

Olivia Cleal read this at the grave of Trooper Herbert Edward Stanley on 5th July 2015

My soldier's name is Herbert Edward Stanley. He was ranked a trooper with the service number 857. He lived in Ballarat with his mother Janet Hearn and his father William Stanley passed away before he went to war.

When he signed up, Herbert was only 19 years and 5 months old, which is not much older than my sister, which I find pretty scary. He signed up in the 8th Light Horse Regiment in Melbourne on the 9th November 1914. His next of kin was his mother, so we can assume he had no wife or girlfriend. Herbert was 5ft 8 inches high with grey eyes, light brown hair and fair skin. He had 3 slight vaccination marks on his left arm and a scar on the inside of his left foot on the base of his big toe.

Before war, he worked as a labourer, which is where I imagine he got his scar on his foot, from dropping something heavy on in, or something along those lines.

In the 8th Light Horse Regiment, they travelled to Egypt to train at the beginning of 1915. Once they finished training, they set off to Gallipoli. They arrived here at the Nek on the 7th August 1915 at 4:25am. The attack was set to commence at 4:30am, so they decided to wait until the scheduled time to attack. This gave the Turks plenty of time to get ready and get their men in order.

At 4:30am, the first two waves of the 8th Light Horse Regiment attacked. They were shot down immediately. Calling off further attacks was suggested, but then refused. I can only imagine the fear Herbert felt, hearing the screams of his dying mates, while waiting to die himself.

The 8th Light Horse Regiment had 234 casualties; 154 fatal. One of these fatal casualties was Herbert Edward Stanley.

He was reported Missing In Action. 8 days later it was announced that he was Killed In Action during the Battle of the Nek on the 7th August 1915. Personal effects included an identity disc, hairbrush, spectacles, two studs and a fountain pen.

Herbert is the only soldier buried here at the Nek, that died here at the Nek and I would like to place this certificate at your grave, Herbert, in honour of your service.

Rest in peace.

