

# Harry Mercer SMITH



## Pre-enlistment:

- Harry Mercer-Smith was born on 22 October 1892, Brisbane, to parents Sydney and Amy MERCER-SMITH (nee Robjohns), "Camoola", Gladstone Road, South Brisbane. His parents were married by the bride's father, the Rev. Henry T. Robjohns, MA, a Congregational minister and author.
- Harry's father, then Navigating Lieutenant on HMS Gayundah, the main unit of Queensland's old naval defence organisation, later became Captain Mercer-Smith, Commander, Royal Australian Naval Reserve in the Port of Brisbane. He was also identified as Henry's NOK. Harry's mother, like his father, was a writer.
- The family included an older sister, Frances and three sons, Harry, Sydney and Victor. Sir Charles Kingsford Smith was their cousin.
- His home town was Brisbane
- He attended Brisbane Grammar School and while there in 1908 he was a member of the School Cadet Corps
- After apprenticeship in the Department of Posts and Telegraphs, he became a telegraph and telephone engineer.
- His address was Hampstead Road, South Brisbane

## Military Records

- Service Number: 795
- Harry enlisted and served as SMITH, Harry Mercer but his true name was MERCER-SMITH, Harry, on 31 August 1914, 9th Infantry Battalion, H Company aged 21 years 10 months
- On 24 Sep 1914 he embarked with his Unit on HMAT Omrah, from Brisbane
- Early in 1915 he was appointed Lance-Corporal and he took part in the landing at Gallipoli on 25 April. 1915.
- In May, he was severely wounded twice in action at Gallipoli and was evacuated for medical treatment to Valetta Hospital, Malta
- Lance Corporal Harry Mercer Smith died of those wounds in Malta, on 17 June 1915, aged 22 years
- His war service was in Egypt and Gallipoli.

## Cemetery &/or Memorial

- Cemetery: Pieta Military Cemetery, Plot A, Row V, Grave 5 INSCRIPTION CALLED TO HIGHER SERVICE
- Memorials: Australian War Memorial Roll of Honour Panel 56
- Postmaster-General's Dept Qld. WWI

## Honours & Awards

- 1914/15 Star
- British War Medal
- Victory Medal

## Rifle Shooting

- Harry Mercer Smith was a member of the Townsville Rifle Club

## ACWM Commemoration Service

## Reference Links

- <http://heritage.saintandrews.org.au/harry-mercer-smith/>
- <https://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/SearchNRRetrieve/Interface/ViewImage.aspx?B=1780632>
- <https://vwma.org.au/explore/people/261148>
- <https://www.aif.adfa.edu.au/showPerson?pid=279996>