

WHITE, John Vernon



Photograph and partial content supplied by Helen White, niece of JV White

Eighteen year old John Vernon White arrived at HAC from Glenorchy, Tasmania, in July 1912, undertaking the diploma until years end, after which he spent the first half of 1913 in the Orchard Course. He was generally known as J Vernon White, including among his family.

Upon his return to Tasmania he took over managing the family orchard from his mother (his father had died when Vernon was just 14). At the beginning of April 1915 the 21 year old orchardist volunteered with the 3rd Light Horse, having served previously with the 26th Light Horse militia for four months. He embarked from Melbourne aboard the HMAT *Wandilla* with his unit in mid-June bound for Egypt. Vernon was involved in the Battle for Rafa, in which he was wounded on 9 January;

“Lieutenant Griffin writes from El Arish, Sinai Peninsula, under date January 1...Five of my “C” troop boys were put out of action, with more or less serious wounds. I grieve to say that one of them in Vernon White has since succumbed to his wounds. White, whose people live at Glenorchy, was a particularly promising lad – no end of a good soldier, and very popular in the squadron. His place in the troop will be hard to fill. His cousin Rod Weaver was one of the Romani heroes.”

The Examiner, Launceston, 8 March, 1917, page 7.

He died on 12 January 1917, at the 1st Light Horse Field Ambulance, El Arish, from an abdominal gunshot wound and was buried in the military cemetery there.

After the Armistice, remains of those at El Arish, including J Vernon White, were transferred to Kantara War Memorial Cemetery, Suez Canal, Egypt.

John Vernon White's name is absent from the Honour Roll at the Soldiers Memorial Hall. His cousin Roderick Noel White Weaver, also of the 3rd Light Horse, was killed at Romani in August 1916.