

North Central Review – 8 December 2015

David Crawford Private 231

David Crawford was born at High Camp, Kilmore in 1874, the son of William and Jane Crawford (nee Johnston). He became a motor mechanic and during the Boer War served for about two years with Bethune's Mounted Infantry. David married Mabel Hannah Little in 1904 in Kilmore. Their son Frank Seymour Crawford was born at Morwell in 1907.

David, living in Yarraville, was quick to enlist in Melbourne on September 21, after war broke out in August 1914. He joined B Squadron of the 8th Light Horse Regiment as Private, 231 and was quickly promoted to corporal on November 1 and sergeant on December 1, 1914, while in training at Broadmeadows.

The 8th Light Horse regiment embarked on the Star of Victoria during the afternoon of February 24, 1915, and departed Melbourne for Egypt that night. After about two months in Egypt, David embarked for Gallipoli on May 16, 1915 on board the Menominee.

When the Australian infantry units were sent to Gallipoli it was thought that the terrain was unsuitable for mounted troops. However, heavy casualties resulted in the deployment of the 3rd Light Horse Brigade as reinforcements in May 1915. After serving for five weeks on Gallipoli David was killed by shell fire on June 23, 1915 and buried later that day at Point Gallipoli, Ari Burnu Cemetery, about half a mile north of Anzac Cove.

David's death was reported in the Kilmore Advertiser on October 9, 1915. He was awarded the 1914/15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal. His widow, Mabel, received a Memorial Scroll, a Memorial Plaque, the King's Message and David's effects, including his kit bag.

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