

HUGH GEORGE ADAMS

SERN: 702

ENLISTED: NOVEMBER 25, 1914

GALLIPOLI VETERAN



JORDAN HEFFERAN

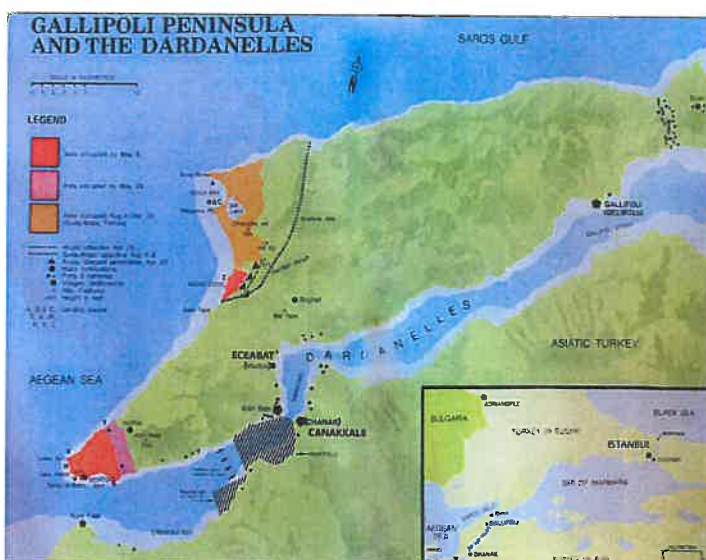
REYNELLA EAST COLLEGE

HUGH ADAMS BEFORE THE WAR

Hugh George Adams was born on September 24, 1895, in Gawler, South Australia, to Lizzie (nee Schofield) and William Kearce Adams. He had four siblings, an older brother, William (born May 1, 1894) and three younger sisters, Lillian, Annie, and Clara. Hugh was educated at Broken Hill and Adelaide Public Schools, and he spent 2½ years in the Broken Hill Senior Cadets with his brother before enlisting on November 25, 1914. Hugh was especially close to his brother and often mimicked William in order to stay close to him. They only grew distant in their late teens, when Hugh moved back to Adelaide to live with his parents and William stayed in Broken Hill. Before signing up, Hugh worked as a clerk, and lived in Honey Street, Woodville North¹. At that time he was unmarried.

THE GALLIPOLI CAMPAIGN AND AUSTRALIA'S INVOLVEMENT

The Gallipoli Campaign was a planned attack on the Gallipoli Peninsula by the Allies. The aim was to seize the Gallipoli Peninsula, thus gaining control of the Dardanelles Waterway. This would enable the Allies to invade the capital of Turkey (one of Germany's allies), Constantinople. Controlling the Dardanelles Waterway would also enable the Allies to transport supplies to Russia. 60,000 Australian troops and 18,000 New Zealand troops², who were training in Egypt, were called upon to participate. Alongside them, were the British and the French Army Corps.



Map of Gallipoli Peninsula
(Landing locations highlighted in red).

In the previous month, there had been a failed naval attack by French and British forces to take hold of the Dardanelles, and this failure prompted the decision to make a land attack. On April 25, 1915, the ANZAC's landed on Anzac Cove, with their British and French allies landing at Cape Helles, about 32 kilometres apart. The terrain at ANZAC Cove consisted of steep high cliffs covered by Turkish snipers and machine guns.³

With uneven terrain and nowhere to take cover, troops scattered, making the job even easier for the Turkish. After the first day, 620 being Australians had been killed⁴, this conflicts with Stanley who

¹ See Appendix 4

² http://www.anzac.com/battle_of_gallipoli.html

³ See Appendix 8

⁴ <http://www.anzacsite.gov.au/1landing/first-to-fall/>

states that only 101 Australians died that day ⁵. They had only covered 900 metres. Despite this, they were told to push on.

The fighting lasted until December 20, 1915, when the last Australian troops were finally evacuated without a single loss of life; the evacuation was the most successful part of the whole campaign⁶. 11,440 ANZAC's were killed (8,709 Australian and 2,731 New Zealanders) and some 33,500 were injured⁷.

HUGH ADAMS EXPERIENCES in GALLIPOLI

Hugh George Adams enlisted in Adelaide, South Australia, on November 25, 1914, aged 19. He was given the service number 702, and was assigned to the 3rd Australian Light Horse Brigade, 9th Regiment. Hugh embarked from Melbourne, Victoria, on board the HMAT A52 *Surada*, on February 11, 1914, bound for Egypt, arriving in the second week of December, 1914. At first, the Light Horse Brigade wasn't considered suitable for the steep terrain of Gallipoli, but after the huge loss of soldiers within the first few weeks, they were deployed to Gallipoli on May 12, 1915. While Hugh was in Gallipoli, he quickly volunteered as a private in the infantry, in order to get to the front lines, and be closer to his brother, William, who was also fighting in Gallipoli, with the 7th Australian Infantry Battalion. While fighting on the front, Hugh managed to make the ambitious endeavour over to where his brother's battalion was positioned. Then he received the grim news that would hurt him more than any shrapnel, bullet or bayonet. William had survived the brilliant charge uphill, but on the third day of being in the trenches, he was shot and killed.

Filled with grief, Hugh continued to fight on the front, and like many others, he contracted a severe case of influenza, and was sent to hospital in Malta. Once recovered, he went back to Gallipoli and returned to his Regiment.

The 3rd Light Horse Brigade continued to play a major part in Gallipoli. Hugh's regiment was fortunate to be the reserve regiment for the Brigade's futile attack on the Nek on August 7. The plan was for the 8th and 10th Light Horse Battalions to take the enemy front. The attack was a disaster, and the 3rd Light Horse Brigade lost 234 men⁸.



William Thomas Adams

1/05/1894-28/04/1915

⁵ Stanley P, 2014, *Lost Boys of Anzac* (p. 3), New South Publishing, Australia

⁶ Willmott, H.P, 2003, *Ultimate Book of World War I* (p.79), Dorling Kindersley Limited, London

⁷ <https://www.awm.gov.au/encyclopedia/gallipoli/fatalities/>

⁸ http://www.anzacsite.gov.au/2visiting/walk_12nek.html

Although Hugh's regiment didn't participate in the Battle of the Nek, they did participate in the attack of Hill 60, one of the last major battles of Gallipoli. Hill 60 was a Turkish stronghold. The first attack on Hill 60 on August 21, 1915, by 4th Infantry Brigade (Australia), the NZ Mounted Rifle Brigade and the Connaught Rangers (Ireland), was a disaster, with the soldiers being ill-equipped. A second attack the next day resulted in 1,302⁹ casualties. Another attack occurred on August 25, and used the remaining soldier's from the first day, with the 9th and 10th Light Horse Regiments offering support. At midnight, 140 members of the 9th Light Horse charged alongside trenches held by New Zealanders towards Hill 60. For an unknown reason, the charge veered to the left and ended up in the Turkish Trenches and the men were subsequently killed. Another party, including Hugh, were to capture the trench from the western end. At first they were successful, but were driven back, and Hugh and his fellow soldiers had to fight to keep the last bit of trench they had left.¹⁰ Just as they were losing strength, remaining New Zealander's and men from the 18th dragged a machine gun in to the open and engaged with the enemy. The attack faded to bombing and sniping. The 9th Light Horse Regiment continued to play a defensive role in Gallipoli until it left December 20, 1915. Aside from Gallipoli, Hugh fought in Egypt, Palestine, and Jordan. Hugh reached the rank of Corporal, and was even a Prisoner of War in 1918. He returned home August 1, 1919, on board the *Argleshire*.

HUGH'S ANZAC SPIRIT

Hugh's service shows ANZAC spirit in the ways of mateship, courage and endurance. With the service number 702, Hugh was one of the first Australian soldiers to sign up for the war, because he was ready and eager to fight with his fellow countrymen and allies. Upon arrival, Hugh had seen the mess the Landing at Gallipoli had become, but remained undeterred. Hugh must have had so much courage to volunteer for the front lines, to throw himself into the line of fire, courageously for his brother. It takes an extraordinary amount of love, mateship and loyalty to put someone else's life before yours, but to Hugh, it was something trivial. With incredible determination and after enduring weeks of sitting under a rain of fire, living in cramped trenches, eating bad food, and literally fighting for his life, Hugh managed to get to William's camp. Then: the news of William's tragic death. What surely would have made the news of William's death harder to take, was the fact that Hugh would have to tell his parents. Due to poor communication during the war, Hugh's parents were blissfully unaware of the grim reality that their son had been taken from them. Filled with grief, Hugh wrote to his parents the following week.

"God bless you, though, and cheer you up Mum: Bill died a hero fighting for his country, so be consoled with the knowledge that your first son died bravely in honour and glory to save his family and countrymen from an approaching enemy".¹¹

Hugh now had two wars to fight in: the war in his head as he struggled to come to terms with the death of his brother, and the war between the Allies and Central Powers. The brother Hugh had loved was gone forever, but despite this, Hugh never gave up; he pushed on with enormous

⁹ http://www.awm.gov.au/events/conference/gallipoli_symposium/manera/

¹⁰ https://www.awm.gov.au/units/event_100.asp

¹¹ <http://www.awm.gov.au/collection/P06879.001>

strength, driven by the anger of his brother's death, he continued to fight for his country and its people, showing an enormous amount of stoicism, despite being filled with grief.

THE GREAT WAR'S IMPACT ON THE COMMUNITY

Hugh returned to his normal life after the war. Like most ANZACs, he didn't make a fuss over things, and didn't want people to make a fuss over him. Hugh was lucky enough to return back to a loving family, who were grateful to have him back, as were many other families who had sent their ones to war. Families offered support to one another, and made connections with each other on deep levels. One connection Hugh's family made was with the Kuhndt family. The two families grew very close, and it wasn't long before Hugh grew smitten with their daughter, Ernstina Ivy Jane. They married in 1920. Although the war had taken so much happiness from Hugh, it returned eventually. Many other people of the community considered Hugh a hero, after volunteering for the front in Gallipoli, and they were proud to say that he was an ANZAC. Hugh was awarded the 1914-15 Star, which was unique considering only ANZAC Gallipoli Veterans received it, as well as the British Star and Victory Medal. Hugh and William are also listed on the new Returned and Services League Virtual War Memorial.

Hugh passed away April 16, 1969, aged 73. He had no children.

ANZAC SPIRIT

The ANZAC spirit to me is something to have with pride. The ANZACs shaped Australia, to become the country it is today. Without them, the Australian identity would be significantly different. WWI was the time Australia was given an identity, a little piece of independence from Britain the Mother Country. Even after the family members of soldiers are long gone, it's vital that we continue to remember and respect the ANZACs that fought for us, because without them, not just Australia, but the world, would be vastly different. The heroism soldiers showed has been passed down through generations and been displayed countless times in the last century. The ability to have a laugh in hard times and make light of situations became a valuable and widely known trait of Australian and New Zealand people alike. The ANZAC Spirit is the characteristic of a quiet hero, one that shows tolerance, humour, compassion, loyalty and most importantly, a fierce amount of bravery when doing something for his mates, just as Hugh showed during his service. Never have I ever been more proud to be an Australian, and to live in the country that is a part of the unity called the ANZACs. Ultimately, the ANZAC's are warriors.

ANZAC Spirit is all about being there for your mates.



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APPENDIX Hugh Adams Related Photos and More

April 1915

Dear Ho,

Hoping this reaches you in best of health and don't forget to answer this and the other notes I sent a letter here is so good, I feed and that saying a lot because we are on the old dog & bulley inclines find a photo of yourself & sent one home as I only had two I got several letters papers from home last mail. We are close to it now in less than a week things will be willing the old 10 pounds rapid

Jacobus
Bill.


1. William's last letter to Hugh before his death. It reads: 'Hoping this reaches you in best of health and don't forget to answer this and the other notes I sent...We are close to it (Gallipoli) now... Love, Brother Bill'.



2. The 9th Light Horse Regiment in the Trenches, Gallipoli.



3. Hugh, and some fellow soldiers and mates. (He stands left).

A 200222 **ITALIAN**  **MILITARY FORCES.**
AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE

Attestation Paper of Persons Enlisted for Service Abroad.

No. 705 Name A. DAVIS Aug 11 George
 Unit 2nd Reinforcement 9th Light Horse
 Joined on 25th March 1914

Questions to be put to the Person Enlisting before Attestation.

1. What is your Name?	1. <u>Hugh George Adams</u>
2. In the Parish of _____ in the County of _____ near the Town of _____	2. <u>Geelong</u> <u>South Australia</u>
3. Are you a natural born British Subject or a Naturalized British Subject? (N.B.—If the latter, papers to be shown.)	3. <u>Yes</u>
4. What is your age?	4. <u>19 3/4</u>
5. What is your trade or calling?	5. <u>Electrician</u>
6. Are you, or have you been, an Apprentice? If so, where, to whom, and for what period?	6. <u>No</u>
7. Are you married?	7. <u>No</u>
8. Who is your next of kin? (Address to be stated)	8. <u>(Mother) George Adams</u> <u>16 Grey Street, Geelong</u> <u>Victoria</u>
9. Have you ever been convicted by the Civil Power?	9. <u>No</u>
10. Have you ever been discharged from any part of His Majesty's Forces, with Ignominy, or as Incapable and Unworthy, or on account of Conviction of Felony, or of a Sentence of Penal Servitude, or have you been dishonoured with Disgrace from the Navy?	10. <u>No</u>
11. Do you now belong to, or have you ever served in, His Majesty's Army, the Marines, the Militia, the Militia Reserve, the Territorial Force, Royal Navy, or Colonial Forces? If so, state which, and if not now serving, state cause of discharge.	11. <u>24th Dec 1913 to 20th Dec 1914</u> <u>24th Dec 1914 to 20th Dec 1915</u>
12. Have you stated the whole, if any, of your previous service?	12. <u>Yes</u>
13. Have you ever been rejected as unfit for His Majesty's Service? If so, on what grounds?	13. <u>No</u>
14. (For married men and widowers with children.) Do you understand that no Requisition Allowance will be issued to you either before or after embarkation during your term of service?	14. _____

I, Hugh George Adams do solemnly declare that the above answers made by me to the above questions are true, and I am willing and lawfully voluntarily agree to serve in the Military Forces of the Commonwealth of Australia within or beyond the limits of the Commonwealth.

And I further agree to allot not less than two-fifths of the pay payable to me from time to time during my service for the support of my wife and children.

Date 25/3/14 H. G. Adams
 Signature of person enlisting.

* This form should be stored in the case of unmarried men or widowers without children under 23 years of age. Two-fifths must be allotted to the wife, and if there are children three-fifths must be allotted.

4. Hugh's enlistment forms



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RELAWM07941 017

5. The 9th Light Horse Regiment Colour Patch



6. Hugh George Adams



7. HMAT A52 *Surada*



8. The terrain of Anzac Cove



9. William's Grave, Lone Pine Cemetery, Gallipoli Peninsula, Canakkale Province, Turkey, Plot II, Row E, Grave 27.