



Private Walter John Wardrop Patrick (Number 517) of the 16<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Australian Infantry, Australian Imperial Force, is buried in Beach Cemetery (above - wherein also lies the legendary *Man with the Donkey*) adjacent to Anzac Cove on the Gallipoli Peninsula - Grave reference I.B.9.

(Right: *The image of the Australian Army General Service Badge – there apparently were no regimental badges issued to Australian units – is from the Australian War Memorial web-site.*)

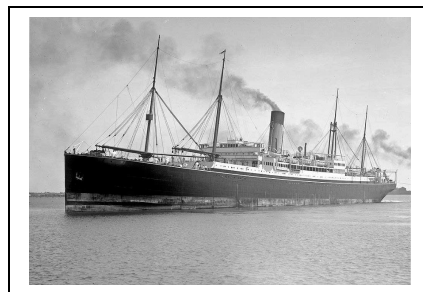


His occupation prior to enlistment recorded as that of a metallurgist, Walter John Wardrop Patrick enlisted on September 21 or 25 of 1914 at the age of about thirty-three. He joined up at Helena Vale (today *Midland*) in Western Australia where the majority of the troops for the 16<sup>th</sup> Battalion were recruited, and was attached to 'A' Company in that same unit.

Walter John Wardrop Patrick had been born in St. John's, Newfoundland, and had attended Bishop Feild College in the capital city before then immigrating to Australia at the age of fifteen. While on his enlistment papers he cites his brother R. as being his next of kin, there appears to be nothing entered in any of his documentation a propos either his father or his mother.

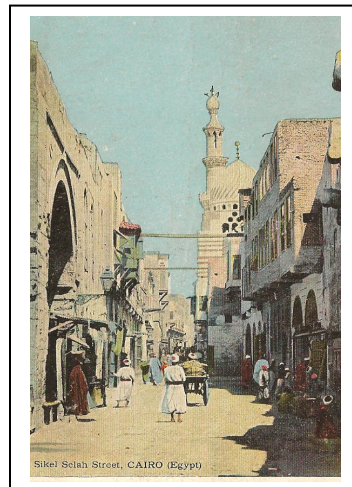


It was on December 22 of that same year that the personnel of the 16<sup>th</sup> Battalion – thirty-two officers and nine-hundred seventy-nine *other ranks*, among that number Private Patrick – embarked in the port of Melbourne onto His Majesty's Australian Transport *Ceramic* for passage to the Middle East. It was to be a six-week journey.



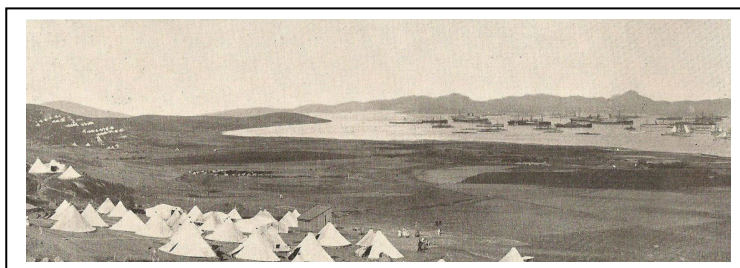
(Right above: *The image of HMAT Ceramic is from the Old Ship Picture Galleries web-site.*)

The 16<sup>th</sup> Battalion, AIF, having passed through the Suez Canal, disembarked on February 3 of 1915 in the Egyptian port-city – and British Naval Base – of Alexandria in the eastern Mediterranean. Private Patrick's unit then proceeded by train and on foot – via the Egyptian capital, Cairo - to its camp on the aerodrome at Heliopolis.



No records appear to have survived for either March or for the first half of April of 1915 apart from a file citing that the 16<sup>th</sup> Battalion had then spent most of the following period in training before re-embarking at Alexandria on three transports for the voyage to the Greek island of Lemnos.

(Right above: *Sikel Salah Street in the city of Cairo just prior to the Great War – from a vintage post-card*)



There, a British and French invasion force was being prepared to land on the Gallipoli Peninsula.

(Right above: *Mudros Bay on the Greek island of Lemnos provided a fine anchorage – but with hardly any port facilities – for the French, British and Commonwealth shipping. The Allies 'borrowed' the island without the permission of a divided Greek government which at the time was neutral. Many of the tents are medical facilities. – from Illustration*)

(Right: *an artist-drawn map looking eastward along the waterway of the Dardanelles, the control of which would open the way for both naval and land forces to advance directly to the Turkish capital, Constantinople\* (to the top right of the image) – from Illustration.*



(continued)

*\*In 1930 the name was changed to its present one, Istanbul. By that time, however, the capital of Turkey had already been re-located - in 1923 - to the central-Anatolian city of Ankara, still the country's capital today (2023).*

When the Allied invasion of the Gallipoli Peninsula took place on April 25, 1915, the Anzacs (*Australian and New Zealand Army Corps*), shuttled from Lemnos, were put ashore on the western side (to the left on the above map) on a small isolated beach which was to become known to history as *Anzac Cove*.

The Australians and New Zealanders\* were to be isolated in this area from the start of the campaign until the ignominious evacuation in the following December.



*(Right above: Anzac Cove, much as it was at the time, almost a century after the landing of April 25, 1915. – photograph from 2011)*

*\*Anzac Cove, however, was not an exclusive preserve of the Australians and New Zealanders. There were at various times to be found men from Ceylon (Sri Lanka), India, Palestine, Nepal and from Great Britain.*

Eventually the landing area was to expand laterally some hundreds of metres along the beaches on either side, but the immediate objective was to push inland. Alas! the planners had little idea of what was facing the assaulting troops: precipitous cliffs; plunging ravines; thick, thorny brush; and a courageous and at times fanatical foe.



*(Right above: Remnants of Anzac positions, reminders of the Gallipoli Campaign – photograph from 2011)*

At no time during the entire campaign were the Anzacs to advance more than a kilometre inland from the landing-place and thus the troops were always within range of the constant Turkish artillery and sniper fire.



*(Right: From Quinn's Folly, likely the furthest point of advance of the Anzacs during the entire Gallipoli Campaign, one may look over, in the distance, Suvla Bay where the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion of the Newfoundland Regiment was to land in September of 1915. – photograph from 1915)*

It was against a stern defence that Private Patrick and his comrades in arms endeavoured during those first days to clamber up the sides of the hills and spurs which began at the water's edge.

*(Right: Turkish artillery of the period still stands in defence of the Gallipoli Peninsula – photograph from 2011)*





The son of David Paton Patrick and Caroline S. Patrick (née *Williams*), and brother to R. – also in Australia - he was reported as having been *killed in action* only four days after having landed at *Anzac Cove* – on April 29, 1915 – from a gun-shot wound to the head. He had likely been the victim of a sniper.

Private Patrick died at the age of thirty-three(?) years (from his personal files); however, a copy of the Presbyterian Church Records in St. John's, Newfoundland, cites his date of birth as having been October 11, 1880.

Private Walter John Wardrop Patrick was entitled to the 1914-1915 Star, as well as to the British War Medal (centre) and to the Victory Medal (Inter-Allied War Medal) (right).



The above dossier has been researched, compiled and produced by Alistair Rice. Please email any suggested amendments or content revisions if desired to [criceadam@yahoo.ca](mailto:criceadam@yahoo.ca). Last updated – February 17, 2023.