

YOUR VIRTUAL VISIT - 45

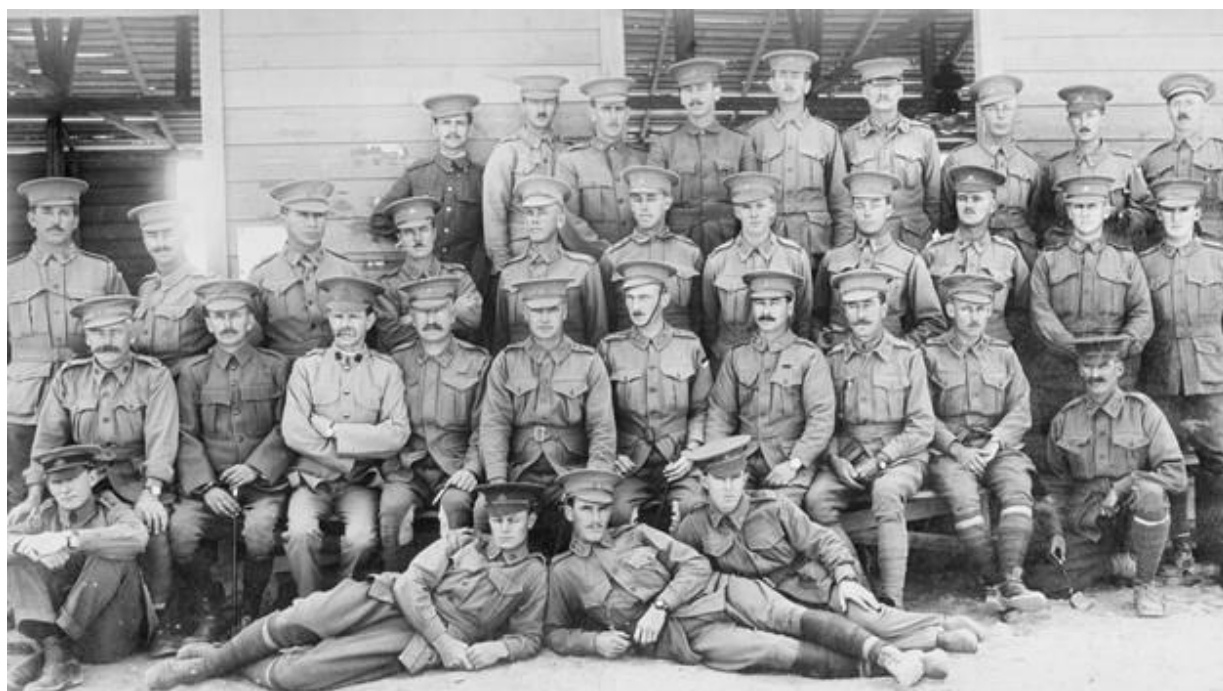
TO THE AUSTRALIAN ARMY MUSEUM OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA



Throughout 2021, the Virtual Visit series will be continuing to present interesting features from the collection and their background stories.

*Since 7 February, the Australian Army Museum of Western Australia has been open four days per week, Wednesday through Friday plus **Sunday**. Current COVID19 protocols including contact tracing apply.*

The Price of Command



Group Portrait of the Officers of the 16th Battalion prior to Gallipoli.

Identified, left to right, Back row: unidentified interpreter; **Captain Harold Alfred Southern**, killed in action on 2 May 1915; **Lieutenant (Lt) William Buchanan Kerr**, killed in action on 2 May 1915; **Captain Leslie Duncan Heming**, killed in action on 8 August 1915; Lieutenant John Kingsley Langsford; Lieutenant William Ernest Elston; **Lieutenant Harry James Burton**, killed in action on 2 May 1915; Lieutenant Edwin Theodore Knight; possibly **Lieutenant Gordon Levason Curlewis**, killed in action 9 May 1915.

Middle row: Lieutenant Alexander Peter Imlay; Lieutenant Robert Balmain Blyth; Captain Eliazar Lazar Margolin; **Captain Samuel Edward Townshend**, killed in action on 9 May 1915; Lieutenant Ross Harwood; Wilton (no further information); **Lieutenant Arthur Edward Carse**, died of wounds on 2 May 1915; **Captain Francis George Chabrel** (killed in action on 7 August 1915); **Lieutenant Ernest Otto Alfred Bruns**, killed in action on 2 May 1915; Lieutenant Frank Barnes Gladman; **Lieutenant Arthur Henry Torres Mountain**, killed in action on 27 April 1915.

Front row: **Major Francis Bird Carter**, killed in action on 27 April 1915; Major Edgar Kendall Baker; Chaplain Colonel George Willis Kendrew; Lieutenant Colonel Leslie Edward Tilney; Lieutenant Colonel Harrold Pope; Captain (Adjutant) Ronald Tracy Alexander McDonald; Hon Lieutenant Thomas Gorman (Quartermaster); Major William Owen Mansbridge; **Captain James Miller**, killed in action on 2 May 1915; **Lieutenant Edmund Herman Kretchmar**, killed in action on 6 May 1915.

Lying in front: **Lieutenant Norman Henry Durston**, died of wounds on 9 May 1915; **Lieutenant Cyril Arthur Geddes**, killed in action on 2 May 1915; **Lieutenant Kieran Leopold Anderson**, killed in action on 2 May 1915.

16 Battalion landed at Gallipoli as part of 4 Brigade under John Monash as the Anzac Division reserve late in the day on 25 April. From then until 10 May 1915, the Battalion was involved in the fierce and confused fighting to secure and expand the small lodgement secured by the initial landings and to repel Turkish counter attacks. In this intense fighting, half of the officers depicted in the preceding photograph were killed.

It is worth noting that during the remainder of the Gallipoli campaign and indeed during the rest of the war, none of the other officers in the photo were killed. Three were returned as medically unfit as a result of service and two were captured by the Turks but all of the original battalion officers, who survived the first two weeks at Gallipoli, survived the war. This in the context of subsequent significant acts by officers of personal bravery and leadership including the Distinguished Service Order and Bar.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

ART02436

16 Battalion Roll Call, Gallipoli, 10 May 1915 By Ellis Silas

Roll call was always the most heart-breaking incident. Name after name would be called, the reply a deep silence, which would be felt despite the noise of the incessant crackling of rifles and screaming of shrapnel. This was taken the morning after the charge on Sunday night, May 9.

We, the 16th Battalion, were supposed to be resting, and were only to reinforce if the necessity arose. Unfortunately, through some error, we were sent into the firing line. At dawn, the following morning, there were few of us left to answer our names when the roll was called- just a thin line of weary, ashen-faced men. The bodies on the right we were unable to bury for some days, as we were so hard pressed by the Turks.

[Ellis Silas, Anzac, May 1915]

As a signaller, Ellis Silas landed on Gallipoli with 16th Battalion. The Battalion found itself committed to constant, desperate fighting. In those first weeks the battalion was reduced to two companies. Ellis Silas was moved to paint this picture by his recollections as a survivor of that melancholy muster, which followed the withdrawal of his company from the line.

The Curlewis family was well-represented at the Battle of the Landing when four brothers landed on 25 April 1915. Two of them died during the early battles. Another died from wounds received during the August Offensive. Only one brother returned to Australia as a Gallipoli veteran in November 1915.



Selwyn Curlewis



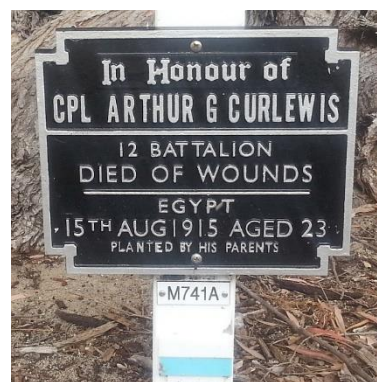
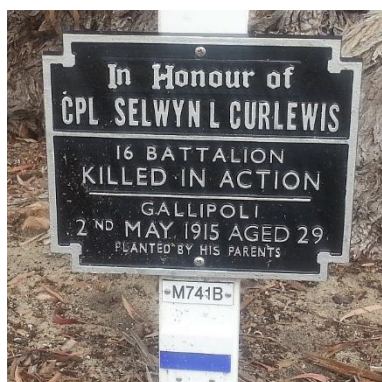
Gordon Curlewis



Arthur Curlewis



George Curlewis



Selwyn Curlewis was killed at Quinn's Post on the night of 2 May. With no known grave, he is commemorated on the Lone Pine Memorial. Gordon Curlewis was killed at Quinn's Post a week after Selwyn, on 9 May. He was buried in the field, then reburied at Beach Cemetery, Anzac; in August 1915. Arthur Curlewis was seriously wounded at Lone Pine and evacuated from Gallipoli. He died in Egypt on 15 August 1915 and was buried in the Alexandria (Chatby) Cemetery. George Curlewis was reported ill on 28 August 1915 and evacuated from Gallipoli. After recovery time in Egypt and England, he returned to Australia in November 1915. The four Curlewis brothers are commemorated on the honour board at the Brookton Memorial Hall.

Trees were also planted in the Kings Park Honour Avenue in memory of the three who died in service.

LINKS FOR FURTHER EXPLORATION AND DISCOVERY

Visit the Australian Army Museum of Western Australia web site

<https://armymuseumwa.com.au/>

<https://anzacportal.dva.gov.au/wars-and-missions/ww1/where-australians-served/gallipoli/landing-anzac-cove/curlewis-brothers>

<https://monumentaaustralia.org.au/themes/culture/display/60962-16th-battalion%2C-1st-a.i.f.>

http://www.diggerhistory.info/pages-conflicts-periods/ww1/1aif/4div/04bde/16th_battalion_aif.htm

<https://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/silas-ellis-luciano-8426>

<https://anzacportal.dva.gov.au/wars-and-missions/ww1/where-australians-served/gallipoli/landing-anzac-cove/ellis-silas-diary-extracts>

<https://www.abebooks.com/CRUSADING-ANZAC-anno-Domini-1915-Silas/30365515904/bd>

<https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/C1244478>

<https://www.theislanderonline.com.au/story/2953599/private-suffers-from-conditions-on-gallipoli-peninsula/>

<https://www.ww1cemeteries.com/quinns-post-cemetery-roh-h-z.html>

PHOTOGRAPHS FROM THE MUSEUM COLLECTION



(R-L) Captain P Flaschi, AAMC, Major TW Glasgow, 2nd Light Horse Regiment and Major H Pope, 16 Battalion

