

Claude Campbell from Kilsyth was also wounded on those cliffs. In fact he was shot through both feet by the one bullet.

In a letter home he described what happened to him on that day –

'We were transhipped into destroyers and then into cutters. The first party was received by the Turks right at the water's edge but our boys sprang out through the water and charged them straight away. The shore was exactly like Mornington – a short beach with a rough high ridge at the back which we had to face. A Turkish battery was situated on a point nearby and we landed amid machine gun fire as well as shrapnel. Still we drove the beggars in with the bayonet, and after winning the first ridge had to hold it all day under heavy fire. I got hit in the feet during the first night. A bullet went out through the top of the right foot making a nice hole and pieces of the bullet flew through the left foot'.

Claude returned home to Kilsyth and after the war was surprised to find out his bullet wounds had been exaggerated and that he had been listed on the Croydon War Memorial as having been killed. It seemed that everyone had heard he had been shot but somewhere along the way someone took that to mean he had died and had added his name to the memorial. In fact it is still on there.

Another local soldier, James Fraser from Yering, was another who had advanced by the cliffs and had made to the afternoon unharmed until he was wounded in the leg at Shrapnel Gully and evacuated off the peninsula to a hospital ship. In the end his leg was considered so badly wounded he was sent back to Australia.

But this is where the real tragedy happens. The following year he was crossing St Kilda Road to attend a doctor's appointment about his leg when he was run over and killed by a passing tram. He is buried at the Lilydale cemetery and his name appears on the Lilydale war memorial.

Another casualty in the first landing was James Cowey of Monbulk, who had to be carried away from Courtney's Post with an arm wound while at the same time his brother, Robert Cowey, a Lieutenant in the 3rd Battalion, had assumed command of his company after the death of his Captain and dug his men in to create what was later to be known as Quinn's Post.

Duncan Campbell of Wandin was another who spent the day advancing up this natural bastion. Exactly fifty years later he would retrace his steps when he returned to the Peninsula in 1965 with 350 other Gallipoli veterans to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the landing.

By the end of the first day the Anzacs had performed a heroic struggle to establish a foothold on the small strip of almost unsurmountable ridges and cliffs. From here they dug in, settling into a trench warfare stalemate with the Turkish forces always retaining command of the heights.

What they wouldn't realise is that their gallant efforts on this day would affect their homeland like nothing else had, or ever would, in developing their nation's pride and identity.

Lest we Forget.
