



## Cyril Humphreys 1873 – 1915

Cyril was born in Llantysilio, Denbigh, Denbighshire, North Wales in 1873. His full birth name was *Frederick William Cyril Humphreys*. His father was the Reverend Humphrey Humphreys, a Church of England Minister, born in Llanynys, Denbighshire in 1842 and died in 1930. His mother was Emily (nee Pearson) born in Middlesex in 1841 and died in 1894. They were married in Croydon, Surrey in 1867.

Their other children were; Pearl Kathleen, born in Ruabon, Denbighshire in 1868, Humphrey Richard, born in Ruabon in 1870, Llewellyn John, born in Llantysilio in 1874 and served in the Australian Army in World War 1 and Edward Ernest, born in Henllan, Denbighshire in 1879.

On the 1881, 1891, 1901 and 1911 Census Records for Wales, the family are living at The Rectory, Henllan, Denbighshire.

Reverend Humphreys was remarried in 1895 to Emily Harriet Price, born in Henllan in 1867 and died in 1955, they had daughter; Hannah Irene, born in Henllan in 1907.

All that is known about Cyril's later life comes from a set of 56 pages of his service records held by the Australian War Memorial in Canberra. A later amendment after his death states that he was married on 7<sup>th</sup> April 1906 in South Africa and had a child and but his wife's first name does not appear. Her address is given as 121, Banket Street, Hillbrow, Johannesburg, South Africa.

He attested in the Australian Army on 29<sup>th</sup> October 1914 in Adelaide, South Australia, giving his age as 39 years and 9 months and his civilian occupation as a clerk who was unmarried and that prior to the First World War he served for seven years in the Cape Mounted Rifles in South Africa. He rose to the rank of Sergeant with the Service Number 551 in the 9<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the Australian Light Horse and was sent to Gallipoli on 16<sup>th</sup> May 1915, where he was later killed in action. After an Official Court of Enquiry on 26<sup>th</sup> April 1916, the official date of his death is recorded as 29<sup>th</sup> August 1915; there are varying accounts of his death in his records, but the most likely is that he was killed at Hill 60 which was a low knoll at the northern end of the Sari Bair range which dominated the Suvla landing. Capturing this hill along with Scimitar Hill would have allowed the Anzac and Suvla landings to be securely linked. On the evening of 27<sup>th</sup> August 1915 the 9<sup>th</sup> Light Horse Regiment of the Australian 3<sup>rd</sup> Light Horse Brigade were sent in as reinforcements. A wave of 75 men led by Lt. Colonel Carew Reynell lost its way and was caught in the open by Ottoman machine guns, with many soldiers and Reynell being killed. On 28<sup>th</sup> August, some trenches at the summit were captured but the Ottomans clung to the vital northern face which overlooked Suvla. Attacking and counter-attacking continued until this final assault on Hill 60 ended on 29<sup>th</sup> August 1915. His remains were never identified for burial and so he is commemorated on the Lone Pine Memorial, Anzac, Gallipoli Peninsular, Turkey. Cyril was awarded the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal which were sent to his father, the Rev. Humphreys in 1922.

The Lone Pine Memorial stands in Lone Pine Cemetery on the site of the fiercest fighting at Lone Pine and overlooks the whole front line of May 1915. It commemorates more than 4,900 Australian and New Zealand servicemen who died in the Anzac area - the New Zealanders prior to the fighting in August 1915 - whose graves are not known. Others named on the memorial died at sea and were buried in Gallipoli waters.

Cyril is also commemorated on the Dewsbury Cenotaph in Crow Nest Park and in the Dewsbury Roll of Honour kept in Dewsbury Central Library and on the War Memorial in St. John the Evangelist Church, Dewsbury Moor.

It is not known why Cyril Humphreys' name is commemorated in Dewsbury; there is no obvious link with the Dewsbury area for either himself or his family.

In Memory of

Sergeant

**Cyril Humphreys**

551, 9th, Australian Light Horse who died on 29 August 1915

Son of the Rev. Humphrey Humphreys and Emily Humphreys of Henllan, Denbighshire.

Remembered with Honour

**Lone Pine Memorial**



Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

**HUMPHREYS C.**