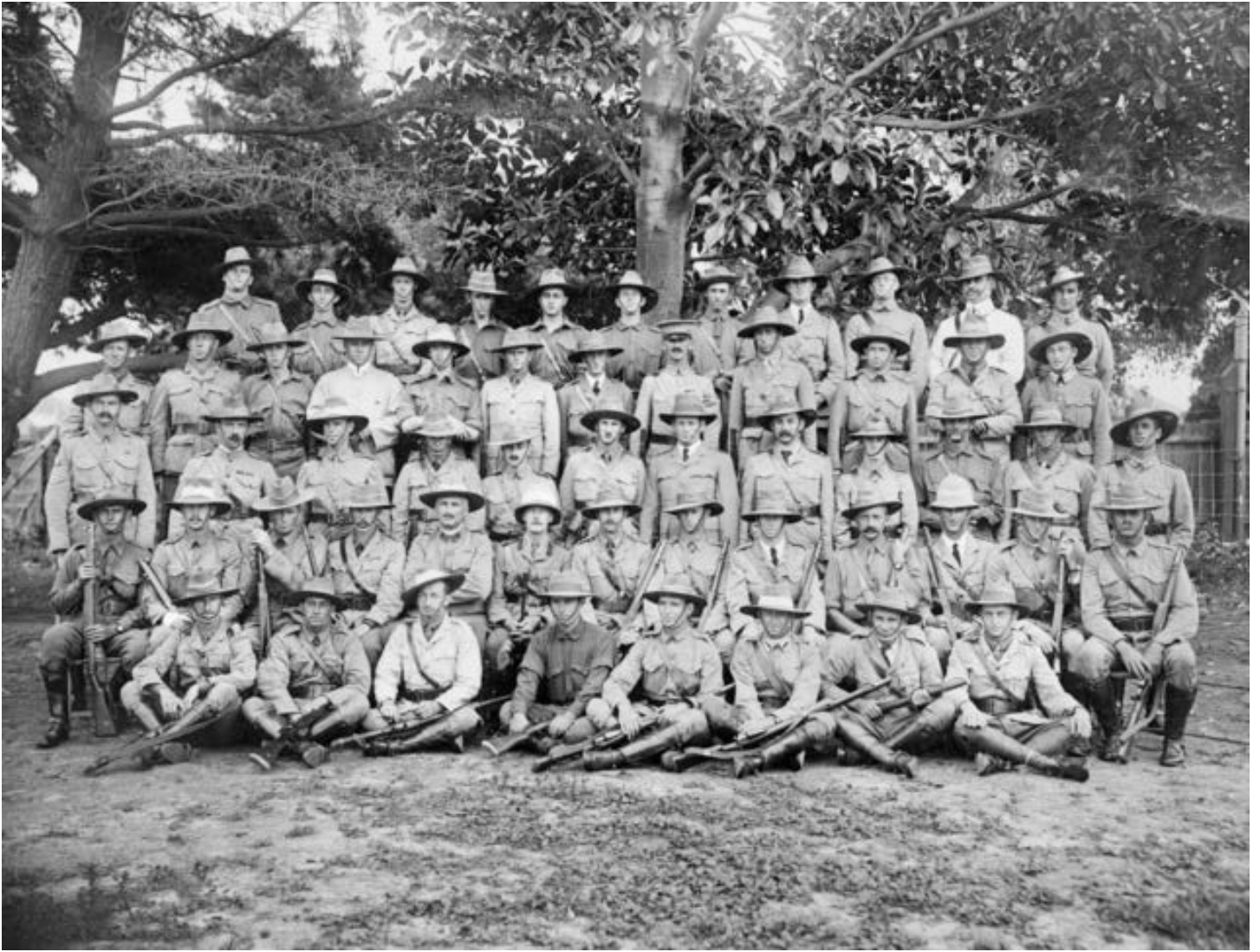


WESTGARTH, Mervyn



Group portrait of officers of the Australian Light Horse who attended a course at No.17 School of Instruction, Marrickville between 8 February and 6 March 1915. Identified, left to right: back row: Lieutenants (Lt) E. H. Meredith, R. E. Ellerton, C. A. Brough, L. W. Davies [probably Louis Walter Davies], R. C. Dant, F. J. Dickson, A. W. K. Farquhar [Allan Wallis Kemmis Farquar], C. H. Bate, F. N. Snow [Frank Noel Snow], A. E. D'Arcy, Staff Sergeant Major (SSgtM) W. Hudson, Assistant Instructor. Second back row: Lts A. Butler, A. B. Fitzhardinge, S. C. Calderwood [Stanley Charles Calderwood], C. G. Johnston, R. T. Williams, W. B. Christian, J. Kemp-Bruce, J. W. Connor, R. H. Richards, H. M. Sandy, K. W. A. Smith, R. C. Hunter. Third back row: SSgtM J. Dunlop (Assistant Instructor), SSgtM A. F. Clifton (Assistant Instructor), Lts H. W. Veness, C. K. Bragg, R. Barnett, Jack Rupert Cyril Davies, A. B. Pettigrew, J. G. Asser, W. J. S. Gillies, S. H. Haggarty, O. E. Carter, SSgtM V. McNamara (Assistant Instructor). Second front row: Lt H. N. Beiers, Captain H. F. White, Captain P. Connolly, Major G. D. Ross VD, Major R. C. Holman DSO (Instructor), Colonel D. P. White (Chief Instructor), Captains W. G. Alley, M. S. Kennedy [Malcolm Stuart Kennedy], P. Cureton, Lts H. F. Robinson, J. E. Westgarth [John Ellesmere Westgarth], **M. Westgarth [Mervyn Westgarth]**, A. G. Brady. Front row: Lts E. St. J. N. Binnie [Ernest St John Northcote Binnie], E. Hyman [Eric Montague Hyman?], G. N. Mills, W. T. Anderson, H. I. Johnson, G. Nugent [George Nugent?], E. B. Ralston [Edward Bolton Nugent?], A. M. Ferrard.

Australian War Memorial Ref. P02447.001 Copyright expired-public domain

Mervyn Westgarth was born in Sydney NSW in 1889, the fifth of six children born to George Charles and Lucy Florence between 1881 and 1896. Mervyn's siblings were George Mansfield b.1881, Ronald Nigel b.1882, Gwendoline Mary Allen b.1884, Dudley b.1887, and Doreen b.1896. George Charles Westgarth was a solicitor at Messrs. Westgarth, Nathan and Co.

Living at Campbelltown, NSW, Mervyn attended Sydney Grammar School and entered HAC, aged only 16 where undertook the piggery special course from July 1905, gaining the certificate in December of that same year. Whilst at the College he was a member of College Rifle Club.

By 1907 Mervyn was working on a sheep property near Bookham, NSW, on the Murrumbidgee River. His father died on 6 October 1908 at his Campbelltown home. Mervyn's mother later moved to Manning Road, Double Bay, NSW.

Mervyn was working around Bourke, NSW by December 1909, and was a station overseer at Coan Downs, Mount Hope, NSW, when he enlisted 12 November 1914 as a Private in the 12th Light Horse Regiment, B Squadron.

Promoted to Sergeant 10 May 1915, Mervyn embarked from Sydney, NSW, aboard HMAT Suevic A29 on 13 June 1915.

Mervyn served in Gallipoli, Egypt and Palestine (now Israel), and was commissioned 2nd Lieutenant on 9 September 1916.

Mervyn died of pneumonia and meningitis on 19 February 1918 in the 14th Australian General Hospital, Egypt.

Buried in the Port Said War Memorial Cemetery, Egypt, he was 29 years old.