

CAMPBELL, Stanley George Mathieson



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Bailleul Cemetery Extension
Photograph © P.R. Lister 25 June 2014

Stanley George Mathieson Campbell and his slightly older cousin Albert George William Campbell, were both born in Portland, Victoria, and commenced their studies at the College on 23 January 1912. It seems they were both academically capable and competitive students throughout their studies; both placing well and also winning prizes. In 1913, they were both awarded equal Second Best Practical Student. Stanley and Albert also gained prizes in the Ploughing Match in 1913, placing second and third respectively. In their final year, Stanley was awarded Best Practical Student, while Albert was runner-up with Second Best. They both completed the HDA and left on the same day, 23 December 1914. In June 1915 the HAC Journal reported that Stanley and his brother, along with their cousin Albert, were sheep farming together, and that they'd applied for land at Yanco, NSW. Shortly after, on 16 July 1915, Stanley and Albert enlisted together with the 29th Battalion and were issued sequential regimental numbers.

Stanley wrote to HAC from Broadmeadows Camp, Victoria, two months after volunteering;

"I often think of the years I spent at the H.A.C., and number them amongst the happiest and best of my life!"

He wrote again in mid-1916 from camp on the Suez Canal, Egypt, where he'd spent six months; soon after embarking for France, arriving in Marseille on 23 June.

Stanley rose to the rank of sergeant and was seen as a capable and competent NCO by his men and officers. Stanley received a grenade wound on 24 September from which he died at the 8th Casualty Clearing Station near Armentieres, France, on 3 October 1916. He was 22 and was buried in the Bailleul Communal Cemetery Extension, France, close to the Belgian border.

Stanley's mother Alice was widowed, and his uncle, Hugh (Albert's father), wrote to the College informing them of Stanley's death. He said of his son Albert;

"... He will miss dear old Stan dreadfully as they were always together".

Albert survived the war, being sent home after an accidental wounding in May 1917 and was still writing to the College in 1942.