

Private Clive Wellington Were

Good Afternoon, my name is Xander Hugh Macvean, I am a serving member of the ADF and I am proud to be here today to represent another member of my family who also served, Clive Wellington Were.

Clive is my 2nd Cousin four times removed. Clive's grandfather, Hugh Macvean and my 4 times Great Grandfather, John Hugh Macvean were brothers. And although the link between us is a fair distance back on the branches of our family tree, the pride I feel for Clive is immense.

Clive is being memorialised here today in Officer, with the rededication of these scarlet oak memorial trees because this was the last community he was a part of before he was Killed In Action on the jagged ridges above ANZAC Cove on the 25th of April 1915.

Just 8 months before this, on the 17th of August, 1914 , and only 13 days after war had been declared, Clive, who was 25 years old at the time and his brother, Hugh Arundel Were, who was 21, turned up at the 51st Drill Hall at Albert Park in Melbourne and enlisted for service in the first Australian Imperial Force.

Hugh was first in line and was assigned service number 520 and Clive, who was next, 521. They remained together and were Privates in "F" Company, 5th Infantry Battalion, 2nd Brigade.

Two days after enlisting and presumably having had the opportunity to say goodbye to their parents, Anne and Francis Were and the rest of their family and friends, they assembled at Victoria Barracks and marched 11 miles to camp at Broadmeadows where they trained for the next month.

On the 21st of October 1914, the 5th Battalion marched from Broadmeadows to Port Melbourne and boarded HMAT Orvieto. It was the last in that first contingent of troopships to depart that day and received a huge farewell from the public. It travelled via Albany WA to Colombo, Ceylon, Aden and finally

arriving at the Port of Said in Egypt on the 1st of December. From there, Clive and Hugh boarded a train to Cairo and spent the next 4 months living and training in Mena Camp.

From here, Clive and Hugh were shipped out with the rest of the 2nd Brigade sometime in mid April to Mudros Bay on the Greek Island of Lemnos to begin training for the amphibious invasion of the Gallipoli Peninsula.

On the morning of the 25th of April, Clive and Hugh jumped out of their troop carrier on to the shores of a chaotic and crowded ANZAC cove as part of the second wave beginning around 6am. They encountered heavy Turkish shrapnel fire as they tried to make their way up the shore. Sometime in the next 24 hours, Clive was killed, most likely in intense fighting on Pine Ridge or while reinforcing the struggling front line on 400 Plateau, two actions the battalion was known to be engaged with.

Clive's brother Hugh survived the initially landing that day but was badly wounded a month later which ended his time in the service. He was medically discharged and returned to Australia a few months later.

Clive's body was never found but his name is memorialised on the Lone Pine Memorial at Gallipoli.

Clive's personal effects, including an identity disc, letters, a drill book, Diary and a Daily light, made their way back to Australia on HMAT Oylsses arriving on the 4th January 1916. Two months after this, Clive's father, Francis took possession of his sons effects. I can only imagine the profound grief he and his wife Anne must have felt that day.

The Community of Officers also felt that grief and came together to pay tribute to the young grazier who owned the local property named "Hillside" in a memorial service held on the 18th of July. Canon John Hart lead the service.

Moving forward 110 years, we now get the opportunity to stand in the same community and do the same thing. Remember Clive and the other 18 service members being honoured here today and their sacrifice.

On behalf of myself and my family who are here with me today, I would like to pass on our deepest of thanks to Geoff Griffith and his team for organising today's proceedings.