

HAROLD SAMUEL SHERWOOD (1904-07)

Date of Birth	14 January 1890
School Information	Son of Samuel Robert Sherwood (1869-71) and brother of Basil John Sherwood (1904) and Philip Steele Sherwood (K1914-16) . Victor Ludorum 1907.
Career Information	Sheep farmer in New Zealand.
Date Of Death	7 August 1915
Cause of Death	Killed in action
Location	Pope's Post, Dardanelles, Turkey
Cemetery	Quinn's Post Cemetery, Gallipoli, Turkey
Rank	Trooper
Branch of Service	Australian Light Horse, 1 st



Peter Rout (S78-83) has been in touch about a fellow OF relative of his Harold Samuel ("Hal") Sherwood who died at Gallipoli with his brother (who went to Woodbridge) on 7 August 1915 fighting with the Australian Imperial Force. They died in the same attack. He has been researching Harold and Frederick and sent the following account of their lives :

"In December of 1914, Harold and Frederick Sherwood enlisted to the 1st Australian light horse regiment of the Australian Imperial Force. These two brothers, who were originally from Suffolk, England emigrated to Australia. They were my Grandmother's Uncles. Hal and Fred were born and raised in Suffolk, they had 3 brothers and 2 sisters.

Hal was born on 14 January 1890 and went to Framlingham College from 1904-1907. Hal was known for his Sporting prowess, excelling in many sports and was awarded the Victor Ludorum Cup at the 1907 Sports Day (having won "all the long events"). At Framlingham he had served in the (military) cadets.

After leaving Framlingham College, at the age of 18, Hal emigrated to Australia (the Old Framlinghamian Society website suggests that this may possibly have been via New Zealand to work as a Station Hand. According to the Australian War Memorial records and a form completed by the brothers' father, the place in Australia with which Hal was most associated (and according to a similar form, Fred) was Townsville, Queensland in 1914.

Fred, Hal's older brother, went to Woodbridge School. According to the Australian War Memorial records, at the age of 26 Fred also emigrated to Australia (again Townsville, Queensland) presumably to join Hal, some 4 years after Hal had emigrated to Australia. Fred worked as a labourer.

In December 1914, the two enlisted to go to war. Both enlisted in Liverpool, New South Wales and were assigned to the 1st Light Horse Regiment (note that this is approx. 2000km from Townsville, Queensland).

From their army enlistment forms we learn a lot about their appearance: Fred was 5ft 6 and a half inches with brown eyes and auburn hair. He also had dentures. Hal was 5ft 8 with blue eyes and auburn hair. He had a scar on his foot.

Hal and Fred formed part of the 50 strong 3rd Reinforcements to the 1st Light Horse Regiment. One of their fellow reinforcements was 25 year old Cyril Emerson Hughes, a civil engineer, originally from Tasmania. [By coincidence, Cyril's mother's maiden name was Sherwood but no family connection has been established to date].

Cyril was the same age as Hal and also a very good sportsman. He played an important part in the development of Australian Rules Football in New South Wales. [Attempts to see if contemporaneous records exist of the Australian Football League exist to see if Hal played are unsuccessful to date]

Given the similarity in their ages and common interest in sport if Cyril was by this time not already a good pre-war friend of Hal (and, perhaps to a lesser extent Fred's), it seems very possible that they would have become so. The AIF Project Records record Cyril as a "Family/military connection" of both Hal and Fred.

After training in Egypt, they embarked on the HMAT A6 clan McCorquodale and were sent to serve in the Gallipoli campaign, arriving 15 May 1915. Assigned to Pope's Hill, they almost immediately saw action when the Turks attacked on 15 May. 11 men of the regiment were killed, at least 2 being from the 3rd Reinforcements who had arrived just days earlier.

On the 7th of August 1915 both brothers died during a brave charge of 200 men of the 1st Light Horse Brigade (comprising the 1st and 2nd Light Horse Regiments). Of the 200, 148 were casualties of whom 54 died (of whom the brothers were 2).

The attack formed part of the "feint" attacks on the Turkish positions at the Nek and the Chessboard. The objective was to distract the Turkish forces whilst the British landed more troops at Suvla Bay.

The "feints" comprised of simultaneous attacks on the Nek by men of the 3rd Light Horse Brigade (supported by the Welsh Fusiliers) and by 200 men of the 1st Light Horse Brigade (comprising the 1st and 2nd Light Horse Regiments) attacking the Turkish trenches on Pope's Hill. (The attacks are the subject of the 1981 film "Gallipoli" starring Mel Gibson which focuses upon, in particular, the heroic exploits of the 3LH Brigade.)

The attacks were witnessed at the time by Capt Charles Bean, an Australian war correspondent for the Sydney Morning Herald (later Sir Charles Bean, author of the Official Australian WWI History and instrumental in the establishment of the Australian National War Memorial).

Bean's report printed in the 27 August 1915 edition of the Sydney Morning Herald included the following (after reporting upon the First Brigade (Infantry)'s attack on Lone Pine)

"Another feat which deserves never to be forgotten, though probably less will be heard of it, was the attempt of the First and Third Light Horse Brigades to capture the trenches opposite them. The attack on Lone Pine had already forced the Turks to rush two brigades of reserves to the south end of the line, and it was now necessary to prevent them moving troops from the centre. For this purpose the two Light Horse brigades were ordered to charge from the angle of our line the immensely strong position held by the Turks opposite them. The Turkish lines here consist of trench after trench for sometimes eight deep across gradually rising ground. The Third Light Horse brigade was attacking the narrow neck of the ridge, only 100 yards broad, across which trenches faced each other at 50 yards distance.

Further to the right, the First Light Horse Brigade made an equally gallant and desperate attack. The second regiment was to charge from Quinn's. The attacking party was organized in lines of 50 men. The First Light Horse Regiment issued from both flanks of its position at the head of the valley, between the two other attacks under a heavy fire. They managed to take three trenches. Eventually it became clear that if the men remained much longer all must be killed. The attacking party, therefore, was withdrawn....We retained none of the trenches attacked in this fight, but for sheer self-sacrifice and heroism, this charge of the Australian Light Horse is unsurpassed in history."

Bean included a chapter (Chapter XXI) entitled "The feints of August 7th" in his official history, concluding:

"So ended the feints of August 7th. For sheer bravery, devoted loyalty, and that self-discipline which seldom failed in Australian soldiers they stand alone in the annals of their country. Not once during all this deadly fighting did the troops display the least hesitation in performing what they believed to be their duty."

Whilst we know little of the exact circumstances of Hal's death, It appears that Fred was "missing in action" until his death was confirmed in November 2015. As a result of the consequential Red Cross enquiries at the time, we know a little more about Fred's death. According to a report from the Gezira Place Hospital, Cairo in November 1915:

"Sherwood was killed about 3.30pm on Aug 7. It was in the Turkish trenches. No bodies were recovered but informant was positive that no prisoners were taken."

It appears that the "informant" was Sgt E E Collette of "B" Squadron 1LHR {Does this suggest that Hal and Fred were in B Squadron? If so they were in the hardest hit section- "the casualties included all the officers and nearly all the men of "B" squadron..... "B" squadron had lost so heavily that a squadron from the 12th Light Horse was transferred to become the new "B" squadron until further reinforcements could be obtained from Egypt.}]

Years later, Fred and Hal were buried side by side at Quinn's Post cemetery, following temporary interment at Pope's Hill cemetery. Having died in the Turkish trenches it seems highly probable that Fred's body at least had laid unburied from his death until 1919.

The man appointed to oversee the creation of the war graves was Cyril Hughes, (subsequently Lt Colonel) of the Memorials Department. Cyril Hughes was later awarded an MBE (Military) and a CBE.

According to the AIF records, of the 50 men in the 3rd reinforcements who had sailed to Gallipoli together landing in May 1915, 11 died on 7th August 1915. Of those 11, the bodies of only 3 (namely Fred, Hal and William F Taylor) were subsequently recovered and buried in marked graves. The remaining 8 are, along with the majority of Australians killed at Gallipoli have no known graves and are commemorated by the Lone Pine Memorial at the Lone Pine Cemetery which commemorates the 3268 Australians and 456 New Zealanders who have no known graves and the 960 Australians and the 252 New Zealanders who were buried at sea of either wounds or disease following evacuation.

Whilst 11 definitely died, it is not clear how many of the remaining 3rd Reinforcements were wounded on 7th August and/or may have died of their wounds subsequently.

It is clear, however, that Hal and Fred were fortunate in that they were 2 of only 3 of the 11 definite 7th August casualties from the 3rd Reinforcements to be buried in marked graves.

Like all war dead, Hal and Fred's parents were given commemorative plaques ("dead men's pennies") together with commemorative scrolls. "

Peter goes on to say that he has been trying to track down the brothers medals which had made their way to Australia but failed. His grandmother has the scrolls but somehow an Australian major bought both plaques in about 1980 at Portobello Road market. He placed an advert in local Ipswich paper to research them. Passed to her by a friend, the Major owned a private museum on Gallipoli in Australia. However, approx. 2010 saw a brief report in a small vets association newsletter in NSW after the museum owner died, the plaques were auctioned off and the two were bought for an Australian record of AUS\$6000.

Mentioned above is the link between Hal and Cyril Hughes. Peter has since realised that Cyril is one of the central characters in the recently released Russell Crowe film "The Water Diviner".

Sadly, Peter has never been able to find any photos, family or otherwise of Hal. He sent the following document from the Australian War Memorial records, which fascinatingly makes reference to Hal winning the Victor Ludorum while at the College.

Particulars Required for the Roll of Honour of Australia in the Memorial War Museum.

1. Name (in full) of Fallen Soldier Harold Savage Sherwood

2. Unit and Number (if known) R.F. 1st L.H. Regt. 821

3. With what Town or District in Australia was he chiefly connected (after which his name ought to pass on the Memorial) —
Town (if any) Ipswich District Brisbane State Queensland

4. What was his Birthplace Hazelwood - Suffolk - England

5. Date of Death Aug 17th 1915

6. Place where Killed After Hill. Gallipoli

Particulars Required for the Nation's Histories.

1. What was his Calling Farmer

2. Age at time of Death 25

3. What was his School Framlingham College. Suffolk. England

4. What was his other Training Farmers

5. If born in Britain or abroad, at what age did he come to Australia 18 years

6. Had he ever served in any Military or Naval Force before Enlisting in the A.I.F. (Please state particulars) Father - at his school

7. Any other biographical details likely to be of interest to the Historian of the A.I.F. or of his Regiment —
*Good athlete who played.
Winner of the Victor Ludorum Cup.
Member of the Long March.
Member of the Long March.*

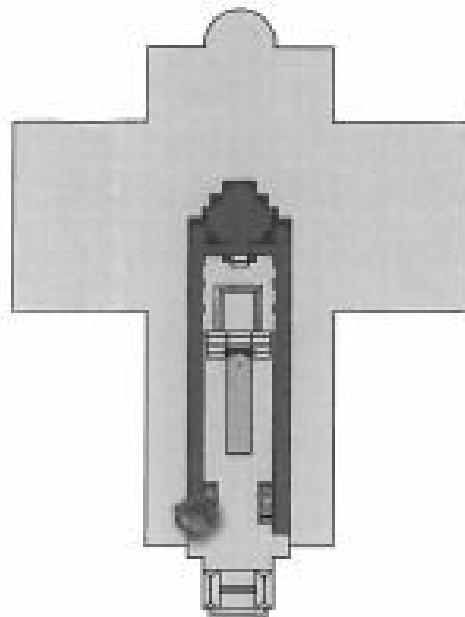
8. Was he connected with any other Member of the A.I.F. who died or who distinguished himself. (Please state Relationship) his father. Frederick who was killed same day & place. & Captain P. Hughes of the same Regt.

9. Name and Address of the Person or Organisation best able to supply information
Name R. Sherwood
Relationship to Soldier Father
Address Playford. Ipswich. England

10. Name and Address of any other person to whom reference could be made by the Historian for further information
Name Mobile H. Sherwood. Mother
Address Kelgrave. Ipswich. England

NOTE.—This Form is Addressed to the Secretary, Department of Defence, Canberra. Please fold in two, and stick down stamped envelope—class—1a.

Peter also provided information on the Australian Government plans to project the names of all the Australian WW1 casualties as a roll of honour on to the memorial building in Sydney. Details of when Hal's name will be projected are shown below.



Roll of Honour name projection

Harold Samuel Sherwood's name will be projected onto the exterior of the Hall of Memory on:

- Wed 27 May, 2015 at 1:14 am
- Wed 8 July, 2015 at 12:00 am
- Fri 21 August, 2015 at 2:30 am
- Sun 11 October, 2015 at 9:52 pm
- Sat 12 December, 2015 at 11:48 pm
- Tue 9 February, 2016 at 4:19 am
- Tue 6 April, 2016 at 3:21 am
- Sat 21 May, 2016 at 3:17 am
- Sat 2 July, 2016 at 3:26 am

These dates and times are estimates. Please note that previous advised times on this site have recently been changed to ensure that early evening projections are clearly visible and not affected by twilight. The actual time of projection could also change as a result of weather and other factors, so it is advisable to check closer to the date. In the rare event of a temporary loss of electrical power, the names scheduled for display in that period will not appear until the next time listed.