



A Queensland Rifle Club member who made the supreme sacrifice
1914-1919

The Story Behind the Name



Corporal Albert Christopher Julius GRAFFUNDER MID

21 July 1890 - 14 May 1915



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PRE-ENLISTMENT:

- Albert Graffunder was born 21st July 1890 at TaKowai near Mackay.
- His father, Julius Christopher Albert Graffunder, was a labourer aged 39 years who was born in Germany. He married Sylvia Ronilda Frances nee Beaton aged 24 years, on 10th May 1883 at Mackay
- Albert was educated in Mackay State School
- His place of residence was St Helen's Mackay
- His father pre-deceased Albert and his mother, Sylvia later resided at Millchester Creek, Charters Towers, dealt with his affairs.
- He was a single farmer at the time of his enlistment. He acquired a selection at Koliyo (near Calen) in 1912 and spent the next few years clearing his land for farming.

RIFLE SHOOTING:

- Albert Graffunder was a member of the Marian Rifle Club
- Aug 1913, Page 8, MARIAN RIFLE CLUB. He won the A Grade shoot at Marian Rifle Club with results being for 200 and 300 yards 32, 28 total 60, with a handicap of 17 giving a grand total of 70 pipping the 2nd place on centres.

PREVIOUS MILITARY SERVICE:

- Prior to enlistment he had previously served in 15th Light Horse & 27 Light Horse, B Squadron
- He was also a volunteer in the Kennedy Regiment





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MILITARY SERVICE:

- Service Number: 462
- Albert Graffunder enlisted in Gladstone aged 24 years 1 month on 21 August 1914 in the 2nd Light Horse Regiment C Squadron. He was one of the first men to enlist in the district
- He clearly had leadership ability, as he was promoted to Corporal only two weeks later.
- He left Brisbane with his Unit on 24 September 1914 on embarkation on the HMAT Star of England
- He spent some time training in Egypt,
- He joined the Mediterranean Expeditionary Forces – Gallipoli from Alexandria on 9 May 1915. The 2nd Light Horse Regiment immediately took over trenches at the infamous Quinn's Post, which was the most dangerous position at Gallipoli.
- Albert had established himself as a capable soldier, expert horseman, and one who displayed leadership qualities and remained with the 2nd Light Horse Regiment.
- Plans were drawn up for an attack on the Turkish trenches opposite Quinn's Post and, on the night of 14/15 May, Albert's Unit undertook what would be an unsuccessful and costly assault.
- Albert's role in the action led to him being recommended for the Medaille Militaire for, "Gallantry in the charge from Quinn's Post." No details are given, however numerous reports in the Nth Qld Register about Albert and his death shed more light on to his actions and character.
- He was Mentioned in Dispatches on 14 May 1915 for "gallantry in charge from Quinn's Post"
- Corporal Albert Christopher Julius GRAFFUNDER was killed in action at Monash Gully near Quinn's Post, Gallipoli on 14 May 1915 aged 24 years.
- According to Shoemith Henman who had been in Egypt, indicated that Albert had the muscles of his arm shot away and that he was ordered out of the fight to have his arm dressed. According to Henman, his reply was, "No, I'm good enough for a few of the 's yet." Henman went on to explain that "... as he turned around a machine gun got him & he fell with four bullets in his chest."
- He had served in Egypt and Gallipoli



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CEMETERY &/OR MEMORIAL:

- Albert's body was recovered and he was buried by Chaplain G. Green in Pope's Hill Cemetery, which was situated in Monash Valley below the firing line but after the war was reinterred.
- Today he lies at Quinn's Post Cemetery, ANZAC, Gallipoli Peninsula, Canakkale Province, Turkey
- Memorials: Australian War Memorial Roll of Honour
- Mackay Cenotaph
- Mackay Old Town Hall Honour Roll
- Marian Roll of Honour
- Bauple Honour Board
- Hampden State School - A fitting tribute: a nephew, Brice Kadditz, visited Albert's former farm at Koliyo, from where a pair of Hames Hooks, known to have been part of Albert's draught horse equipment and salvaged from the original farm shed long since flattened by a cyclone, were presented by the family who purchased the farm from Albert's estate. These hooks were used to mount a family tribute plaque, presented to the Hampden State School Museum at Kuttabul, on Anzac Day 2016. RIP Albert.
- Hampden State School Avenue of Honour of Weeping figs which provided 2 or 3 generations of pupils became a living memorial to those fallen WWI soldiers including Graffunder

FAMILY ENLISTMENTS:

- There were 5 boys in the family with the 2 Harrison boys (from his mother's second marriage) were bought up in a State Orphanage in Townsville:
- The eldest, Donald Angus Graffunder, enlisted with the Argle and Sutherlad Highlanders, gassed in France 1914 aged 22 years
- Albert Christopher Juilus Graffunder was the second and he was killed in action
- The third was Private Richard James Harrison, Service Number 4432 was wounded in action on 4 August 1916 and again 26 March 1917. He returned to Australia on 27 August 1917 and discharged for family reasons
- The fourth, Private Herbert Mackay Harrison Service Number 4433 was with the 26th Battalion and died on 5 August 1916 at Pozieres.
- Youngest, never enlisted
- Private Richard Harrison applied to be able to return to Australia on about 10 July 1917. He stated that he was the sole support of his mother and youngest brother. He stated that 3 of his brothers had been killed while on active duty. He stated his father had died 11 years prior. His application was approved.

MILITARY HONOURS & AWARDS:

- MID Mentioned in despatches
- 1914-1915 Star
- British War Medal
- Victory Medal



ARMISTICE CENTENARY WAR MEMORIAL
Commemoration Service



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KILLED IN ACTION - 14 MAY 1915

DEATH OF CORPORAL ALBERT GRAFFUNDER MID AT MONASH GULLY, GALLIPOLI

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Albert was a true leader from start to finish. He was an honest, strong willed and able soldier who was highly respected by all the men serving with him.



Pope's Hill Cemetery, taken from the side of a steep hill at the back of Courtney's Post. Dead Man's Ridge (which was held by the Turks) is on the right top corner, Pope's Hill Cemetery is in the centre, the lower spur getting out to the left was the extreme left from Pope's. The forward end of Russell's Top shown on the extreme left. The faint line showing between Pope's and Russell's Top was a Turkish trench which they dug in July 1915 and which used to receive special attention from our destroyers. This trench faced down Pope's Reserve Gully. The steep side of the gully lead to the Bloody Angle and Quinn's Post seen on the bottom of the picture. The sap showing at the back of the cemetery lead to the side of Pope's where the steps carried on to the top. Most of the men buried in this cemetery are Australian 1st Light Horsemen and were killed on Pope's. The crosses on the right hand side are all 2nd Australian Light Horsemen who were killed on Quinn's Post on 14 May 1915. The white peg between the end crosses and the crosses at the back but slightly in front, marks the spot where five Turks were buried after they attacked on 19 May 1915. This cemetery was in full view of the Turks on Dead Man's Ridge and near Quinn's Post. Photo taken 1919