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The Granville Guardian

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The next general meeting of the Granville Historical Society will be held at 2.00pm on Saturday 22nd August 2015

At our Research Centre
62 Railway Parade Granville

Guest Speaker
Mr John Oakes
“The St James Tunnels”

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Granville Historical Society

“A Place where heritage & culture are valued & celebrated.”

This month is our AGM, normally held in July, but we cancelled our July meeting. This is covered by our constitution saying that it needed to be held up to six months after our financial year. Notice of the AGM went out in our June Guardian. We would like to extend apologies to the members who turned up expecting us to be open.

Research is still continuing on WW1 soldiers for Granville and Parramatta. This is a fairly slow process (Parramatta) due to the nature of the work that was undertaken, but the amount of information found is very interesting; the social history of Parramatta links people, places, buildings, jobs and family. It is amazing what information is in people's homes that would not have seen the light of day. We would like to take the time to thank the descendants of our soldiers for their cooperation with our project. The hardest thing to source is photos of the soldiers themselves.

We have been working with two Granville schools, Holy Family Catholic (with the history of Granville), and Delaney College (with World War 1). We have helped them with resources, and also have given them useful links to sites. Members have been beavering away as usual, despite family issues and illness.

Nominations for office-bearers for the next 12 months have been received by the secretary - Barry Bullivant President, Sec/Treasurer June Bullivant, Committee Stephanie Humphreys, Colin Humphreys, Roy Burton, Arthur Naylor and Sue Russell.

We have been successful with Parramatta City Council grants that are enabling research to be done on very worthwhile projects. It is amazing how small our world is - the Who's Who of Parramatta and their families are being unearthed in this mammoth task. And of course all the

students at both schools are aware that PCC has made this work available.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the outgoing committee for their hard work again this year, and for answering the many queries that arrive across our desk each week. They are many and varied, but we are usually able to help them all.

Barry Bullivant OAM – President

GALLIPOLI CENTENARY

One hundred years ago this Friday, Anzac troops together with British and Indian units attacked Hill 60 in the final operation in the August Offensive on the Gallipoli peninsula.

Thirty-three Granville soldiers died in the Gallipoli campaign, and at this time we pay tribute to the 13 Granville men who perished during the August offensive:

Private Stanley Stafford, 22, son of Thomas and Margaret Stafford of Alice Street Granville

Private John Anderson, 20, son of George Anderson of Sydney Road Clyde

Private John Alan Ramsbottom, 25, of East Street Granville

Private Walter Armitage, 29, of William Street Granville

Private Ernest Thomas Lakey, 19, son of Thomas and Annie Lakey of Trongate Street Granville

Corporal John McDonald, 36, of William Street Granville

Private William Ridge, 29, of Clyde

Private Fergus Forbes, 19, son of William and Eva Forbes of Rydalmere

Private David Thomas Harbottle, 27, of Albert Street Granville, son of Robert and Sarah Harbottle

Private Reginald Charles Gordon, 23, son of Samuel and Catherine Gordon of Redfern

Lance Corporal David Shiells, son of James and Bridget Shiells of Martin Street Lidcombe

Private Bertie Clyde Willick, 26, son of George and Rebecca Willick of Clyde

Private Vincent Erle Brinkman, 23, of Calliope Street Guildford.

The August Offensive, launched on 7 August 1915, was the last major attempt by Allied forces at Gallipoli to break a stalemate that had existed since the landings on 25 April. It began with the Battle of Lone Pine. This had been planned as a diversion from the main operation, to deceive the Turks about the direction of the main attack, in which New Zealand infantry would try to break out from the Anzac perimeter at Chunuk Bair. The plan also called for the capture by an Australian force of Hill 971, the highest point of the Sari Bair range, in a commanding position overlooking the surrounding country. As well, the British would land units at Suvla Bay with the objective of taking Turkish positions further inland.



Lone Pine Cemetery

The first wave of three thousand men of the Australian 1st Infantry Brigade attacked at Lone Pine on the afternoon of 6 August, and succeeded in capturing a heavily entrenched Turkish position. Then for three days, with the support of other Australian units, they defended their newly-won position from determined enemy counter-attacks and numerous small-scale hand-to-hand actions. Seven Australians were awarded the Victoria Cross for their bravery during this period, but hundreds more displayed great courage. Their objectives were achieved at a

heavy cost – more than two thousand casualties over four days. The 3rd Battalion was worst hit with more than 500 men dead or wounded. The 4th Battalion's casualties totalled 470, and the 2nd Battalion lost more than 400. The enemy's losses were even greater, amounting to almost seven thousand men.

Granville men Privates Stanley Stafford, John Anderson, John Ramsbottom, Walter Armitage, Ernest Lakey, William Ridge, Fergus Forbes, David Harbottle, Reginald Gordon, and Corporal John McDonald were killed in the Battle of Lone Pine, while Lance-Corporal David Shiells was killed at Suvla Bay on 22 August.

Vincent Brinkman, a member of the 18th Battalion, and Bertie Willick from the 17th, were killed in the assault on Hill 60, a small hill that commanded the low ground between Suvla and Anzac. They were among the fresh Australian troops of the 5th Brigade, who arrived at Gallipoli from Egypt just before the attack. The assault was hastily planned and poorly arranged. At dawn on 22 August, the 18th Battalion was ordered to join the attack, in support of a New Zealand force that had made some ground the previous day. Although fresh, the 18th Battalion was inexperienced and ill-equipped. Attacking only with the bayonet, the battalion suffered heavy casualties; half its strength of 750 men were killed or wounded within a few hours.

The attempt to seize Hill 60 resumed on 27 August with intensive fighting that continued for three days. Eleven hundred Australians were killed or wounded, including a further 250 in the 18th Battalion, before the costly attacks were called off on 29 August. By this time, the 18th Battalion was reduced to one third of its original strength.

Several smaller diversionary attacks on the morning of 7 August also resulted in significant losses. The most costly was the dawn charge by the 8th Light Horse Regiment from Victoria and the 10th from Western Australia on Turkish trenches at a narrow ridge known as The Nek. [The Light Horse fought at Gallipoli as ground troops without their horses because of the rugged terrain]

The attack would consist of two waves of 150 men from each regiment advancing on an 80 metre front two minutes apart. The charge was preceded by a bombardment of the Turkish positions by an off-shore Navy destroyer. However most of the shells fell short of their target and the bombardment finished seven minutes early. Instead of attacking straight away, the light horsemen waited until the appointed time for the attack. This gave the enemy time to move back into their positions after taking shelter from the barrage.

The opening charge by the Victorians was cut down by a hail of rifle and machine gun bullets. When the second wave was also quickly mowed down, the officer in charge was urged to call off the attack, but ruled out any cancellation. The next wave, by the West Australian light horsemen, fared no better than the first two, and a cancellation was again suggested. But before a decision was made, part of the fourth line went ahead with the charge, followed by the rest of the line. By this time the ridge was covered with dead and wounded Australian soldiers. Nearly 300 men died and 138 were wounded.

The main operation, the Battle for Chunuk Bair, was fought over three days from 7 August by Anzac, British, Indian and Gurkha forces. The New Zealanders were able to advance only 100 metres on their front before the attack stalled. Constant Turkish artillery and rifle fire caused 300 casualties and forced the attackers to dig in for the rest of the day. A New Zealand battalion captured the summit of Chunuk Bair from a small number of Turkish defenders at dawn on 8 August, and fought off numerous enemy counter-attacks for two days.

The British, after landing at Suvla Bay to establish a base to sustain the Anzac position through the coming winter, had planned to assist the main effort, but the Turks inflicted heavy losses, and they were unable to take the heights above Suvla. The Australian 14th, 15th and 16th Battalions also failed to achieve their objective. Given the task of capturing Hill 971, they got lost on their night march at the start of the operation and, as dawn broke, found their hastily-dug positions were exposed to Turkish fire. Then they were caught by enemy machine guns as they advanced up an exposed slope. The 15th Battalion, which had set out with almost 850 men, was reduced to just 210 at the end of August.

The New Zealanders, supported by a British force, held on at Chunuk Bair throughout 9 August as reinforcements in the valleys below struggled to reach them. The next day, however, Lieutenant-Colonel Mustafa Kemal, who had taken command of the Turkish forces, inspired his men to make an all-out effort to drive their enemies from the summit. At a given signal from Kemal, the Turks charged the British occupying the New Zealand trenches and swept down from the ridge. The counter-attack eventually stalled, but his troops had regained the summit of Chunuk Bair and brought the August Offensive to an end.

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