

Service Men and Women of World War One

Henry Lewis Klintworth

His background before departing for war:

Henry Lewis Klintworth is my Great, Great Uncle. He was born on the 23rd of July, 1892 in Mount Gambier, South Australia. His parents were Elizabeth Klintworth and Henry Jones; they were not married at the time of his birth and never did marry. Henry Klintworth was nicknamed 'Harry'. When Henry was five his mother married a man called George Moulden in 1897. They had six children, all of whom were much younger than Henry so they did not remember him at all. Henry was a labourer on a farm in Allendale East, South Australia. Labourers were always needed in local areas with plenty of job opportunities at local farms, at the wool wash, at the blacksmiths and the council. Henry was a valued member of the Allendale East community.



A photograph of Henry Lewis Klintworth before he went to war. He was going to the races. He was probably 19 at this stage.

His life in World War One:

Henry Lewis Klintworth's life dramatically changed when he enlisted for World War One. He went from being a farm worker in the quiet township of Allendale East, South Australia thousands of kilometres overseas to do army training.

Henry enlisted at Port McDonnell, South Australia on the 5th of April, 1916 at this stage the war was already a big issue and able men were considered cowardly if they didn't enlist, so peer pressure may have been an issue for people to enlist. He was twenty three years and eight months old when he enlisted, he was single, his regimental number was 1946, his rank was 'Private' and his unit name was 48th Battalion, 3rd Reinforcement.

From Port McDonnell he went to Adelaide to train as a soldier. Shooting was a skill that came easy to him because of his experience on the farm shooting rabbits and ducks to provide food at the table meal, so he would not have needed much training to refine his skills. From Adelaide, he boarded the "Seang Bee", a boat in Port Adelaide that took him to the Western Front.

He arrived in Plymouth, England on the 9th of August, 1916. He went to hospital on arrival for twenty days for unknown reasons. He did further training in England, and then went to France on the 20th of November, 1916. He marched with his brigade to Etapales, France on the 21st of November, 1916. Only three days later on the 24th Henry was admitted to hospital with Diphtheria, a life threatening disease which often killed many children. This was not a good start to his war life. He was in hospital for a long time and then in convalescence. He returned to his battalion on the 7th of January, 1917.

In his battalion, Henry had a good mate called Private J.C. Bull; they came over together and were in the same unit, they got along well and looked after each other. J.C. Bull's Regimental Number was 1890.

The first battle of Bullecourt was on the 11th of April, 1917. Bullecourt is a village in Northern France. In 1917 it was a village that played a vital part in the defence of the Hindenburg Line. The Hindenburg Line is where the Germans moved their army to make their front smaller and uncomplicated to protect.

The first Bullecourt Battle was to be a decoy to take some of the pressure from the French troops in another area. The idea was that the tanks would flatten

the wire and run over the trenches. In reality however, they got lost, broke down and accidentally fired at the Australian troops. This started as a trial run on the 10th of April, 1917, with the infantry lying in the snow waiting for the tanks that did not come. This plan was not improved when implemented again on the 11th of April, 1917. The Germans then expected them.

In the Bullecourt Battle a barrage wasn't used due to fear of destroying their own tanks. A barrage was a standard practice at that time involving artillery fire being fired in front of advancing infantry, causing confusion and panic at the enemy line. The 4th and 12th Divisions fought here. 3,300 men suffered casualties or died, and 1,170 Australians were taken prisoner.

Both Henry Lewis Klintworth and J.C. Bull were fighting in the first battle of Bullecourt. Unfortunately, Henry did not make it. He was hit in the head by a shell and died shortly afterwards. Henry's last battle was typical of the First World War poor organisation, mistaken ideas, and battlefield carnage.



Henry Lewis KLINTWORTH

Regimental No	1946
Religion	Roman Catholic
Occupation	Labourer
Address	Allandale East, South Australia
Marital Status	Single
Age at embarkation	23
Next of Kin	Mother, Mrs Elizabeth Moulden, Port McDonnell, South Australia
Enlistment Date	5 April 1916
Rank on Enlistment	Private
Unit Name	48th Battalion, 3rd Reinforcement
AWM Embarkation Roll No.	23/65/3
Embarkation details	Unit embarked at Adelaide per HMAT A48 'Seang Bee' on 13 July 1916
Rank(s) from Nominal Roll	Private
Unit(s) from Nominal Roll	48th Battalion
Fate	Killed in Action 11 April 1917
Place of Burial	No known grave
Commemoration Details	Villers-Bretonneux Memorial, France
Panel number, Roll of Honour, Australian War Memorial	146

Villers-Bretonneux is a village about 15 km east of Amiens. The Memorial stands on the high ground ('Hill 104') behind the Villers-Bretonneux Military Cemetery, Fouilloy, which is about 2 km north of Villers-Bretonneux on the east side of the road to Fouilloy.



This is a photograph of Henry
Lewis Klintworth in his war uniform.
This photograph was taken in 1916.

ORIGINAL STATEMENT ACH-LOH:

2307/3/3

(COPY)

Statement made by No.1890 Pte Bull J.C 48th Btn

re No.1946 Pte Klintworth H.L. 48th Btn
Reported Missing 11.4.17

On the 11th April Pte Klintworth H.L. died of Wounds alongside me in No Man's Land at Bullecourt Battale.

Dated at Southall This 21st day of August 1917.

(Sgd) Bull J.C.

Statement made and signed before me

(Sgd) M.R. Rendle.

C2704

This is a statement made by J.C. Bull to certify that he had seen Henry die.

A.I.F. 48th Bn.

H.L.

KLINTWORTH.

1946.

No. 11.4.17.

He was badly hit by a shell in the head and fell near me when I was wounded at the same time. I spoke to him but he was unconscious and died in a few minutes. It was the first day of the Bullecourt offensive (10th April) at daylight I lay in a shell hole for 6 days. I know that the killed round about me were not buried during that time. I know nothing further. We were mates, came over together and were in Co. D. His name was HARRY.

Witness:- J.O. Bull, 1690,
48th Bn.

OFF.M.

Southall.
L.P.F.
London.
6.8.17.

This is a statement made by Private J.C. Bull describing how Henry Lewis Klintworth died.

After the war:

Henry Lewis Klintworth died on the 11th of April, 1917. He has no known burial place. His body may still lie on the battlefield in France. His mother was contacted when he died, but they could never find his father.

Henry reflected the ANZAC spirit in many ways. He volunteered to fight for his country. Before he was at war, he was farming and supplying food for the war. He knew that on that snowy morning of the 11th of April, 1917 when he lay in the snow that things were poorly planned. He had a good idea that he may die fighting for his country, but he went forward and fought anyway. That takes courage.

Bibliography:

Mother's General Knowledge

National Archives of Australia

Australian War Memorial

Book: The Great War, Les Carlyon, 2006, ISBN-13: 978 14050 37617

By Evette de Jager