Informal portrait of Captain Clive Wentworth Thompson, 1st Battalion, 1 Infantry Brigade, at work issuing vaccinations in the field. A medical practitioner prior to the First World War, Capt Wentworth Thompson embarked from Australia aboard HMAT Afric on 18 October 1914 with the 1st Battalion and assisted the mortally wounded General Bridges on 26th April 1915 at Gallipoli. He relinquished his appointment of DDMC on 2 September 1917 in order to take up command. He suffered multiple gunshot wounds in October 917, was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel and returned to the 14th Field Ambulance one month later. He was awarded the Military Cross in the same month and mentioned in despatches several times (Ed.it was 4). In 1919 he was awarded the Distinguished Service Order (DSO) for his "untiring energy and ability" while organising the evacuation and surgical treatment of wounded men during fighting in 1918.
Clive born, Bathurst Post Office 21/9/82. Father, William Gilbert Thompson. Mother, Jane Amelia Fraser (1848-1930)

The following text, is reproduced for three reasons. One, it gives a “sample” page from Old Boy, Bean’s Anzac writings. Second, it gives an
Division’s sector. As he went up the road with Colonel White and Lieutenant Casey (his A.D.C.) they met Major William Glasgow, of the 1st Light Horse Regiment, with some of his men on their way down. “Be careful of the next corner,” he said, “I have lost five men there to-day.” Such warnings, which were constantly heard by anyone visiting the trenches, were usually little heeded. But this particular officer was not one who would give idle advice. When, therefore, they reached a traverse 200 yards below Chauvel’s headquarters, and some men behind the next barrier advised them to run to it, General Bridges, to the surprise of his companions, adopted the suggestion. His ordinary practice had been to expose himself without regard for danger, laughing down at his staff when they took cover, and asking “what they were getting down there for?” But he had apparently begun to realise that this impunity could not continue.

On this day, probably guessing from a certain vague tension in the valley that the danger was real, he acted upon the advice tendered. The party ran three or four times between barriers, until they reached the one below Steele’s Post. Behind this was the dressing-station of Captain Thompson of the 1st Battalion. After talking a few minutes and lighting a cigarette Bridges went on, Thompson warning him to be careful. The general’s long legs disappeared in the scrub round the traverse, and the others were preparing to follow, when there was some sort of stir, and Thompson ran out to find Bridges lying with a huge bullet-hole through his thigh. Both femoral artery and vein had been cut, and though Thompson instantly stopped the bleeding, the loss of blood had been very great. As they brought the general back into the shelter of the traverse, strangely changed from the bronzed healthy man who had passed a few seconds before, he said weakly, “Don’t carry me down—I don’t want any of your stretcher-bearers hit.”

15th May, 1915] PROBLEM OF MONASH VALLEY
Informal group portrait of officers of the 1st Battalion at Anzac.

Capt Clive Wentworth Thompson (Medical Officer) from Brewongle seated far right second row.

A group of 1st Battalion officers resting. Identified left to right: unidentified; Major William Davidson, who died of wounds on 19 August 1915; Captain Clive Wentworth Thompson, Australian Army Medical Corps (AAMC); unidentified (obscured); Lieutenant Colonel Leonard Dobbins; Major Frederick James Kindon; Captain Philip Geoffrey Hill who later died of wounds on 9 June 1915 at Malta.

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Picture below:

Informal portrait, of the officers of the 14th Field Ambulance at Cormont, near Desvres. Front row: Maj. C. H. Wesley; Lieutenant Colonel C. W. Thompson MC; Maj. J. R. Beard MC
**SERVICE AND CASUALTY FORM Part II.**

Regiment or Corps: 14th. FIELD AMBULANCE  
Department Number:  
*Substantive Rank:* Lt.  
*Christian Names:* Charles

*Acting Rank:*  
*(To be entered in pencil to facilitate alteration.)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>(A) Report</th>
<th>(B) Authority of Part II of Orders</th>
<th>(C) Record of promotions, appointments, reductions, casualties, transfers, postings, &amp;c. All acting as well as substantive promotions to be shown. For method of entry of which see A.C.I. 186 of 1917. Corps and unit names to be typed and posted to be invariably named.</th>
<th>(D) Place of casualty</th>
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<td>Date</td>
<td>From whom received</td>
<td></td>
<td>Australi</td>
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<tr>
<td>10/3/17</td>
<td>2nd. Arr. Hqrs</td>
<td>proceeded on leave</td>
<td>France to</td>
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<tr>
<td>24/3/17</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>returned from leave T.O.S. as D.D. U.S.</td>
<td>France</td>
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<tr>
<td>11/7/15</td>
<td>London. Gazette</td>
<td>returned from leave</td>
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<td>2nd. Anzac H.Q.</td>
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<td>21/9/17</td>
<td>14th. Field Amb.</td>
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<td>AIF List. 232</td>
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<td>21/9/17</td>
<td>AIF List. 232</td>
<td>granted temporary rank of</td>
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<td>21/9/17</td>
<td>D.A.A.G. List. 1120. Wounded</td>
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<td>2/10/17</td>
<td>AIF List. 241</td>
<td>To Lt. Col.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>28/9/17</td>
<td>14th. Field Amb.</td>
<td>Wounded in Action</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
CLIVE WENTWORTH THOMPSON


BATHURST DOCTOR HONORED.

Captain Clive Wentworth Thompson, who has been awarded the Military Cross, is a Bathurst native, and the youngest son of the late Mr. W. S. Thompson, for many years postmaster at Bathurst. He was granted the rank of Captain (provisional) in the Army Medical Corps in November, 1913. He was attached to the N.S.W. Military District prior to leaving for the front with the 1st Battalion as one of the two medical officers. Capt. Thompson was at the landing at Gallipoli on April 25 of last year and was subsequently mentioned in orders, and twice in dispatches.
Recommendation MID 31/8/15: Following two pieces from AWM:

Australian and New Zealand Army Corps
(Mediterranean Expeditionary Force).

144

Beutley

Medical Corps

107

Capt

Dullop

Fullerton

156

Thompson

1st Battalion

Capt. W. DAVIDSON
Lieut. G.F. SUTTON
Capt. A.G. CHRISTIAN
Capt. C.W. THOMPSON

I have much pleasure in forwarding herewith copy of extract from Second Supplement, No. 29460, to the "London Gazette" of 1st. February, 1916, relating to the conspicuous services rendered by your son, Captain C.W. Thompson, 1st. Battalion.

"HIS MAJESTY THE KING has been graciously pleased to approve of the undermentioned reward for Distinguished Service in the Field:

AWARDED THE MILITARY CROSS.

Captain CLYDE WENTWORTH THOMPSON, Australian Army Medical Corps.

Note above, some records had him as “Clyde.” and “Charles.”

Recommendation for DSO
5th Australian Division. Australian Corps. 31st January 1919.

Action for which commended.

Lieut. - Colonel.
Clyde Wentworth
THOMPSON. M.C.

During the period April 5th to June 2nd 1918 in the CORBIE Sector, Lt.-Col. THOMPSON rendered valuable service to the Division by a well organised evacuation of wounded from the M.D.S. at DAOURS. At this station he initiated valuable surgical treatment by means of which the lives of several badly wounded men were saved and this treatment was actually carried out under hostile shell fire prior to the station being moved to another location.

During the period June 16th to July 31st 1918, this Officer had charge of the forward evacuations in the MORLANCOURT Sector. By means of untiring energy and ability of a high order, he caused to be erected near FRANVILLE an up-to-date A.D.S. which was a credit to the Australian Corps and which was subsequently adopted by the D.D.M.S. Australian Corps as a model for a portable A.D.S. Throughout this period Lt.-Col. THOMPSON visited his advanced posts and all R.A.F.'s regularly, and often under hostile shell fire.

During the fighting of July 4th and July 29th 1918, in this Sector Lt.-Col. THOMPSON successfully organised the forward collection and evacuation of the Divisional wounded.

During the period September 29th to October 2nd 1918, in the operations of the Division against the HINDENBURGH Defences, Lt.-Col. THOMPSON was Officer in charge of the forward evacuations. He showed great gallantry, initiative and organising ability throughout.
Capt. THOMPSON, C.W. (Medical Officer) From 25th to 30th April, Captain Thompson with his staff and regimental stretcher-bearers, did excellent work at an advanced station, where they worked for all and sundry. (Reported by O.C. 1st En.)

Mention in Despatches.

London Gazette 28/1/16
London Gazette 12/7/16
London Gazette 1/6/17
London Gazette 11/9/19
Military Cross

London Gazette 2/2/16

Distinguished Service Order

London Gazette 3/6/16

Official History, Medical Services

21st-27th Sept., 1917 THIRD BATTLE OF YPRES 213

The 3rd Field Ambulance was relieved on September 23rd by the 14th (Lieutenant-Colonel Clive W. Thompson). On September 23 Lieut-Col Thompson was wounded--.

Quotations from Official History: “The Western Front”

In January an admirable “Australian Corps Medical School” was formed in which a considerable proportion of the medical officers and N.C.O’s of the Corps were given up-to-date training. The “Commandant” was Lieut-Col. Clive Thompson. The course covered a week, and the syllabus included an introductory lecture by the C.O. followed by lectures on Military Law, Duties of a Medical Officer. Water, Map Reading, Hygiene of Troops. Care of Horses. Baths and Laundries. The Thomas Splint, P U.O. Mechanical Transport. System of Supply in the Field. Army Books and Returns. Military Operations. General. Sanitation and Wound Shock Demonstrations were given of “Defensive” and “Offensive” gas, of C.C.S. work, and of aerial photography. At the close of the course an examination was held. The lecturers included, besides senior officers of the A.A.M.C., transport and legal officers of the Corps and Consulting Physicians of Second Army.

The principles which guided this unit were set out thus:-

“Local conditions may indicate that a M.D.S. be the place where treatment is carried out. Desirable that the A.D.S. be designed for heavy shelling, situated, as it [the station] generally is, well within the shelled zone. It is a good plan to have an alternative dressing hut above ground since a wounded man may get handled much quicker on the surface.” “It is highly necessary, we think,” the writer adds, “that a patient should leave an A.D.S. fit to travel to C.C.S. ------

“The idea was first conceived after inspection of the excellent tented A.D.S. constructed by Lieut - Colonel Clive Thompson, C.O. 14th Field Ambulance. . . . Three wooden huts were constructed in sections and were kept in readiness at the Engineer dumps. As a rule one was erected in either sector if possible beside the A.D.S., which became the M.D.S. when we advanced. The other was kept in reserve to be ‘leapfrogged’ forward in event of an advance. It was found that the material could be transported in three lorries. When time allowed these huts were sunk and sandbagged. . . . In addition plans were drawn up (in consultation with the C.E.) for standard dugouts at R.A.P’s, Bearer Relay Posts, and Advanced and Main Dressing Stations.

P.659
In the first weeks of May the 14th Field Ambulance (5th Division) "ran" the Main Dressing Station for the Central Sector of the front. This station was then at Daours. Its commanding Officer had formed the opinion that "on an average" in some 2 per cent of battle casualties "the long trip to the C.C.S." is excessively dangerous. In view of this he decided to provide effective surgical treatment in cases "of haemorrhagic urgency" and in some others, including "selected abdominals."

During two weeks some 30 operations were performed and "on the experience gained" Lieut - Colonel Thompson recommended to the A D.M.S. that "an operating team" for each Division should be placed at the disposal of the A.D.M.S. for attachment to "suitably placed Main Dressing Stations."

The Hindenburg Line  29/30 Sept. 1918 P742

Carrying out Colonel Barber's instructions as follows:-

5th Division The O.C. 14th Field Ambulance (Lieut.-Colonel C. W. Thompson) was put in charge of forward evacuation with base of operations "at the A.D.S." The tent division of this unit was to move on the 28th to a site near Templeux, and to be prepared to move forward on receipt of orders from the A.D.M.S. and to form an A.D.S. and W.W.D.S. in captured territory; "this will normally take place after consolidation of the 'red' line."

"534 THE A.I.F. IN FRANCE [17t h – 18th Apr. 1918 (German gas attack)"

The total Australian casualties must have amounted to some 50 officers and 600 men.

(Footnote) The 14th Field Ambulance (Lieut-Colonel C. W. Thompson) found that the lorries in which casualties were being brought to the advanced dressing station became themselves impregnated, and the men in them were affected by this. The ambulance established a centre for gas cases, many men receiving a change of clothing (borrowed at first from the baths at Daours until the Foden lorry had treated a sufficient supply). Patients were stripped and washed, or went under a shower; others had their eyes bathed and gargled their throats. Tender surfaces were dusted with sodium bicarbonate and starch."

Clive's entry, in the ASC Honour Roll. This with the addition of his 4 Mention's:

Thompson, Clive Wentworth, D.S.O. M.C. MID*** 23/10/18 to 23/10/18.

Mr. AND MRS. CLIVE .WENT WORTH THOMPSON, of Hamilton, Newcastle, are receiving congratulations on the arrival of a baby daughter. Mrs. Thompson was formerly Miss May Davis, of 'The Cedars,' Parramatta.

Sunday Times 3/3/29 P.17

TWO BROTHERS DIE IN FOUR DAYS

Two brothers, both well known in Bathurst, have died within four days. They were Mr. H. A. Thompson, of Palmer's Oakey, and Dr. Clive Wentworth Thompson. The latter passed away on Wednesday. A native of Bathurst, Dr. Thompson was an original Anzac. He served at Gallipoli, from the landing to the evacuation and later, in France. He was wounded; Just before the armistice. He attained the rank of Lieutenant Colonel, and was awarded the D.S.O., the M.C. and the Croix de Guerre. Mr. Eric Thompson, of Coonamble, is a brother. Mr. H. A. Thompson collapsed and died following a heart attack on Sun day.
During an internet search via Google, for material on Clive, this Editor was surprised to find an article on him, published in Vim #4 2012. I have suggested to the Vim Editor, that such an article on an old boy could have been mentioned also in “OBU Notes.” and not just the “General” section. The readership of either can be different. It is acknowledged that the photo embedded at the top this article, has been copied from the following article.

Tony Cable,

October, 2014.