

# Capt. Harold Edwin ARMITAGE



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

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Played with the Adelaide University Cricket Club

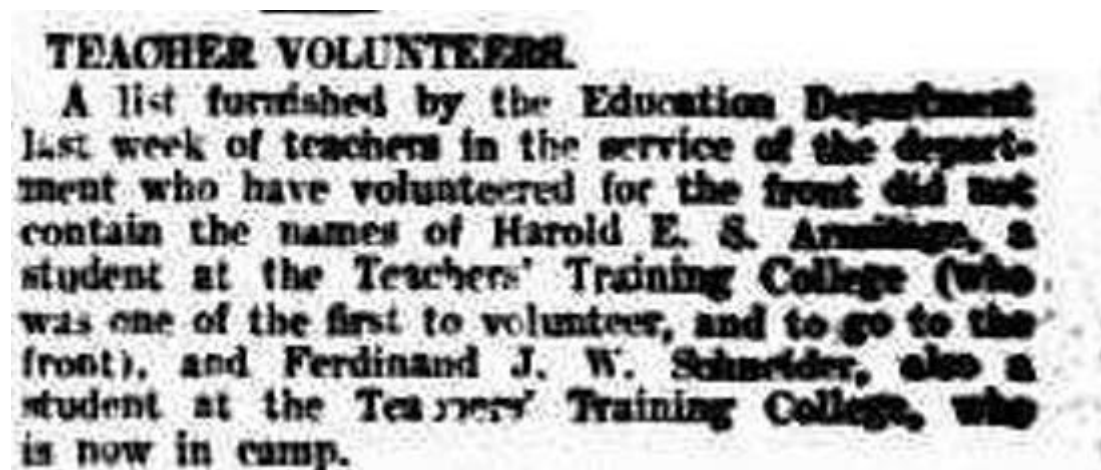
1914 - 1915 B Grade

Arts Student / Teachers Training College



Place of birth	Edsall St, Norwood, South Australia
School	Houghton Public School. Adelaide School of Mines, Adelaide High School and Adelaide University.
Religion	Church of England
Occupation	Student
Address	School House, Millicent, South Australia
Marital status	Single
Age at embarkation	20
Next of kin	Father, Henry James Armitage, Millicent, South Australia
Previous military service	Served as a Private, Sergeant and Lieutenant in 79th Regiment, Citizen Military Forces, 4th District.
Enlistment date	25 March 1915
Rank on enlistment	2nd Lieutenant
Unit name	<a href="#">10th Battalion, 5th Reinforcement</a>
AWM Embarkation Roll number	23/27/2
Embarkation details	Unit embarked from Adelaide, South Australia, on board HMAT A20 <i>Hororata</i> on 20 April 1915
Rank from Nominal Roll	Captain
Unit from Nominal Roll	10th Battalion
Recommendations (Medals and Awards)	Mention in Despatches Awarded, and promulgated, 'London Gazette', second Supplement, No. 30107 (1 June 1917); 'Commonwealth Gazette' No. 169 (4 October 1917).
Other details from Roll of Honour Circular	Was refused permission to resign Commission to enlist as private in 10th Bn August 1914. Joined O.T.S. Brighton December 1914. Passed head of the list - entered Camp at Oaklands, helped train 3rd, 4th and 5th reinforcements to 10[th Bn]. Accepted for service Feb 1915 - left Adelaide with 5/10th April 20th - (in

	charge). Directo Gallipoli May 30. With 10th till 50th Bn was formed. Took a distinguished and leading part in all actions of 50th in France - and right through his period of active service was never absent for a day from his company except one weeks holiday leave Sept 1916. Chief engagements - all on Gallipoli from June 1st; with 50th [at] Pozieres, Moquet Farm, La Barque, Flers and Noreuil - where he established positions before falling. (details from father)
Fate	Killed in Action 3 April 1917
Place of death or wounding	Noreuil, France
Age at death	22
Age at death from cemetery records	22
Place of burial	Noreuil Australian Cemetery (Row C, Grave No. 21), France
Panel number, Roll of Honour, Australian War Memorial	149
Miscellaneous information from cemetery records	Parents: Henry and Martha ARMITAGE, Millicent, South Australia
Family/military connections	Brother - Midshipman afterwards Sub Lt G.W.T. Armitage RAN. Served on HMS 'Canada' and 'Torrens' - 1917-18. Torpedoed on transport 'Ballarat', April 1917.
Other details	War service: Egypt, Gallipoli, Western Front  Medals: 1914-15 Star, British War Medal, Victory Medal



## OFF TO THE FRONT.

Millicent, February 12.

Millicent will have another representative as an officer in the Australian forces at the front, Lieutenant Harold Armitage, the eldest son of Mr. H. J. Armitage. The young officer, who has been engaged in training recruits at Oaklands since the beginning of the year, has worked his way through the various stages, starting as a junior cadet. Last year, whilst studying at the University for the arts course, he managed to qualify for a commission, and at the outbreak of war volunteered for active service, and after persistent effort has been rewarded by a recommendation for a commission in the fifth reinforcements. He has been a tent mate of Lieutenant Ireland, another Millicent boy, and hopes to be with that officer during the expedition. A younger brother, Cadet Midshipman George Armitage, left Millicent on Tuesday for the Naval College at Jervis Bay.

#### LATE CAPT. H. E. S. ARMITAGE.

By the death in action at Bapaume of Capt. (Acting Major) Harold Edwin Salisbury Armitage, another valuable life has been sacrificed at the altar of duty. Born at Norwood, on November 11, 1894, the young officer had a most successful career at the Houghton Public School, the School of Mines, and later at the Adelaide High School, where he passed in the junior, senior, and higher public examinations. He entered the University and was just completing his first year in the B.A. course when war began. He had taken a prominent part in sports. The Houghton, St. Bartholomew's, and



THE LATE CAPT. H. E. S. ARMITAGE.

A.H.S. football teams had a call on his services, and in rowing he was connected with the A.H.S. and University crews. In 1914 he had gained his commission in the 79th Regiment, and he vainly tried to resign this commission to join the 10th or 12th Battalion as a private. In December he entered an officers' school at Brighton, and, passing head of the list, was selected for duty at Oaklands, where the 3rd and 4th Reinforcements for the 10th were. The 5th Reinforcements were almost entirely trained by him, and later on a regulation prohibiting officers under 23 from enlisting was specially relaxed in his favour, so that on April 20, 1915, he started in charge. On reaching Egypt he left his men, and proceeded straight to Amara, where he was in the firing line

Amara, where he was in the firing line five weeks after leaving Adelaide. Here he stayed until the evacuation, and was one of the few officers unwounded or incapacitated during that arduous time. He gained his full lieutenancy in August, and almost at once took the duties of acting captain, owing to the loss of officers. After a few weeks to recoup at Lemnos, the 10th sailed for Egypt, and until February took part in guarding that country. The 4th Division was then formed, and many men and officers were transferred from the 10th to form the 50th Battalion. The deceased officer was among these, and gained his captaincy in March, 1916. After a long and trying time in the desert east of Suez, the 50th left for France early in June, and almost at once took part in the big push then starting east from Albert. At Pozieres, Mouquet Farm, and other positions the 50th did strenuous work, being in support with the old 10th. Capt. Armitage was foremost in the bitter attacks in August, on the ridges barring the way to Bapaume. He had a short "spell" of seven days in England, in September, but during all the winter remained with his men. His C.O. had just promised him "leave" to visit England to meet his younger brother (Melchman G. W. T. Armitage), but when the new victorious push started on March 1, he probably returned to his company, and was taking part in the struggle which resulted in the capture of Bapaume, when he fell in the hour of victory, on March 3. A Militant soldier (Sgt. Gurr), writing to a friend, told how the men appreciated their young commander. He wrote: "Harold Armitage is doing splendid work. He is a major now, and the men love and respect him. They declare he is one of the best officers in the Australian Imperial Force."



## "NOBODY WORRIES MUCH"

### AUSTRALIANS' VIEW OF THE TURKS.

Lieutenant Harold Armitage writes from Gaba Tepe under date June 9 to his father as follows:—Well, I have at last arrived here, and was under fire from the very beginning, but as we are well dug in we don't take much notice of the Turks at all. They fire at us all day—but as their bullets either just hit the sandbags or else whistle overhead, nobody worries very much about them. Anyhow, while I have been here—some days—we have had a fairly hot fire put at us, yet nobody has been touched yet.

I suppose you know as much about the landing of our boys at Gaba Tepe as I do, but I would just like to say that it was a marvellous piece of work—Spion Kop was nothing to it. We have had one or two exciting times, especially when our boys have put up dummy charges at the Turks. The Turks are very jumpy. A little ruse converts their trenches at night into sheets of flame for a few seconds, and then they gradually calm down again. We hear all kinds of rumors and yarns about the Turks, but I think very few are true. Anyhow, you get more definite news than we do concerning the whole war. In fact, the only definite news we get is from the trenches in our vicinity. We only received full particulars of the Lusitania affair on Thursday, so you see how fortunate you are with regard to war news.

I am in very good company. Captain Shaw, my O.C., is a fine gentleman. He treats his junior officers like younger brothers, and we all think him to be Christmas. Lieutenant Stopp is another good sort, too—an old Saints' boy. You have heard me speak of Gordon Cornish before (he was our adjutant at Fort Largs), so you can realise the pleasure I had in getting into the same company as he. The men are mainly miners from Broken Hill, a lot of fine fighters with big hearts.

Let me know any South Australian news that is going—re Varsity, A.H.S. old scholars, football, &c. It is all very acceptable, for we are practically desolate as regards news. Talking of old A.H.S. scholars that are here at the front, I have seen several, and heard of others. Gawler Coombe is a quartermaster-sergeant; Lion, Gellert, Jack Pearce, Lewin are sergeants. McCann is a company sergeant-major, and Henwood has been promoted to second-lieutenant from sergeant in the 10th. I told you about Gordon Munro. McLaren is an invalid with rheumatics. All are well. Pearce and Coombe will be back in the firing line again in a few days. They were wounded some time back. I saw Don Dowling almost as soon as I landed. He is well, and with him was Pat Auld (late of 78th). This is my third attempt at writing this letter. Things are so busy here that one does not get the time to write. I am also very short of paper, having only seven letterettes left, so I have not only to conserve paper, but also to use my weekly letterette home to envelop this scrawl to you in. I hope before seven weeks are up to be in Constantinople, where I trust I shall be able to get a supply of stationery.