Queensland Rifle Association
ROLL of HONOUR TRIBUTE

Queensland Riflemen Killed in Action on First Day of the Gallipoli Campaign



ANZAC DAY 2024

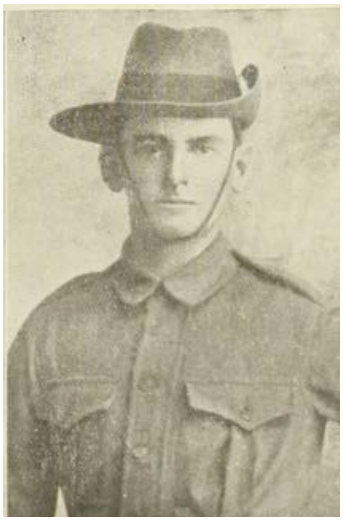
Soldier and Rifleman in the
Great War 1914 - 1918

EDWARD AUGUSTINE CAHILL,
HARRY JOHN GRAHAM and
WILLIAM HASWELL SHELTON

109 years ago on this day, many young Queensland riflemen landed at ANZAC Cove among the initial landings on the Gallipoli Peninsular. Among them was Private Edward Augustine Cahill of the Townsville Rifle Club, Private Harry John Graham of the Barcaldine Rifle Club and Private William Haswell Shelton of the Cloyna Rifle Club in the South Burnett.

These three diggers had several things in common, including they were all members of Queensland Rifle Association Rifle Clubs, and all enlisted with the 9th Battalion as Privates, and embarked with their respective Units on board the Transport Ship A5 Omrah from Brisbane on 24 September 1914.

Sadly, they were all killed in action on the very first day of the Gallipoli landings – the 25 April 1915. But who were these three young Qld riflemen who paid the supreme sacrifice so long ago?



Edward Cahill was born on 15 August 1885 in Cardwell, Qld, to parents Patrick and Bridget (nee Kenney) Cahill, who both predeceased Edward. He had a brother; J.A. Cahill. At the time of enlistment, his occupation was a clerk.

Private Cahill was allocated Service Number 900 when he enlisted on 19 August 1914 in Townsville into H Company, 9th Battalion. He was aged 29 years when he embarked from Brisbane, then later embarked from Alexandria to join the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force (Gallipoli Campaign) on 2 March 1915.

Private Cahill landed at Gaba Tepe on 25 April 1915, where he was 'Killed in Action' on the first day of the Gallipoli landings aged 30 years. He is commemorated at the Lone Pine Memorial Gallipoli Panel 31, on the Australian War Memorial Roll of Honour Panel number 55, on the Townsville Cenotaph and on the Townsville City Council Honour Board



Harry Graham was born in Brisbane on 30th May, 1885. He attended Gatton Agricultural College, Queensland with his hometown being Barcaldine, Qld at the time of enlistment and his occupation was a sheep farmer.

Private Graham was allocated Service Number 154 on 4 September 1914 when he enlisted in Rockhampton, Qld. in A Company, 9th Battalion. He later embarked from Alexandria on 2 March 1915 to join the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force at Gallipoli along with Private Cahill.

On the first day of the Gallipoli landings he was killed in action, aged 29 years. Private Grahan has no known grave but is commemorated at Lone Pine Cemetery and Memorial - Panel 31, on the Australian War Memorial Roll of Honour, on the Barcaldine War Memorial Clock Tower, and on the Gatton Agricultural College Honour Roll



William Shelton was born in 1893 at Harrisville, to parents: Henry and Elizabeth SHELTON, of Murgon. He lived at Merlwood, Murgon, South Burnett, Queensland and worked as a farmer.
Private Shelton was allocated Regimental Number 253 when he enlisted on 2 September 1914 in Gympie in B Company, 9th Battalion, aged 21 years 8 months. On 24 September 1914 he embarked from Brisbane. His war service was in Egypt and Gallipoli.
Private William Haswell Shelton was killed in action on 25 April 1915 at Gallipoli aged 22 years. His grave is "Known Unto God" and he is commemorated at the Lone Pine Memorial to the Missing, Panel 31, on the Australian War Memorial Roll of Honour Panel number 5, on the Murgon Memorial Wall, the Murgon RSL Honour Board, and the Murgon War Memorial
His brother Clifford Henry Shelton also enlisted and returned to Australia on 18 October 1917 having served with the 26th Battalion.

All three soldiers were awarded the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

A touch of connectedness for three young riflemen from different parts of Queensland, all in the 9th Battalion and giving of their lives at Gallipoli on the first day of the ANZAC landings, the 25th of April 1915.

We Will Remember Them.