



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

# The Story Behind the Name



**Private JEAN LOUIS MICHEL GALLANTY MM**

**24 October 1892 - 5 May 1917**



# PRIVATE JEAN LOUIS MICHEL GALLANTY MM

24 OCTOBER 1892 - 5 MAY 1917

## PRE-ENLISTMENT:

- Jean GALLANTY was born on 24 October 1892 in Mackay, Qld
- His parents were Jean and Marie Angele GALLANTY, Sydney Street, Mackay, Qld
- His next of kin was listed as his mother Marie Angele Gallanty (widowed)
- He was educated at Mackay State School
- He lived in 'Te Kowai', Mackay,
- His occupation prior to enlistment was that of a chemist and prior to enlistment he was employed in the pharmacy of Mr. A. J. Brown in Mackay.

## RIFLE SHOOTING:

- Jean Gallantry was a member of the Mackay Rifle Club.
- According to a newspaper report on 9 February 1915, he was given a handicap of 25 for an upcoming prize shoot in the Mackay Rifle Club.

## MILITARY SERVICE:

- Service Number: 3505
- Jean Gallanty enlisted 6 March 1915 in Mackay aged 22 years 4 months
- He was attached to the Army Medical Corps with the 7th Australian Field Ambulance, Section A
- He embarked with his Unit from Brisbane, on board HMAT A11 Ascanius on 24 May 1915
- On 4 September 1915 he proceeded to join the M.E.F. Gallipoli
- On 8 Jan 1916 he failed to join Transport at Lemnos before sailing due to going ashore with patients
- On 21 January 1916 he reported for duty at Tel-al-Kabir
- On 14 March 1916 he embarked at Alexandria on Minneapolis then disembarked at Marseilles on 19 March 1916
- On 15 August 1916 in France, he was promoted temporary Sergeant and carry out the duties of Sergeant Dispenser then reverted to Private on the return of Staff Sergeant Wright.
- On 18 June 1916 he was recommended to be awarded the **Military Medal** because of his

**“Devotion to duty at Walden Point, Gallipoli Peninsula when an 8-inch shell (howitzer) fell into hospital tent and killed a patient on 27.10.15**

- On 7 November 1916 he was awarded the Military Medal – ‘His Majesty the King has been graciously pleased to award the Military Medal for bravery in the Field to No 3505, Private Jean Louis Michel GALLANTY’.
- His war service was in Egypt, Gallipoli and on the Western Front
- Private Jean Louis Michel GALLANTY was killed in the Field at Bullecourt, France on 5 May 1917 aged 24 years





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### LETTER FROM SOMEWHERE IN EGYPT:

Trove: Mon 11 Oct 1915, Page 6, A MACKAY MAN IN EGYPT. A MACKAY MAN IN EGYPT.

#### LETTER FROM MICK GALLANTY.

Writing from "somewhere in Egypt," under date August 24, to a friend in Mackay, Bearer L. M. ("Mick") Gallanty, who before going to the front was employed in the pharmacy of Mr. A. J. Brown here, but is now with the 7th Field Ambulance, A.I.F., gives some interesting particulars of the life, which should be of interest to those in our community who are contemplating joining the Expeditionary Forces. It will be noted that Mr. Gallanty whilst not glossing over the discomforts, speaks of the life as a glorious one. At time of writing he was expecting to be leaving Egypt for the Dardanelles in a couple of weeks. He says: —

"As we travelled by night I did not get a good knowledge of the country over which we journeyed, and can only say that we passed through a desert of undulating country; now and again we would be rejoiced by the sight of a little village with real fertile country round it. I did not think much of the journey, but I was afterwards told that it is a very interesting trip and that we missed a sight worth seeing by travelling at night. We arrived at Cairo 2 a.m. Saturday, 2nd July, and marched about three miles to the camp, where we are at the present moment. You can bet your boots I was not at all sorry. I tumbled in as I was and slept until 8 next morning. That day we did very little, but by the end of the following week we had every thing arranged and were completely settled down. I cannot help but saying that as yet it has been a real picnic. Cairo is absolutely the dirtiest hole I have been in. Just the same, one puts in a bit of sport now and again but it soon gets mighty stale. A letter I wrote to you explains it all. Heliopolis is only a little place, but it is beautiful. There are some buildings in it as nice as anywhere. I am on duty in our Field Hospital (George Boddington is here also), which is not a bad job. I often have a good few minutes 'loaf'. Before this I did two weeks' drilling which was pretty solid. **It's no joke walking up and down the sand or going for route marches** of about 10 miles at a stretch. And prior to these two weeks I had a fortnight at the Egyptian Infections Diseases Hospital. I was in charge of about 60 measles patients and my time was cut out. I had six native assistants to do the rough work and procure my wants. I did not mind this, as it added much to my experience in nursing. Each night I would have a visit from the matron. She never failed to call in and see how the patients were getting on, and she was a real brick. One night after spending a few hours at Heliopolis I set out to return to the hospital and I took a cab, and told the driver (who was an Arab) to drive me to the hospital, and thought he understood, but soon found out that he didn't. He drove me to every hospital in Cairo but, the proper one; I can tell you I did have a time. Fancy being tossed about all through these Arabic quarters. He brought me through some streets where the stench was that awful that it brought about an attack of vomiting on me. After being about 1½ hours in the cab I jumped into another, which finally took me to my destination. I took 2½ hours to complete that journey, which was only a distance of five miles. I occasionally take a trip through the slums of Cairo to break the monotony of camp life. One cannot picture what it's like till one sees it for himself. We have a lot of **Australian nurses here whom we can admire. 'They have saved many a man from being disabled for life.'** (The writer concludes by wishing to tell old friends that he is doing well.)



## PRIVATE JEAN LOUIS MICHEL GALLANTY MM

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### LETTER FROM GALLIPOLI:

Trove: Sat 20 Nov 1915, Page 7, LETTERS FROM MACKAY BOYS.

Private Michael Gallanty writes to Mr. A. J. Brown from Gallipoli. under date 9th September, 1915. — Dear Mr. Brown, — Having a few minutes to spare, I will let you know a little bit of our doings. We left Egypt the 2nd instant and when nearing our journey's end we anchored about two miles from the shore. From the aspect of our surroundings, it appeared as though the inhabitants were welcoming us with a display of fireworks. Needless to say we did not remain under the delusion very long, as one of our boys was hit (by a spent rifle bullet) on the knee. This led to the discovery of what we thought fireworks to be nothing less than **the thunder of battleships, the incessant firing of batteries and rifles and the explosion of shells on the shore**. We were all very cheerful and pleased that at last we had arrived at the place where our brave comrades distinguished themselves to an extent surpassing belief; and where they covered themselves over and over again with glory. The work done is marvellous; one must really see for himself, and I am sure the most able writer would not hesitate in saying that "words are inadequate" to give anyone an idea of the real thing. I am sure Kaiser Bill would feel ashamed of his nationality had he but got a glimpse of what our heroes have accomplished. **We landed at daybreak, and took up a position for a day**. This being our first experience, I can assure you it was pretty exciting. The first few shells fell a little distance away; these were interesting, as it satisfied our curiosity, for we now saw the wonderful thing which we have read so often about. As they whizzed up we could not miss watching it bursting, and seeing its effect. All went well, we thought it grand, until the range was changed. Now the shells fell in amongst us, fortunately no one was hit, though piece of shrapnel, the size of a hammer passed not six inches from my head and struck the ground about two yards behind me. After this, at the sound of a "whiz" you can guess we made for our dug-outs and lost all interest in the bursting of shells. Since, **I have often undergone such narrow speaks with stray bullets**. That night we moved off to the spot where we are now camped. Our camp is situated on the side of a hill, shells and stray bullets fly over our heads daily, but as we are now used to them we take little notice. We have found out that the Turks are not sports, in as much as when they see a party of us swimming and enjoying ourselves the beggars shell us. So we now go for our swim in parties no bigger than two. This small party evidently the Turks consider not worth a shell, thus this scheme renders our expeditions safe. When I get a half day off I intend visiting the Mackay heroes who came with the first expedition. They are in the trenches, about two miles away. The winter is beginning, and at present it is lovely. I am a bonser on the pick and shovel. All our boys are in the best of spirits, hardy and fit for hardships they may encounter, and expect to be in Constantinople shortly. I hope you are all keeping well, and that this will find you in the best of health. Remember me to all our neighbours round the shop, and same to Mrs. Brown and family. I remain, your late employee. MICHAEL GALLANTY. P.S. — Sergeant Bailey (late of Mackay) wishes to be remembered to you.





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### LETTER FROM LEMNOS ISLAND:

Trove: Sat 11 Mar 1916, Page 2, Entertaining Australians in England..

Michel Gallanty writes from Lemnos Island under date 30th December to his former employer (Mr. A. J. Brown) :—"Dear Mr. Brown,—Two lines to let you know that I am still in the land of the living. I wrote you a letter whilst on the Peninsula which I hope you have received. Andrew Wright has joined us; he was fortunate by arriving a little while prior to our departure from Gallipoli. He is in the best of health and looking well. I had the privilege of seeing **the Peninsula white with snow**. It was a beautiful sight. An account of Beachy Bill, Jack Johnsons, French 75, etc., would no doubt be stale news as you have often read about them; **narrow escapes are too common a thing to mention**. We spent a real Happy Xmas, and hope that you did the same. Mackay is well represented in our corps, since **we now have six Mackayites in the 7th. Amb.**, viz., Sergt. Bailey (late Constable), Hill, and McGill, of the Leap and Hampden respectively, Wright, Merritt and self. According to what I read Mackay has suffered from the dry weather, but it is to be hoped that the November and December thunderstorms proved effective and gave the farmer a chance of starting the New Year in a happy mood with good prospects for a good season. The Greek villages on the island are very comical and interesting as they resemble the houses that one reads about of very ancient times. The Sunday before last I took a walk over to the Thermos hot mineral springs. The distance is about seven miles. The day being cold I **enjoyed both the walk and bath (and got the Gallipoli dirt off)**. As I have only three minutes to go, for duty, I must concluded, wishing you and family a prosperous New Year."

Trove: Wed 6 Jun 1917, Page 6, WITH THE COLORS

News has reached Mackay of the death of Private Mick Gallanty, of the Field Ambulance. Recently Private Gallanty was awarded the Military Medal for bravery at Gallipoli. He was killed in action in France on May 5 last. When he enlisted the deceased was in the employ of Mr. Brown, chemist, at Mackay, and was esteemed by all sections of the community.



## PRIVATE JEAN LOUIS MICHEL GALLANTY MM

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### DEATH OF "MICK" GALLANTY:

Dear Madam, — Long before this letter reaches you the sad news that Mick has been killed in action will have reached you. How hard it seems that he should have seen so much of this life and then be called upon to make the great sacrifice. Hearing that there was a possibility, of a big attack coming off, Mick, whose **knowledge of chemistry was so valuable** in other departments of ambulance work, gamely volunteered to go into the thick of the fight to do stretcher-bearing, which work he considered the more manly. The work of the stretcher-bearers on this occasion called forth praise from all ranks, and **Mick died doing his bit nobly at a time when stretcher-bearing was particularly heavy and extremely danerous**. Never have the bearers gained for themselves such praise and recognition. I have seen much of Mick, when in camp in Enoggera, on the never to be forgotten Peninsula, in Egypt, and in France, where **his knowledge of and fluency in speaking the French language enabled us to convert many otherwise tired and boresome hours into pleasant and laughable hours**. Will you permit me, as one who knew him intimately, to express my appreciation of **his very excellent work**, and also my sorrow that **his life of promise should be so cut off**. You have lost a son beloved but he has fallen in a great cause, in the assertion of right over might, the cause of liberty, honor and freedom; and **he was doing the noble work of rescuing the wounded under shell fire which was terrific**. Again, dear madam, I would ask you to accept my deepest heartfelt sympathy with you and all of Mick's relatives, and, may the God of comfort be very near to you and cheer you up in this hour of overwhelming sorrow.— Yours sincerely, Sergt. C. A. Schwab, 7th Field Ambulance.

### CEMETERY &/OR MEMORIAL:

- Vaulx Australian Field Ambulance Cemetery (Row C, Grave No. 13), Vaulx, Picardie, 3 miles Northeast of Bapaume, France
- His headstone bears the inscription "In Loving Memory Of My Beloved Son Rest In Peace"
- Australian War Memorial Roll of Honour,
- Mackay Cenotaph,
- Mackay Old Town Hall Honour Roll

### MILITARY HONOURS & AWARDS:

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



## ARMISTICE CENTENARY WAR MEMORIAL

### Commemoration Service





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- <https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/R60360>
- <https://vwma.org.au/explore/people/57496>
- <https://discoveringanzacs.naa.gov.au/browse/person/170652>
- Information for Roll of Honour, Bruce Scott

### TROVE

- <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/190861584?searchTerm=GALLANTY%2C%20J#> Daily Mercury (Mackay, Qld. : 1906 - 1954), Tue 9 Feb 1915, Page 8, THE RIFLE. Rifle Shooting Handicaps
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- <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/59912000?searchTerm=GALLANTY%2C%20J#> The Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Thu 28 Dec 1916, Page 5, The Military Medal.
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- <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/105173593?searchTerm=GALLANTY%2C%20J#> The Catholic Press (Sydney, NSW : 1895 - 1942), Thu 21 Jun 1917, Page 39, NORTH QUEENSLAND
- <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/173705918?searchTerm=GALLANTY%2C%20J> Daily Mercury (Mackay, Qld. : 1906 - 1954), Sat 22 Sep 1917, Page 3, DEATH OF "MICK" GALLANTY. Letter from his Sergeant



## KILLED IN ACTION - 5 MAY 1917

DEATH OF PRIVATE JEAN LOUIS MICHEL GALLANTRY MM  
AT BULLECOURT, FRANCE

- [trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/105173593?searchTerm=GALLANTY%2C%20J](http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/105173593?searchTerm=GALLANTY%2C%20J)

"He was doing the noble work of rescuing the wounded under shell fire"



AMBULANCE BEARERS IN GALLIPOLI & ON THE WESTERN FRONT