**Life before the war**

Hugh O’Reilly was one of the many young men who embarked on the journey to Europe where they would fight for their country. Hugh O’Reilly was born in 1894 in Adelaide, Australia and only 21 when he made to courageous journey. In Adelaide he worked as a labourer. He was single and had no kids. Hugh had blue eyes, fair skin tone, auburn hair and he was five foot ten. He grew up in a family of a four. His sister, Katherine Taylor, his mother and father.

**Life during the war**

He departed for the war on the 23rd of June 1915. He was one of the approximately 800 people in the 10th Infantry Battalion. He had no major responsibilities due to the fact that he was ranked as a private. He had to follow orders and fight with a gun. Throughout the war it was clear that Hugh O’Reilly did not like the war due to the fact that he was caught with being absent without leave many times. Throughout the fours years that he spent at war he was caught four times with absent without leave.

At 9:15am on the 4th of April in 1916 he was caught with absent without leave until he was caught by military police at 10:00pm in Cairo.

Absent without leave at 9:30pm on the 21st of October in 1916 to 8:30am

On May the 17th in 1917 he was caught with absent without leave from the 7:30am to 8:30am

6pm 7th/6/1917 – he absented himself - 8:30pm 12th/6/1917 – until he was caught by the military police. He was found not guilty of desertion but found guilty of absent without leave. He was sentenced to two years of hard labour in prison.

He was discharged from prison on the 16th of August 1918. He then went back to war on the 17th of August in 1918.

O’Reilly served bravely in many battles such as;

* **Somme** on the 1st of July to the 3rd of September 1916
* **Bullecourt** on the 3rd of March to 17th of March 1917
* **Ypres** on the 31st of July to 10th of November 1917
* **Menin Road** on the 20th of September to 25th of September 1917
* **Polygon Wood** on the 26th of September to 3rd of October 1917

**Life after the war**

He returned home on the 28th of July in 1919 after serving four years and hundred and thirty-nine days abroad.

**ANZAC spirit**

The 25th of April 1915 was the first national landing of the Anzac soldiers. The troops (also know as diggers) showed qualities that Australia valued and this has been known as the Anzac spirit. The Anzac qualities are endurance, courage, ingenuity, good humour, and mateship. Throughout the years the Australian people have embraced these qualities which have defined

Australian people. At their time fighting in Gallipoli the young Australian soldiers showed great national pride. The Anzac spirit was also about how the troops displayed themselves, on their bravery, mateship, innovation, tenacity when facing bad adversity. Hugh showed great ANZAC spirit by serving in many battles and great devotion to he’s country.

**References:**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Name of source** | **Detail for bibliography** | **Type of source** | **How will this source help you?** |
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| **Service record** | <https://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/SearchNRetrieve/Interface/ViewImage.aspx?B=7996908> | Primary, written | Physical features, wounds, battles, age, religion, medals. |
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