

SYME, Noel Herbert



University Archives Ref. AI-46389 HAC Journal - Vol.14, No.10 - October 1917 p.139

Noel Herbert Syme was born in 1892 in Linton, New Zealand (his siblings were born in Victoria). Noel's family returned to Victoria c.1893. Noel was the second of five children born to George and Christina Syme between 1889 and 1897.

Noel enrolled at HAC in 1912, aged 20, where he undertook courses in Experimental Plots.

Noel served for three years in the Cadets prior to World War I. He enlisted on 25 November 1914 in the 1st Australian Clearing Hospital and was immediately made Sergeant. The Unit embarked from Melbourne, on board HMAS A55 *Kyarra* on 5 December 1914.

A letter from Noel's father to HAC in 1915 stated that three of his sons had enlisted: '...Noel's elder brother is in the 2nd Light Horse, and that a younger brother is a 2nd Lieutenant in King Edward's Horse" (AI-46356 HAC Journal (Vol.12, No.6) June 1915 p.82).

Noel served at Egypt, Gallipoli, and the Western Front.

"...He was in the early lighting at Kantara (Suez Canal Zone), and in Phillip Schiller's book appeared this paragraph : " Sergeant Syme, though contrary to orders, drove a motor ambulance out under fire and brought in a number of wounded." After seeing

subsequent service in Gallipoli and Egypt, he was transferred to the western front and served in Belgium and France. Our old student was killed in action under very sad circumstances which reflect the greatest credit on him. Shells started to fall thickly about the hospital in which he was serving and he ran out with the object of getting the ambulances and men to a place of safety; having started one off, it was while getting the other away that he was struck...and died within half an hour."

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In a letter from Lieutenant-Colonel Jeremy Marsh to Noel's father, he wrote "...I would like to tell you how sorry I am for you in the sad loss of your son Noel, who I had known for some time...I saw a good deal of his valuable work done on the beach at Anzac, and his pluck and dash were admired by, and a good example to all..." AI-46390 HAC Journal (Vol.14, No.11) November 1917 p.155

Noel Died of Wounds 10 May 1917, aged 25, and is buried in Grevillers British Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France.