

Captain A.J. Shout

Alfred John Shout was born in Wellington, New Zealand on the 7th August 1881 the eldest child and only son of John Richard and Agnes Mary Shout.

A.J.Shout was educated privately in New Zealand and from there went to South Africa as a Sergeant with a Border Horse 1900-1902. He was mentioned in despatches and made Queen's sergeant, he was awarded the Queen's South Africa Medal, and the Kings South Africa Medal. He served as a Sergeant with the Cape Field Artillery until 1907. He had then met and married to Rose Alice, they had one child a daughter named Florence Agnes Maud Shout who was born at Capetown, South Africa, on June the 11th 1905.

Shout and his family moved to Australia in 1905. They settled in Port Elliot and Shout found work as a carpenter and joiner. In 1907 he joined the 29th Infantry Regiment. He obtained his commission on the 16th of June 1914 and joined the Australian Imperial Force in August. He was appointed as a 2nd Lieutenant in the 1st Battalion and then promoted to 1st Lieutenant on the 1st of February 1915 whilst in Egypt. He returned to Australia but this time went to Sydney and stayed there for couple of weeks.

The 1st Battalion was formed at Randwick Racecourse, on the 15th of August 1914. Just 2 months later on the 18th of October following delays due to the presence of German cruisers in the Pacific his battalion marched to Woolloomooloo through very heavy rain where they boarded the transport A.19. S.S. *Afric* bound for England.

They sailed without escort to Princess Royal Harbour, Albany. They would now meet up with two New Zealand brigades. This convoy would now have a total of 20,758 members of the First A.I.F. and 7,479 Horses. The day after they left, Shout and the fellow members aboard had been told that England had declared war on Turkey.

The crew aboard had thought that they were on their way to Salisbury Plain in England for training but due to the shortage of accommodation and training facilities in England it was decided to send them to Egypt.

On November the 12th they had just crossed the equator and there escort which was Colombo at the time, was relieved by H.M.A.S. Hampshire. During this first part of the voyage 329 men had been treated by the ship's hospitals. 62 of these men had the measles and 55 had influenza.

Shout and the rest of the men aboard arrived on Egyptian land on December the 8th. They then soon boarded a train for a 20km journey to Mena a village located in the shadows of the Sphinx and three Pyramids where they set up a training camp.

Promoted to Lieutenant on the 1st of February 1915, Shout soon after went into action in defence of the Suez Canal which was under attack from 80,000 Turks. The battle lasted a day and that night with the Australians taking 600 prisoners who were described by their captors as having hardly any clothes and being on the verge of starvation, so much so that many of the Australians felt sorry for them. On the 23rd of March they again went into action against the Turks and after a short battle took a further 150 prisoner.

On April the 2nd the Australians were told they would be leaving Egypt within a week, but were not told of their destination.

1st Lieutenant Shout landed with 1st Battalion in Gallipoli on the 25th of April 1915 and was immediately in the thick of some ferocious fighting against the Turks. On the 27th of April, in a conspicuous show of courage, he led a bayonet charge whilst under extremely heavy Turkish fire for which he was awarded the Military Cross, and was mentioned in dispatches for his actions between the 25th of April and the 5th of May. He was promoted to captain on the 29th of July.

Then with the position secured Shout and a Corporal left the trench, which was being continually swept with machine-gun fire, and advanced further into no-mans land, where they dug in before proceeding to snipe at the Turks. For this effort Shout would later on be awarded the Military cross.

The 1st Division suffered 366 casualties between April 25th and the 29th one being Lieutenant Shout, who was wounded when a bullet passed through his arm and entered his chest. He recovered from his wounds aboard HS Gascon before rejoining his unit on the 26th of May 1915.

After months of fighting on Gallipoli, it was decided to create a diversion for a planned British landing in Suvla Bay, part of that diversion would be an attack on the Lone Pine trenches by the 1st Infantry Brigade of the 1st Division of the AIF.

The night proceeding the charge at Lone Pine, Shout in an effort to relieve the anxiety of members of his platoon had spoken at length of the coming event, he had stated to a few men that night that, "We will make a name for Australia and ourselves tomorrow".

At midday on the 6th of August 1915 Captain Shout, issued his men with a white strip of calico to sew on the arms and back of their tunics. This was to indicate to the artillery the position of the Australian infantry during the soon to be launched Battle for Lone Pine.

At 4pm with the troops in position the Artillery commenced bombarding the Turkish trenches. The Turkish artillery quickly met the challenge and returned their fire. At 5.40pm the men of the 1st were lined up ready to go over the top. The 1st Infantry Brigade led the charge and reaching the first trench found it difficult to attack as it was covered with logs, so while some stayed and infiltrated the first trench the others were ordered on to the second trench.

The Australians took Lone Pine within the hour, then with the Turks counter attacking the Defence of Lone Pine was underway it continued for five days, casualties were high on both sides with the Australians losing 80 officers and 2,197 other ranks during that five days. While the Turkish 16th Division lost almost 7,000.

Seven Australians were to be awarded the Victoria Cross for their actions at Lone Pine. One of these medals was given to A.J. Shout for his efforts.

The 1st Battalion had relieved the 7th on the morning of the 9th of August, at a section known as Sasse's Sap. Captain Cecil Duncan Sasse (later Lieutenant Colonel) DSO and Bar, of the 4th Battalion had captured a section of the enemies trench, but when the 1st arrived the enemy had reoccupied a large area of the captured trench.

Shout and Sasse enlisted the aid of eight volunteers and following Sasse's plan of attack that had previously been successful they charged down the trench with Shout bombing and Sasse shooting,

The eight volunteers then built a barricade as each section of trench was secured, all went well and Shout who was reportedly enjoying the fight was preparing for the final dash of the day to capture just one more section of the trench.

Lighting three bombs he set off down the trench and had hurled two before the third went off prematurely blowing off his hand and severely injuring his face and body. Shout continued to direct this attack, then murmured "Good old 1st Brigade, well done!" before he lost consciousness through loss of blood. He died from his wounds at sea onboard HMHS Neuralia on the 11th of August 1915 only a few hours away from serious medical help.

This is the story of Captain A.J.Shout, the footsteps he took, the measures he went to ensure victory and the sacrifices he made for his country.

By Clinton Taylor

Word Count: 1259 words.

What does the ANZAC spirit mean to me?

On ANZAC day people think about many things that have something to do with war and peacekeeping. The ANZAC Spirit can mean different things to different people. Many of us have heard the story of the Australian and New Zealand service men and women landing on the wrong beach and having to climb the steep cliffs and gullies behind them. As a result of this event, the ANZACs fought bravely on the Gallipoli Peninsula from April to December 1915. However, they hardly moved more than a few kilometres inland and the casualties were very high, though not as high as in France.

Some people think about stories such as Simpson and his donkey (Duffy), that are often told at ceremonies on ANZAC day. Others think about the nine Australians who won the Victoria Cross at Gallipoli. These are stories of brave deeds by very brave people. But ANZAC day is about more than this to me. It is a time to remember all the men and women who served at Gallipoli and to think about the extraordinary things these people did just to survive those dreadful living and fighting conditions. When there is fighting going on all around you, or it is likely that fighting could start again any minute, there is a heavy mental pressure on you. Then there are moments when friends and mates are lost or wounded. There is also the fact that these people survived in makeshift living conditions - in trenches and shelters dug into the sides of hills without the living conditions we take for granted.

The word ANZAC to me is not merely about loss. It is about courage, endurance, duty, love of one's country, mateship, humour and the survival of a sense of self worth and decency in the face of dreadful odds. These were qualities and values the soldiers had discovered in themselves in what was to be a terrible war. They were tested here and for this I will pay much respect to the ANZACs and what they had achieved at Gallipoli.

All in all the word ANZAC to me means, many hours of hard labour, fierce battles which would mess with your mind and body, endless destruction and death around you and also the courage to fight for our country. As you know ANZAC mean Australian New Zealand Army Core, and this name world wide is recognised for its efforts at Gallipoli and knowing that the odds were against these people they still fought on as if they had the upper hand the whole battle.

After my recent research, I will now go to every ANZAC day memorial I can to pay my respect to the fellow ANZACs who died for our country. I believe that the ANZACs were the most courageous, loyal and against the odds they showed immaculate ways of getting over it and going down in history as one of the greatest battle of all time.

Bibliography

1. <http://www.awm.gov.au/roh/person.asp?p=145-50314>

Date accessed 20/09/08, Author: Australian War Memorial,

Year of Publication: 1997-2008,

2. <http://www.anzacs.org/pages/AOshout.html>

Date accessed 18/09/08, Author: Fred Skipworth

Year of Publication: 2004

3. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alfred_John_Shout

Date accessed 22/09/08, Author: Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Last modified: 16 September 2008, at 12:21