



Capt. Harold Edwin Armitage

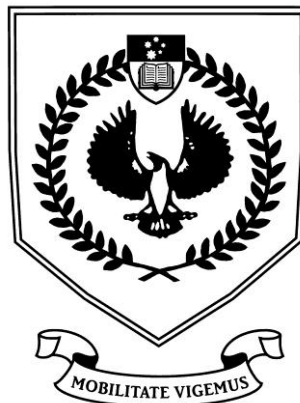
MiD



3rd April 1917



Played with Adelaide University



Cricket Club: 1914 - 1915 B Grade

Arts Student / Teachers Training College

Background

Coinciding with the Centenary of Anzacs our incentive behind the series of biographical publications is the Adelaide University Football and Cricket Club's desire to honour our players who served in the Great War (1914 - 1918). These brave men put on hold their academic, professional and sporting careers for King and Country in the name of peace and freedom. The AUFC/AUCC WW1 Memorial Committee is endeavouring to identify every one of our players who served and prepare life stories on all. This is to ensure their sacrifices and further contributions to society will be recognised by future generations.

On Anzac Day 2015, the Centenary of the Gallipoli landing, a memorial plaque was unveiled on the Adelaide University Oval Pavilion and this was followed by the erection of a picket fence between the pavilion and the scoreboard with each picket bearing a plaque with the name of an AUFC/AUCC player who served.

The following documentation relates to the life of Harold Edwin Armitage. It is compilation of information and photographs collected from a variety of historical sources.

The AIF Project

<https://www.aif.adfa.edu.au/showPerson?pid=7059>



Harold Edwin ARMITAGE

Place of birth	Edsall St, Norwood, South Australia
School	Houghton Public School. Adelaide School of Mines, Adelaide High School and Adelaide University.
Religion	Church of England
Occupation	Student
Address	School House, Millicent, South Australia
Marital status	Single
Age at embarkation	20
Next of kin	Father, Henry James Armitage, Millicent, South Australia
Previous military service	Served as a Private, Sergeant and Lieutenant in 79th Regiment, Citizen Military Forces, 4th District.
Enlistment date	25 March 1915
Rank on enlistment	2nd Lieutenant
Unit name	10th Battalion, 5th Reinforcement
AWM Embarkation Roll number	23/27/2
Embarkation details	Unit embarked from Adelaide, South Australia, on board HMAT A20 <i>Hororata</i> on 20 April 1915
Rank from Nominal Roll	Captain
Unit from Nominal Roll	10th Battalion
Recommendations (Medals and Awards)	Mention in Despatches Awarded, and promulgated, 'London Gazette', second Supplement, No. 30107 (1 June 1917); 'Commonwealth Gazette' No. 169 (4 October 1917).

Other details from Roll of Honour Circular Was refused permission to resign Commission to enlist as private in 10th Bn August 1914. Joined O.T.S. Brighton December 1914. Passed head of the list - entered Camp at Oaklands, helped train 3rd, 4th and 5th reinforcements to 10th Bn. Accepted for service Feb 1915 - left Adelaide with 5/10th April 20th - (in charge). Direct to Gallipoli May 30. With 10th till 50th Bn was formed. Took a distinguished and leading part in all actions of 50th in France - and right through his period of active service was never absent for a day from his company except one weeks holiday leave Sept 1916. Chief engagements - all on Gallipoli from June 1st; with 50th [at] Pozieres, Moquet Farm, La Barque, Flers and Noreuil - where he established positions before falling. (details from father)

Fate Killed in Action 3 April 1917

Place of death or wounding Noreuil, France

Age at death 22

Age at death from cemetery records 22

Place of burial Noreuil Australian Cemetery (Row C, Grave No. 21), France

Panel number, Roll of Honour, Australian War Memorial 149

Miscellaneous information from cemetery records Parents: Henry and Martha ARMITAGE, Millicent, South Australia

Family/military connections Brother - Midshipman afterwards Sub Lt G.W.T. Armitage RAN. Served on HMS 'Canada' and 'Torrens' - 1917-18. Torpedoed on transport 'Ballarat', April 1917.

Other details War service: Egypt, Gallipoli, Western Front
Medals: 1914-15 Star, British War Medal, Victory Medal

Service Record

<https://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/SearchNRetrieve/Interface/ViewImage.aspx?B=3035253>

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY	
Application for a Commission in the Australian	
Particulars.	
1. Surname ... Other names (in full) ...	HERMITAGE HAROLD EDWIN SALISBURY.
2. Educational Qualifications...	Junior Public Exam 1908. 5 Subjects - 1910 7 Subjects - 1911 Senior Public Exam 1911. 5 Subjects - 1912 2 Subjects - Higher Public Exam 1912. 2 Subjects - Adelaide University
3. Military Qualifications (previous Military Service, if any, to be stated)	1910-1911 Cadet. Adelaide High School. 2 years 1912-1913 Senior Cadet. Adelaide High School. 12 months 1913-1914 6 months Private. "A" Company 79th Infantry 1914-1915 11 months Sergeant "A" Company 79th Infantry 1915-1916 Second Lieutenant "G" Company 79th Infantry - present Corps at present training at Base Camp. Adelaide
4. Date on which applicant qualified at a competitive examination for first appointment as 2nd Lieutenant (U.T. Regulation 132)	I believe my provisional appointment will be confirmed as a result of my work in Brighton School of Instruction - December 1914.
5. Present Civil Employment	Student. Teacher Training College - Adelaide University
6. Date of Birth, and Age	Date of Birth. 11th November 1894. Age. 20 Years - 3 Months.
7. If a British Subject or a Naturalized British Subject	British Subject
8. Married or Single	Single
9. Postal Address	40-5, Frederick St. - Maylands - a - at present - Military Camp - Oaklands. Battalion Area. 796.
10. Next of Kin	Father. Henry James Armitage. J. Millicent.
Date 23rd January	(Signature of Applicant) Harold E. Hermitage.
NOTE.—Candidates for Commissions in the Permanent Forces are required to attach a satisfactory certificate of moral character, or if are serving in the Permanent or Citizen Forces, to be recommended by their Commanding Officer. They are also to state on the back of the form the subjects in which they desire to be examined in Part II, and where exemptions are claimed for educational subjects, the authority for same is to be stated, and where necessary to be supported by certificates.	
MEDICAL CERTIFICATE.	
In the cases of Candidates for Commissions in the Permanent Forces, Proceedings of Medical Board, in accordance with instructions contained in "Standing Orders for the Army Medical Services," will be substituted for this Certificate; such Board, however, will not be assembled until after the nomination of the Candidate to undergo examination has been approved by the Military Board of Administration.	
I, [Signature] do hereby certify to the correctness of the following particulars respecting the above-named applicant. I further certify that the applicant is not ruptured, has not been operated on for Hernia, and is capable of bearing the fatigue incident to the performance of military duty.	
Height 5ft 8ins	Weight 105lb
Chest Measurement 32-37	Eyesight 6/6 both eyes
(Signature of the Examining Medical Officer) [Signature]	
RECOMMENDATION AND CERTIFICATE OF COMMANDING OFFICER.	
(Not required in the cases of Candidates for Commissions in the Permanent Forces.)	
I recommend that the candidate above named be appointed a 2nd Lieutenant in the Corps under my command, and I certify:—	
1. That such appointment will be within the authorized establishment for the current year. 2. (a) That the provisions of U.T. Reg. 33 have been fully complied with, or †(b) That the provisions of U.T. Reg. 132 have been fully complied with. (c) That all candidates higher in order of merit, by competitive examination, have been absorbed.	
On appointment the candidate will be posted to 5th Recn. Squadron, Battery, or Coy., &c. 10th Battalion Infantry	
Date	Commanding Regt. or Corps.
RECOMMENDATION OF DISTRICT COMMANDANT.	
Recommended, candidate considered suitable. [Signature] Colonel	
Date	Commandant 4th Military District.
† Sub-para. not applicable to be struck out.	
N.B.—Record of War Service (if any) to be shown on back of Form.	
Seniority of Candidates as determined by competitive examination to be stated when two or more applications are forwarded on the same date.	

Published Biography

Virtual War Memorial Australia - <https://vwma.org.au/explore/people/243533>

Researched by Nathan Rohrlach from personal service papers, AWM biography and personal letters and diaries held on the AWM site - *His Duty Done*.

Harold Edwin Salisbury Armitage was born in Norwood on the 11th of November 1894. He was the eldest son of Henry James and Martha Elizabeth Armitage who were living on Edsall Street at the time of his birth. From a young age he was nicknamed 'Rollo' and his father; Henry Armitage, was the head teacher at Millicent Public School.

Harold was educated at Houghton Public School (in the Adelaide Hills), the Adelaide School of Mines and also Adelaide High School. After graduating at Adelaide High School he entered the University of Adelaide in 1914 with his father's employment obviously rubbing off onto him. He started undertaking an arts degree specialising in English and History whilst also taking up a degree in education. Harold, however, took a leave of absence from his university studies from the 1st of January, 1915 onwards until his services with the AIF were complete. Unfortunately, however, Harold Armitage would never return to teaching.

Whilst his educational studies were still in progress Harold Edwin Salisbury Armitage also began working as a junior school teacher at the school house in Millicent with his father.

In his younger years Harold Armitage had also been a member of the cadets and Citizen Military Force. From 1910 onwards for two years he was a cadet at Adelaide High School and in 1912 was a Corporal in Adelaide High School's Senior Cadets (J Company of the 76th Cadets.) From 1913 to July 1914 he was in A Company of the 79th Infantry holding the ranks of private, sergeant and lieutenant all for some period of time. He was also detached to G Company of the 79th Infantry for short time.

When war broke out in August 1914 he had been eager to resign his commission in the Citizen Military Force and enlist in the AIF as a private in the 10th Battalion. This, however, was refused by the military authorities. Consequently, Harold Armitage joined an Officer Training Course at Brighton in December 1914 and passed the course at the top of his class. He was then able to enter Oaklands Camp in Adelaide where he helped train the 3rd, 4th and 5th Reinforcements of the 10th Battalion before he was finally accepted into the AIF in March 1915 with the rank of 2nd Lieutenant. He was drafted into the 5th Reinforcements of the 10th Battalion and embarked with them at Adelaide on the 20th April, 1915 onboard HMAT Hororata (A20). He was 20 years old and a brilliant, yet tragically short military career awaited him. It is unusual; however, that he was allowed to embark overseas as AIF military regulation said no officer under the age of 23 years could be taken into active service. This rule, however, seems to have been relaxed on Armitage's behalf because of his strikingly good abilities.

Harold Armitage and the 5th Reinforcements sailed directly towards Gallipoli and he was taken on strength by the 10th Battalion on the peninsula on the 2nd of June, 1915 as a platoon commander. By August the 4th, 1915 he was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant and had already won much respect from his men under him.

On one occasion when waiting for an attack to take place on a Turkish trench he later wrote *'it was a queer sensation to see the blue flashes of their guns only a few feet away, and feel the wind of a bullet whizzing an inch or so overhead. Our boys kept quiet and waited for my whistle, then gave the Turks the English Mad Minute – 15 rounds as fast as can be fired. My word there was a scatter.'*

The attack was unsuccessful; however, with the Turks forcing 'Rollo' and his men back to their old trench with heavy machine gun fire. They launched another attack, however, with this one being successful. He later wrote, *'we safely regained the new trench with only two casualties, neither serious, though the bullets had hummed round us like hailstones.'*

Harold 'Rollo' Armitage continued to fight for the duration of the campaign and it would appear that Harold did not even get sick, ill, or wounded once, according to his service papers, which at Gallipoli was quiet rare. By the time the 'Fighting Tenth', the 10th Battalion's nickname, was withdrawn from Gallipoli on the 21st of November, 1915 they were drastically reduced in size and thus fighting capacity.

In a letter home Armitage wrote that he had seen many sights, *'pleasing, horrible, awe inspiring, hellish, but as far as I can say, the effect has only been to broaden my experience, [and to] make me a little more serious.'*

The expansion of the AIF followed the Gallipoli campaign; with half of the 10th Battalion (after receiving fresh reinforcements) forming the new 50th Battalion in Egypt. Harold Armitage was transferred to this new battalion on the 26th of February, 1916 being taken on strength on the 1st of March, 1916. Twelve days later Armitage was promoted to Captain in 50th Battalion and given command of his own company: C Company. The 50th Battalion was soon, sent to France to fight and by mid June 1916 the Battalion was located in Northern France.

His first action as part of the 50th Battalion was at Pozieres/ Mouquet Farm where after 5 weeks fighting Australian had suffered 23,000 casualties - it's worst ever total in 5 weeks. The 50th Battalion's had been heavily involved in fighting at Mouquet Farm from the 13th of August to the 15th of August and it was replaced by another Australian Battalion on 16 August. It was during this brief engagement that Armitage left his first true mark on his new battalion. He later described his experience of fighting at Mouquet Farm as *'four days of hell and four nights of double hell.'* In March, 1917 he was recommended for a Mentioned in Despatches and he was later posthumously awarded the MID. (See story for MID recommendation.)

After this battle the 50th Battalion received some time in the back line where it rested and recovered from its heavy losses. It wouldn't be involved in another engagement until early 1917.

In February 1917 the Germans took the Allies by surprise by withdrawing from their front line to consolidate along the much stronger Hindenberg Line whilst also eliminating a very large salient from their lines. "Salient's" are projections of territory into enemy territory and leave the defender vulnerable to being outflanked and cut off and hence the German consolidation. However, the speed of the process took the Allies by surprise. The Australian Divisions began a cautious follow up which included the 4th Division and the 13th Brigade of which the 50th Battalion was a part.

The so-called "Outpost Villages" were fortified and well-defended villages prepared by the Germans on the approaches to the Hindenburg Line. The "Outpost Villages" were a mechanism to impose delay on any aggressive follow-up of the withdrawing German forces by the Allies and were also put in place to cause maximum casualties to the Allies.

The 50th and 51st Battalions were responsible for attacking one of these "outpost Villages" called Noreuil on the 2nd April 1917, with the other Battalions of the Brigade in Reserve (49th and 52nd).

Unfortunately, however, Captain Harold Edwin Salisbury Armitage was killed during this attack in a trench. He was worried that the right flank was unsecure and open to counter attack when he looked over the parapet to assess the situation and was shot through the head. He died instantly, surrounded by his men and his friends.

Millicent flew its flags at half-mast to remember him when they heard the news.

Under fire he was known for keeping his cool and working hard to maintain cohesion and order in his company. He was always energetic in the field, and devoted time to moving among his men, making sure they understood the coming action, directing trench construction and *'cheering the lads with his quiet words.'* Harold Armitage was strongly motivated by duty, and once wrote to his parents *'I'll go into action with the calm assurance that I have done my duty to my men and my Country. If I happen to fall rest content with the knowledge that I have played the game, and done my job thoroughly.'*

After his death Major Harry Seager of the 50th Battalion wrote to Mr Armitage, telling him the story of his son and the attack. (See story.)

After the battle, his body was recovered and buried in Noreuil Australian Cemetery, plot C 21. His moving epitaph reads: *'A Loving Son, A Devoted Officer, A Soldier And A Man.'*

By 1927 Armitage's parents were living in the town of Lyndoch in the Barossa Valley, South Australia, with Henry Armitage teaching at Lyndoch school. Henry James Armitage resigned from teaching in 1929 after a teaching career of 44 years. He died on the 30th of November, 1950 and is buried at West Terrace Cemetery in Adelaide.

Contrary to the trove reports, Rollo's service papers show no record of him ever being promoted to the rank of Acting Major.

Rest in Peace, Lest We Forget.

Awarded:

MID (Mentioned In Despatches, date of Recommendation: 2 March 1917.)

1914/15 Star: 2950

British War Medal: 10898

Victory Medal: 10852

Memorial Plaque and Scroll: 355743

For further biographical details see

- 1st Anzac Corps and the Battle of Pozieres Ridge, 1916 by ME Hampton (2014)
<https://digital.library.adelaide.edu.au/dspace/bitstream/2440/100427/2/02whole.pdf>
(Battle of Pozieres Ridge, France -23 July – 3 September 1916)
- Harold Armitage | Centenary of the First World War Armistice
<http://anzaccentenary.sa.gov.au/story/2833/>
14/04/2015, Premier's Anzac Spirit School Prize
by Amy Vogelsang, Booleroo Centre District School
- "Hurcombe's Hungry Half Hundred" by Dr Roger Freeman (some extracts from the book appear below).

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Biography – Additional Details

Early Life

Harold (Rollo) Edwin Salisbury Armitage was born of the 11th November 1894, the eldest child of Henry James Armitage and Martha Elizabeth Rowe. He was baptised at St. Bartholomew's, Norwood, South Australia on the 10th November 1895.

Rollo's father, Henry was a school teacher in South Australia from 1885 to 1928. He taught at Hindmarsh, Norwood, Woodchester (near Strathalbyn), Wistow (outside Mt Barker), Smithfield, Houghton (Adelaide Hills), Millicent (South East) and Lyndoch (Barossa Valley). For more details see:-

<http://m.library.unisa.edu.au/condon/teachers/Teachers.asp?TeacherID=7228>

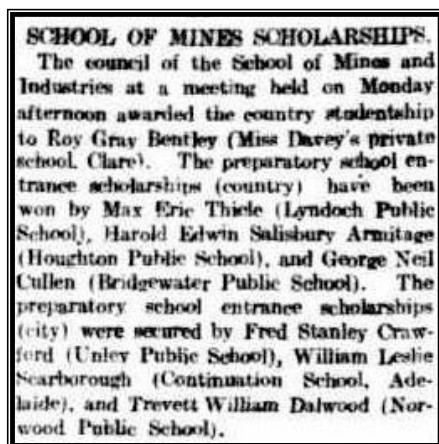
Rollo's siblings were Bessie Eleanor (b 1896), George William Thomas (b 1889) and John Henry Alfred (b 1905).

Schooling

Rollo commenced his schooling at Houghton where his father was the Head Teacher from 1895 to 1913. In February 1908 he was awarded a School of Mines and industries country scholarship.

"SCHOOL OF MINES SCHOLARSHIPS." *The Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929)* 11 February 1908

<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article56981872>



Rollo passed the Junior Examinations in English History, Geography, Arithmetic (credit), Algebra and Inorganic Chemistry in December 1908 and in March 1909 he was appointed a Education department Monitor at the Houghton School. In January 1910 Rollo passed the Pupil Teacher examinations which gave him the opportunity to study at Adelaide High School.

Rollo attended AHS in 1911 and 1912. He passed the Senior Examinations in English Literature, Modern History, Arithmetic and Algebra, Geometry, Trigonometry, Physics and Drawing. He was 42nd on the General Honours List.

In addition to his involvement in the Senior Cadets (detailed in the biography above), Rollo played cricket for AHS in 1912.

1912 – Adelaide High School Cricket Team



HES Armitage- Back Row – Far Right

In December 1912, Rollo passed two subjects in the Higher Public Examinations (English Literature and Geometry/Trigonometry).

Career

Rollo was a provisional Teacher at Norwood Public School in 1913. He played football for St Bartholomew's Football Club.

University

Rollo attended Teachers' Training College from 1914 until 1 January 1915 when he was granted leave of absence 'until his services are no longer required by the military'. He completed subjects toward a Bachelor of Arts in 1914. While at University, Rollo continued his involvement in the Citizens Military Forces.

University Sport

Cricket

Rollo played cricket for the Adelaide University Cricket Club in the B Grade in the 1914/1915 season. Rollo was listed as an emergency for the team on a number of occasions.

The Journal (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1923) / Sat 31 Oct 1914
Page 24 / TO-DAY'S TEAMS.

A GRADE.

Adelaide v. University, on the Sturt Oval.—
Adelaide—R. Bartlett, G. C. Campbell, G. S. Down, L. G. Healy, L. E. Howard, L. Arwin, F. J. Keppel, E. McCarron, H. McCarron, J. F. Travers (captain), and A. W. Wright. University (from).—H. J. T. Edwards, J. B. Jose, A. Lamb, T. N. Le Mesurier, A. G. Moyes, J. N. Nicholls, J. D. Northey, C. E. Pellew, D. M. Steele, B. T. Taylor, E. M. Weatherill, H. B. Willamore.

B GRADE.

Sturt Oval v. University B, on the Adelaide Oval.—Sturt Oval—H. Wicks, T. K. Gould, J. Watt, C. Winchester, O. Richardson, V. Richardson, C. Westcott, P. Hyman, L. Wark, J. Horsecroft, and D. Doolette. University—Baaner, Boyce, Edwards, K. B. Goode, Gurner, Hunt, Laurie, Mattner, Price, Richards, Thrush; emergencies—Armitage, Carthew.

The Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931)
/ Sat 28 Nov 1914 / Page 13

CRICKET.

TEAMS FOR TO-DAY.

The fourth series of A and B Grade Association matches will begin this afternoon. The chief match in point of interest will be that between Adelaide and East Torrens, on the Adelaide Oval. The teams chosen are:—

A Grade.

Hindmarsh Oval.—West Torrens versus University.—West Torrens—J. Arthur, H. Bridgman, P. H. Coombe, T. Dillon, S. E. Hall, P. S. Hooper, L. V. Lanyon, H. A. Solly, L. Webb, F. D. Walters, G. Walker. University—Willamore, Moyes, Steele, Pellew, Taylor, Jose, Lamb, Northey, Weatherill, Nicholls, Baaner.

B Grade.

Alberton Oval.—Port Adelaide versus University.—Port Adelaide—Smith, Cooper, Thomas, Rosevear, Dowd, Rundell, Bower, Harris, Taylor, Calver, and Morris.

University B versus Port B, Alberton Oval.—University (catch 1.35 train)—Beare, Beaumont, Cole, Edwards, Hurley, Hunt, Laurie, Mattner, Moulden, Price, Thrush. Emergencies—Rayner, Armitage.

Although named as an emergency for University B Grade team for the match on 30th October 1914 against the Sturt Oval side (Sturt B Grade Team) he ended up playing in this match due to another player's unavailability. Although he was out stumped for a duck the match has several interesting facets to it. Included in the Sturt Oval team were 19 year old Victor York Richardson (Test Cricketer, all round champion sportsman and grandfather of the Chappell brothers) and his older brother Osma Voy Richardson. Even though it was a B Grade match it was played on the Adelaide Oval. It is sad to note that Osma was also killed in WW1 at Villers Bretonneux in August 1916.

The Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931)
Mon 2 Nov 1914 / Page 14 / CRICKET

UNIVERSITY VERSUS STURT OVAL.

University B—First innings, 108; second innings, none for 10. W. J. Price, c. and b. Westcott, 6; C. Richardson, c. Gould, b. Westcott, 5; H. Boyce, c. and b. Winchester, 28; O. V. Baaner, b. Winchester, 23; E. Mattner, b. Winchester, 1; L. B. Laurie, c. & b. Wickes, 16; W. R. Hunt, not out 11; C. Martin, b. Hynam, 1; L. Carthew, c. Winchester, b. Hynam, 0; H. Armitage, st. Richardson, b. Hynam, 0; sundries, 9. Bowling—Hynam, four for 5; Winchester, two for 21; Westcott, one for 18.

Sturt Oval, 194; Gould, c. Martin, b. Hunt, 62; Wickes, b. Price, 54; Richardson, l.b.w., b. Price, 38; Watt, c. Laurie, b. Baaner, 16; Westcott, c. Richard, b. Price, 12; Doolette, not out, 6; Richardson, c. Laurie, b. PPrice, 2; Wark, c. Hunt, b. Price, 0; Hynam, b. Baaner, 0; Winchester, c. sub., b. Baaner, 0. Bowling—Price, five for 52; Baaner, four for 65; Hunt, one for 18.

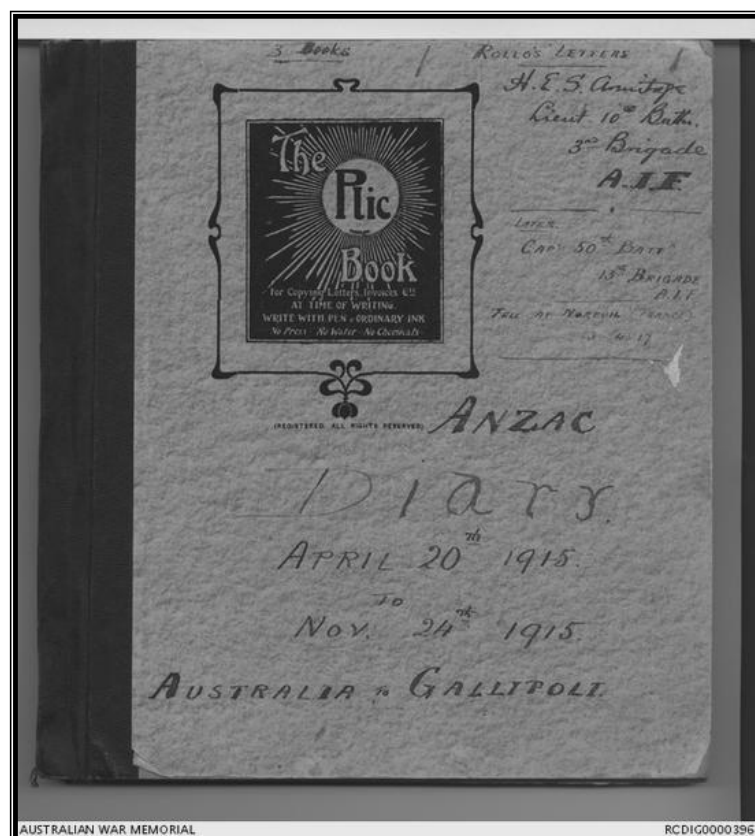
Rowing

Newspaper reports after Rollo's death state that he was involved in rowing at AHS and while at the University.

World War I

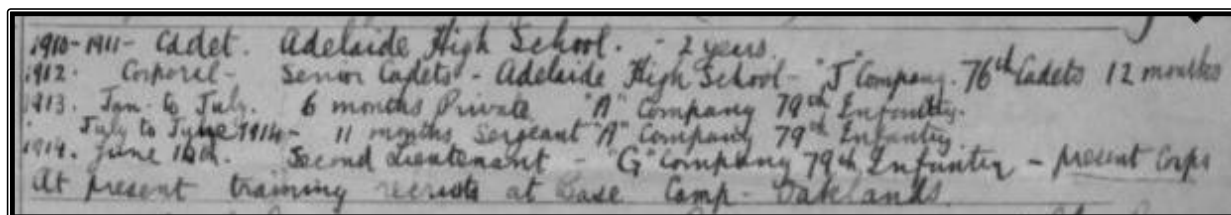
Rollo's WWI experiences are well documented in the published biography above and in letters home to his parents which were recorded in three letterbooks. Some of Rollo's letters were published in South Australian papers during his war service.

The three letterbooks with carbon copies of transcriptions of letters written by Armitage to his parents are held by the Australian War Memorial. The books seem to have been compiled by his parents from the letters they received. They cover Australia to Gallipoli, 20 April to 24 November 1915; Lemnos, Egypt, Sinai, 2 December 1915 to 4 June 1916; and the Mediterranean trip and France, June 1916 to April 1917.



The Cover of one of Armitage's diary/letterbooks. <http://www.awm.gov.au/collection/RCDIG0000396/>

Details of Rollo's experience in the Cadets/Senior Cadets and Citizens Military Forces were listed on his application for a commission.



Rollo was 5'8" tall, 10 stone 9 pounds and aged 20 years and three months when he applied for a commission in the AIF. At the same stage his younger brother, George, moved to the new Naval College at Jervis Bay as a Cadet Midshipman.

The South Eastern Times (Millicent, SA : 1906 - 1954) 12 February 1915

<<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article206559845>>

Another Volunteer.—Millicent will have another representative as an officer in the Australian forces at the front, in the person of Lieut. Harold Armitage, the eldest son of Mr H. J. Armitage, of the Millicent school. The young officer, who has been actively engaged in training recruits at Oaklands since the beginning of the year, has worked his way through the various stages, starting as a junior cadet at the inception of our present system of compulsory training. During last year, whilst studying at the University for the Arts course, he managed to qualify for a commission, and at the outbreak of the war volunteered for active service, and after persistent effort has at last been rewarded by a recommendation for a commission in the fifth reinforcement, and enters Morphetville camp to-day. He has been a tent-mate at Oaklands with Lieut. Ireland, and hopes to be with that officer during the expedition. A younger brother, Cadet-Midshipman George Armitage, left Millicent on Tuesday for the new Naval College at Jervis Bay, and the Army and Navy will thus both have Millicent connection in this strenuous struggle.

Rollo gained his commission as a second lieutenant with the fifth re-enforcement, 10th Battalion on the 24th March 1915. Rollo left Australia for active service abroad on the 20th April 1915 onboard the HMAT Hororata (A20) and joined the 10th Battalion at Gallipoli on the 2nd June 1915.

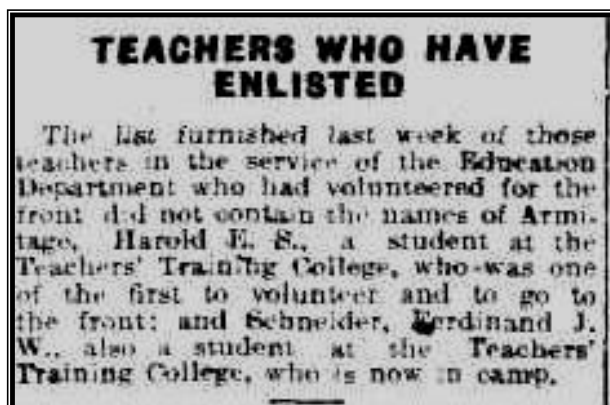


Troops Boarding the HMAT "Horoata" (A20)

Rollo wrote home to his parents regularly and some of letters were published in the South Australia newspapers (see below)

"TEACHERS WHO HAVE ENLISTED" *Daily Herald* (Adelaide, SA : 1910 - 1924) 24 June 1915

<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article134416292>



Extract from the "World War I from the AHS Magazines.pdf"

Lieut. Harold E. S. Armitage has left with the Fifth Reinforcements of the 10th Infantry Battalion. At the end of last year he left the University Training College to enlist. Harold was successful at the Brighton School of Instruction, coming out first with the splendid record of 99 per cent.

Photograph from the collection of Lieut Charles William Cooper
10th Battalion, Killed in action, Pozieres, France, 25 July 1916, aged 32 years



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HES Armitage – Third from Left (incorrectly labelled at the SLSA as M Armitage)

Machine gun instruction.

Left- right: Unidentified, Blackburn, A.S., Armitage, M., Smith, J. Churchill, Clarke, T. G., Campbell, G.

Photograph from the collection of Lieut Charles William Cooper
10th Battalion, Killed in action, Pozieres, France, 25 July 1916, aged 32 years



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HES Armitage- Back Row – Eighth from Left (SLSA label incorrectly says seventh from Left)

Officers on Lemnos who were in 10th Bn. Taken on 1st December 1915

**Standing: Padre, McCann, Minnagall, Mageniz, Hooper, Henwood, Armitage,
Coffey, Hamilton, Loutit, Fowler, Moule, Leane, Doc.**

Sitting: Giles, Jacob, Beevor, Lorenzo, Redburg, Shaw.

Lying: Campbell, Churchill Smith, Blackburn, Clarke, Wilton, Inglis, Harneman.

"A Shell Every Four Seconds." *The Register* (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929) 20 July 1915

<<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article59416172>>

A Shell Every Four Seconds.

To be in the fighting line in less than 40 days after having left Australia has been the experience of Lieut. Harold Armitage, who left South Australia on April 26. When his batch of reinforcements (5th) reached Cairo he received word to proceed to Alexandria to take on convalescent wounded. Thus after three days in Egypt he was again on the sea. His last letter to his parents is from Gaba Tene. He gives the following information:—"I have been posted to C Company (10th Battalion), and as the boys are from Broken Hill our trenches are given such names as Sulphide street and Oxide street. We are saugly dug in, and take no notice of shot, shell, or shrapnel. Our dug-outs and trenches are very comfortable during the

warm weather, but I daresay they won't be in use when winter sets in. The Turks are firing night and day, but we lose few men except when patrolling or moving outside. It makes one quiver at first to hear 'whiz-plt,' as a bullet goes through a bush just above one's head; but one soon gets used to it. The Turks keep up a hot fire at times, but it is mostly wasted ammunition. They landed 64 shells in a small space in 4½ minutes two days ago, but not one did any damage. We just have to sit tight here for a while, and probably later on will try for some hills ahead. Every man of the 3rd Brigade who worked through that glorious April 25 should have a special medal. The more one looks at the natural defensive position, the more impossible does the idea of a forcible landing appear. Our Australians performed a wonderful feat, and we can realize what a terrific time they had without trench shelter or artillery."

Extract from the "World War I from the AHS Magazines.pdf"

We were pleased to receive a field letter-card from Lieutenant H. E. S. Armitage, dated Wattle Day, and later a letter also. Harold is in charge of a platoon of men from Broken Hill, who are known amongst their companions for their quick and accurate fire. He mentioned that Lieutenant H. W. Henwood and Sergeant Gellert were in hospital. Corporal Bruce E. Oliver was in good health. Sergeant Roy McLaren had been put in charge of the anti-gas spray. Sergeants J. R. Gordon and W. F. McCann had been promoted to the rank of 2nd Lieutenants.

The Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931) 26 July 1915

<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article5475673>

(the print quality of the article is poor so the text has been reproduced below)

ECHOES FROM THE TRENCHES.

Mr. H. J. Armitage has received a letter from his son, Lieutenant Harold Armitage, dated from Gaba Tepe June 7, from which the following extracts are culled:-

We left Alexandria for Lemnos in the Australind, a real old tub. At Mudros we shipped into tugs for the run across to Gallipoli. German submarines were about, so we expected a swim for it.

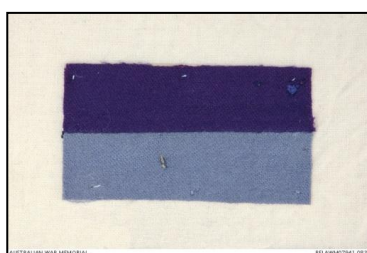
We reached Gaba Tepe safely. It was only 4.30 a.m., but the Turk's were awake, and shells were soon dropping round our boat. One fell so near that some of the men were splashed.

I had to distribute my men at their several stations, and as they belonged to eight different battalions you can reckon I had my work cut out. I knew nothing about "Sniper's Corner", "Double-up Point," or "Hurry-up Bend," but I soon found, them, out, as the snipers let go, directly I reached each spot. Most of their shot passed well overhead, but at one place three struck the bank just in front of me, and another cut a branch just behind my back. However, I got my men safely into their bases, and then found I'd been moving about for two hours in broad daylight, where it was only reckoned safe to travel at night-time.

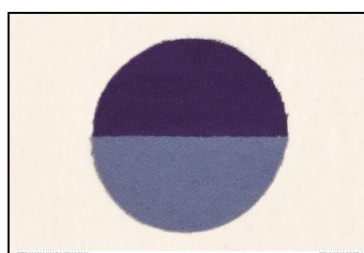
At 10 o'clock I reached the 10th Battalion, and after five weeks travel with comparative strangers it was nice to greet the old companions. There were many faces missing though, and the 10th lost a big proportion on April 25, but those who went out died as heroes should, and on the old heroic ground.

I was sent into the trenches straight away with C Company. I found officers and men splendid in every way. The men are mostly miners, so trenching is child's play to them, and they have made model retreats, perfectly shot and shellproof.

The Australians and the navy men are sworn brothers now and each admires the other. Our boys cannot say too much for the great help they received from the Jack Tars. They say one cruiser used up all its 4.7 in. ammunition, and the "....." borrowed a boatload, which turned out to be 8 in. stuff, yet the "handy men" made that fit somehow, and kept up the use. One lot left their boat, picked up the rifles of fallen men, and joined in a charge, whilst all the time through shot and shell the boats were moving busily. If you want to know really what our boys did and what opinion Englishmen have of them, just ask some of the naval men who helped to run them ashore.



Colour Patch of the 10th Battalion, AIF



Colour Patch of the 50th Battalion, AIF

"NOBODY WORRIES MUCH"

<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article105482490>

"NOBODY WORRIES MUCH"

AUSTRALIANS' VIEW OF THE TURKS.

Lieutenant Harold Armitage writes from Gaba Tepe under date June 9 to his father as follows:—Well, I have at last arrived here, and was under fire from the very beginning, but as we are well dug in we don't take much notice of the Turks at all. They fire at us all day—but as their bullets either just hit the sandbags or else whistle overhead, nobody worries very much about them. Anyhow, while I have been here—some days—we have had a fairly hot fire put at us, yet nobody has been touched yet.

I suppose you know as much about the landing of our boys at Gaba Tepe as I do, but I would just like to say that it was a marvellous piece of work—Spion Kop was nothing to it. We have had one or two exciting times, especially when our boys have put up dummy charges at the Turks. The Turks are very jumpy. A little ruse converts their trenches at night into sheets of flame for a few seconds, and then they gradually calm down again. We hear all kinds of rumors and yarns about the Turks, but I think very few are true. Anyhow, you get more definite news than we do concerning the whole war. In fact, the only definite news we get is from the trenches in our vicinity. We only received full particulars of the Lusitania affair on Thursday, so you see how fortunate you are with regard to war news.

I am in very good company. Captain Shaw, my O.C., is a fine gentleman. He treats his junior officers like younger brothers, and we all think him to be Christ-mas. Lieutenant Stopp is another good sort, too—an old Saints' boy. You have heard me speak of Gordon Cornish before (he was our adjutant at Fort Larga), so you can realise the pleasure I had in getting into the same company as he. The men are mainly miners from Broken Hill, a lot of fine fighters with big hearts.

Let me know any South Australian news that is going—re Varsity, A.H.S. old scholars, football, &c. It is all very acceptable, for we are practically desolate as regards news. Talking of old A.H.S. scholars that are here at the front, I have seen several, and heard of others. Gawler Coombe is a quartermaster-sergeant; Lion Gellert, Jack Pearce, Lewin are sergeants, McCann is a company sergeant-major, and Henwood has been promoted to second-lieutenant from sergeant in the 10th. I told you about Gordon Munro. McLaren is an invalid with rheumatics. All are well. Pearce and Coombe will be back in the firing line again in a few days. They were wounded some time back. I saw Don Dowling almost as soon as I landed. He is well, and with him was Pat Auld (late of 79th). This is my third attempt at writing this letter. Things are so busy here that one does not get the time to write. I am also very short of paper, having only seven letterettes left, so I have not only to conserve paper, but also to use my weekly letterette home to envelop this scrawl to you in. I hope before seven weeks are up to be in Constantinople, where I trust I shall be able to get a supply of stationery.

On the 4th August 1915, Rollo was promoted to Lieutenant and continued to fight at Gallipoli until the "Fighting 10th" were withdrawn from the peninsula on the 21st of November 1915. On the 26th February 1916, Rollo was transferred to the newly formed 50th Battalion at Tel-al-Kebir, Egypt and on the 12th March 1916 he was promoted to temporary Captain. He was later promoted to the rank of Captain on the 15th April 1916. On the 5th June 1916 Rollo embarked with the 50th leaving Egypt to join the British Expeditionary Forces in France. He arrived at Marseilles, France on the 12th June 1916.

Extracts from the "World War I from the AHS Magazines.pdf"

A very interesting letter was received at the School from Capt. Armitage, late of the 10th Infantry, but now of the 50th. He thinks that, of the many old A.H.S. boys in the 10th Infantry, he alone was transferred to the new battalion. Harold mentions the following familiar names of those of whom he had recently met and who were in good health at the time: - Col. Coghill, Clarence Padman, Eric silver, Colquhoun (transferred to a new M.G. Co.), Sergt. R. McLaren, Cpl. Charles Mugford, Gill, Virgo, Davies, Currie, 2nd Lieut. S. W. Coombe, Capt. H. N. Henwood, Capt. W. McCann, and Hewish.

Rollo was involved in the Battle of Pozières which took place from the 23rd July to the 3rd September 1916. He wrote home to his parents "I have been to HELL - - and have had the luck to get back again'.

"I have been to HELL" - Harold Armitage at Pozières

Extract from book "Hurcombe's Hungry Half Hundred" by Dr Roger Freeman, pp 63 - 64
Letter from Captain Harold Armitage (50th Battalion) to Mr Armitage (father).

Since last writing to you I have been to HELL - and have had the luck to get back again. I am not in a mood for writing so will stop and finish later on..... Well, anyhow, we've had our first "Big Action" as the 50th Battalion - and we got rather singed, though we were successful in getting the objective. We left Albert on the 12th August in the morning, in fighting order for certain support trenches. Little did we think that a few hours' time would see us "over the top" and well into Hun's trenches. Still, we got over - and some of us have come back. When we arrived at the support trenches we got orders to go up to some trenches N.W. of Pozieres - and at 10.20 p.m. we had to hop out and at them.

We set out for the "jumping off" place, and got along very well until within 1/2 mile of the front - and then we got iron foundries, Essen, Krupp, and the Hartz Mountains, thrown at us. The Huns knew the exact location of the communication trench (one of theirs), and lobbed into a length of about 400 yards a shell every 10 yards every 5 seconds. That is what the 50th got through before starting work. The trench was absolutely smashed, and we lost a fair number of men.

Our next trouble was to keep alive in the front-line trench - our jump-off place - and for 4 1/2 hours the Huns simply poured shells on to us. Amidst all this we had to make our dispositions for the attack - and then we were able to lie "doggo" for 30 minutes before doing our little dash. At last 9.34 came - we got over the top and "lined up" about 40 yards out by 9.40.

Then IT began. IT was our Artillery preparation. Talk about a wall of bursting flame. We had to take about 800 yards of Hun trench - and that 800 yards had three minutes of awful bombardment, a sheet of flame the whole length representing the bursting shells. The dust from the explosions, and the intense glare, cast an orange glow over the proceedings. While this was going on we sneaked up to about 50 yards of the objective. It was a weird sight - our boys steadily advancing against a background of solid, golden flame - and the noise!! It was terrific!!

The Artillery lifted back 50 yards, and then came the supreme moment of the lot. "Right-o. Charge!", and with a sounding of whistles we jumped up and charged like blue hell across those few yards. My word, the boys travelled!! - no cheering, bayonets carried at "high port" - and we reached the trenches; or what was left of them. We found only about 42 live men - the rest were knocked out. Beresford soon bombed these into the "Kamerad" attitude - but we only took five unwounded prisoners.

Then work "started"! We had to dig in almost a fresh line of trench - my word, the boys did dig - and we had a very decent line before dawn. All that day (13th) we got blue blazes, shelled from dawn until late dusk - but our "diggers" had been so good that we had few casualties.

Fritz made two or three tries to form up for a counter-attack - but we'd get in early, and by being alert kept him from concentrating on us. On the 14th he gave us seven hours of perfect "inferno". What a time we had. Few of us thought we'd get through that day, but we stuck it O.K. That night we were sent out on a very difficult stunt: we had

to go out to the left, and advance to dig in "on the sky-line". By this time we'd lost about 2/3 of our men, we'd had no sleep since late on the 11th, and the men were dead tired with three nights of hard, heavy digging. We got out O.K. and forward into positions on the objective - but Fritz spotted us and made our lives precarious with machine guns and shells. Herbert was temporarily smashed up, Beresford was blown out by a shell (shell-shock), Dryden, Rhodes and Fowler wounded. D Company was forced back, leaving the remnants of the other three companies under Rule and myself. I tried hard to get the men dug in but, after 30 minutes of hell - and vain endeavour (with open flanks) - I gave word to get back to our line. I lost 43 men in a very short hour!!!!

All that night Fritz rained angry shells on us, and all the next day, too. It was terrible - but we held fast. At 9 p.m. we were relieved, but even then our troubles did not end - we were shelled all the way home, and had a corporal buried. Altogether "C" lost 105 men - 19 killed, 16 missing (blown to bits mainly), and the rest wounded. Scott was badly hit - I doubted whether he would get to the ambulance. I had just promoted him.

Our boys earned their name "The Fighting Fiftieth" after 4 days of hell and 4 nights of double HELL, on ONE issue of water and half a dozen biscuits!!!! I am satisfied my training was O.K. - the boys were well tried - and the trial proved them true and brave. Anyhow, we've opened the way to Mouquet Farm, and perhaps to Thiepval as well. God guarded me - for I was reckless at times - and I hope in 10 days time He will again help me.

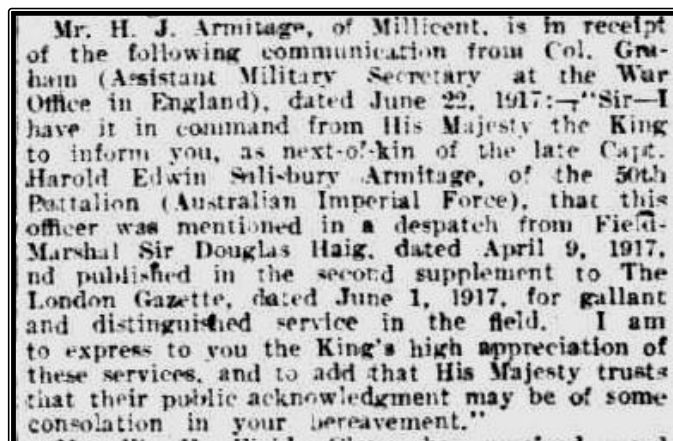
Stretcher bearers were kept so busy in the rear that they couldn't get anywhere near to us until the 4th day, and then Donald Kerr reached us, but in the meantime many had died from wounds. I have recommended Kerr for the V.C. and he deserved it. Scott, my first batman, was made a Lance Corporal a few weeks ago and was doing well, while in the stunt of the 12, 13, 14 he did marvellous work. He would have gained three stripes easily, but on our way back on the 14th, from our abandoned positions, he was badly struck in the back by bits of shell. I got him into the lee side of a shell-hole and fixed him up as best I could, but I am afraid there was internal bleeding. The outward bleeding had stopped but I could not dress the wounds - and I knew an impromptu stretcher of rifles and coats would start the bleeding again, so we had to wait for proper stretchers. No stretchers came till we were relieved, but the Battalion who took our place promised to look after Scott and 4 or 5 others whom I'd left. The Battalion was badly shelled and, so far, Scott has not passed through the Field Ambulance. Things like this take away all the feeling of glory in a stunt, but it was absolutely impossible to get away with any wounded except the walking cases. At the last I risked things and allowed 4 stretcher parties of 4 men each to take in 4 cases on improvised stretchers, but 5 men of B and C Companies were left for the relieving Brigade.

Rollo never knew that he had been specially mentioned in Sir Douglas Haig's dispatches dated 9th April 1917. The MiD was awarded posthumously.

Action for which commended	Recommended by	Honour or Reward	(To be left blank)
<p>Near MOUQUET FARM on night of 12/13th. August 1916 this Officer successfully lead his Company forward & gained his objective which he consolidated with great energy.</p> <p>On night of 14/15th. August, 1916, owing to casualties among officers of the Company adjoining his own he took charge of it in addition to his which then had only one junior inexperienced officer left. On account of the troops on the flank having being driven back he had to redistribute the men of these two Coys. before he could carry out an operation set down for a certain hour that night. The time allowed was very limited and his part of the line was under a continuous enemy shell fire.</p> <p>In spite of this and the lack of Officers & N.C.O's. he succeeded after much difficulty and great personal risk in getting the troops into the required preparatory position in time to carry out his attack. He succeeded in getting the line forward and commenced to dig in on the new position. The heavy fire from MOUQUET FARM & from the right flank where the adjoining troops had been unable to hold their ground caused many casualties and after holding his new position for an hour & a half he was forced back to his old ground, where after strenuous efforts he rallied his remnants & held on. He next set to work & organised a party which he personally took forward & recovered twenty of his wounded. On other occasions on holding the line in less active times he has proved energetic and thoroughly reliable Officer, whose presence inspires confidence in his men, while in training & general work the loss of his services would be a distinct disadvantage to his Battalion.</p>	<p>Lieut-Col SALISBURY O.C. 56th. Bn. Captain. FOWLER.</p>	<p>Mention in Despatches.</p>	
	<p>(sgd) William HOLMES, Major-Gen. G.O.C. 4th. Aust Division.</p>	<p>Brigadier-Gen G.O.C. 15th. Aust. Inf. Sde.</p>	

"PERSONAL NOTES." *The Journal (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1923)* 18 August 1917

<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article208055516>



On 23 July 1916, at Pozières, France, two fellow South Australians distinguished themselves. Twenty three year old second lieutenant, Arthur Seaford Blackburn led an attack for which he was awarded the Victoria Cross and William Francis James McCann was awarded the Military Cross.

Rollo described the celebration (possibly held during his week of leave in September 1916) of Blackburn's VC and McCann's MC at "The Perfect Day". This day was.

"The Perfect Day"

Extract from Dr Roger Freeman's book "Hurcombe's Hungry Half Hundred"

Next morning, after a hot bath and breakfast, I hurried out to interview tailors, base kit stores, and so on to get ourselves respectfully attired and at lunch time we were so far from home. The useful police put us wise to a good place to lunch, hence we arrived at the "Trocadero". The place was crowded, and I was slowly walking in when I suddenly heard a familiar voice sing out "Taka Heeme Army" – A pure-Anzac cry from Egypt. I looked round and caught sight of Murray Fowler waving a napkin at me. And there in a mob around his big table I saw Hancock, Moule, Blackburn, Giles, McCann, Jose, Inglis (all old 10th), Dey, Baily, 27th, and Hewitt of Artillery – all our S.A. chums. You can imagine how Cornish and I welcomed them. That meal cost us £9.18.0 – but Blackburn doesn't get the V.C. every day, so it was excusable. We spent the afternoon at the Hippodrome in the Royal Box – "Flying Colours" – and this cost us 5 or 6 pounds. I'm afraid we rather took charge of the show, but McCann does not get the M.C. every day. Then we had dinner together and "bang went many more sixpences" – more theatre – "Happy Day" – and I remember joining in with the song "The Perfect Day", before parting. It was a perfect day too, I can assure you; the best and first time I have ever been "perfect" in all my life – but it was worth it – for you can't imagine how pleased we ten of the old 10th were to be together once more.

Very penitently next morning I went to service at the Abbey.

End Notes:

Blackburn = Lieutenant Arthur Seaforth Blackburn V.C. Original Anzac, 10th Battalion.

Giles = Major Felix Gordon Giles D.S.O., V.D. Original Anzac

McCann = Major William Francis James McCann D.S.O., M.C., O.B.E. Original Anzac, 10th Battalion.

Inglis = Captain Eric Murray Inglis. Original Anzac, 10th Battalion.

Dey = Captain George Dey.

Letter from Captain Harold Armitage (50th Battalion) to Mr Armitage (father). Harold Armitage, pp 188-189 'Hurcombe's Hungry Half Hundred'

Submitted 16 September 2014 by Nathan Rohrlach (to the Virtual War Memorial Australia)

Profiler's Note:

Jose = Lieut Wilfrid Oswald Jose (THEN 2ND Lieut)

10th Battalion and 50th Battalion - Killed in Action, Noreuil, France, 2 April 1917, aged 22 years
 Fowler = Major William Murray Fowler (then Capt)
 10th Battalion and 50th Battalion, Awarded the MC for action on 2 April 1917
 Cornish = probably Capt Walter Gordon Cornish (then Lieut)
 10th Battalion, Awarded the Military Cross for action on the 4th May 1917, Bullecourt (Second)
 Moule = probably Capt Charles Launcelot Moule
 10th Battalion and 50th Battalion, Awarded the MC for action on 12 October 1917, 1st Passchendaele
 Died of wounds (leg amputated), Poperinge, Belgium, 19 October 1917, aged 38 years

On the 7th November 1916, Rollo's father wrote to the University of Adelaide giving the following particulars of Rollo's service.

Millicent,
Public School.
Nov. 4th

The Registrar,
The University of Adelaide,

Dear Sir,

The particulars of the record of Harold S. P. Armitage & date with Aust. Imperial Forces, are, -
 1914, Aug. Tried to resign Commission in Civ. Forces, in order to enlist in First Contingent, but permission was refused.
Dec. He joined the Training School for Officers at Brighton, passed 'Head of the list' and was appointed to Oaklands.
 1915 January & February, He was training 2nd 4th & 5th Reinforcements of 10th Batt.
April He left S. Aus. in charge of 5th Reinforcements to the 10th Batt.
May Went straight on to Anzac.
 (May 25th) & remained till the evacuation, - he was promoted to First Lieut. Aug 1st 1915, and from then, (Aug) to November was Acting Captain in 10th Battalion.
 1916. Jan. & Feb. Temporary Captain in the

Sinai Desert, & of Serapium with 18th
March, promoted to Captain and
 transferred to the 50th Battalion.
 April & May & June. Training new
 division (4th) in Egypt.
June He arrived in France & presided
July & August In Big Rush, especially
 Inognel Farm, & was congratulated
 by the A.C.
September First furlough. Had 8 days
 which he spent in England.
October Back to the front. Somewhere
 in France.
 yours faithfully
 H. Armitage.

Letter from HJ Armitage (Page 2)

By February 1917, Rollo's brother had passed his course at the Naval College and recovered from an accident and was on his way to join the fleet on active service. The newspaper article (below) quotes a letter from Rollo which would have been written in December 1916 as the Australians serving in "mudland" were preparing for Christmas.

"The South Eastern Times (Millicent, SA : 1906 - 1954) 20 February 1917

<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article200032903>

Joining the Fleet. — Midshipman George Armitage has the distinction of being the first and only South Australian representative to successfully pass through the four years' course at the Australian Naval College, Jervis Bay. A serious accident just before Christmas prevented him joining his comrades (the two dozen "middies" from the other States) in their trip to England earlier in the year, but before they get their sea-legs under Admirals Beatty, Sturdee and Co., he hopes to be alongside them. He has quite recovered from the effects of his accident, and is now on the way to see how the Royal Navy can beat submarines in the seas round the homeland. His brother, Captain Harold Armitage, has been two years on active service, and a letter just received from "mudland" indicates that the Australians are as cheery as ever, and were busily planning a "Boxing Day" programme of sports and Christmas festivities, even while up to their waists in mud in the front lines.

Extracts from two letters from Rollo – below:

"I don't want to be promoted"

Extract from Dr Roger Freeman's book "Hurcombe's Hungry Half Hundred"

I don't want to be promoted if it makes S. sore. I would rather do without it – also it seems farcical to make a youngster like me have a position that among regulars is only filled by a man of 35 or 40. I hope I don't get it, as tho I'm prepared to accept the responsibility, if necessary, I don't want either the rank or the pay. I think the A.I.F. is overpaid already, especially, the Captains and the Majors. I think it would be better if they knocked off some of our pay and gave extra to the N.C.O's – especially the L/Cpl. Who only gets the same as a private.

Letter from Captain Harold Armitage (50th Battalion) to Mr Armitage (father).

Harold Armitage, pp 240 'Hurcombe's Hungry Half Hundred'

Submitted 16 September 2014 by Nathan Rohrlach (to the Virtual War Memorial Australia)

"I am proud of my men"

Extract from Dr Roger Freeman's book "Hurcombe's Hungry Half Hundred"

I dare say many of my men and junior officers reckon me "a cow" - but by being such I'm making them a real fighting Company, and they'll be glad later. Every man is a "bomber", most know how to work machine guns - about 1/10 are Lewis gun experts - and all know A to Z about bayonet fighting. The whole lot are good comrades, and I have an ideal Company - steady, why I've even seen H.E. shell burst right along and they didn't move an eyelash!!!

To have a Sergeant, and later two other men, come up to me during that Dante's Inferno we were in and ask permission to go to the rear and get "bad" wounds dressed is discipline - yet some say the Australians are undisciplined! Thank God, my talks to the boys about "Duty" have borne fruit - in spite of having at times to seem harsh - and I am proud of my men.

Letter from Captain Harold Armitage (50th Battalion) to Mr Armitage (father).

Harold Armitage, pp 56 -57 'Hurcombe's Hungry Half Hundred'

Submitted 27 August 2014 by Nathan Rohrlach (to the Virtual War Memorial Australia)

Death

Initial reports of Rollo's death stated that he had died on the 3rd March 1917 however this was due to an error on behalf of the AIF. It was also reported that Rollo was an acting Major at the time of his death but there is nothing on his service record to support the temporary promotion.

In February 1917 the Germans took the Allies by surprise by withdrawing from their front line to consolidate along the much stronger Hindenberg Line. However to hinder the Allies advance they fortified a number of "outpost Villages". The 50th and 51st Battalions were responsible for attacking one of the "outpost Villages" called Noreuil (France) on the 2nd April 1917.

Harold Edwin Salisbury (Rollo) Armitage was killed in action on the 3rd April 1917 at Noreuil.

After the battle, his body was recovered and buried in Noreuil Australian Cemetery, plot C 21. His moving epitaph reads: *'A Loving Son, A Devoted Officer, A Soldier And A Man.'*



***Headstone of Captain Harold Armitage, 50th Battalion (South Australia)
Noreuil Australian Cemetery.
DVA (Department of Veterans Affairs)***

A number of moving biographies relating to Rollo's life and service were published in the South Australian papers during April 1917 (see a selection of articles below).

Dr Roger Freeman's book "Hurcombe's Hungry Half Hundred" contains two letters written to Rollo's father giving details of his son's final months (see below).

"THE LATE CAPTAIN B. E. S. ARMITAGE." *Chronicle (Adelaide, SA : 1895 - 1954)*

28 April 1917

<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article87440185>



Capt. HES Armitage

For King and Country.—Flags were flying at half-mast in Millicent on Tuesday, and helped to spread the news of the death in action of Captain Harold E. S. Armitage, eldest son of Mr and Mrs H. J. Armitage, of the Millicent public school. Naturally the telegram from the Base Records office, conveying the sad intimation, was a great shock to the bereaved parents, and residents were not slow to manifest their sympathy with them. The young officer—he was only 22 years of age when killed—had not completed his education when war broke out, and he was amongst the first of South Australia's volunteers. General Haig has frequently declared that "war is a young man's game," and young Armitage, with the rank of captain won on modern battlefields at the age of 22, was an illustration of the avidity with which mere schoolboys have entered upon an active military career. Captain Armitage served throughout the Gallipoli campaign from the date of the famous landing of the 10th Battalion, to which he was attached, and he came through the ordeal without a scratch. When the Australian soldiers went to France, Captain Armitage was amongst the first detachments landed there, and he has since participated in the hottest fighting that has fallen to the lot of the Dominions' soldiers. The telegram from the military authorities states that he was killed in action near Bapaume on March 3. The young officer was not very widely known at Millicent, where his father is teacher in charge of the public school, but letters written to his people have frequently been quoted from in these columns. He was well-known to a majority of the South Australian officers, and those of them who have returned to Millicent from the war speak in the highest terms of his courage and endurance, and his qualities as a military officer, whose promotion to the rank of captain was thoroughly deserved. A younger brother of the deceased soldier is serving with the navy. If there is a silver lining to the cloud of bereavement, it is the fact that Captain Armitage, after two and a half years' service for King and country, has made the supreme sacrifice at a time when the tide is on the turn, and sure signs are visible that the gallantry and tenacity of the Allied troops on the western front have prevailed against the common enemy. It will be some comfort to his sorrowing relatives to know that Captain Armitage has not "done his bit" in vain.

LATE CAPT. H. E. S. ARMITAGE.
By the death in action at Bapaume of Capt. (Acting Major) Harold Edwin Salisbury Armitage, another valuable life has been sacrificed at the altar of duty. Born at Norwood, on November 11, 1894, the young officer had a most successful career at the Houghton Public School, the School of Mines, and later at the Adelaide High School, where he passed in the junior, senior, and higher public examinations. He entered the University and was just completing his first year in the B.A. course when war began. He had taken a prominent part in sports. The Houghton, St. Bartholomew's, and A.H.S. football teams had a call on his services, and in rowing he was connected with the A.H.S. and University crews. In 1914 he had gained his commission in the 79th Regiment, and he vainly tried to resign this commission to join the 10th or 12th Battalion as a private. In December he entered an officers' school at Brighton, and, passing head of the list, was selected for duty at Oaklands, where the 3rd and 4th Reinforcements for the 10th were. The 5th Reinforcements were almost entirely trained by him, and later on a regulation prohibiting officers under 23 from enlisting was specially relaxed in his favour, so that on April 20, 1915, he started in charge. On reaching Egypt he left his men, and proceeded straight to Amzac, where he was in the firing line five weeks after leaving Adelaide. Here he stayed until the evacuation, and was one of the few officers unwounded or incapacitated during that arduous time. He gained his full lieutenancy in August, and almost at once took the duties of acting captain, owing to the loss of officers. After a few weeks to recoup at Lemnos, the 10th sailed for Egypt, and until February took part in guarding that country. The 4th Division was then formed, and many men and officers were transferred from the 10th to form the 50th Battalion. The deceased officer was among these, and gained his captaincy in March, 1916. After a long and trying time in the desert east of Suez, the 50th left for France early in June, and almost at once took part in the big push then starting east from Albert. At Pozieres, Mouquet Farm, and other positions the 50th did strenuous work, being in support with the old 10th. Capt. Armitage was foremost in the bitter attacks in August, on the ridges barring the way to Bapaume. He had a short "spell" of seven days in England, in September, but during all the winter remained with his men. His C.O. had just promised him "leave" to visit England to meet his younger brother (Midshipman G. W. T. Armitage), but when the new victorious push started on March 1, he probably returned to his company, and was taking part in the struggle which resulted in the capture of Bapaume, when he fell in the hour of victory, on March 3. A Militant soldier (Sgt. Gurr), writing to a friend, told how the men appreciated their young commander. He wrote:—"Harold Armitage is doing splendid work. He is a major now, and the men love and respect him. They declare he is one of the best officers in the Australian Imperial Force."



THE AUSTRALIANS. BIOGRAPHICAL

LATE CAPT. H. E. S. ARMITAGE.

By the death in action at Bapaume of Capt. (Acting Major) Harold Edwin Salisbury Armitage, another valuable life has been sacrificed at the altar of duty. Born at Norwood, on November 11, 1894, the young officer had a most successful career at the Houghton Public School, the School of Mines, and later at the Adelaide High School, where he passed in the junior, senior, and higher public examinations. He entered the University and was just completing his first year in the B.A. course when war began. He had taken a prominent part in sports. The Houghton, St. Bartholomew's, and A.H.S. football teams had a call on his services, and in rowing he was connected with the A.H.S. and University crews. In 1914 he had gained his commission in the 79th Regiment, and he vainly tried to resign this commission to join the 10th or 12th Battalion as a private. In December he entered an officers' school at Brighton, and, passing head of the list, was selected for duty at Oaklands, where the 3rd and 4th Reinforcements for the 10th were. The 5th Reinforcements were

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CAPTAIN HAROLD E. SALISBURY ARMITAGE entered the Adelaide High School in 1910, and passed through the junior, senior, and higher classes. He was a sturdy footballer, and was a member of the first team that journeyed across to Melbourne. On entering the A.I.F. he passed through an officers' school of instruction with special commendation, and the regulation prohibiting the appointment of officers under 23 years of age was relaxed in his favour. He left Adelaide with the reinforcements for the 10th Infantry Battalion, but on reaching Egypt left his men and proceeded straight to Gallipoli, where he was in the firing line five weeks after leaving Adelaide. Harold stayed there till the evacuation, and was one of the few officers wounded or incapacitated during that arduous time. On returning to Egypt he was transferred to the newly-formed 50th Battalion, which was stationed for some months east of the Suez Canal. In June, 1916, however, the Battalion sailed for France, and almost at once took part in the "big push" from Albert. The photograph of him was taken at the only time he had furlough (8 days), and shows the great strain he had been through. This was just after the grim struggles at Poiziers and Mouquet Farm ridge. For over a month the men had very little rest, and on several occasions were over 72 hours at a time attacking, digging, bombing, etc., with an incessant shell fire that flattened out trenches over 10 feet deep. Harold Armitage was a man of whom anyone might be proud of being able to call him a friend. True, manly, pure-minded, and of the highest ideals; brave and courageous he has proved himself at the front; courteous, honest, and high-souled we knew him. The loss of such a man cannot be estimated by any treasurer, but a character such as his is the country's highest asset.

*(note- the above should read that Rollo was
"one of the few officers not wounded or incapacitated" at Gallipoli)*

Adelaide High School Magazine - 1916



Major Harry Seager's letter to Mr Armitage

Extract from Dr Roger Freeman's book "Hurcombe's Hungry Half Hundred"
Letter from Major Harry Seager (50th Battalion) to Mr Armitage.

You asked for a description of the doings of the 50th [battalion] from the 20th March, 1917, to 3 April, 1917, and the last days of Harold. Well, I shall endeavour to do so, as best I can.

On about the 20th March the Battalion moved up from their billets at Buire (their advance base) to participate in the great German retreat. After leaving Buire we camped in huts at Mamety Camp, just beyond Albert on the Somme battlefield, for a few days. Nearly every afternoon Harold and myself used to go for long rides. On Sunday afternoon we visited Pozieres and Mouquet Farm, the place where he had fought and suffered so much. Even then the mud was so bad we had to dismount and leave our horses. The shell-fire had been so terrific there was no a blade of grass left, and the fields was still littered with fragments of unburied dead, equipment, etc. I saw the site of Harold's Company Hqrs in a shallow trench, and knew what he had been through. If anyone deserved a decoration for those awful days of fighting, he did. We inspected the farm itself – and no wonder it could not be destroyed by shell-fire. It was a veritable fortress with fortified cellars, deep dug-outs underneath them, and tunnels leading to goodness knows where.

A day or so afterwards the Battalion moved right across the Somme field, past High Wood and other historic places, and billeted in British and German dug-outs at La Sars (near the great Butte de Warlencourt), a great mound three hundred feet in circumference, erected by some prehistoric people over their dead, killed in some big battle. Next morning, the Colonel rode ahead and order his four company commanders to follow him early that afternoon, leaving the battalion to be brought on by his Second in Command. Harold, Todd, Churchill-Smith and myself started early that afternoon and joined the main Albert-Bapaume Road near the Butte. The old Roman road was a sight to be seen, packed with transport, guns, ammunition and troops all moving forward. Every now and then we would come to a mine crater in the middle of the road and engineers intensely repairing the damage.

Bapaume itself was a terrible wreck. Every house and building had been blown up. As we passed the place where the town had been, we could see men still digging out their comrades. Not one stone remained upon another. It must be remembered that the Hall had been previously blown up, but was blown up again by a delayed-action fuse some days afterwards, when some troops were in it. One of the very few ruses of the Germans that were successful. After passing through the town we came to open country, here and there defended by strong systems of trenches and wire, but still given up by the Germans for some reason without striking a blow.

Along this road we found the Colonel awaiting us. He took us to the ruined town of Vaulx-Vraucourt. Most of the roads in France were broad, with avenues of trees. But in this country the Germans had cut down all the trees on one side of the road. In Vaulx I also saw fruit trees and rose bushes cut down. Packs, valises, etc., were dumped just before the Battalion entered Vaulx. Transports, cooks, etc., were also left there. A, C and D Companies proceeded straight to the outpost line and B Company and Headquarters stayed in Vaulx. About the 30th or the 31st of March, B Company took over the line from A and C Companies, which returned to Vaulx. I relieved Harold and had a long talk to him that night. I shall not describe the outpost work or patrol encounters to you, but will get to the main attack.

The battle on the 2nd of April was not only carried out in Noreuil, but other Divisions took part and it resulted in the capture of several villages. Noreuil is a village lying some miles north-east of Bapaume. In front and to the south of the village ran a low ridge almost east and west of the village of Queant is a valley – a dismantled railway track ran along this valley. On the north of the village and valley is a plateau running away to the north towards Bullecourt and the Hindenberg Line. Longatte is almost a mile to the west, slightly north of Noreuil. Lagnicourt was less than a mile to the south-east of Noreuil, and just behind the ridge about three miles to the south-west lay Vaulx. Our outpost line through Lagnicourt on the east, along the reserve slope or crest of the ridge in front of Noreuil, around Longatte, and then north-west to Arras. The village of Noreuil formed a slight salient into our line.

The Germans were slowly falling back upon the Hindenberg Line, destroying villages, etc., as they went. They defended their line by a system of rearguards and outposts, comprised of their best troops. Most of Noreuil had been destroyed or mined. Its evacuation was forestalled, by our attack, for twelve days. The Germans defended

Noreuil with the 119th and 120th Regiments (3rd Guard Division). The village was very strongly held on the western side and by fortified, sunken roads on the south and eastern side. The German line ran along the southern ridge. This was protected by a belt of wire which could not be seen from the top of the ridge owing to the convex slope. The supports were in the sunken roads to the north and west of the village.

The Attack

The 52nd Battalion in front of Lagnicourt had to advance in a north-east direction for a few hundred yards on to the crest of the southern ridge, and then dig in. This involved practically two waves of two platoons each (four lines). The other company (which was to sweep to the right of the village) formed one wave, with one platoon of the Reserve Company in support. (The platoon joined the company before the attack that lasted five minutes, and was wiped out.) The frontage for the Battalion was between 600 and 800 yards. The remaining three platoons of the Reserve Company spread across the two thousand yards of front and held the line while the others were forming up.

The 51st battalion were to attack Noreuil directly in a north-east direction. Their right to get in touch with the 50th in the village and their left to get in touch with the 2nd Gordons (who were to attack Longatte). I have forgotten the hour; it was 4:30 or 5:30 a.m. Anyway, it was dark. While the Battalion was waiting on the tapes, I saw Harold and we had a few minutes' chat. He was very game. He had a presentiment that he would not come through. I remember him saying to be careful of the enemy protective barrage that was sure to descend on the outpost line. He was full of spirit and confident of victory.

At zero hour the guns flashed out and the German Very Lights and S.O.S. signals lit up the sky, making a pretty awe-inspiring sight. All the troops sprang up from the tapes and followed the barrage closely. The Germans were taken completely by surprise, and in the middle of the relief, so were about eight minutes getting their barrage going along the southern ridge. Once over the crest the German machine guns began to rattle out and their own troops came under a deadly fire. On the left of the Battalion the leading wave were mowed down by machine guns concealed in the houses and a piquet in the sunken road. Here the gallant Lieutenant Hoggarth fell. Also that equally gallant gentleman, Lieutenant Bidstrup. His body was found surrounded by a number of dead Germans.

By this time the 51st Battalion began to attack from the left and some of our own men had worked around to the right of the cemetery; thus, the Germans found themselves practically surrounded. With a cheer, both Battalions joined and swept into the village to victory. In the centre of the Battalion they had also suffered machine gun fire before entering village and here also the gallant and lovable Lieutenant Jose fell.

The company on the right, although coming under fire, met with better luck. The machine gun situated on the sunken road leading from Lagnicourt to Noreuil was destroyed by the first shot from a trench mortar. Advancing over these positions the company was held up by the belt of wire. For a few moments the positions was critical; however, the wire was crossed with a rush. The company entered the valley and then swung to the right, but they had gone too far before wheeling, consequently losing touch with the 52nd Battalion just to the right of the road mentioned. Here Lance Corporal (then Private) Jensen won his V.C. by capturing about 60 Germans.

The boys on the left and the centre, together with the 51st Battalion, swept through the village, wheeled, and took up a position in the partially-dug trench on the high ground north-east of the village. They were in a trench with the Scottish, who took Longatte on the left, and their right rested about 50 to 100 yards from the edge of the valley. They had advanced about 2000 yards and were only 200 yards short of their final objective. The right company in the valley met with hard fighting right along it and when our second barrage opened, owing to it being a bit ragged, suffered heavy casualties. Here it lost touch with the left, too. Some of them reached their final objective but they were enfiladed from both flanks, from a sunken road on the ground about 200 yards in front of the other companies, and also from the sunken road in front of the 52nd Battalion on the southern ridge. They were also heavily attacked from the front. Some 300 Germans running from the village attacked them from the rear. Outflanked and surrounded the end came quickly and, after a short, unequal fight some 100 surrendered.

The Germans then turned their attention to the other two companies of the 51st in the trench. From the sunken road in front of them the Germans bombarded them with pineapple bombs (trench mortar) and enfiladed them with machine-guns from the sunken road on the southern ridge in front of the 52nd Battalion. They also bombarded up

their trenches some way from where it ended on the north side of the valley. Losses were heavy in some places and the trench soon filled up with dead.

It was in this trench that your very gallant son was killed during the latter part of the morning on the 2nd of April, shot through the head while looking over the top of the trench to see what had become of the companies in the valley. His last words were "watch the right flank" just before he looked over the top. His poor men were heart-stricken with grief, and I saw his lying in the trench that morning and heard the details. It was a terrible shock. He was buried beside Lieutenant Rule in a little quarry by the side of a road in the valley, and a cross erected. He had done splendid work that day and, if he had been spared would have been rewarded.

The Germans had suffered heavily while running away. The ground in front of the trench and around the sunken road was covered with dead. The gap so caused in the line was serious. The 52nd Battalion, who had dug in on the crest of the southern ridge, could not see or command the valley, thus leaving it open for the Germans to retake the village, envelop the Brigade or cause them to fall back, and possibly the Brigade on its left.

On receipt of a pigeon message from Harold, saying some Germans had been overlooked in the village and were causing trouble, the Colonel ordered one platoon from Reserve Company under Lieutenant Rule to move up to support the company in the valley, and the two remaining platoons to mop up the village. Going over the southern ridge this company had to pass through the enemy's barrage, and consequently suffered casualties. On discovering the fate of the right company, this company was thrown into the gap and advanced up the valley without artillery support. Before going far it came under the same murderous fire, enfilade and frontal, also heavy shelling from the field guns, 5.9 inch. Within 200 yards of the sunken road these attacks were held up, and the company took up positions to cover the valley and protect the flank of the Battalion. The Germans, being so prevented from pursuing their attacks against the Battalion's flank, devoted their attention to the newcomers.

Towards evening the enemy, under cover of a heavy bombardment, massed for a counter-attack along the whole front. But snow was falling and the enemy were plainly visible to the troops on the high ground. In answer to the S.O.S. signals out artillery played such havoc with them that the attack never developed. That night touch was gained with the 52nd battalion and the gap was closed. Next morning this company now 60 strong) appeared to again attack the sunken roads. However, it proved unnecessary as its patrols reported that the enemy had evacuated them and the positions were occupied without opposition, and quantities of material and several wounded prisoners were found there. Patrols followed up the remaining enemy who had fallen back on Queant and Bullecourt. The next night the whole line was advanced for a distance of 1900 yards.

Harry Seager, pp 94-97 'Hurcombe's Hungry Half Hundred'
Submitted 13 July 2014 by Nathan Rohrlach (to the Australian Virtual War Memorial)

Sergeant Roy Clark's letter to Mr Armitage

Extract from Dr Roger Freeman's book "Hurcombe's Hungry Half Hundred"
Letter from Sergeant Roy Clark (50th Battalion) to Mr Armitage.

I feel constrained to write to you, because of the respect I used to have for your beloved son who was, in the first instance, my Platoon Commander in the old 10th Battalion; and afterwards my O.C. in the 50th Battalion. In the 10th I was a Private in the Platoon over which your son was the Commander, and in the 50th a Platoon Sergeant in the Company over which he was O.C. You see, I write with the authority of one who has known Captain Armitage as a superior officer; but also I have been in the position to learn to know him as a man of ideals and high principles.

The respect that I had for your late son has developed to reverence, as I have gradually realised the loss of our Company and Battalion had sustained by his death. The day that he made the supreme sacrifice will ever be remembered by the lads who followed the Captain. I was near him during the whole of the advance, and witnessed the courage and calm judgement he displayed before us all. Then, when the battle was carried successfully through the little village of Noreuil (and onward to the pre-arranged "objective", on the rising ground on the other side of the village) I saw our Captain pass along the trench we had occupied, to direct the consolidation work to be done on our right flank, which was "in the air" and likely to be rushed by the enemy at any time. He cheered the lads with his quiet words as they "dug-in" for dear life, and directed the work of constructing the fire trench with absolute disregard of personal safety.

We had been in this new position about three hours when word was passed along from mouth to mouth that our Captain had been “sniped”. His death was instantaneous. What a sudden transition from the noise and carnage of the Battlefield into Heaven, the Eternal Home of our Souls. The depression was noticeable in the gloomy expressions on every man’s face when they realised that our Captain had met his ultimately end. Only two other Officers who had survived that fiery “stunt”, on that momentous 2nd April day, had “gone over” with the attacking troops. It proved to be the most disastrous “stunt” that our Battalion had taken part in.

A burial party from another Battalion in our Brigade was responsible for the burial of our fallen comrades in that sector. L/Cpl Percy Foster of Lucindale, a friend of mine, was laid to rest by that party. Your son fell a couple of hundred yards away from the spot where my pal was killed, so the same party, undoubtedly laid your son, and our revered O.C., in his last resting place.

This letter will reach you about the time when you will have commemorated sorrowfully the first anniversary of your son’s death. Accept this as my expression of condolence.

We, who have survived the fiery, deadly battles, in which many a good comrade has fallen, are endeavouring to carry on the difficult task of defeating the wily, unscrupulous Germans. As much as we long to get back to our loved ones and friends in Australia, every true Britisher is determined to pay back the Hun in his own coin, and wrest from his tyrannous grasp spoiled Belgium, wrecked Serbia, plundered Rumania, oppressed Poland, and that part of France which he has intruded upon so rudely. There is still much heavy fighting to be done on every front where the Allies are facing the Huns.

At the present time we are playing the waiting game on the front. Rumours are rife that Fritz intends to launch an offensive on a big scale on this Western Front somewhere but, whether Fritz or the British strike, King Winter holds the armies in his chilly grip, and both sides are forced to await the weakening of these stubborn fingers; until Spring returns an offensive action is practically impossible for either side. Then, when conditions are favourable, there will be a clash heavier and more intense than any previous action on record. May the great, terrible, diabolical action be the last in this great war is my sincere prayer, and just as sincerely do I trust that a satisfactory peace that will endure will be settled amongst the troubled Nations.

I have been acting in capacity of Company Sergeant Major for “C” Company for over two months now, and the other day had occasion to look through some of the old Company books. Amongst them I found one with Captain Armitage’s name on it, and in the book was the enclosed photos. Am enclosing these knowing that you would value them for your son’s sake. The old N.C.Os and men wish me to convey their regards to you. I send my best wishes.

Roy Clark, pp 102-103 'Hurcombe's Hungry Half Hundred'
Submitted 16 September 2014 by Nathan Rohrlach (to the Australian Virtual War Memorial)

Aftermath

Sadly for the Armitage family, the early incorrect reports of Rollo’s date of death and delays in the provision of his will and the return of his personal effects resulted in delays in finalising his estate. Probate was granted on Rollo’s estate (valued at £290) in August 1917. His personal effects as detailed below were returned to Australia and arrived on the 26th October 1917 onboard the “Euripidies”.

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

KIT STORE.



110, GREYHOUND ROAD,
FULHAM, LONDON,
W. 6.

Telephone:—HAMMERSMITH 1899.

Inventory of Effects of— the late Capt. A.E.S. Armitage, 50th Batt'n. AIF.

Forwarded to— Next-of-Kin and Legatee.
(Father)

Mr. Henry James Armitage,
Millicent,
South Australia.

Ex. G.S.A. 7.6.17.

ONE LEATHER TRUNK (sealed)

Photos, Snaps, Negatives, Letters, Postcards, 2 Guide Books, Notebook,
1 First Aid Book, Commonwealth Bank Pass Book (No. 21788, Adelaide Branch),
1 Wallet, 18 Coins, 1 Pipe in Case, 1 Watch, 1 Testament, 1 Diary,
1 Handbag, Curios, Badges, Stars, 1 Gold Medal, 1 Toilet Case, Mirror,
(damaged); 1 Tooth Brush Case (damaged), 1 Leather Purse, 1 Penknife,
1 Pr. Dividers, 2 Fly Nets, 1 Cup, Military Brushes in Case, 2 Straps,
1 Brush, 2 Pr. Slippers, 1 Pr. Insoles, 1 Pr. Tan Boots, 1 Pr. Rubber
Shoes, 3 Pr. Gloves, 1 Cap Cover, 3 Towels, 3 Pr. Underpants, 2 Singlets,
1 Flannel, 7 Shirts, 1 Pr. Puttees, 25 Handkerchiefs, 1 Forage Cap,
5 Collars, 3 Ties, 12 Pr. Socks, 2 Pr. Mittens, 2 Cap Comforters,
1 Magnifying Glass, 1 Pr. Drill Slacks, 1 Pr. Riding Breeches, 1 Drill
Tunic, 2 S.D. Slacks, 1 S.D. Tunic, 1 Mirror, 1 Compass, 1 Pr. Specta-
cles, 1 Tobacco Purse, Military Text Books.

No. of Package D/S. 14230 incase 421.

Checked by *as*

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

KIT STORE.



110, GREYHOUND ROAD,
FULHAM, LONDON,
W. 6.

Telephone:—HAMMERSMITH 1899.

Inventory of Effects of— the late Capt. H.E.S. Armitage, 50th Batt'n. AIF.

Forwarded to— Next-of-Kin and Legatee.
(Father)

Mr. Henry James Armitage,
Millicent,
South Australia.

Ex. G.S.A. 10/5/17.

ONE VALISE (sealed)

1 Pyjama Suit, 2 Pr. Gloves, 1 Flask, 1 "Sam Browne" Belt,
1 Pr. Spurs, 1 Pr. Leggings, 1 Pr. Goggles, 3 Shirts, 1 Cap,
1 Singlet, 1 Scarf, 6 Handkerchiefs, 1 Curio, 1 Prayer Book, 1 Book
of Poems, Stars, 1 Brooch, 1 Whistle, 1 S.D. Tunic, 1 Kit Bag.

No. of Package D/S. 14239 in case 430.

Checked by *as*



World War I ANZAC H.E.S. Armitage uniform.

(Harold Edwin Salisbury Armitage of Millicent, South Australia enlisted and served as a 2nd Lieutenant at Gallipoli (10Bn). Died in France 3 April 1917.)

Privately tailored jacket (Shierlaw, Adelaide) with 50 Bn. Colour patch.

<http://www.carters.com.au/index.cfm/index/1593-uniforms-military/>

Rollo's brother, George William Thomas Armitage was torpedoed on transport 'Ballarat' in April 1917. He later served on HMS 'Canada' and 'Torrens' (1917-18). George continued to serve in the RAN after WWI and was promoted to Lieutenant-Commander in the RNF on the 15th June 1929. He was transferred to the Emergency List on the 1st July 1931. Due to WWII George returned to temporary active service on the 14th July 1941. He was transferred to the retired list on the 9th April 1943.

Rollo's father, Henry James Armitage, passed away on the 29th November 1950, aged 86 years and his mother, Martha Elizabeth Armitage passed away in 1955.

In 1967 when special medallions were awarded to those who served at Gallipoli, Rollo's sister, Bessie Eleanor Armitage applied for and received the medal as Rollo's surviving next-of-kin.



Anzac Commemorative Medallion

<http://www.defence.gov.au/Medals/Imperial/WWI/Anzac-Commemorative-Medallion.asp>

Profile Compiled by: Beth Filmer (AUFC/AUCC WW1 Memorial Committee)

Sources and Acknowledgements

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(Trove Newspaper articles tagged – HES Armitage)

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State Library of South Australia

From the Photograph Collection of Charles William Hooper

<https://collections.slsa.sa.gov.au/resource/PRG+546/20>

<https://collections.slsa.sa.gov.au/resource/PRG+546/29>

Adelaide High School Magazines

Extracts from the “World War I from the AHS Magazines.pdf”

www.adelaidehs.sa.edu.au/

Rob O'Shannassy & Janne Filmer (AUFC/AUCC WW1 Memorial Committee)

Armitage, Harold Edwin Salisbury V.2