

DOUGLAS, William Bowman



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William was born in Richmond, NSW and came from Bowman's Farm, studying for his HDA at HAC 1898-99, aged 16. He returned to the College in 1902 for six months and completed the Dairy Certificate. Over the coming years prior to his WWI enlistment he wrote articles on horticulture for the College Journal, and once serving he continued to write describing irrigation in Egypt. He had been a member of the local Richmond militia, the 41st Infantry (as was Harold Watkins), joined the AIF in September 1914 becoming Captain in the 3rd Battalion and later died from wounds received at Gallipoli.

The June 1915 Journal carried his obituary as printed in the 'Hawkesbury Herald'. In part it states;

"Last year he was ringmaster [of the Hawkesbury District Agricultural Show]: this year, whilst the show was in full swing, poor Bowman lay dying from his wounds. No letters from our soldiers away were more interesting than those from the late captain, published in this paper, written to his old O.C., Colonel C.S. Guest, V.D., who, on the night of the soldier's stirring send-off at Richmond, took from his own wrist a watch, and buckled it to the wrist of the gallant officer he esteemed so much, but who now rests with many others of our best blood in that far-off land."

The Journal Editor added;

"A citizen's memorial service for the late Captain William Bowman Douglas was held on Wednesday night May 19, in the Richmond Presbyterian Church, which, as for the service on Sunday night for the late Lieutenant Harold Watkins, was crowded. Among the military officers present was the late captain's old O.C., Colonel C.S. Guest, V.D."

Douglas was in fact wounded at Gallipoli on 3 May 1915 and died on the 5th whilst aboard the hospital ship *Gascon*. He was buried at sea, aged 32, and is commemorated on the Lone Pine Memorial, Turkey. He left "a wife & two young children".