

545 Trooper Reginald Alexander Hutton

3rd Australian Light Horse Regiment

An ANZAC on the Roll of Honour

Reginald Alexander Hutton was born on 28 September 1893 to Walter and Margaret Hutton at Knightsbridge, South Australia. The children in the family were Myra Blanche (1887), Walter Vivian (1890), Arthur Sydney (1891), Reginald Alexander (1893), Ella Madge (1895), Kendall Cameron (1897) and Olive Bertina (1899).

Reg went to school at Wellington Road School in North Norwood.

On 19 August 1914, Reg enlisted in the army and records show that he was a 20 year old dairyman resident at Chicago (now Kilburn), South Australia. He was assigned as a Driver in the 2nd Divisional Ammunition Column.



The Light Horse contingent, under the command of Colonel Harry Chauvel, had arrived in Alexandria on 4 December 1914 en route to Cairo and on 29 January 1915 set up camp away from the distractions of Cairo at Heliopolis, in the desert.

The 4th Brigade of infantry, under the command of Brigadier John Monash, arrived in early February 1915.

On 22 February 1915, whilst in Egypt, Reg was transferred to 3rd Australian Light Horse Regiment, the South Australians, which included his older brother Arthur Sydney Hutton.

“On 8 May, the Light Horse brigades were set to board a ship for the Greek island of Lemnos in the Aegean Sea before heading on to Gallipoli. Chauvel ordered 50 of his men to stay behind with the horses. He also instructed that all the rubbish around the camp be set alight. The next day as the ship sailed he asked for a count of his men, and found that there were 30 more than his expected complement. An enquiry found that more than half the men he had told to stay behind had slipped aboard to be with their comrades on this first venture into conflict.”¹

“The troopers could hear the boom of the big guns long before making out the coastline. As they sailed closer, evening set in. Hills above ANZAC Cove became shadows, lit up as the heavy artillery fired into them from ships in the foreground.

Early the next morning on 12 May, the artillery began again from the nearby ships aiming at the hills where 40,000 Turks dominated the heights.

Chauvel led his regiments into boats that ferried them past massive battleships to the shore with light showers of shrapnel coming down.

It was 9 am. The battle above this cove, already designated ANZAC, had been going 17 days. The small beach was crowded. The siege in the valley² a few hundred metres away meant that every square foot on the beach was being used. Tents, stacks of ammunition boxes, equipment, soldiers, stores and animals were squeezed into an area about 90 metres long and 25 metres wide.

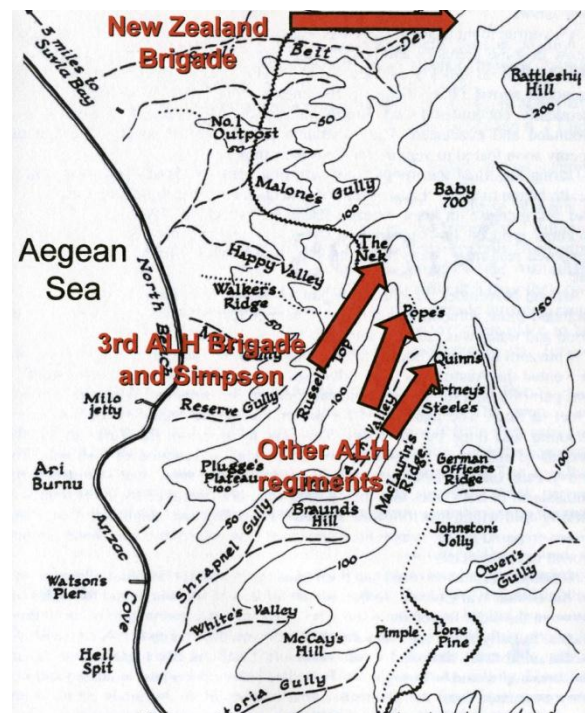
¹ The Australian Light Horse – Roland Perry

² Named Monash Valley

Monash showed Chauvel the entire Section 3 front and took him up to Courtney's Post at night, the second most dangerous trench in the valley, then Quinn's Post just north of them. It was the worst. Snipers on Dead Man's Ridge could hit targets in Quinn's from in front as well as behind.

On 17 May, the sound of the Turks picking and digging their way closer to the Australian trenches, particularly at Quinn's, was audible, even with the continual din of weapons fire. This indicated that at the very least some sort of offensive was about to occur, even if restricted to underground. At midnight on 18 May, the Turks hit Courtney's and Quinn's with everything possible in the most intense fire yet experienced at these two vital defensive posts.

Monash predicted to Chauvel that a big offensive was coming. They would both be in for a long night. They alerted their officers. All the Anzacs were ordered to sleep with their boots and battle clothes on.



Enemy troop movement was noticed at 3 am on 19 May. They hit at 4.20 am in a long line from Russell's to Bolton's Ridge. Machine gun and rifle fire spat as wave after wave of Turkish soldiers descended, screaming their love of Allah, and inspired by a band behind them playing military marches.

At first in the 19 May attack, the Anzacs were preoccupied with defence. But after a few minutes, they realised that there was no supporting artillery to back the Turks. The pre-dawn light allowed the Anzacs to spot shadowy figures coming at them. The Anzacs climbed onto the parapets of their trenches and blasted the oncomers without being fearful of incoming shells. Machine-guns raked over the thousands of attackers.

After the initial failed attack, Monash was confident that they had withstood the worst. The battle continued for another seven hours, during which a scythe of Anzac fire cut down 10,000 Turks by midday, when they stopped coming. Three thousand were dead; seven thousand were wounded. By contrast the Anzacs, including the Light Horse, had 160 dead and 600 wounded. The Turks had thrown a quarter of their entire force above the cove at the Anzacs, and had failed.”³

A report on 19 May 1915, signed by Col. Chauvel, listed Tpr Reginald Alex Hutton of 3rd Light Horse Regiment as having suffered 'gun-shot wound, serious' in Monash Valley. He was evacuated to HS Soudan.

Coincidentally on that day, Pte John Simpson was killed. Simpson is now recognised as the icon 'Simpson and his Donkey'.

“The next day, Chauvel wrote to Sibyl⁴ with considerable understatement:

‘They [the Light Horse] are simply magnificent, and so are Monash's men.’

³ ibid

⁴ His wife

Soon afterwards, Chauvel visited Quinn's Post and was struck by the cheerfulness of South Australians and Tasmanians from his 3rd Light Horse Regiment, who were temporarily relieving the exhausted 16th and 13th Battalions.”⁵

On board HS Soudan it was noted by the MO that on 20 May 1915, Tpr Reginald Alex Hutton died at sea en route to Malta.

Memory of Reg is perpetuated at the memorial at Lone Pine, Gallipoli and on the Roll of Honour at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra.

**In Memory of
Trooper REGINALD ALEX HUTTON**

**545, 3rd, Australian Light Horse
who died age 21
on 20 May 1915**

**Son of Walter Andrew and Margaret Bertina Hutton, of Kintore
Avenue, Chicago, South Australia.**

**Remembered with honour
LONE PINE MEMORIAL**



⁵ ibid