

Samuel Wilfred Thompson was born on 13th October 1895 at 31 Milsons St, North Sydney. He was a junior Porter on the Railway when he enlisted in the army on the 21st August 1914, and was attached to the 1st Battalion A.I.F. D. Coy No 439.



On the 18th October 1914 Samuel embarked from Sydney on board the Transport A 19 'Afric' for active service abroad, with others from the 1st Battalion, then on the 5th April 1915 he embarked from England to join the Gallipoli Campaign, landing at Anzac on 25th April. On 5th June 1915 he was wounded while fighting at Gallipoli, sustaining a bomb wound to the left thigh, pieces of this shrapnel remained in his thigh until the day he died, he was transported back to England to recuperate. He rejoined his Unit and there were many occasions during the course of the fighting, both in Gallipoli and France, when he was either wounded or gassed and spent time back in hospital in England, it was during this period that he was mentioned in Dispatches and was awarded the Military Medal on the 27th October 1916, citation as follows;

'For general gallantry during the operations of the first week at Anzac, he performed part of the escort to the Machine Gun Section and brought up ammunition when the guns were running short under exceptionally heavy cross fire.'
Source: 'Commonwealth Gazette' No. 62 Date: 19 April 1917

Sam was also mentioned in Dispatches. He was wounded on several occasions and gassed, he spent some time, in field hospitals in Gallipoli, Malta, Ghezireh, N.Z. Staty. Hospital, Abbeville, and in England.

Extract from Service history.

5/6/1915: W.I.A. Bomb wound to left thigh, admitted to Floriana Hospital, Malta

7/7/1915: Transferred to England, admitted to 3rd London General Hospital, Wandsworth.

2/9/1915: Returning to join M.E.F.

18/8/1916: W.I.A. Gun Shot Wound, Arm & shoulder (multiple)

23/8/1916: Transferred to England, admitted to 2nd N.G. Hospital, Leeds, discharged on 21.9.16, to No. 1 Com. Depot. Granted furlough on 23.9.16 reported back on 13.10.16, placed in C. 1 transferred to No. 3 Com. Depot.

AWARDED MILITARY MEDAL

3/11/1916: Marched out to Wareham, Class C

18/3/1917: Marched in to No. 4 Com. Depot from No 1 C.D. Wareham (Offence at Wareham, A.W.L. from 20.5.1917 till 21.5.1917) Taken on strength 61st Battalion
 31/5/1917: Marched out to Drafting Depot, Perham Downs
 5/7/1917: Proceeded overseas to France.
 6/12/1917: Transferred to England: Impetigo, and old wounds.
 7/12/1917: Admitted to Fulham Military Hospital, Seborrhoea to face
 12/12/1917: Discharged, furlough and report to No. 1 Com. Depot, Sutton Veny on 26.12.12.
 3/8/1918: Proceeded overseas to France
 28/8/1918: Transferred to England, Gas (3rd occasion)
 30/8/1918: Admitted to Beaufort War Hospital, discharged 12.9.18, reported to Littlemoor Camp on 26.9.18.
 9/1/1919: granted 75 days leave with pay, report to A.H.Q London, before returning to Australia.



PRIVATE S. W. THOMPSON.

Private S. W. Thompson (severely wounded) is a son of the late Samuel Thompson, of Mosman Bay, and Mrs. Albert Williams, of Cootamundra, and grandson of the late Captain David Thompson, late of Clifton Gardens. He is only 18 years of age, and prior to enlisting was employed by the New South Wales Government Railway Department. He was with the advance party at the landing at Gallipoli, and was seven weeks in the firing line before being wounded.

Sam in front

While recuperating in England, Samuel met an English Governess named Emily Dora Gough. It is unknown where or how they met, it is possible that it was because her brother William Eric Charles Gough was a soldier and her sister's future husband (Horace Frederick Strong) was a Gunner 337th Battery, Royal Garrison Artillery
 They married on the 16th June 1917 at the Registry Office in Poole, Dorset.

Emily Dora was the Daughter of Charles and Louisa Gough nee Pitman. Charles was a Bricklayer by trade. Louisa died in childbirth, in 1898. This child was adopted out, Emily was 4 years of age, the 4 girls were cared for by their Maternal Grandmother until her death in 1906 and then went in different directions, the 2 eldest to work, and in 1911, the youngest of the girls, Victoria May was listed inmate at the Girls Orphanage at Wimbledon, while Emily Dora was listed as 'working in house' Rescue Society, at Buckhurst Hill, Essex.

A daughter to Sam & Emily was born in England (Dora) and in 1919 the family returned to Australia on the " Bremen ".

'The History of the 2/19,' he is also mentioned and there is a photo of him in the book relating to Charles Cousins titled 'Tokyo Calling' by Ivan Chapman. -- In 1990 Sam returned to Gallipoli for the 75th Anniversary of the landing on the beaches of Gallipoli, he passed away on 29th October 1990, just 6 months later aged 95 years. He was given a full military funeral.

Samuel Wilfred Thompson is buried at Leppington Lawn Cemetery.

Some History of 1st Battalion.

The 1st Battalion was the first infantry unit recruited for the AIF in New South Wales during the First World War.

The battalion was raised within a fortnight of the declaration of war in August 1914 and embarked just two months later. After a brief stop in Albany, Western Australia, the battalion proceeded to Egypt, arriving on 2 December. The battalion took part in the ANZAC landing on 25 April 1915 as part of the second and third waves, and served there until the evacuation in December. Its most notable engagement at Gallipoli was the battle of Lone Pine in August. Two members of the battalion, Captain A. J. Shout and Lieutenant L.M. Keysor were awarded Victoria Crosses for their valour at Lone Pine, Captain Shout posthumously.

After the withdrawal from Gallipoli in December 1915, the battalion returned to Egypt. In March 1916, it sailed for France and the Western Front. From then until 1918 the battalion took part in operations against the German Army, principally in the Somme Valley in France and around Ypres in Belgium. At Bullecourt in May 1917, Corporal G. J. Howell became the third member of the battalion to be awarded the Victoria Cross. The battalion participated in the battle of Amiens on 8 August 1918. This advance by British and empire troops was the greatest success in a single day on the Western Front, one that German General Erich Ludendorff described as "the black day of the German Army in this war".

The battalion continued operations until late September 1918. At 11 am on 11 November, 1918, the guns fell silent. The November armistice was followed by the peace treaty of Versailles signed on 28 June 1919. Between November 1918 and May 1919 the men of the 1st Battalion returned to Australia for demobilisation and discharge.

Contributed by:

Grand daughters Suzanne Hughes & Noelene Faulkner.