



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

The Story Behind the Name



Captain Thomas Joseph BRUNDRIT MID

15 October 1882 - 8 November 1915



Captain Thomas Joseph BRUNDRIT MID

15 October 1882 - 8 November 1915

PRE-ENLISTMENT:

- Thomas Joseph Brundrit was born in Hamilton, Upper North Pine, Caboolture, Qld on 15 October 1882. The town was first called Hamilton, then Terrors Creek and now Dayboro.
- He was the only son of William Brundrit and Catherine Edith (nee Mclvor).
- William was born on 25 November 1845 in Stretford Lancashire England and had migrated to Australia about November 1868 on the Hydrabad, arriving in Melbourne in January 1869.
- William married Catherine Edith Hamilton in Trinity Church at Fortitude Valley in Brisbane on 18 December 1879. She had been previously married to Hugh Hamilton on 19 December 1861 in Queensland. Catherine was born in Scotland on 4 January 1846. They had seven children together before Hugh (born in Ayrshire Scotland in 1832) passed away on 10 March 1878.
- William was the local Terrors Creek Schoolmaster at the time Thomas was born.
- Thomas had a younger sister, Elizabeth Louisa Mclvor Brundrit born on 4 August 1880, and an older sister, Annie Eleanor Bancroft Brundrit, born on 12 March 1885, both born at Caboolture.
- William worked for the Queensland Public Service and Catherine was a postmistress of a non-official Post Office in the area.
- In 1882 they purchased some country land in Samsonvale.
- Thomas attended the Brisbane Grammar School from 1896 to 1899. He was regarded as "industrious and well behaved" and represented Queensland at interstate rowing while attending the school.
- In 1899, Thomas passed the Junior New South Wales Public Examination while at Brisbane Boys Grammar School. In 1899, while at Brisbane Boys' Grammar School, Thomas J. Brundrit achieved third in English, second in French, first in arithmetic, third in algebra, second in geometry, and first in physiology.
- In 1903, the family was living at Milne Street, Clayfield, Brisbane and Thomas was a bank clerk.
- The family moved to a property called High Clare (or Highclere) in Old Sandgate Road. Later Thomas moved to Monkland in Gympie where he was a public servant.
- On 17 March 1913, William passed and was buried in Toowong cemetery.
- In 1914 Thomas Brundrit became an Acting Land Ranger in Innisfail, with his postal address as Innisfail, lately sent from Gympie
- His educational qualifications included State School Scholarship, Sydney University junior examination, Queensland Institute of Accountants Degree of Fellowship, Local Auditors Board Certificate (Queensland).



Captain Thomas Joseph BRUNDRIT MID
15 October 1882 - 8 November 1915

RIFLE SHOOTING:

- Captain Thomas Brundrit was a member of the Queensland Rifles

MILITARY SERVICE BEFORE AIF ENLISTMENT:

- He previously served as Honorary Lieutenant and Quartermaster 1st (C.Q.) Light Horse (Headquarters in Gympie) from 31/03/13 until the date of enlistment (with Major Glasgow) and previously efficient "A" Company Queensland Volunteer Rifles 1900.

SERVICE:

- Thomas Brundrit enlisted at Gympie with the 5th Light Horse Regiment AIF on 22nd September 1914 aged 31 years and 11 months. The 5th LHR had been raised in Brisbane from only enlistments in Queensland and formed part of the 2nd Brigade. Thomas was listed as a Land Ranger and had served 1 year with the Queensland Rifles and was now with the Queensland Mounted 1st (Central Queensland) Light Horse since 31st March 1913.
- He was single and listed his mother as his next of kin, as his father was deceased. He later applied for his commission.
- On the Nominal Roll for the 2nd Light Horse Brigade, 5th Light Horse Regiment; who embarked at Sydney on transport A34 Persic on 21st December 1914;
- They arrived in Aden on 20 January 1915 and landed in Alexandria on 1 February 1915. The Regiment trained at Maadi until 15 May and then returned to Alexandria.
- He landed at Anzac Cove on 20 May after sailing from Alexandria. Of the men who landed in May, 87 of them (including Thomas) had been without a break.
- On 7 July 1915, he was appointed as 2nd Lieutenant and was promoted to Lieutenant with the 5th Light Horse on 1st September 1915. He relinquished his position of Quartermaster and took up a troop in October 1915.
- On the 9th, he was sent out with a party of men to bring a wounded Turkish deserter in. They moved out with plenty of covering fire available if necessary. The deserter was picked up by a stretcher party, while the advance party shot at a Turkish group approaching. They all got safely back to the lines. Both General Birdwood (Corps Commander) and General Walker (Divisional Commander) sent their congratulations to Lieutenant Brundrit on his exploit.



Captain Thomas Joseph BRUNDRIT MID

15 October 1882 - 8 November 1915

SERVICE:

- Thomas was promoted to be Temporary Captain on 15 October. Towards the end of October, the Turks were seen extending their trenches below the Bird Trenches. In early November, he was involved in pushing trenches forward to stop the Turks creating trenches that could be used to fire on Australian positions.
- A covering party, under Thomas, was sent out with a work party to take control of old Turkish trenches, connect them to the forward tunnel and strengthen them with sandbags and barbed wire. The defences were finished before the Turkish made their attacks on the 4 November, with all attacks being repulsed. More rifle pits were opened on the night of the 5th. On the 7th, instructions were given to advance the Post to another old Turkish trench which would enable enfilade fire to be brought on the first Turkish barricade. At 8pm on the 7th, Captain Brundrit and his party moved out and occupied the trench, with traverses, parapets and a communication trench prepared. Barbed wire was put in front of the new position. This was all done while under fire from the Turks. Thomas was a "splendid example to his men of (his) contempt of danger, (he) was emptying his revolver at a range of some fifteen yards into a group of Turkish riflemen, when he was shot through the head."
- Thomas was killed in action at Harris Ridge in southern Anzac on 8 November 1915. He was buried in Shell Green cemetery at Gallipoli in plot 1. A. 3. Commonwealth War Graves Commission listed him in the index for Shell Green Cemetery as Capt. Thomas Joseph Brundrit of the 5th Light Horse. Killed in action 8th November 1915. Son of William and Catherine Brundrit. Native of Brisbane, Queensland. His grave on Gallipoli has no epitaph. The Schedule of Burials form has him listed on row A, Grave Number 3 in Plot 1, with an old number of 1.3. All other details listed in that form are as before, and the officiating Chaplain was W. E. Dexter. His service record stated he was buried in Shell green Cemetery No. 1, about 1150 yards south of Anzac Cove. A cable from Alexandria confirmed he was killed in action on 8th November.
- Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson, the Commanding Officer of the 5th Light Horse Regiment, wrote in his report of the operation on Harris Ridge, "I wish to draw attention to the services of the following officers and NCO's during these operations ... Capt. T.J. Brundrit – This officer had charge of the covering party on the occasion of two advances. On the other nights he was posted at the front traverse. He displayed energy and by his example infused the proper spirit into his men. Unfortunately he was killed during the night of the second advance."





Captain Thomas Joseph BRUNDRIT MID

15 October 1882 - 8 November 1915

SERVICE:

- Thomas was Mentioned in Despatches as Honorary Lieutenant in the 5th Light Horse Regiment Australian Cavalry and it was promulgated in the London Gazette of 13th July 1916 on page 6954. He was mentioned twice for distinguished and gallant services rendered during the period of Sir Charles Munro's command of the MEF.
- The first time reads Captain Thomas Joseph Brundrit (killed in action) of the 5th Light Horse Regiment on 3rd to 9th November 1915 at ANZAC. "On the night of the 3rd/4th Novr. A forward movement on a pre-arranged plan was made towards the Bird trenches. The arrangements involved the reconnaissance by night of the enemy's front, and the construction of a tunnel towards a knoll a 100 yds. distant. The forward movement, the unopposed occupation of the knoll, and the construction of a fire trench were completed on 3/4th Novr., On the night of 4/5th Novr., the enemy made 4 unsuccessful attempts on the new position, which was improved and consolidated during the 5th, under heavy rifle and shell fire. On the night of 7/8th Novr., a further advance of 30 yds. was made under enemy bombing and rifle fire, and the position finally secured. Captain Brundrit commanded the covering party for each of the two advances. On the other nights he was posted at the front traverse. He displayed energy and gallantry, and by his example infused the proper spirit into his men."
- The next recommendation reads that he was Lieutenant (Temporary Captain) and that he had been previously recommended in Army Corps Order on 8th December 1915. It is broken into two parts which read "Oct. 9th, 1915 Anzac. This Officer took out immediately after dusk a party of 25 men to a point 600 yards south of our right flank along the beach where a Turkish deserter was lying wounded. A Turkish party on a similar errand was met with in a few yards of the wounded man and at 10 yards range. Some were killed and the rest put to flight. The wounded deserter was brought into our lines without any casualties to us. 3rd to 5th Nov., 1915 Anzac. This Officer had charge of a covering party on the occasion of the two advances at Wilson's Look Out. Heavy fighting occurred during the six days at all of which this Officer was present. He was killed on the last mentioned date. This officer was present on the peninsula from 20th May until his death without any break."



Captain Thomas Joseph BRUNDRIT MID
15 October 1882 - 8 November 1915

REFERENCES:

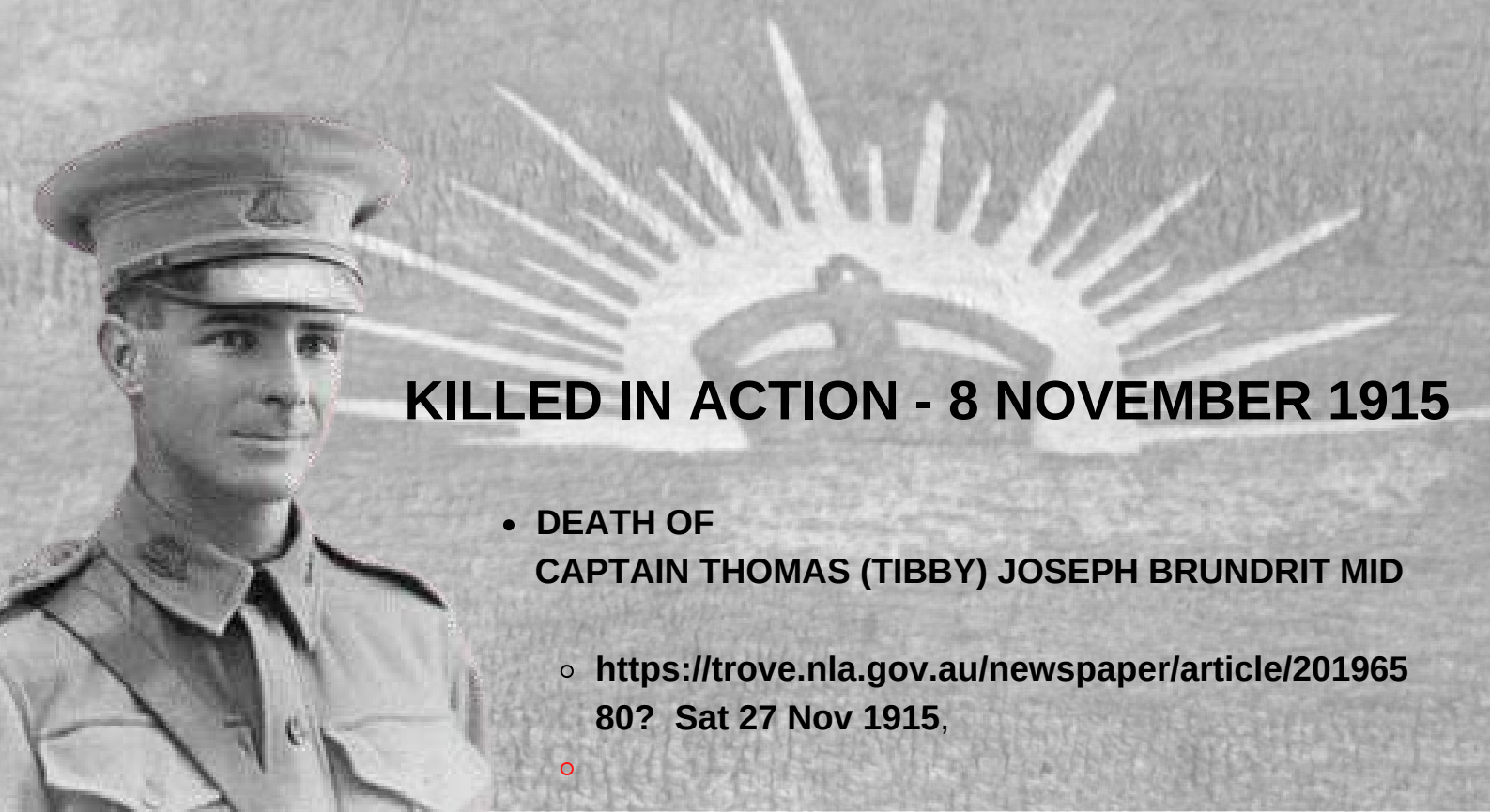
LINKS for Thoma Joseph BRUNDRIT

- recordsearch.naa.gov.au/SearchNRetrieve/Interface/ViewImage.aspx?B=3132877
- aif.adfa.edu.au/showPerson?pid=36935
- vwma.org.au/explore/people/229609
- wm.gov.au/collection/R1677933
- anzac-biographies.com/2017/05/29/brundrit-captain-thomas-joseph-mid/
- “Southern Queensland Rifle Association Jubilee” by AT Jackson

Trove:

- nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/3698079?searchTerm=Thomas%20Joseph%20BRUNDRIT,
- nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/3698289?searchTerm=Thomas%20Joseph%20BRUNDRIT
- nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/190877480?searchTerm=Thomas%20Joseph%20BRUNDRIT
- nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/22304127?searchTerm=BRUNDRIT%2C%20queensland%20rifles#
Sat 18 Dec 1915
- nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/20087684
- nla.gov.au/work/229348676?keyword=Thomas%20Joseph%20BRUNDRIT,%20innisfail





KILLED IN ACTION - 8 NOVEMBER 1915

- DEATH OF
CAPTAIN THOMAS (TIBBY) JOSEPH BRUNDRIT MID
- <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/20196580?> Sat 27 Nov 1915,

The Headmaster of Brisbane Grammar School wrote “In one raid by the 5th Light Horse, on 8th November, 1915, Captain T. J. Brundrit was in charge of an advance party. There was a fierce struggle with bombs, revolvers and rifles, and after killing two Turks with his revolver at a few yards range, Captain Brundrit fell, shot through the head. He was the last of our Old Boys to fall on Gallipoli.” A memorial plaque was erected at the school for him, by his friends in the 5th Light Horse Regiment.



A heart that felt all others' woe, A brain most swift to plan,
A soul too big to fear a foe, In brief – a man