

A Soldier of the Great War

Private James Hyde Bosanquet Battalion AIF



James Hyde (Ryde) BOSANQUET

Regimental number 997A

Religion Church of England Occupation Cane farmer

Address Childers, Queensland

Marital status Single Age at embarkation 22

Next of kin Father, Henry Thos Bosanquet, Childers, Queensland

Enlistment date 1 July 1915 Rank on enlistment Private

Unit name 11th Light Horse Regiment, 4th Reinforcement

AWM Embarkation Roll number 10/16/2

Embarkation details Unit embarked from Brisbane, Queensland, on board HMAT

A1 Hymettus on 17 September 1915

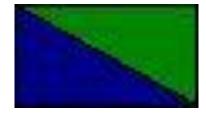
Regimental number from Nominal Roll 997
Rank from Nominal Roll Private

Unit from Nominal Roll 11th Light Horse Regiment

Fate Returned to Australia 21 November 1916

Miscellaneous details (Nominal Roll) *Ryde spelt Hyde





James Hyde Bosanquet was a 22 year old canefarmer from Childers Queensland when he enlisted in for the Great War. His Father would sign his attestation papers when he enlisted on the 1st July 1915. Upon enlistment he was to find himself in the 4th Reinforcements 11th Light Horse Brigade.

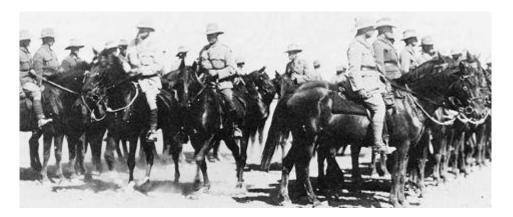
The formation of the 4th Light Horse Brigade, and the 11th Light Horse Regiment as part of it, was announced on 11 February 1915. Two squadrons of the 11th Light Horse were subsequently formed in Queensland, and a third in South Australia. The regiment was united for the first time at Fraser's Paddock Camp, outside Brisbane, on 2 May 1915. It sailed from Australia in two contingents in June 1915. The first contingent was landed at Aden on 12 July to reinforce the British garrison there against a predicted enemy attack; they re-embarked on 18 July without having seen action.

The regiment was reunited in Egypt on 23 July 1915 and began training as infantry, having been ordered to leave its horses in Australia. A month later it deployed to Gallipoli. The regiment was again split up, to reinforce three light horse regiments already ashore - A Squadron went to the 2nd Light Horse Regiment, B Squadron to the 5th, and C Squadron to the 9th. It was not reunited until 12 February 1916, by which time all of the AIF troops from Gallipoli had returned to Egypt.

When the British forces were withdrawn from Gallipoli, the 11th Light Horse Regiment was reformed in Egypt. Their first deployment was in defence of the Suez Canal in July 1916, and patrolling into the Sinai desert.

In April 1917, following the withdrawal of Ottoman forces, the regiment moved into Palestine. Its first battle as a regiment, was the unsuccessful second battle of Gaza, where they fought on foot. In October, during their next battle at Beersheba while the other two regiments in the brigade, the 4th and 12th Light Horse Regiments took part in a mounted charge, the 11th was providing flank protection and was too widely dispersed to take part. They did, however, with the 12th Light Horse carry out a charge on 7 November, during the Battle of Sheria. Faced with heavy Ottoman gunfire, the regiment had to dismount to continue the attack, but were eventually forced to withdraw.

Recruiting the Light Horse



By 1914, when Australia joined the war against Germany, there were 23 Light Horse regiments of militia volunteers. Many men from these units joined the Light Horse regiments of the Australian Imperial Force (AIF).

Initially Australia promised four regiments of Light Horse, 2000 men, to fight in the British cause. By the end of the war, 16 regiments would be in action.

The Light Horse were seen as the "national arm of Australia's defence" and young men, most from the country, flocked to join. Many brought their own horses and some even brought their dogs. It all seemed like a great adventure.

The recruits took a riding test which varied from place to place. At one camp they had to take a bareback army horse over a water jump and a sod wall. In another, they had to jump a log fence.

Recruits had to pass a very strict medical test before they were accepted.

They were then sworn in and issued with their uniforms - the normal AIF jacket, handsome cord riding breeches, and leather "puttee" laggings bound by a spiral strap. They wore the famous Australian slouch hat and a distinctive leather bandolier that carried 90 rounds of ammunition.

If a man's horse met army standards, it was bought by the Commonwealth for about £30 (\$60). Many men were given remounts - army horses bought by Commonwealth purchasing officers from graziers and breeders.

These were called "walers" because they were a New South Wales stockhorse type - strong, great-hearted animals with the strains of the thoroughbred and semi-draught to give them speed, strength and stamina.

Each horse was branded with the Government broad arrow and initials of the purchasing officer, and an army number on one hoof.

In camp, the horses were tethered by head and heel ropes between long ropes called picket lines.

In front of each horse was placed its saddle and equipment. The men slept close by in bell tents - eight men to a tent, feet to the centre like the spokes of a wheel.

At the start of each day, the lighthorsemen watered, fed and groomed their horses and cleaned the horse lines before breakfast. Then they did their training. Most were already expert horsemen and riflemen. The rest was drill and mastery of the mounted infantry fighting technique.

Each regiment lived and fought as a series of four-man "sections". When they went into action, three men would dismount to fight as infantry while the fourth man led the four horses to cover until they were needed for a further advance or withdrawal.

The effectiveness of this fighting method had been shown in the Boer War. But some of Britain's highest ranking officers opposed the technique - perhaps because other high-ranking officers supported it.

Meanwhile, the Light Horse eagerly awaited their chance to fight on the battlefields of France and Belgium - where cavalrymen were already dying in their hundreds, true to the terrible old "death or glory" tradition.

Man and Horse

Everything the Light Horse trooper needed for living and fighting had to be carried by him and his horse.

His extra clothing, food and personal possessions were in a canvas haversack carried over the shoulder. Across the other shoulder hung a one-litre water bottle. As well as the 90 rounds of ammunition in his bandolier, he carried ten rounds in the .303 ("three-oh-three") rifle slung over his shoulder and another 50 rounds in pouches on his belt, which also supported the bayonet and scabbard.

The horse was carefully fitted with the special military saddle, designed to carry a remarkable array of equipment with the least possible discomfort.

The saddle was built on a pair of felt-padded wooden "bars" which sat on either side of the horse's spine. These were joined by steel arches with a shaped leather seat laced between them. The same basic design had been used by the British army for many hundreds of years. Each century had improved it.

Now, when many experts believed that the day of the mounted soldier was past, this saddle would help men and horses achieve what had seemed impossible.

Across the front was strapped a rolled greatcoat and waterproof ground sheet. Mess tin, canvas water bucket and nosebag with a day's grain ration, were slung at the back of the saddle. There was also a heel rope, removable length of picket line and a leather case with two horseshoes and nails.

The man's blanket was sometimes carried in a roll, more ofter spread under the saddle on top of the saddle blanket or "rug". Most men added to this collection of equipment a billy and a tin or enamel plate.

Later in the war, troopers were issued with leather saddle wallets to strap at the front of the saddle. Some also received swords and leather rifle "buckets" or scabbards. Often, the horse carried an extra bandolier of ammunition around its neck, a large grain sack (called a "sandbag") strapped across the saddle wallets, and an extra nosebag slung behind.

When fully loaded, walers often carried between 130 and 150 kilos. And, in the years of war to come, they would have to carry these huge loads for long distances, in searing heat, sometimes at the gallop, sometimes without water for 60 and even 70 hours at a stretch.

In the first days of the war, even men who had owned horses since early childhood could hardly imagine the bond that would grow between man and horse as each came to depend on the other for their very lives.

To Egypt and Anzac

On 1 November, 1914, Australia's First Infantry Division and the first four Light Horse regiments sailed for England in a fleet of transport ships.

Special stalls were built for the horses below decks and the lighthorsemen worked very hard to care for their mounts and exercise them in the limited space available.

Some walers died on the voyage and all of them suffered terribly in the tropics. Each man spent much of his spare time tending his horse. This helped reduce the death rate and strengthened the relationship between them.

Plans were changed and the Australians landed in Egypt to complete their training there. They were soon joined by another two brigades - six regiments - of Light Horse.

When the Australian infantry left to take part in the invasion of Germany's ally Turkey, the lighthorsemen remained in Egypt. But soon afterwards, they too sailed for Gallipoli as infantrymen, leaving their horses behind.

A trooper wrote: "We were hoping that in a couple of weeks at the latest, once more mounted, we would canter gaily along the Gallipoli road to Constantinople (capital of Turkey). We were mostly young and optimistic! We were soon to find what a long, long road it was."

The first of the Light Horse arrived at Gallipoli in May. Anzac Cove, scene of the first infantry landing, was already a bustling little port. Hundreds of men swam in the cove, ignoring the Turkish shells that burst over them.

As the lighthorsemen clambered to their camping areas up the steep, winding ravine of Shrapnel Gully, Turkish bullets cracked high over their heads. Infantrymen, who were old hands by now, laughed when the newcomers ducked.

Very soon, they too were old hands. They quickly proved themselves to be excellent soldiers and readily adapted to the dreadful living conditions at the Anzac front.

By August, when a huge attack was launched on the Turks, there were ten regiments of Light Horse at Anzac.

The 3rd Brigade - the 8th, 9th and 10th Regiments - was to make a dawn charge across a narrow ridge called The Nek.

Plans went horribly wrong and nine tiers of Turkish trenches packed with riflemen and machinegunners waited for the Australian attack.

The first line of the 8th Light Horse charged and was shot to pieces. Most men ran only a few yards before they fell.

The second line of the 8th went over the top and they too were cut down.

The first line of the 10th Regiment went to their deaths in the same way. The second line waited for the attack to be cancelled. Then, through an error, they too charged.

In three quarters of an hour 234 lighthorsemen were dead and 138 wounded in a futile action. They had shown remarkable courage and discipline. Never again would these qualities be wasted so tragically.

Re-united with their horses in Egypt after the evacuation of Anzac, the Light Horse regiments watched the Australian infantry leave for France. They were envious. But only two regiments - the 13th Light Horse and part of the 4th - were sent to the Western Front in Europe.

The rest of the Light Horse endured further training and patrols and outpost duty. Many felt they were missing out on "the real war". But there were good reasons for keeping them there.

Egypt was of great strategic importance to England and France because of the Suez Canal linking the Red Sea with the Mediterranean. And Palestine, (present-day Israel) which had been part of Turkey's empire for hundreds of years, lay at Egypt's north-eastern border, across the Sinai Desert.

(The Australian Light Horse Association)

When James had enlisted The Anzacs had already landed at Gallipoli and the general Australian population was yet to know the horrors that had faced the young soldiers.

Upon sailing he may have stopped of briefly in Colombo before again sailing for Suez and finally ending up in Cairo.

He would have arrived in Egypt in late1915. The Anzacs were withdrawn from Gallipoli and were being reorganised in Egypt in preparation for the Western Front Campaign.

Originally camped at Mena the Australians were moved to a much larger camp at Tel-el-Kabir, 30 miles due west of the central part of the Suez Canal and a few miles east of the eastern edge of the lowlands of the Nile delta. The location was strategic not just for the encampment of a large reserve to protect the Canal, but to provide a vast training area and reservoir of troops to be provided for other theatres such as Europe. A secondary benefit was that a distance of 70 miles from Cairo it would remove the problem of indiscipline faced when the troops were based much closer at the Mena Camp, plus protected the soldiers from the known dangers of Cairo.

It appears that upon arrival in Egypt, James was to become sick and was to end up in Abbassia in the 4th Australian Auxuliary Hospital. He was to spend the remainder of 1915 there. Abbassia is about 13 kms outside of Cairo and there were numerous Hospitals located in the area...

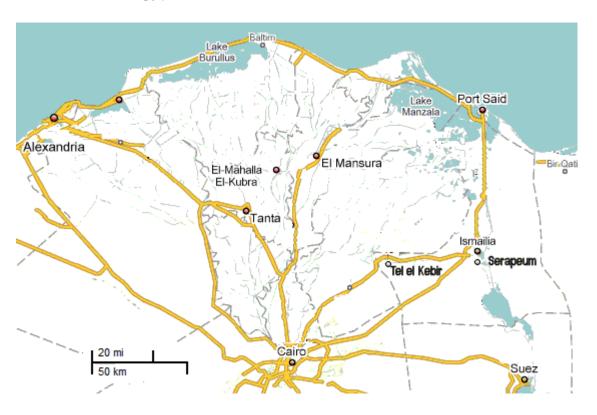


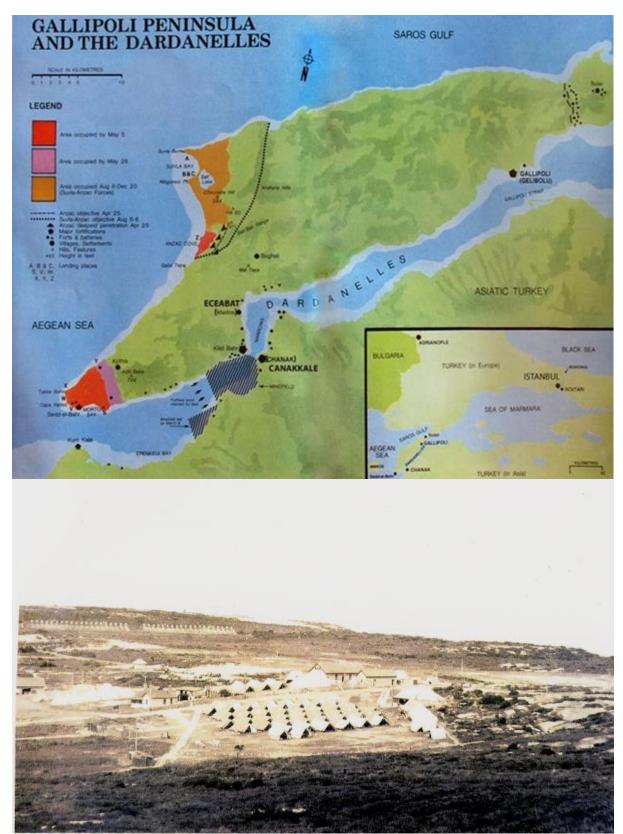
There were multiple hospitals for the armed forces at Abbassia, including the No. 4 Auxiliary Hospital and the 3rd and 14th Australian General Hospitals. The former was of smaller size than the General Hospitals, and the inside view of a ward in 1916 is shown with patients, nurses and doctors.

Upon his release in early January 1916, he was transferred out of the 11th Light Horse to the 3rd Reserve/Training Regiment.

The 3rd Light Horse Training Regiment was formed in Egypt during March 1916, tasked with training incoming reinforcements while allowing the wounded and sick a place to recover before returning to active service. The Training Regiment contained three squadrons, each duplicating the Regiments within the Brigade to whom it supplied the reinforcements. The Training Regiment was disbanded in July 1918 to be replaced by the Anzac Light Horse Training Regiment when recruits were no longer tied to a Regiment but placed in a general pool of reinforcements called the General Service Reinforcements. This would have been located around Tel-El-Kebir. During this time there was also an oversupply of men in the Light Horse Regiments and, because of this oversupply, dismounted units were formed for the defence of the Suez Canal.

Egypt and Surrounds.





Tel-El-Kabir Camp



Shelling of Light Horse Camp at Romani.

James was stationed at Tel-el Kabir on active duty from 4th April 1916. In June/July he was reassigned to the *3rd Light Horse Double Squadron*, formed in Egypt on 6 July 1916 and administered by the *3rd Light Horse* Brigade. Some of these were later transferred to the Camel Squadron.

He was to be located in the 3rd Double Squadron as part of the #rd Brigade that was located at Serapeum. The role of this Squadron being to look after the defense of the Suez Canal.

It appears that he could have taken part in the lead up to and the Battle of Romani in August 1916. There is some question about this as he was admitted to the 1st Aux Hospital on the 6th August with influenza.

The Turkish forces launched their first attack on the Suez Canal on 3 February 1915, but were driven back into the desert. The rest of the year saw both sides occupied with the fighting on Gallipoli, but following the allied evacuation the Turkish troops were able to attack the canal once again in mid-July 1916, ending with the battle of Romani on 4–5 August. The combined British and Australian and New Zealand mounted troops made fierce counter-attacks, forcing the Turks to abandon their newly captured positions.

The Battle of Romani.

In the early hours of 4 August 1916 Ottoman troops attacked positions held by Major General Harry Chauvel's Anzac Mounted Division at Romani. This division included the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Australian Light Horse Brigades, and the New Zealand Mounted Rifles Brigade, supported by the British.

At first only the 1st Light Horse Brigade was ready to meet the attack, but its troops were outnumbered and forced to fall back. As the day progressed the Ottomans faced mounting casualties and exhausted their supply of ammunition, while various allied mounted and infantry troops arrived to reinforce the Australian and New Zealand troops. Before dawn on 5 August the Anzac Mounted Division counter-attacked, with the 1st and 2nd Light Horse Brigades advancing on foot. The Turkish resistance collapsed, and their forces either withdrew, were killed, or were taken prisoner.

By the end of the battle allied casualties numbered approximately 1,100, while the Turkish casualties amounted to around 4,000, with another 4,000 taken prisoner.



He was promoted to a temporary sergeant in July and took part in defense of the Suez Canal. Shortly afterwards he had a bout of Influenze and on the 6th August 1916 he was again admitted to hospital at Ismailia nearby to Serapeum and finally transferred to Cairo 3rd General Hospital at Abbassia in September 1916. It was here that he was to become dangerously ill. He was to be diagnosed with Bilharziasis.

Schistosomiasis, also called bilharzia or bilharziasis, group of chronic disorders caused by small, parasitic flatworms (family Schistosomatidae) commonly called blood flukes. Schistosomiasis is characterized by inflammation of the intestines, bladder, liver, and other organs. Next to malaria, it is probably humanity's most serious parasitic infection, being endemic to some 74 countries and affecting at least 200 million people yearly in Africa, Asia, South America, and the Caribbean. Schistosomiasis is most prevalent in rural communities where hygiene is poor due to poverty or due to the lack of infrastructure to support adequate health care services. The disease is ordinarily contracted by working, bathing, or swimming in water populated by snails that carry the worms. The parasites were first identified as a cause of the disease in the 1850s by Theodore Bilharz, a German pathologist working in Egypt.

The war was now over for James and he was to go home. Sailing from Suez in November 1916 on the "Ayreshir: arriving in Australia in early 3rd January 1917 and discharged from active service upon arrival in Brisbane.

He was to die of natural causes in Queensland, Australia on the 11th August 1976, aged 83 years



A.K. CERTIFIED COPY OF DUPLICATE ATTESTATION SHEET.
No.14 Section B.R.
AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES.
C.O.M.S.

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

No	. Ivame)	NQUET,
	in full (Christian Name	James Hyde.
	Unit 4th.Rfcts.	,11th.L.H.Regiment.
	Joined on July 1st	.,1915.
	Questions to be put to the Pers	son Enlisting before Attestation.
1. W	What is your Name?	1. James Hyde BOSANQUET
	(2. In the Parish of in or
2. Ir	n or near what Parish or Town were you born?	near the Town of Childers
		in the County of Queensland.
	re you a natural born British Subject or a Naturalized British Subject - (N.B.—If the latter, papers to be shown.)	3Yes.
4. W	Vhat is your Age?	4. 22 1/2 years.
5. W	Vhat is your Trade or Calling ?	5 Cane Farmer.
6. A	re you, or have you been, an Apprentice? If so, where, to whom, and for what period?	6No.
7. A	re you married?	7. No.
		8. FATHER - Mr. H. T. Bosanquet,
8. W	Who is your next of kin! (Address and relationship to be stated)	Childers, Queensland.
Т	The answer to this question shall not be construed as in the nature of a will.	- Queenstante
	(9
9. W	Vhat is your permanent address in Australia†	
10. D	o 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	Time Expired.
11. H	Tave you stated the whole, if any, of your previous service?	11. Yes.
	Service? If so, on what grounds? His Majesty's	12. No.
13. (F	For married men, widowers with children, and soldiers who are the sole support of widowed mother)— Do you understand that no separation allowance will be issued in respect of your service beyond an amount which together with pay would reach eight shillings per day?	13.
14. A	re you prepared to undergo inoculation against small pox and enteric fever?	14. Yes.
	3, James Hyde BOSANQUET to the above questions are true, and I am willing and bonwealth of Australia within or beyond the limits of the	do solemnly declare that the above answers made hereby voluntarily agree to serve in the Military Forces of the Commonwealth.
	- CC+1	of the pay payable to me from time to time during my service
for_th	a support of my wife * †	
	Date July 1st.,1915.	J. H. BOSANQUET. Signature of person enlisted.

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