Roll of Honour - James Whiteside Fraser McManamey

ASC 1882

Rank: Major

Unit: 19th Battalion

Date of death: 5 September 1915

Place of death: Gallipoli Peninsula, Turkey

Cause of death: Killed in action

Cemetery or memorial details: Hill 60 Cemetery, Gallipoli, Turkey

Finally, on 25 June 1915, the 19th Battalion main body left Australia, boarding in Sydney with 32 officers and 980 other ranks. Their transport was the A40 HMAT Ceramic, a White Star Line vessel and the largest liner serving Australia; it was converted to carry 2,800 troops. The embarkation rolls show the following officers, the majority of whom held previous commissions in the militia (and several had served in the Boer War or AN&MEF) who held command appointments on departure:

Battalion Headquarters:
CO Lieutenant-Colonel William Mackenzie
Second-in-Command Major James McManamey
Adjutant Captain Frank Lindeman
QM (Hon Captain) Lieutenant Sidney Nicoll
Regimental Medical Officer: Captain George Heydon, AAMC
RSM WO1 Alfred Marshall.

In the trenches below Hill 60 the men of the 19th endured constant rifle and artillery fire from a determined foe. The Germans had provided the Ottoman Army with quick-firing 7.5 cm guns (copied from the famous French “75” field artillery piece). The numbers of casualties grew steadily, with C Company taking more than 50 casualties in a few days but on Sunday 5 September the battalion suffered a cruel loss. The second-in-command, Major James Whiteside Fraser McManamey was killed by shrapnel near the front line. At age 53 he was older than the average officer in the unit but he had considerable previous militia service when he enlisted. He was known by the men as “father” and his genial disposition and care for the needs of his men was sorely missed. McManamey had practised as a barrister in civilian life and had been President of the NSW Rugby Union. He was an active rugby referee and had played in the first NSW versus Queensland interstate game. His presence, along with quite a number of other rugby players led to the unit being known in its early days as ‘the rugby battalion’. James McManamey provided a good counterpoint in style and character to the CO, Mackenzie, who was considered somewhat rigid and eccentric. McManamey’s grave today is at Hill 60 Cemetery on the Gallipoli Peninsula.
In above piece note the post-nominal “V.D.” To quote directly from Wikipedia:

The **Volunteer Officers’ Decoration (V.D.)**, sometimes just referred to as the Volunteer Decoration, was instituted in 1892 to reward the "long and meritorious services of Officers of proved capacity in Our Volunteer Force" in Great Britain, and then extended in 1894 to include commissioned officers of all Volunteer Forces throughout the British Empire. The qualifying period was 20 years of service. By the death at the front of Major J.W P. McManamey the school lost another of those sturdy Old Boys of an early regime, who went forth into the world around with the best we could give them and proved themselves worthy to uphold our fair honour and tradition.

Major McManamey, after completing his school education at this College, went on to the Sydney University where he subsequently graduated in Law. After a short teaching experience, he was called to the Bar and rapidly attained to distinction as a clever advocate. He built up a large lucrative practice and acted as Chairman of several Arbitration Boards.

As a rugby footballer, he proved himself one of the finest forwards the State has ever produced. He played in various Interstate matches. In later life he was a prominent referee and was a President of the N.S.W. Rugby Union for many years.

In military circles, after a very successful career as a subordinate officer in the First Aust. Inf. Volunteer Regt. He was given charge of the 38th Kogarah Infantry when the
Universal Training Scheme was introduced, retaining the position until he enlisted for active service.

To quite a number of respects his life was run parallel with that of another Old Boy, "Nulla" Roberts. He proved himself a noble schoolboy, an illustrious citizen, a famous sport and fearless soldier; who could deserve more?

Bathurstian, June 1919 P. 8.
MAJOR McMANAMEY.

KILLED AT THE FRONT.

Major J. W. F. McManamey, a well-known Sydney barrister, who will perhaps be best remembered for his achievements as an interstate Rugby footballer and referee, has been killed at the front.

James Whiteside Fraser McManamey was 53 years of age, and was born at the Gêbe. He began his education under the late J. W. Turner at Wellington, afterwards attending All Saints’ College at Bathurst, and thence went to the Sydney University. He was soon afterwards appointed as one of the first masters at the Sydney High School, with Mr. A. B. Piddington (now Interstate Commissioner), and afterwards was connected with The Scots College as school examiner. About 22 years ago he was called to the Bar, practising until the date of his departure. He was chairman of several arbitration boards.

In athletics he made his mark as a Rugby forward, and played in the first interstate match between Queensland and New South Wales in 1882. For many years after retiring from play he officiated as referee, and a fine tribute to his impartiality and efficiency was paid him by the Queensland Rugby Union in 1898, when they invited him to Brisbane to referee the match between Queensland and New South Wales—the latter a team which he himself had selected. He was associated for about 35 years with the N.S.W. Rugby Union, being elected president of that body a few months before he left for the front. He figured as a selector of interstate teams for 16 years; was on various sub-committees for about 20 years; was chairman of the New South Wales council for ten years.

His connection with the military forces dates back for over 20 years. Starting his career as lieutenant in the 1st Volunteer Australian Infantry Regiment, where he also gained his captaincy—on the introduction of compulsory training he gained his majority with the 21st Infantry, and was given command subsequently of the 31st (Kogarah) Infantry. He sailed as Major and 2nd in Command of the 19th Bat., 5th Infantry Brigade. Other prominent footballers in the same battalion were S. A. Middleton, F. Coen, L. B. Heath, A. Buckley, and C. Wallack;

He leaves a widow and three boys, who reside at Upper Pitt-street, North Sydney. His brothers are Mr. J. McManamey, B.A., of Woodford Academy, Y. odeford; Mr. Wm McManamey, B.A., solicitor, Dubbo; Mr. Hugh McManamey, of Ryde; and sister, Mrs. A. Fry, of Lindfield. The late major’s mother and sister reside at Woolwich.
LATE MAJOR McMANAMEY.

On taking his seat in No. 2 Jury Court yesterday morning for the purpose of delivering a judgment, Mr. Justice Ferguson paid a tribute to the memory of the late Major J. P. McManamey. His Honor said it was not necessary that he should say anything about the qualities that made them all love Major McManamey. They all knew him, not only as a lawyer, as a scholar of distinction, as a notable teacher, as a man who had held quite a unique position in the world of sport, but, above all, as a man who could not help winning the affections of all with whom he came in contact.

"Dr. Brissenden, senior member of the Bar present, said: "We have not been told how Major McManamey died, but we do not need to be told that Jim faced death as he had faced life—with a smile."

SYMPATHETIC MAORIS.

In a letter to the N.S.W. Rugby Union, Mr. W. T. Parata, manager of the Maori team that visited Australia not long since, expressed, on behalf of his 1910 and 1913 boys, sincere sympathy with the Union at the loss of the president, the late Major McManamey, killed in action. "We feel proud," adds Mr. Parata, "of the privilege of meeting such men as your late president and others of your Union who have given their lives for our King and country."

Sydney University Role of Service

Mr. McMANAMEY, JAMES WHITESIDE FRAZER.


Appointed major 19th Battn. 12th April, 1915, and sailing 25th June, arrived at Anzac in August and served till death.

Killed in Action, Dardanelles, 5th September, 1915, and buried in Hill 60 Cemetery, Anzac.

Early education at All Saints' College, Bathurst.

Memo from Tony Cable, sent to Commonwealth War Graves Commission:

Comments: Ref listing James Whiteside Fraser McManamey at Hill 60 Cemetery.

Note he is listed as 9th Bn. Records from AWM give this as 19th Bn.
Tony Cable

Reply:

Dear Mr Cable

Thank you for contacting us on 27th February 2012 regarding Major James Whiteside Fraser McManamey.

Please note that our original paper records reflect Major McManamey's battalion number correctly as '19th'. When these documents were scanned to form our computer database and on-line 'Debt of Honour Register', some errors did unfortunately occur because of the age and variable quality of the material and print. Naturally we are keen to ensure that all such errors are corrected, however small, so we are very grateful to you for drawing this particular one to our attention.

Our Records Section will shortly be correcting the casualty's Debt of Honour Register entry accordingly. I trust this is satisfactory and thank you once again for contacting us in this matter.

Yours sincerely

Sarah Quinn (Mrs)

Enquiries Administrator

Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

1929. Collection relating to the service of Major James Whiteside Fraser McManamey, 19 Battalion, AIF, Gallipoli, 1915. Collection consists of a typescript copy of a brief letter from Major McManamey to his wife Rose, written from Gallipoli, 1 September 1915. Copy made by Australian War Memorial. Location of original, unknown.

ID number 1DRL/0457 Title of Document in AWM

Sadly, the following was dated 4 days before his death. Another primary document source, from Anzac.

Gallipoli Peninsula.
1/9/15.

My dear Rose,

We are in the trenches but not in the firing line. Our casualties have been not severe but numerous for the work being done. So far I have escaped altogether, and my health was never better. Our diet, principally bully beef and hard biscuits, and tea with milk and sugar, and occasionally an egg, nil bacon, is quite liberal in quantity but there is an enormous amount of dust and such innumerable plagues of flies that we live in anything but comfort. The weather is gloriously fine but we expect a change into rain almost any day. We are not far from the sea and a walk of about a mile gives us a good swim in the Mediterranean. The beach is very fine though not quite equal to the Collaroy one. The sand is too pebbly and looks the whiteness of the ones about Sydney, but all is forgotten in the enjoyment of the quiet shallow water and the great sea. To some extent we are interfered with by shrapnel but very little damage indeed has been caused by it partly through the Turks had shotting and partly through the shrapnel itself being of such poor quality that not more than half of it bursts. With best remembrances to all friends and love to all at home.

from your affectionate husband,
JIM.
In the trenches below Hill 60 the men of the 19th endured constant rifle and artillery fire from a determined foe. The Germans had provided the Ottoman Army with quick-firing 7.5 cm guns (copied from the famous French “75” field artillery piece). The numbers of casualties grew steadily, with C Company taking more than 50 casualties in a few days but on Sunday 5 September the battalion suffered a cruel loss. The second-in-command, Major James Whiteside Fraser McManamey was killed by shrapnel near the front line. At age 53 he was older than the average officer in the unit but he had considerable previous military service when he enlisted. He was known by the men as “father” and his genial disposition and care for the needs of his men was sorely missed. McManamey had practised as a barrister in civilian life and had been President of the NSW Rugby Union. He was an active rugby referee and had played in the first NSW versus Queensland interstate game. His presence, along with quite a number of other rugby players led to the unit being known in its early days as ‘the rugby battalion’. James McManamey provided a good counterpoint in style and character to the CO, Mackenzie, who was considered somewhat rigid and eccentric. McManamey’s grave today is at Hill 60 Cemetery on the Gallipoli Peninsula.
MAJOR McMANAMEY.

KILLED AT THE FRONT.

Major J. W. F. McManamey, a well-known Sydney barrister, who will perhaps be best remembered for his achievements as an interstate Rugby footballer and referee, has been killed at the front.

James Whiteside Fraser McManamey was 53 years of age, and was born at the Glebe. He began his education under the late J. W. Turner at Wellington, afterwards attending All Saints' College at Bathurst, and thence went to the Sydney University. He was soon afterwards appointed as one of the first masters at the Sydney High School, with Mr. A. H. Piddington (now Interstate Commissioner), and afterwards was connected with The Scots College as school examiner. About 22 years ago he was called to the Bar, practicing until the date of his departure. He was chairman of several arbitration boards.

SMH 20/9/15 P.8

Studio portrait of 4992 Pte. Dene Barrett Fry, AAMC, of Lewisham, NSW. A demonstrator in Zoology at the University of Sydney. He initially served in the Australian Army Medical Corps. After one trip on Hospital Ship Karoola he transferred to Infantry and trained at Duntroon. He was allocated to the 3rd Battalion and embarked from Sydney with the 19th Reinforcements aboard HMAT Wiltshire (A18) on 22 August 1916. Pte Fry served on the Western Front; he was killed in action on 9 April 1917, aged 23. Pte Fry is buried at the Beaumetz Cross Road Cemetery, France. His brother 1340 Pte Alan Fraser Fry, 13th Battalion was wounded on 13 August and died on 14 August 1916 and his uncle Major James Whiteside Fraser McManamey, 19th Battalion, also a graduate of the University of Sydney. Fry was killed in action at Gallipoli on 5 September 1915. Pte Fry was the son of the first female graduate of the University of Sydney.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement of WAR PENSION CLAIMS (MILITARY) which have been determined.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

### New South Wales

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State of</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Full name of Member of Forces in respect of whose death or incapacity pension was claimed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Member's number, rank, and unit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Full name and address of person for whose pension was claimed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Relationship of such person to Member of Forces</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Result of Claim</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Name and address of Trustee (if any)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### McManusamy, James Fraser Whiteside:
- **Major, 13th Battalion.**
- Address: 68 Upper Pitt St., Milson's Point.
- **Widow**

#### McManusamy, John:
- **Son**

#### McManusamy, James:
- **Child**

#### McManusamy, Rose:
- **as above**