAIN WILLIAM BOWMAN 5 MAY 1915 AT GALLIPOLI (TURKEY) 3rd Battalion, AIF Service number: Unknown

William Bowman Douglas was born on 17 September 1881. He undertook his schooling at Richmond Public school before completed a Diploma at Hawkesbury Agricultural College. On 21 May 1905, Douglas joined the Third Regiment as a second lieutenant and was promoted to first lieutenant on 19th May 1908 and captain of the 41st Infantry on 1 July 1912.

On 3 September 1914, Douglas joined the AIF and was appointed a Captain with A Company, 3rd Battalion. He sailed to Egypt on 20 October 1914, aboard A14 HMAT Euripides and undertook training in Egypt before taking part in the Gallipoli landing in April. On 3 May 1915 Douglas received a gunshot wound to the lower abdomen and was evacuated to the hospital ship HMS Gascon and died two days later. He was buried at sea.

On 11 May 1915, his death was wired to his wife, Ethel. A memorial service was held and then on 19 May 1915, Ethel received a one word telegram from her husband in Cairo - "Well". Colonel Guest from Richmond undertook investigations for Ethel and received confirmation that Captain William Bowman Douglas had died as a result of gunshot wounds sustained on 3 May 1915.

- Lone Pine Memorial Cemetery, Gallipoli, Turkey
- St Andrew's Uniting Church, Richmond



SYME, PRIVATE JOHN WILLIAM 5 MAY 1915 AT GALLIPOLI (TURKEY) 4th Battalion, AIF Service number: 279

John William Syme was born at Waregah Island, North Arm, Clarence River on 27 December 1891, the son of Duncan McInnes and Margaret Syme (nee Postlethwaite). Syme completed his education at the Holdsworthy Public School near Liverpool NSW. On 25 April 1912, Syme was employed by the NSW Railways as a cleaner and later a fireman at the Penrith Depot. Before enlisting in the AIF in August 1914, Syme had been a member of the Lithgow District Volunteers and the Penrith Rifle Club.

Syme enlisted on 18 August 1914 and was allocated to A Company, 4th Battalion AIF. He left Sydney on 20 October 1914 aboard A14 HMAT Euripides bound for the Middle East. Syme underwent training in Egypt before embarking as part of the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force on the Lake Michigan on 5 April 1915. The 4th Battalion, a reserve battalion, did not land at the northern end of Bolton's Ridge on the Gallipoli peninsula until almost dusk on 25 April 1915. They quickly entrenched along the summit a little south of the 400 Plateau and the following day briefly held the Lone Pine position before being forced to retreat and dig in to defend the beachhead. Syme was killed in action on 5 May 1915 and was buried in Shrapnel Gully, the deep valley between Anzac Cove and Monash Valley which served as the main artery for all traffic to the frontline. Two brothers, Duncan Leslie Syme and Peter McInnes Syme were also killed during the war.

Memorial Details:

- Lone Pine Memorial Cemetery, Gallipoli Turkey
- Honor Roll, Memory Park, Penrith



FOWLER, TROOPER LIONEL RUPERT 12 MAY 1915 AT GALLIPOLI (TURKEY) 1st Australian Light Horse Service number: 175

Lionel Rupert Fowler was born in Mulgoa in 1892, the eldest son of John and Ethel Fowler (nee Murphy). After leaving school, Fowler joined the Luddenham Squadron of the Australian Light Horse. In 1913, he married Minnie Hore, daughter of A. Hore of Ravenswood, Wallacia. Fowler was known as a good shot and was described as being a 'well-known and popular young man who participated in athletic meetings in the district and was actively involved in church activities'. At the outbreak of war, Lionel was working in the Scone district (NSW) and had transferred to the Scone Light Horse Regiment

Fowler, one of the first to volunteer for service at the front, was one of 25 troopers who were presented with a horse each by the residents of the Scone district. He left Australia on 20 October 1914 with the first contingent of Light Horse aboard the transport ship A16 Star of Victoria which disembarked in Egypt for further training. The Light Horse, initially considered unsuitable for the Gallipoli operation, was deployed on the peninsula on 12 May 1915. Before departing for the peninsula, Fowler developed appendicitis. He was admitted to the 1st General Hospital at Heliopolis and died on 12 May 1915.

- Cairo War Memorial Cemetery, Egypt
- St Andrews Anglican Church, Wallacia



MESSER, PRIVATE FREDERICK CHARLES EDDINGTON

5 MAY 1915 AT GALLIPOLI (TURKEY) 4th Battalion, AIF Service number: 275

Frederick Charles Eddington Messer was born in 1892, the son of Henry and Mary Jane (nee Costello) Messer. He was educated at Penrith Public School. After leaving school Frederick was employed for a short time in the carpentry trade, before being employed as a grocer at the Nepean Stores. Messer was also an active member of the Methodist Church and belonged to a number of organisations including: Christian Endeavour Society, Mission Band, the Loyal Order Society, the International Order of Good Templars and the Scouting movement. Prior to enlisting, Messer was a member of the 3rd Light Horse.

Messer enlisted on 18 August 1914 and was allocated to the D Company, 4th Battalion, led by Colonel A J Onslow Thompson. After undergoing training at the Randwick racecourse, Messer left Australia aboard A14 HMAT Euripides on 20 October 1914 and arrived in Egypt in December 1914. The 4th Battalion underwent training at the Mena Camp near Cairo before taking part in the landings at Gallipoli on 25 April 1915. By the second day, the 4th Battalion were positioned high on the Second Ridge.

In early May, Messer was shot by a sniper and suffered a head wound. He was evacuated to Alexandria aboard the former German passenger liner SS Lutzow. After arriving in Alexandria, he was transferred to the Dioconess Hospital and succumbed to his wounds on 14 May 1915.

Memorial Details:

- Chatby War Memorial Cemetery Egypt
- Roll of Honor, Memory Park, Penrith
- Roll of Honor, Methodist Church, Penrith



LYNE, PRIVATE VICTOR HAROLD DAVISON

24 JUNE 1915 AT GALLIPOLI (TURKEY) 4th Battalion, AIF Service number: 1284

Victor Lyne, the son of Augustus and Laura Lyne and the younger brother of Penrith stock and station agent Cecil Lyne, was born at Nyngan NSW in 1891. The Lyne family came from Tasmania. Before he enlisted he was working in the Commercial Bank at Gloucester. He enlisted at Rosehill, NSW.

Lyne was killed in action on 24 June 1915.

Memorial Details:

• Shrapnel Valley Cemetery, Gallipoli, Turkey



HAGUE, PRIVATE HENRY 17 JULY 1915 AT GALLIPOLI (TURKEY) 3rd Battalion, AIF Service number: 1340

Henry Hague was born to John and Julia Hague at Bundanoon on 22 April 1895. He was a hide and skin buyer when he enlisted on 31 August 1914.

Hague embarked from Sydney on the HMAT Euripides on 20 October 1914. His Battalion was part of the Gallipoli campaign and while there Hague fell ill with pneumonia. He was transferred to the hospital ship HS Gascon and died at sea on 17 July 1915. He was buried at sea.

At the time of his death his parents were living at Orchard Hills.

Memorial Details:

• Lone Pine Memorial Cemetery, Gallipoli, Turkey



STAFFORD, PRIVATE STANLEY OWEN 6 AUGUST 1915 AT LONE PINE, GALLIPOLI (TURKEY) 2nd Battalion, AIF Service number: 789

Stanley Owen Stafford was born on 11 February 1894 at Lithgow, the son of Thomas G and Alice (nee Owen) Stafford. He attended Penrith Public School and was employed as a machinist and car driver after leaving school. Between 1911 and 1913, Stafford served with the 19th Infantry Battalion, a local militia unit, before enlisting in the AIF.

Stafford enlisted on 22 August 1914 at Randwick and was allocated to the 2nd Battalion. He embarked on A23 HMAT Suffolk which left Sydney on 18 October 1914 and arrived in Egypt on 8 December 1914. Stafford underwent training in Egypt before embarking as part of the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force on the Derflinger in April 1915. He landed with the 2nd Battalion on 25 April 1915 and suffered gunshot wounds in the first few days of the Gallipoli campaign. His wound was serious enough to warrant evacuation to the Dongala on 8 May 1915 before re-joining his unit on 21 May 1915. Stafford was reported missing during the battle for Lone Pine and on 24 August 1915, he was confirmed as being killed in action between 6 and 9 August 1915.

- Lone Pine Cemetery, Gallipoli, Turkey
- Roll of Honor, Presbyterian Church, Penrith
- Roll of Honor, Penrith Superior Public School



PYE, ACTING SERGEANT REGINALD LESLIE

6 AUGUST 1915, LONE PINE, GALLIPOLI (TURKEY) 4th Battalion, AIF Service number: 1243

Reginald Leslie Pye was born in South Yarra Victoria in 1888, the son of dentist William Henry and Ada Pye. The family moved to NSW and by 1901 were living in St Marys where their children completed his education at St Marys Public School. Pye's brother Harold Hume was killed at Gallipoli on 27 April 1915. Pye's father William, holding the rank of Captain served as the Senior Dental Officer at the 4th Australian General Hospital Randwick until 1917.

Pye enlisted on 14 October 1914 and was allocated to H Company, 4th Battalion. He embarked on A14 HMAT Euripides on 20 October 1914 and after a brief stop in Albany Western Australia, arrived in Egypt in early December 1914. Pye underwent training in Egypt before embarking as part of the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force on the Lake Michigan on 5 April 1915. The 4th Battalion, a reserve battalion did not land at the northern end of Bolton's Ridge on the Gallipoli peninsula, until almost dusk on 25 April 1915. They quickly entrenched along the summit a little south of the 400 Plateau and the following day briefly held the Lone Pine position before being forced to retreat before digging in to defend the beachhead. On 4 May 1915, Pye was promoted to Lance Corporal before being promoted to Corporal and then acting Sergeant a week later. On 6 August 1915, Pye was killed during the Battle of Lone Pine.

Memorial Details:

- Lone Pine Cemetery, Gallipoli, Turkey
- Roll of Honor, Memory Park, Penrith
- Roll of Honor, St Marys Public School
- Roll of Honor, St Stephen's Church, Penrith



BLAYDES, SECOND LIEUTENANT ANDREW MARVELL DELME

6 AUGUST 1915 AT LONE PINE, GALLIPOLI (TURKEY) 3rd Battalion, AIF Service number: 1081

Andrew Marvell Delme Blaydes was born in 1884 the son of Harry Seymour Blaydes and Amy Constance (nee Wheatley). The family migrated to Australia around 1913. After arriving in Australia, Andrew Blaydes was employed as a bank teller and listed farming as his occupation on enlistment. Two of Andrew Blaydes' brothers also enlisted during WW1.

Blaydes enlisted on 28 August 1914 and his prior service with the Senior Cadets was the reason that he was appointed a Colour Sergeant with A Company, 3rd Battalion. He left Australia aboard A14 HMAT Euripides on 20 October 1914 and arrived in Egypt on 2 December 1914. After training in Egypt, Blaydes embarked on the Derflinger on 5 April 1915 for duty with the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force. The battalion took part in the Gallipoli landing on 25 April 1915 as part of the second and third waves. After landing at Gallipoli, Blaydes was appointed 2nd Lieutenant on 1 May 1915. From 6 - 8 August the battalion took part in Battle for Lone Pine and Blaydes was killed during the battle. He was reported as being shot in the head while standing on the parapet and fell into the trench. He died soon after and was buried at Lone Pine. Bernard Joseph Bruton from Emu Plains, also a member of the 3rd Battalion, was killed during this battle as well.

- Lone Pine Cemetery, Gallipoli, Turkey
- Roll of Honor, Memory Park, Penrith
- Roll of Honor, St Stephen's Church, Penrith



BRUTON, PRIVATE BERNARD JOSEPH 7 AUGUST 1915 AT LONE PINE, GALLIPOLI (TURKEY) 3rd Battalion, AIF Service number: 519

Bernard Joseph Bruton, the son of Frederick Greville and Mary Matilda Bruton, was born on 20 September 1895 at Waterloo NSW. He was educated at Patrician Brothers Petersham and after leaving school worked as a builder's assistant. Before enlisting Bruton was a member of the 39th Infantry at Belmore NSW. Bruton's parents lived at Belmore before becoming licensees of the Orient Hotel, Emu Plains in the early 1920s.

After enlisting on 26 August 1914 Bruton was allocated to 13 Platoon, C Company, 3rd Battalion AIF. It is likely that he left on the A14 HMAT Euripides on 20 October 1914, arriving in Egypt on 2 December. After training in Egypt, Bruton embarked on the SS Derflinger (a captured German liner) to join the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force. The 3rd Battalion took part in the Gallipoli landings on 25 April 1915 as part of the second and third waves. On 20 June 1915, Bruton was awarded one extra fatigue for refusing to obey an order while on active service and for leaving the fatigue party without permission.

In August 1915 the 3rd Battalion took part in the Lone Pine offensive. On 14 August Bruton was posted as having gone missing some time between 7-12 August. A court of enquiry was held on 5 June 1916 to determine Bruton's last known location. Sgt R D Graham, D Company 3rd Battalion stated that on 6 August 1915 he saw Bruton lying in a trench. Later on the body was removed by the Connaught Rangers and buried at Brown's Dip. He described Bruton as a fairly tall, broad shouldered fellow known as "Lardhead".

Memorial Details:

- Lone Pine Memorial Cemetery, Gallipoli, Turkey
- Emu Plains War Memorial



COTT, PRIVATE REGINALD 8 AUGUST 1915 AT GALLIPOLI (TURKEY) 15th Battalion, AIF Service number: 879

Reginald Cott was born on 2 January 1888 at Penrith, the son of James and Emily (nee Burt) Cott. Cott attended the St Marys Public School and in 1906, after the death of his mother, Cott went to live with his uncle, Henry James Plummer, at Smithtown until 1914. Cott's brother Sydney also enlisted and served with the 12th Battalion AIF and 3rd Pioneer Battalion before returning to Australia in October 1918.

Cott enlisted at Casino on 21 September 1914 and was allocated to F Company 15th Battalion AIF. On 21 December 1914, Cott was absent without leave (AWOL) from 12 noon until joining his company on A40 HMAT Ceramic. The battalion arrived in Egypt in early February 1915. Cott and his battalion left Egypt bound for Gallipoli as part of the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force on 12 April 1915. On 25 April 1915, the 15th Battalion landed at ANZAC Cove late in the afternoon. In August, the 14th and 15th Battalions were tasked with seizing the high ground between Hill 971 (the highest point of the Sari Bair Ridge) and Chanuk Bair in order to secure a drive across the peninsula to capture the forts which guarded the straits. Progress was slow due to the difficult terrain and by dawn on 7 August the brigade was well short of its objective. Cott was killed on 8 August 1915 during a failed attempt to assault the summit of Hill 971.

- Lone Pine Memorial Cemetery, Gallipoli, Turkey
- Roll of Honor, St Marys Public School



PERRAU, TROOPER ROBERT JAMES JOSEPH 8 AUGUST 1915 AT SEA, GALLIPOLI (TURKEY)

1st Australian Light Horse Regiment Service number: 355

Robert (Bert) James Joseph Perrau was born on 31 October 1893 at Annandale, the son of Robert and Alicia Bridget (nee Connell) Perrau. After leaving school, Perrau was employed as a mattress maker with Goodwin and Co, Sydney. Before enlistment, Perrau was a member of the Nepean District Light Horse Troop.

Perrau enlisted on 26 August 1914 and was allocated to the 1st Light Horse Regiment. He embarked for Egypt aboard A16 Star of Victoria (later renamed Port Melbourne). Perrau underwent several months of training after arriving in Egypt. It is not known when Perrau was sent to the Gallipoli peninsula. However, it is certain that he took part in the assault on Dead Man's Ridge, a position between the Australians on Walker's Ridge and Quinn's Post on 7 August 1915. The plan involved the 1st Australian Light Horse Regiment capturing the Turkish trenches on Dead Man's Ridge, then driving through and establishing positions overlooking the valley at the rear of the Chessboard and preventing Turkish attempts to reinforce Baby 700. Perrau was wounded during this action. He died on the hospital ship HS Delta off Gallipoli and was buried at sea on 8 August 1915.

- Lone Pine Memorial Cemetery, Gallipoli, Turkey
- Roll of Honor, Memory Park, Penrith



AITCHISON, PRIVATE ALEXANDER WALKER

22 AUGUST 1915, GALLIPOLI (TURKEY) 18th Battalion, AIF Service number: 1128

Alexander Walker Aitchison was born in 1884, the son of David Frith and Elspeth Aitchison (nee Walker). He completed his schooling at Cleveland High School. In 1909 Aitchison married Elsie Mary Langshaw and a son Donald Frith Aitchison was born on 19 July 1909. He was a member of the Rose of Annandale Lodge No 288, United Ancient Order of Druids. Prior to enlisting, Aitchison had served in the Royal Navy aboard the HMS Pioneer as a cook and had been employed as an insurance agent.

Aitchison enlisted on 19 February 1915 and was allotted to D Company 18th Battalion. The battalion left Sydney on 25 June on the HMAT A40 Ceramic in early May and trained in Egypt from mid-June until 16 August 1915, when the battalion embarked to join the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force on Gallipoli. The battalion landed at Gallipoli on 22 August 1915 and was immediately committed to the last operation of the August Offensive – the attack on Hill 60 which lasted until 29 August. The Battalion suffered a fifty percent casualty rate. On 22 August 1915, Aitchison was reported missing and believed died of his wounds shortly afterward. On 21 January 1916, a Court of Inquiry held at Tel El Kebir found that it was reasonable to suppose that he was killed in action on 22 August 1915.

Memorial Details:

• Hill 60 Cemetery, Gallipoli, Turkey.



SMITH, PRIVATE HAROLD BATHURST 'LAL' 27 AUGUST 1915 AT GALLIPOLI (TURKEY) 18th Battalion, AIF Service number: 1255

Harold Bathurst Smith, the youngest son of the Hon. Sydney Smith and Sarah Jane (nee Hockey), was born on 19 May 1895 at Blayney, NSW. His father was a member of the first Commonwealth Parliament as Freetrade Member for Macquarie (Bathurst region). Harold was educated at Penrith Public School and Cleveland St High School Sydney. Before enlisting, Harold was apprenticed as an engineer at the Clyde Engineering Company.

Harold was granted leave from the Clyde Engineering Company to join the Field Engineers. He enlisted instead with the 18th Battalion raised at Liverpool in March 1915. The battalion left Sydney on 25 June 1915 aboard A40 HMAT Ceramic and training in Egypt until mid-August. The battalion landed on 22 August 1915 on the Gallipoli peninsula and was immediately committed to the attack on Hill 60, the last operation of the August Offensive. According to a fellow soldier, Private Daly, 'Lal' Smith was wounded in the head by a bomb shortly after leaving the trench for the assault on Hill 60 on 27 August 1915. He was carried by stretcher to the dressing station and died later.

- Lone Pine Cemetery, Gallipoli, Turkey
- Roll of Honor, Memory Park, Penrith
- Roll of Honor, St Stephen's Church of England, Penrith



AUBREY, CORPORAL SYDNEY ELLIS 28 SEPTEMBER 1915 AT GALLIPOLI (TURKEY) HQ, 1 Australian Field Artillery, AIF Service number: 3

Sydney Ellis Aubrey was born on 30 November 1882 at "Hillview" Penrith, the youngest son of David Aubrey and his wife Elizabeth. He was educated at Penrith Superior Public School. Aubrey was very active in the Penrith community. He was a scout master, and expert horseman and marksman. He was a member of the Hawkesbury Half Squadron of Lancers for several years before assisting in the formation of the Penrith Half Squadron of Lancers. He joined the army before the outbreak of war and served with the Field Artillery at Victoria Barracks, Sydney.

On the outbreak of the war, he applied for active service and was appointed Corporal on 30 August 1914. He sailed for the war zone on 18 October 1914 aboard HMAT Argyllshire and disembarked in Egypt. He was sent to Gallipoli with his unit and was received a shotgun wound to the chest on 11 July 1915. After being successfully operated on for the removal of a bullet and a few weeks rest, he returned to duty. He was wounded on 28 September 1915 when a bullet struck him in the neck and penetrated his lung. He died shortly afterward and was buried in Skew Bridge Cemetery, Gallipoli.

- Skew Bridge Cemetery, Gallipoli, Turkey
- Roll of Honor, Memory Park, Penrith
- Roll of Honor, Penrith Presbyterian Church.

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