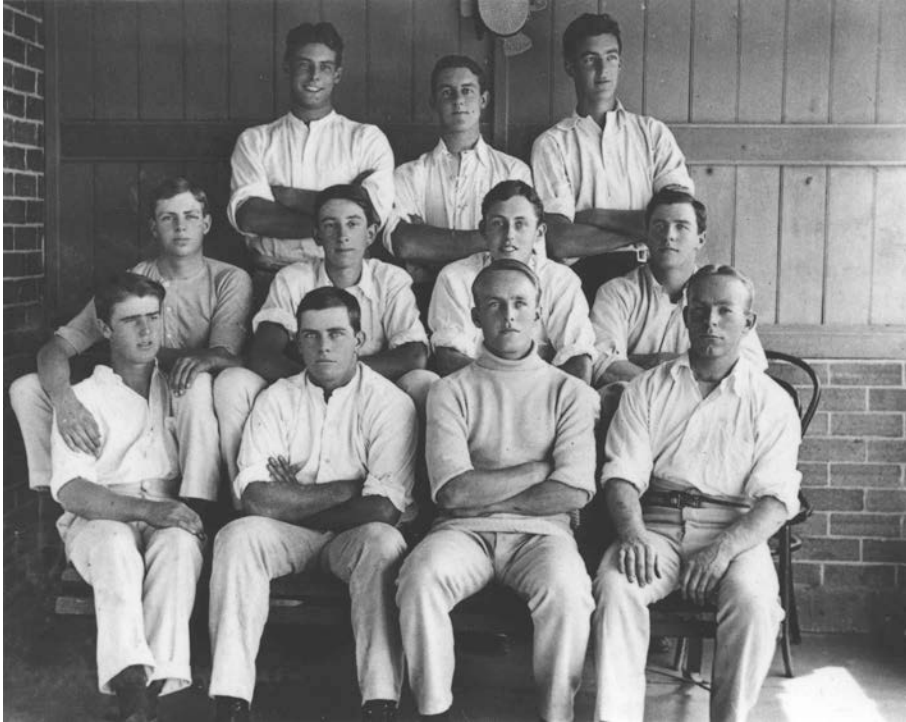


CLIFTON, Ralph



First Year Class, 1908 [Hawkesbury Agricultural College (HAC)]

Back row (L to R): Wilmot, Henry, Maxwell.

Middle row (L to R): **Clifton**, Capper, F.E. Smith, Cordingley.

Front row (L to R): Emery, O'Keeffe, S.B. Hookins, S.S. Hookins.

University Archives Ref: P1298



University Ref: AI-46388 HAC
Journal (Vol.14, No.9) September
1917 p.124

Ralph Clifton was born in Queensland in 1890, the youngest child of Ralph and Jessie Elizabeth nee Borham. Ralph had an older sister, Jessie, born in 1888.

Ralph was 17 years old when he enrolled at HAC in 1908. He was a member of the Rifle club in 1908, and left the College in December 1909 having completed the Practical Orchard Certificate and sat the Diploma exam.

By March 1910 the College Journal reported Ralph had returned to Queensland after leaving HAC and had spent most of his time since leaving fighting bush fires. By June 1910, Ralph was managing his father's property on the Downs, Qld.

In April 1915, the Journal reported that Ralph Clifton (Mot name "Chila") was going to England in May by the "Osterley" to enlist with British forces.

Ralph wrote to the Principal from Edinburgh, on 23 November 1915: 'I was indeed very sorry to hear of Rosenthal's [Arthur Kingston Rosenthal] death, also 'Scrap' MacFarlane's [Edward MacFarlane MacFarlane]. I did not get in the Flying Corps as it was full and would have necessitated a long wait. I got into this branch of sport [Royal Field Artillery] instead. It keeps one busy to try and become an efficient officer in this scientific work with only three to nine months' training' (AI-46379 HAC Journal (Vol.13, No.5) May 1916 p.66).

Ralph married Ida Kathleen Harris in December 1916 at Dartford, England.

Ralph was a Second Lieutenant in the Royal Field Artillery, attached to Headquarters 14th Division. Serving on the Western Front, he was wounded at Arras in May 1917.

'...He was a son of R. Clifton, Esq., grazier, of Jesslands, Warra, Queensland. In acknowledgement of a letter of sympathy from the Principal, Mrs. Clifton said:— "Ralph had been Town Commandant of a township near Arras for three months. Again called into action he was dangerously wounded in the chest on May 3 and was moved to Boulogne. He was joined by his wife, and was better, happy and bright when haemorrhage suddenly attacked him. He became unconscious and died on the 23rd...' (AI-46388 HAC Journal (Vol.14, No.9) September 1917 p.124).

Ralph Died of wounds on 22 May 1917, aged 27, and is buried at Boulogne Eastern Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France.