

<b>Member</b>	Tim Bull	<b>Electorate</b>	Gippsland East
<b>Period</b>	1 April 2024 to 30 June 2024		

<b>Regulation 6 - Expense allowance and electorate allowance</b>	
Total amount paid to member for electorate allowance	\$14,470.75
Total amount paid to member for expense allowance	\$3,340.96

<b>Regulation 7 - Motor vehicle allowance</b>	
Total amount paid to member for motor vehicle allowance	\$0.00
Member did not receive the motor vehicle allowance in the previous quarter and member has elected to receive the motor vehicle allowance for this quarter	No

<b>Regulation 9 - Parliamentary accommodation sitting allowance</b>	
Total amount paid to member for parliamentary accommodation sitting allowance	\$7,139.44
Suburb in which the member's parliamentary accommodation is located	Fitzroy

<b>Regulation 10 - Travel allowance claims</b>					
Date from	Date until	Reason for travel	Total amount paid	Town or city in which accommodation was located	Value of the accommodation
Total number of nights for travel allowance claims			0		
Total amount paid to member for travel allowance			\$0.00		

<b>Regulation 11 - Commercial transport allowance claims</b>					
Date from	Date until	Reason for travel	Total amount paid	Mode of transport	Value of transport
Total number of nights for commercial transport allowance claims			0		
Total amount paid to member for commercial transport allowance			\$0.00		

<b>Regulation 12 - International travel allowance claims</b>			
<b>Date from</b>	<b>Date until</b>	<b>Reason for travel</b>	<b>Total amount paid</b>
22-Jan-24	02-Feb-24	Accommodation, meals and incidentals - Thailand and Singapore as per attached spreadsheet. The purpose of travel was two fold to (1) research and visit the graves of those from Victoria and my electorate and better understand the hardships they endured and (2) consider the museums and interpretive centres as it is with some irony that one must travel to another country to understand and hear the stories of these Victorians. While the War Memorial in Canberra offers some insight, it covers all conflicts and does not have the same focus and detail on offer as these locations. Surely we could do better in this state	\$4,590.51
14-Apr-24	27-Apr-24	International Flights to Istanbul and return - Victorian Parliamentary Delegation to Turkiye (Istanbul-Ankara-Canakkale) for commemoration of ANZAC Day and various meetings as per Itinerary	\$2,118.94
17-Apr-24	26-Apr-24	Accommodation, meals and incidentals - Victorian Parliamentary Delegation to Turkiye and Gallipoli for commemoration of ANZAC Day, various meetings and to pay tribute to those from my electorate who died.	\$1,791.53

**Total number of nights for international travel allowance claims** 21  
**Total amount paid to member for international travel allowance** \$8,500.98  
See attached travel report for further details

# Türkiye and Gallipoli Travel Report

April 17 – April 26, 2024

Tim Bull MP

Member for Gippsland East  
Shadow Minister for Veterans' Affairs



## **Introduction**

The purpose of this trip was primarily around ANZAC Day with the reasons for travel to:

- Represent our communities at commemoration ceremonies.
- As Shadow Minister for Veterans, gain a greater understanding of the Gallipoli campaign.
- Gain a greater understanding and appreciation of those from our electorate who made the ultimate sacrifice, and visit the ground where they fell.
- Foster the increasingly strong Türkiye / Australian relationship, which was initially forged on conflict, but is now a key trading partner.

Prior to undertaking the trip, I completed a considerable amount of work on researching the men from my electorate, and also provided the grave locations to other members of the party of men from their electorates.

I hold a strong belief that we have an obligation to understand and commemorate the theatres of war where our servicemen and women both fought and fell and, as Members of Parliament, we are well placed to represent our communities in doing this and subsequently sharing our experiences and research on return to schools, service clubs and other community groups.

In between returning home and writing this report, I was bemused to read a newspaper article questioning the relevance of this trip. To the contrary, I believe it is a very worthy use of our travel budgets with the intention to share our learnings and experiences with the wider community. Already I have engagements to speak to two schools and one service club.

It is where the ANZAC spirit was born. This state formed the 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th Battalions that landed in the second wave on April 25. The first landings (9th, 10th, 11th and 12th Battalions) were from Queensland, South Australia and Western Australia respectively, with the latter a composite. The third wave (1st-4th Battalions) were from NSW.

Then followed the reinforcements over later months, whether they were other Battalions or members of the Light Horse who were forced to leave their mounts behind in Egypt as they were not suited to the battle geography.

There are a number of amazing stories from that theatre. From the Victoria Cross winners, nurses and Simpson and his donkey, to the horrendous and unnecessary loss of life in the August offensive, the truce where both sides retrieved their dead and exchanged cigarettes and chatter, and the final withdrawal.

Gallipoli Peninsula is a location that all Australians should visit if they can, but if not, be familiar with the details of what occurred in that conflict which ran from the April 25 landings to the mid December evacuations, 1915.

## **The combat**

While there exists many history books on the Gallipoli campaign, some basic background is of assistance to those reading this report.

Walking the ground provides a perspective that cannot be obtained through written literature of cinema / television screen. The ground is sacred.

The land battle came about largely due to the inability to gain control of the Dardanelles, the waterway through which wartime supplies were being delivered.

The final failed effort was on March 18, a date that is commemorated in Türkiye as a great success (and it was). Some history books detail how a further naval attack would have been successful, as the Turks were low on ammunition and other resources, however this is speculative.

Hence the plan was pursued to quieten the Turkish (Ottoman) artillery by land. The defenders spread their troops on both sides of the peninsula in anticipation.

The landings were scheduled for April 23, but delayed for two days due to poor weather, and they were to be made at five locations, one of those being at Gaba Tepe (the Australians).

The landings took place north of the intended location at what is now known as ANZAC Cove, so the Australians had to deal with inaccurate maps and far steeper terrain than anticipated.

There are differing views on how the landings in the different locations occurred. The most common theory is miscalculations through tide and other factors, while some historians point to a late decision by command at the 11th hour based on the premise they believed the Turks would be awaiting in numbers adjacent to the flat land at Gaba Tepe, and would be thin on the ground at ANZAC Cove.

It is a matter that will likely never receive 100 per cent agreement, but what all are in unison on, is that it produced an unmitigated disaster.

While the fighting was continuous after the landings, the August offensive inflicted considerable loss and was perhaps the darkest period of the entire campaign.

The battle of Lone Pine, which was only a diversionary attack, resulted in 2,277 Australian casualties. It is incredulous that a battle to "distract" caused this level of loss.

An attack at The Nek early next morning was nothing sort of suicidal. Four waves of Australian Light Horsemen were ordered to rush this narrow strip of ground, but plans were poor and they were mown down by machine-gun fire in a futile effort. Of the 600 men who went forward, almost 400 became casualties.

From this period, wet and cold weather set in and the ANZACS persevered with a resignation of the ineffectiveness of it all. Illness and lethal risks from enemy snipers and artillery were ever present.

Ironically, perhaps the most successful element of the campaign was the December evacuations, done with precision planning and complete success.

## **The fallen**

The focus of my report will be on the men from my electorate.

At Gallipoli there are three types of graves / memorials. Graves themselves are where the body is confirmed as located underneath the headstone, special memorials are where it is known the body is in that cemetery but the specific location is unknown, and finally, memorial walls register the names of soldiers who were killed in action with no known grave.

The latter of course makes up for the majority. However, for the purposes of this visit, I focused on the men who were located in graves and special memorials.

We did reflect on many names of East Gippslanders recorded on the various memorial walls, and while the objective was to remember them, the intention was to place a poppy on the headstones of those whose whereabouts were known.

The only exception to this was at Lone Pine, where the Australian Service was held. On arrival we found it to be closed for preparations for the following day, so on the day itself we paid tribute to those from our area who lay there, but were unable to photograph the specific graves of each.

However, in the period leading up to April 25 we were able to visit all the other cemeteries where the East Gippslanders with a grave or special memorial lay. These included:

### Beach Cemetery

- Allan Davidson, 1039, 8th Battalion, of Bairnsdale, grave II.I.10, age 25, died August 15, 1915

### Shrapnel Valley Cemetery

- Thomas Haylock, 866, 21st Battalion of Coburg and Bairnsdale, grave II.D.48, age 31, died October 12, 1915
- William Scott, 2008, 8th Battalion, of Omeo/Bruthen, grave II.B.10, age 20, died Sept 5, 1915

### No. 2 Outpost Cemetery

- Basil Hooper, 378, 7th Battalion, of Orbost, grave E.11, age 19, died April 25, 1915
- Vern Brookes, 389, 7th Battalion, of Windsor (teaching East Gippsland), Sp. Mem 5, died April 25-May 2, 1915

### Shell Green Cemetery

- Alexander Robertson, 11th Battalion, of Bundalaguah, grave II.H.4, age 28, died August 6, 1915
- Joe Terry, 191, 4th Light Horse, of Flaggy Creek, grave I.I.14, age 20, died August 6, 1915

### Ari Burnu Cemetery

- Tommy Dudderidge, 693, 8th Light Horse, of Heyfield/Denison, grave A.5, age 21, died August 7, 1915
- Keith Watt, 824, 10th Light Horse, of Bairnsdale, grave A.3, age 21, died July 11, 1915
- John Finch, 931, 13th Light Horse, of Hawthorn/Bairnsdale, grave F.24, age 38 years, died November 16, 1915

### Redoubt Cemetery, Helles

- John Hancher, 1552, 5th Battalion, of Omeo/Ensay, grave I.C.19, age 23, died May 8-12, 1915

### Lone Pine Cemetery

- Edward Gunning, 1590, 24th Battalion, of Bairnsdale, grave I.C.30, age 23, died November 1915
- Arthur Rawlinson, 1305, 24th Battalion, of Bairnsdale, grave I.D.18, age 20, died October 12, 1915
- Ernest Pallot, 2164, 6th Battalion, of Heyfield, grave O.4, age 24, died April 25, 1915
- Edgar Wilson, 1571, 24th Battalion, of Bairnsdale, grave I.D.14, age 19, died October 4, 1915
- Erle Fethers, 5th Battalion, of Bairnsdale (bank), grave I.F.7, age 27, died April 25, 1915
- Thomas Bell, 905, 6th Battalion, of Traralgon/ Lakes Entrance, grave O.13, age 21, died on April 25, 1915

I will speak of some of these men in more detail later from information prepared prior to departure, with much assistance from the East Gippsland Family History Group.

As stated, there were many more who fell on the Peninsula. In some cases they will be in locations like The Nek or Lone Pine where the cemeteries are on the battlefields, or they will be in other locations where they fell and not yet, or likely to ever be, discovered.

### **Ceremonies**

The feature of the Day itself is the Dawn Service, which is promoted as being in ANZAC Cove, but it is not.

The site of the service is around 500 metres from the Cove, but this location is unsuitable for a gathering due to the steep topography and hence the memorial and service is held below "the Sphinx".

Actual location of the Cove (see cover picture of this report) is where the Ari Burni and Beach Cemeteries are located, where the first boats landed.

The other services, including the French, New Zealand, British and Australian (Lone Pine) are all amazing spectacles, as is the Turkish Ceremony held on April 24.

While each sends a chill up the spine, they are different in many ways in line with the customs of the host countries. It must be said the New Zealand Haka at Chunuk Bair is an incredible experience.

While talking of that, the ANZAC Spirit was alive at that service. The NZ defence forces had their luggage sent to England, so a number were at the service in Australian attire, and members of the band were playing Australian instruments.

More detail on some of the men from the Gippsland East electorate is on the following pages.



## **Signaller Thomas George (G.T.) BELL – Lakes Entrance**

**Killed in Action April 25, 1915**

Thomas Bell was born at Traralgon in 1895, the second son of William Blakey Bell and his wife, Georgina. The family moved to Cunninghame (now Lakes Entrance) the following year and his four brothers and three sisters were born there or at Bairnsdale.

As a boy, he attended school at Cunninghame before joining the Post and Telegraph Department and was employed at the Cunninghame Post Office. He trained as a telephonist and was promoted to Melbourne.

He was one of the earliest to volunteer and enrolled in the signalling corps of the 6th Battalion when he was 20 years.

He sailed on the *Hororata* with nine other East Gippslanders, including Harbeck and Sommerville from his home town.

A mate at the front with Bell told the family he was killed in the second landings on April 25, 1915.

Thomas Bell was later buried at Lone Pine Cemetery.

He celebrated his 20th birthday in Egypt.

His brother, Algernon, also enlisted and died in France in July of the following year.



***Thomas George Bell***

## **Private Allen McKinnon Davidson – Bairnsdale**

**Died of wounds August 15, 1915**

Born in Bairnsdale in 1889, Allen Davidson was the son of Arthur and Catherine, and grew up and went to school in the town before becoming a driver.

He married Elsie Johnstone and, when he enlisted on September 12, 1914, they were living at Abbotsford with three young boys under five years old.

Allen sailed for Egypt with the 8th Battalion the following month and survived the landing at Gallipoli.

On May 8 he was shot in the left arm at Cape Helles and evacuated to Malta to recover, rejoining his unit on July 17.

On August 14 he was hit by a bomb, receiving grievous head wounds and was taken to No. 1 Clearing Station. He died the next day and was buried at Beach Cemetery.

Davidson was 25 years old and left behind his wife, Elsie, and four young children. He never saw his daughter, Kate, who was born after he sailed for the front. His three sons, Roy, Alan and Arthur, all served in WW2 and all survived.



***Allen Davidson and his grave at Beach Cemetery where the landings took place on April 25***

## Private Thomas Enoch Haylock – Paynesville

**Killed in Action October 12, 1915**

Thomas Haylock was a 30-year-old labourer when he and his brother, Fred, enlisted on January 25, 1915. Thomas with D Company with the 21st Battalion, and Fred with the 22nd Battalion. Their parents lived on Raymond Island with their 10 brothers and sisters. Early in 1915, before he sailed, Thomas married Elsie Maude Haylock.

On May 10, 1915, Thomas and Fred both sailed for Egypt on the *Ulysses* where they underwent further training. On August 30, Thomas sailed for Lemnos on the *Southland* when it was torpedoed not far from Mudros and the ship was stricken.

Fourteen men drowned, with Thomas making it to Mudros where they stayed for a week before making their way across the Dardanelles to join the rest of the 21st Battalion.

Thomas was killed in action on October 12 and buried at Shrapnel Gully the same day.

He didn't have the typically written Will at the time of his enlistment, but may have had some notion of what the future held for him. Before he left Australian shores, he drew up a Will for his property and estate, considerable at that time, to be left to his new wife, Elsie.

It was not until 1924 that Elsie remarried to Harold Baptie. Thomas' brother, Fred, returned home in 1918 and the Haylock name continues in the district.



**Thomas Enoch Haylock and his grave at Shrapnel Valley Cemetery**

## **Major Erle Finlayson Denton FETHERS – Bairnsdale**

**Killed in Action April 25, 1915**

Erle Fethers was not born in Bairnsdale but moved to the town when employed as an accountant at the National Bank. He was a career soldier having started as a bugler in the Victorian Scottish Regiment, Melbourne and, being selected to train in India with British troops, he had risen to the rank of Captain.

Working in Bairnsdale when war broke out, he was invited by Colonel Wanliss to join the 5th Battalion. He enlisted in August and was among the first to sail from Australia in command of A company of that Battalion.

Once in Egypt he was promoted to Major. Fethers was well loved by his men and led his company. Two hundred yards beyond the crest of Lone Pine he was shot through the neck by a sniper.

In a letter to his mother, Major Flockart described him as *one of the best* and that he had died *just mid-day* on that day. He was eventually buried at Lone Pine Cemetery. He was 28 years old.



***Erle Finlayson Denton Fethers***

## **Private William Scott – Omeo** **Killed in Action September 5, 1915**

The Scott family consisted of six girls and six boys, and they paid a high price with four of their five adult sons, William, Albert, Oliver and Herbert, dying as a consequence of WW1.

William was the second youngest boy born at Omeo in 1894 to William Snr and Catherine, of Livingstone Creek, Omeo. With his brothers and sisters, he went to school in the district before the death of his father in 1906 and his mother the following year when he was 12 years old.

Oliver and William, working as teamsters, were both living at Bruthen, when he was 20 years old.

William was the first of the brothers to enlist and joined the 8th Battalion on January 11, 1915, and embarked from Melbourne on the *Hororata* on April 17 for Egypt. He joined the 5th Reinforcements on July 30, 1915, and was killed in action on September 5, 1915.

William was buried at Shrapnel Valley and is remembered on several of the local honour rolls. His identity discs were the only piece of property returned to his brother, Patrick, in May 1916.



***The grave of William Scott at Shrapnel Valley Cemetery***

**Private Basil John Hooper – Orbost**  
**Killed in Action April 25, 1915**

Private Basil Hooper was the youngest son of Guy and Mary and was born at Orbost.

After his parents' death he went to Melbourne and was educated at Wesley College and then employed in a music warehouse in Melbourne. About 1911, he went to Mooroopna to work with his brother, William Roadknight Hooper, on the farm of Mr J.H. Alexander.

Basil, who had been a volunteer cadet, enlisted on August 24, 1915, and was in the landing at Gallipoli when he was killed in action. It is not clear if he died on April 25 or 26, 1915. He was 20 years old. He was buried by the 14th Battalion at No. 2 Outpost Cemetery and remembered today on memorials in Bairnsdale and Orbost.

Basil's brother, William, also enlisted after the death of his brother and he too, lost his life.



***Basil Hooper and his grave at No. 2 Outpost Cemetery***

## Private Vernon Thomas Brookes – Wangrabelle

Killed in Action April 25, 1915

Vern Brookes had been the head teacher at Wangrabelle for several years when he rode 60 miles on horseback to enlist with the First Division at Orbost on October 1, 1914.

Born in Ballarat, he would have towered over his fellow enlistees being over six feet tall.

He trained and sailed with many other East Gippslanders, including Lane, McDonald and others, many of whom fell in the same circumstances – during the landing at Gallipoli.

After Gallipoli, his brother, Leslie, sought out some of those who were there and discovered that Vern was hit when landing and only lived about 10 minutes.

Nearly the whole boat load was hit. One who survived, an old Boer soldier, said that the last thing Vernon did was to give away his drink bottle to him *because you'll want it more than I do.*

He was 22 years old and is remembered on the Orbost Shire honour roll and at No. 2 Outpost Cemetery in Gallipoli.



**Vern Brookes and his grave at No. 2 Outpost Cemetery**

## Transport Driver Smedley Joseph John Terry – Flaggy Creek

**Killed in Action August 7, 1915**

Fred and Maria Terry and their first son, moved to Flaggy Creek in the early 1890s. Their daughter and youngest son, Smedley, were born in 1893 and 1896 respectively.

By the time he had enlisted, the family had moved to Drouin. He enlisted with the 4th Light Horse on August 22, 1914, and embarked on the *Anglo Egyptian* on October 19 for Egypt.

He only got as far as Malta before becoming sick, which delayed his arrival until July 13, 1915, and he rejoined his unit a fortnight later.

He died at Gaba Tepe on August 6 and was buried at Shell Green Cemetery at Gallipoli and remembered on the Lindenow, Bairnsdale Shire and Flaggy Creek honour rolls. He was 19 years old. His brother, Frederick, also enlisted and died from meningitis three weeks later on September 1, 1915.



**Smedley Terry, with his grave as it was in wartime, and today at Shell Green Cemetery**



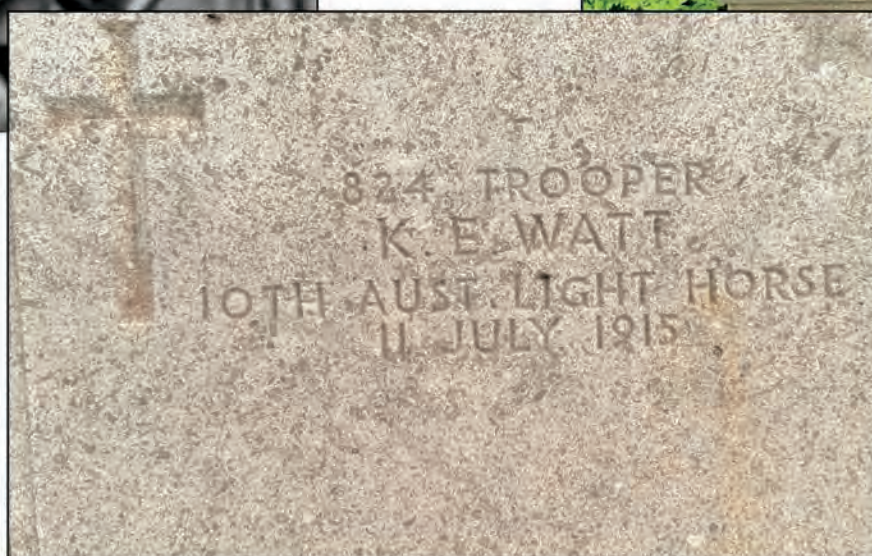
## Trooper Everard "Keith" Watt – Bairnsdale Killed in Action July 11, 1915

The Watt children, Lydia, Charles, Keith and Ruth, were all born in Bairnsdale to Joseph and Sarah Watt, with Keith being born in 1893. Joseph was a surveyor and, by 1910, he had moved the family to Kellerberrin in Western Australia.

Keith, 21, and his brother, Charles, 22, both enlisted on January 5, 1915, and joined the 3rd Reinforcements 10th Light Horse. They both trained in Western Australia before sailing together on the *Itonus* on February 19, 1915. They were in Egypt a short time before departing Alexandria for Gallipoli on May 16, 1915.

A month later, Keith contracted measles and was transferred to a hospital ship until he returned to his unit just two days before he died. He is buried at Ari Burnu Cemetery.

Charles was discharged in England in June 1917. An engraved mural brass tablet, that had been donated by Keith's friends, was unveiled at the Anglican Church at Kellerberrin in November 1915 dedicated to an *estimable young man*.



**Keith Watt and his grave at Ari Burnu Cemetery**

## **Trooper John Henry Finch – Nicholson** **Died of wounds November 16, 1915**

John Finch was born at Bendigo in 1875 and was not a young man when he joined the 13th Australian Light Horse. He was however, one of the unlucky ones who never quite made it. He was single and 37 years old when he enlisted in June 1915.

It is thought he was a miner on the Nicholson River when he listed his friend, John Noury, also a miner, at Nicholson, as his next of kin.

He embarked from Melbourne on the *Kyarra* in August and landed at Suez Canal September 27, 1915.

On November 3 he landed at Gallipoli as a reinforcement when plans for evacuation were already being considered and most likely put in place. Just 13 days later he was dead.

He was wounded in the body and both legs and taken to the Casualty Clearing Station where the word “destruction” was used to describe his injuries. He was buried at Ari Burnu Cemetery on the peninsula the same day he died.

The evacuation of Gallipoli commenced just three weeks later.



***The grave of the unlucky John Finch at Ari Burnu Cemetery on the shores of ANZAC Cove.***

**Private John Thomas Leslie (Tom) Hancher – Ensay and Omeo  
Killed in Action between May 8 and 12, 1915**

Tom, the only son of William and Stella Hancher, was born at Brunswick on Australia Day in 1892 and the family spent time in Coburg. He had one older and two younger sisters.

By 1905 both his parents had died, and 13-year-old Tom moved to Ensay, possibly supported by extended family, and worked as a farm labourer.

On December 5, 1914, when he was 22 years old, he enlisted at Bruthen and 17 days later was on the *Themistocles* on his way to war with the 5th Battalion.

He survived the initial landing at Gallipoli, but was killed in the advance on Krithia between May 8 and 12 and buried at Redoubt Cemetery on Cape Helles at Gallipoli.

Three years later, his sisters received a parcel from the army that included his diary and six silk handkerchiefs. One of these handkerchiefs (below) is now part of the Australian War Memorial collection.

He was never forgotten by his sisters who, in later years, named their home “Krithia” after the place where he lost his life, and his name appears on memorials in the Tambo Valley.



**Private Thomas Hancher, his handkerchief at the War Memorial, and his grave today at Redoubt Cemetery. He also had a Coburg link, hence the photo at his grave with Anthony Cianflone MP, Member for Pascoe Vale.**

## Private Edgar James WILSON – Bairnsdale

Killed in Action October 4, 1915

Edgar was born in Rochester, England, and emigrated to Australia with his parents, James and Caroline Wilson. They arrived when he was 14 years old and made Bairnsdale their home in 1910.

The Wilsons were living at Picnic Point and Edgar worked alternately as an orchardist and in dairy pursuits with his father on W. Counihan's property at Wy Yung. On March 24, 1915, when he was 19 years old, Edgar enlisted with the 24th Battalion and after training, set sail for Egypt in the *Ceramic* on June 25, 1915.

On August 19 he was at Gallipoli and was killed in action near Brown's Dip on October 4, 1915. The local Bairnsdale minister, Rev Young, received the telegram from the Defence Department and had the task of informing James and Caroline their son had been killed in action.

He was eventually buried at Lone Pine Cemetery in Gallipoli and is remembered on the Bairnsdale Shire honour roll. One of the last remarks to his mother before leaving was *well, whatever happens, I will never regret going.*

Unfortunately we were unable to photograph his exact grave on the visit due to ANZAC Day preparations at Lone Pine.



**Consent for Edgar James Wilson to join the Australian Army**

## **Sergeant Edward GUNNING – Wy Yung**

**Killed in Action November 29, 1915**

The Gunning family, Joseph and Eliza and their children John, Daisy, Edward, Percy and Frederick, made Wy Yung their home where they farmed on their property. The children all attended school at Wy Yung and later Bairnsdale Primary. On completing his education, Edward worked as a surveyor.

On December 21, 1914, when he was 23 years old, he enlisted with the 1st Reinforcements 24th Battalion and found himself in the thick of the action.

On October 11, the medics at Gallipoli transferred him to the 1st Australian Casualty Clearing Station with a foreign object in his left eye. This must have been rather serious as he was repatriated to Heliopolis for treatment to remove it and didn't return to the fighting until November 11. He spent time at Helouan and Moascar Cap at Ismailia on the Suez Canal before returning to the peninsula.

It was just 18 days later he was initially reported missing on November 29 and then later listed as killed in action and was eventually interred at Lone Pine Cemetery.

His brother, John, also enlisted and returned home safely. Edward Gunning is remembered on honour rolls at Bairnsdale, St John's Church and Sarsfield.

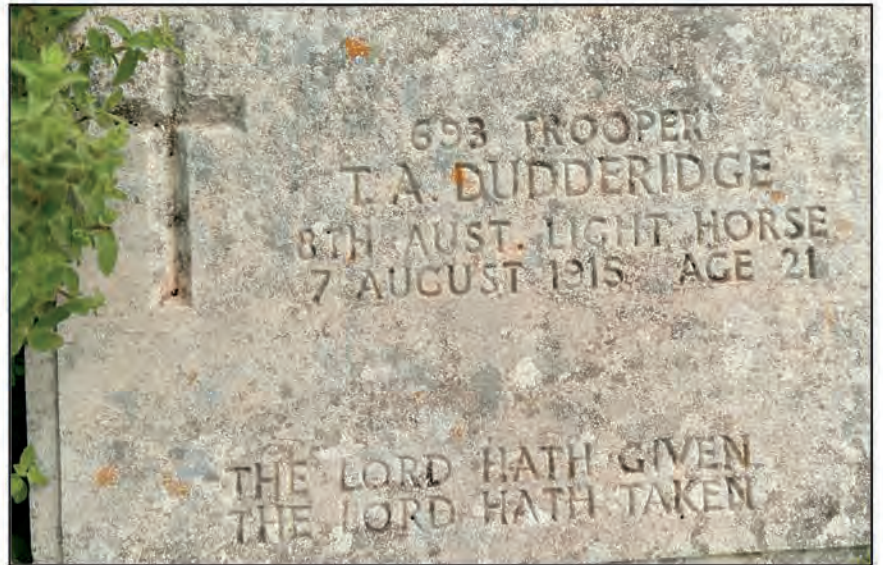
We were unable to photograph his grave due to ANZAC Day preparations.

### **Other graves visited**

While I am completing research into the others from my electorate that fell at Gallipoli to provide background information similar to those you have just read, the trip did afford us the opportunity to visit the graves of some of these men. Photos are as follows:



***The grave of Alexander Robertson, of Bundalaguah, at Shell Green Cemetery***



***The grave of Tommy Dudderidge, of Heyfield/Denison, at Ari Burnu Cemetery***



***Members of the Delegation also honored Turkish soldiers at their cemetery***

## Other visitations and meetings

In Istanbul, the Delegation visited the major cultural and historical sites of Istanbul which included the Dolmabahçe Palace, Sultan Ahmet Mosque, Ayasofya Mosque, Basilica Cistern, Topkapı Palace and the Bosphorus - places of immense historical and cultural significance for Türkiye. (April 20 and 21)

We met with the chair of the Council of Foreign Economic Relations of the Türkiye-Australia Business Council, Mr Steven Young, who is an Australian of Turkish heritage based in Istanbul. (April 20)

We spoke about growing business ties between Australia and Türkiye. He noted the opportunities that direct flights between Melbourne and Istanbul presented for business, trade and tourism.

In Ankara, the Delegation had the honour of visiting the Mausoleum of Atatürk (Anıtkabir) to pay our respects, lay a wreath, and sign the Book of Honour. It serves as the resting place of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk. (April 22)

Atatürk led the Turkish forces at Gallipoli and was the founder of the Republic of Türkiye, serving as its first President from 1923 until his death in 1938.

After the Gallipoli campaign, Atatürk famously said:

*Those heroes that shed their blood and lost their lives...*

*You are now lying in the soil of a friendly country.*

*Therefore rest in peace.*

*There is no difference between the Johnnies and the Mehmets to us where they lie side by side now here in this country of ours...*

*You, the mothers, who sent their sons from faraway countries wipe away your tears;*

*Your sons are now lying in our bosom and are in peace.*

*After having lost their lives on this land they have become our sons as well.*

Ankara also afforded the opportunity to join with the Australian Ambassador, Mr Miles Armitage, from the Embassy of Australia in Ankara, and Parliamentarians of the Türkiye Australia friends group from the Turkish Grand Assembly. (April 22)

The following day, we visited the Turkish Grand National Assembly (parliament), which has 600 members. (Tuesday, April 23, 2024)

The Delegation joined a reception hosted by HE Halil Eldemir, the President of the Türkiye-Australia Interparliamentary Friendship Group, Member of Parliament for Bilecik. Other Parliamentarians also joined this reception. (April 23)

We also attended the TGNA General Assembly Special Session for the Anniversary of Foundation of the TGNA and a guided tour of the TGNA. This coincided with National Sovereignty and Children's Day in Türkiye – a very significant date that celebrates democracy and the importance of young people. (April 23)

The final meeting in Ankara was with HE Bekir Bozdağ, the Deputy Speaker of TGNA. (April 23)

At Çanakkale, we attended the Ceremony for the 109th Anniversary of the Land Wars of Çanakkale, where the President of the Gallipoli Historic Site, Ismail Kasdemir, delivered a moving speech. (April 24)

Mr Kasdemir spoke about the common ground that Gallipoli now represents as a sacred meeting place to reflect and commemorate.

On top of the Turkish commemoration, we also participated in the Dawn Service, Lone Pine (Australian) Service and Chunuk Bair (New Zealand) Service.

Other highlights of the trip were undoubtedly walking the sacred ground of the battle sites, in particular the cemeteries which, in many cases, are located on battle grounds (eg Lone Pine and The Nek).

We were also in possession of Lone Pine seeds that were the descendants of the original Lone Pine.

These were provided by the Friends of Gallipoli and, to the best of anyone's knowledge, are the first descendant seeds to come back to Gallipoli from Australia.

We presented these to the Ambassador, Mayor of Gallipoli and our guide who escorted us around the battlegrounds and graves.

Following are some photos from the abovementioned elements of the trip.



***With Deputy Leader of the Nationals, Emma Kealy at the Dawn Service***





***Walking the battlegrounds and trenches was a terrific experience - this is near The Nek***



***Members of the Delegation at the Turkish Memorial following their service***



***Members of the Delegation at Russell's Top with ANZAC Cove in the background, a picture that highlights the challenge facing the Australians that landed on April 25, 1915.***



***Presenting the Lone Pine seed descendants to our Gallipoli Peninsula tour guide, Jan***



***Presenting the Lone Pine descendant seeds to the Australian Ambassador, Miles Armitage, and with the Turkish Parliament members on our visit to Ankara following discussions on a range of issues including trade, tourism and future opportunities.***



**Additional information for Parliamentary Services:**

The visit took place between April 17-26, 2024 and included visitations and stays in Istanbul, Ankara and Çanakkale and this included commercial flights between the locations, airport transfers and transport to some locations.

## ACCOMMODATION (AUD)

**Thursday, April 18 | Friday, April 19 | Saturday, April 20 | Sunday, April 21, 2024**

Conrad Hotel

Cihannüma, Saray Cd No:5, 34353 Beşiktaş/İstanbul, Türkiye \$1,693.18

**Monday, April 22, 2024**

Hilton International

Tahran Caddesi No 12 Kavaklıdere Ankara, 06700, Türkiye \$ 206.37

**Tuesday, April 23 | Wednesday, April 24 | Thursday, April 25, 2024**

Kolin Hotel

Bogazkent Mevkii Kepez, Canakkale, 17100, Turkey \$ 706.94

## COMMERCIAL TRANSPORT (AUD)

**Friday, April 19, 2024**

Alpos Tek Istanbul, taxi – Conrad Hotel to Australian Consulate \$ 21.09

**Tuesday, April 23, 2024**

OzTurk Ankara, airport transfer - Hilton Hotel to Ankara airport \$ 50.80

**This trip was completed for both electorate and Shadow Ministry purposes/business.**