Oakes, Arthur Wellesley
A.S.C. 1895-1902

Service number: 18  Rank: Trooper

Unit: 1 Light Horse Regiment

Date of death: 7 August 1915: Killed in action

Cemetery or memorial details: Lone Pine Memorial, Gallipoli, Turkey

War Grave Register notes: Age29. Son of George Spencer Oakes and Helen Nina Oakes, of Kelso, N.S.W. Native of Wilcannia.

Photo published in SMH, but this better copy taken from Sydney University "Book of Remembrance."

THE BATHURSTIAN.
School Notes.

The boys who left us at the end of last quarter are L. B. Pearson (prefect, 1st XV., '01-'02, junior 1902), who has gone to the Hawkesbury Agricultural College; A. W. Oakes (1st XV., '01-'02, junior 1901, matric. 1902); E. J. Jones (1st XV., '01-'02), who is now in his father's business in Bathurst; S. G. Elliott, and E. H. H. Sibley (1st XV., Prefect). P. J. Lindley (1st XV.)
Name: Laker, Arthur Wesley
Unit: No. 1 Light Horse Regiment
Joined: 28th August 1914

Questions to be put to the Person Enlisting before Attestation.

1. What is your Name? Arthur Wesley Laker

2. In or near what Parish, Town, etc., were you born? Millicent

3. Are you a natural born British Subject or a Naturalised British Subject? Yes

4. What is your age? 26

5. What is your trade or calling? Accountant

6. Are you, or have you been, an Apprentice? No

7. Are you married? No

8. Where do you reside? Millicent

9. Have you ever been convicted by the Civil Power? No

10. Have you ever been discharged from any part of His Majesty's Forces, with disgrace or dishonour? No

11. Do you now belong to, or have you ever served in, His Majesty's Navy, the Marine, the Militia, the Militia Reserve, the Territorial Force, the Naval force, or Colonial Force? No

12. Have you during the whole of your previous service been in the non-effective state a cause of discharge? Yes

13. Have you been rejected as unfit for His Majesty's Service? No

14. Do you understand that from the time you enter on your term of service you will be bound to your employer on the same conditions as if you had been bound to them as a free man? Yes

Description of Arthur Wesley

Age: 26 years 6 months
Height: 7 feet 1 inch
Weight: 12 stone 1 lb.
Chest Measurement: 36.5
Complexion: Fair
Eyes: Normal
Hair: Normal
Religious Denomination: Protestant

I, Arthur Wesley, hereby declare the above answers to be correct.
Married Nellie Harriet Duesbury, Sydney 1914

Dear Sir,

I have to acknowledge receipt of your communications of the 23rd and 21st ult., and enclose herewith, as requested, certificates of reports of death and identification particulars pertaining to:

No. 18 Private Oakes, A.W.
  2486 Young, J.H.
  1686 Clement, D.
  4735 Corporal Moore, J.N.
  2204 Smith, J.I.
  703 Private Kilpatrick, H.H.

Yours faithfully,

Capt.

Officer i/o Base Records.

The Actuary,
The Mutual Life & Citizens' Assurance Company Ltd.,
SIMMEL, N.B.W.

Married Nellie Harriet Duesbury, Sydney 1914

Arthur
TROOPER A. W. OAKES.

A private cable message has been received stating that Trooper A. W. Oakes, of the 1st Australian Light Horse, has been killed in action at Gallipoli. Trooper Oakes was the only son of Archdeacon Oakes, of Bathurst, and son-in-law of Mr. J. W. Duesbury, of Cremorne, whose daughter he married shortly before his departure for the front. He was 29 years of age, MA of the Sydney University, and partner in a firm of accountants at Brisbane, where he had resided for some years before enlisting. He took honours in the C.P.A. Examination, and was bursar of St. John's College, Brisbane. He enlisted in the Light Horse about 12 months ago, a few days after the outbreak of the war.  

SMH 1/9/15 p 12

TROOPER OAKES KILLED. A SYDNEY MASTER OF ARTS.

A cable was received yesterday stating that Trooper A. W. Oakes, of Light Horse, had been killed in action on Gallipoli. Trooper Oakes was the only son of Archdeacon Oakes, of Bathurst. He was 28.

Barrier Miner (Broken Hill, NSW: 1888-1954) Sunday 29 August 1915

The late Trooper Arthur Oakes was a son of Archdeacon and Mrs. Oakes, of Kelso. He was killed in action on August 7. He had sacrificed an excellent position, said to carry a salary of £800 per annum, in order to proceed to the war. His father, the Ven. G. S. Oakes, as yet has not learned of his bereavement. He is expected to reach Sydney on Saturday next, returning from a holiday trip. The late Trooper Oakes was married to Miss Dewsbury, of Sydney, only a few days before leaving for the war. Like Trooper Kendall, the late Mr. Oakes was an old All Saints' College boy. Lieut. T. W. Hill, nephew of Mrs. Spencer Oakes, of Kelso, an old Duntroon student, was also amongst the killed. He was for some time staying at Kelso.

TROOPER A. W. OAKES

HOW HE FELL. CHAPLAIN'S LETTER.

The following details of the death, of the late Trooper A. W. Oakes have been received from Chaplain Colonel Merrington of the First Light Horse Brigade: "Long before you receive this letter you will have heard that another name has been added to the Empire's Roll of Honor. I saw him the day before the charge and sat down with him in the firing trench. He knew there was dangerous work ahead of him, and asked me to take charge of his papers, etc. He was my friend and comrade. I know him in Brisbane, and have always had for him a deep affection and admiration. When one thinks of all he gave up for the cause, and how he was faithful unto death, the sting of his death is largely taken away. He was pulled right up in the van of the charge, opposite Pope's Hill. He passed through the first two lines of trenches and fell on the parapet of the third, facing the foe. Death was instantaneous. He died as a true hero, in one of the most heroic pieces of work done in this or any war; when 212 men charged thousands of entrenched Turks, and advanced to the third line. In consequence of this action the enemy were kept in the centre while the great surprise movement on the left flank was being carried out, and which I hope will bring about the termination of this campaign. He died as, a true and gallant soldier"

The Bathurst Times 5/10/1915 P.2
The troops for its assault were to be the 8th and 10th Light Regiments of 3rd Australian Light Horse Brigade, assisted by the 8th Cheshires and also by the Royal Welch Fusiliers who at the head of Monash Valley would attack the nearer Turkish positions of the Chessboard, eventually connecting with the 1st L.H. from Pope's.

The attack by the 1st L.H., which would be directed by Major T. W. Glasgow, commandant of Pope's, was to be made by two squadrons, about 200 men. Instructions were to go over the top when the 8th L.H. left their trenches to attack on the left; no shots were to be fired and only bayonets to be used until the trenches were occupied. White patches were sewn on the backs of the men's shirts so that mistakes could not occur in the dark. Rations and water were carried as it was hoped to push on.

The attack was gallantly led by Major J. M. Reid, of Tenterfield, who lost his life. The storming party reached the third line of trenches and held on for two hours, but the enemy attacked in great force and bombed the already thinned-out regiment back. (The ground contested had been fought over by the Royal Marines at the first landing and many of the bodies still remained in no-man's-land.) The regiment lost heavily, viz.-15 killed, 98 wounded, 34 missing (mostly killed), total 147. The casualties included all the officers of "B" Squadron; Major Reid's and Lieutenant Nettleton's bodies were not recovered; Captain Cox and Lieutenant Tinson died from their wounds a day later. The following officers were evacuated wounded: Captain Holman, Lieutenants Reid, Macmillan, Stewart, Weir, Harris and White.

Lieutenant Harris showed great gallantry in leading the advanced storming party, and, although wounded, remained in the foremost position until the retirement. The grit of the men when being carried to the beach was remarkable; some 3,000 passed through the dressing station that day, and boats in strings of four and five, towed by small tugs, took the wounded off to empty transports where accommodation for them was hastily improvised. Much suffering occurred on the voyage to Alexandria, and many wounds were septic by the time Cairo was reached. (From Great War Forum.)
Below is extract from above letter:

------ After the charge in 1915, and which came to light again recently in Turkey

'After holding out for three hours to the enemy lines, Major Glasgow looked round upon the few survivors and then gave the order to retire. Major Moffat Reid lay dead among his fallen. Nettleton also was dead. Wallace Cox was shattered. Tinson was helpless. The big form of Trooper Oakes, a B.A. of Sydney University, and guard to the bomb-throwers on this fatal occasion, lay upon the right of the Turkish parapet, where he fell at his post.'

(Diary extract; Chaplain E.N. Merrington.

FALLEN AT GALLIPOLI

TROOPERS GUY KENDALL AND ARTHUR OAKES.

Yesterday evening bells of All Saints' Cathedral tolled in a dual mourning for the loss at the seat of war of Private Guy Basil Oakes, both well known in Bathurst as good fellows and true soldiers of the King.

Mr. O. L. Kendall, manager of the local branch of the Bank of New South Wales, last night was found to have taken his irreparable loss with the true courage of the gentleman patriot. He informed the 'Times' man that his son was 22 years of age, and the news of his death was received in Bathurst yesterday per medium of an urgent telegram addressed to Bishop Long, conveying the sad intimation that the young man had died of enteric fever at the fighting line on August 18. The late Trooper Kendall enlisted in October of last year, at the time being an employee of Curragalpa station, near Bourke, the property of Mr. H. Suttor. He left Sydney for the scene of hostilities on December 10, being attached to the 7th Light Horse. At the time of his demise he had been for three months in the fighting line. Young Trooper
Kendal had the reputation locally of being a good horseman and all-round sportsman. He had had the benefit of the experience which conies with travel, having accompanied his father on a tour through Europe and elsewhere, including a visit to the gallery of the famous House of Commons. He was one of those sterling youths who heeded this call of the Empire in its hour of need, and his father and sister, who are left to mourn their loss, may well console themselves with the comforting reflection that Guy died in the fulfillment of his duty to his King and country. The late Trooper Arthur Oakes was a son of Archdeacon and Mrs. Oakes, of Kelso. He was killed in action on August 7. He had sacrificed an excellent position, said to carry a salary of, £8oo per annum, in order to proceed to the war. His father, the Ven. G. S. Oakes, us yet has not learned of his bereavement. He is -expected to reach Sydney on Saturday next, returning from a holiday trip. The late Trooper Oakes was married to Miss Dewsbury, of Sydney, only a few days before leaving for the war. Like Trooper Kendall, the late Mr. Oakes was an old All Saints' College boy. Lieut. T. W, Hill, nephew of Mrs. Spencer Oakes, of Kelso, an old Duntroon student, was also amongst the killed. He was for some time staying at Kelso .Kendall and Trooper Arthur Oakes

IN MEMORIAM

G. KENDALL AND A. OAKES. A SERMON of SYMPATHY.

Yesterday morning at the 11 o'clock service at All Saints' Cathedral special mention was made of the loss sustained by the deaths while on active service of Troopers Oakes and Kendall. Psalm 23 'The lord is my Shepherd,' was selected as the proper psalm, and proper lessons were taken from the Book of Wisdom, chapter 3, and Hebrews chapter 12. Intercessions were offered for the troops at the front and the Empire’s cause and for those in anxiety and bereavement. Before the sermon Canon Forster briefly expressed the sympathy of the citizens of Bathurst and of churchmen throughout the diocese with the Archdeacon and Mr. Kendall in the gloom of the deep shadow of bereavement which had descended upon their homes during the past week. They were only sons, each of them bearing a name that had become historic in the annals of Australia; yet their fathers had given them gladly, as they had offered themselves gladly in the service of their King and country. They went knowing well all the hazard to which they went, but they went knowing also that life was not to be measured by length of days, but by sacrifice offered and service achieved.

The preacher was the Rev. S. C. O'B. Ball *, who preached a sympathetic and consoling sermon. He spoke of the self-sacrificing spirit which had answered so readily to their country's call and the faithfulness with which they had continued to do their duty unflinchingly to death. After the sermon, "Peace, Perfect Peace," was sung, and was followed by a solemn remembrance before God of those who have fallen in their country's service. After the Benediction, the Cathedral organist played with touching effect the Dead March in Saul, and Buglers Collins and Prosser sounded “The Last Post” immediately at its close.

(* Rev. Ball also on ASC list)
The troops for its assault were to be the 8th and 10th Light Regiments of 3rd Australian Light Horse Brigade, assisted by the 8th Cheshires and also by the Royal Welch Fusiliers who [rote the head of Monash Valley would attack the nearer Turkish positions of the Chessboard, eventually connecting with the 1st L.H. from Pope's.

The attack by the 1st L.H., which would be directed by Major T. W. Glasgow, commandant of Pope's, was to be made by two squadrons, about 200 men. Instructions were to go over the top when the 8th L.H. left their trenches to attack on the left; no shots were to be fired and only bayonets to be used until the trenches were occupied. White patches were sewn on the backs of the men's shirts so that mistakes could not occur in the dark. Rations and water were carried as it was hoped to push on.

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grit of the men when being carried to the beach was remarkable; some 3,000 passed through the dressing station that day, and boats in strings of four and five, towed by small tugs, took the wounded off to empty transports where accommodation for them was hastily improvised. Much suffering occurred on the voyage to Alexandria, and many wounds were septic by the time Cairo was reached. (From Great War Forum.)

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(The Hassall Family History Group is an informal group dedicated to researching the history of the Hassall and associated families. The Hassall Family History Group Occasional Newsletter No. 22&24)

KILLED IN ACTION

Arthur Wellesley Oakes, M.S., F.C.P.A. Trooper no. 18, B Squadron, First Light Horse Brigade, Australian Imperial Expeditionary Force, killed in action at Gallipoli, 7th August, 1915, aged 29 years. A great-grandson of Susannah Marsden Hassall and a son of George Spencer Oakes who was featured in Newsletters 12 and 13. Arthur was married to Nellie Harriet Duesbury who died in 1969. His name is on the War Memorial at the entrance to the Great Court of the University of Queensland.

Group Occasional Newsletter No. 25:

Additional information:
Since writing about Arthur Wellesley Oakes in Newsletter No 24, a program for a Memorial Service held in his honour has come to light. It was given to me by Elizabeth Fogg in 1997. At the service, held at some time before the end of WW1, the Bishop of Bathurst extolled at length the virtues and accomplishments of Oakes. He was obviously very well thought of by all who knew him.

The Bishop explained how Oakes was descended from Francis Oakes and the original Hassalls and also a great-grandson of Rebecca Small who was said to be the first white girl born in Australia!

To quote the Bishop: “Arthur began his life’s work in banking service, and instead of being content with a mere routine knowledge of his duties, he was fired with the ambition to become a master of this subject. He entered the Sydney University for the new course in economics, accountancy and kindred subjects. He speedily achieved… his Bachelor of Arts and a few years later whilst engrossed in heavy professional work he took his MA degree, the only man in his year. Throughout his course he paid his own way and maintained himself. And more than that sent his sister to a Sydney Boarding School at his own charges. A man of such promise was
eagerly sought for, and immediately upon the completion of his University course he was offered a splendid position and partnership with a leading firm of public accountants in Brisbane. Though but a young man, he was in easy command of a position at £1000 a year, and yet he left it all without hesitation to serve his country as a trooper rate at 5s. a day. He did a great work in helping to establish St. John's College in the University of Brisbane, and was highly thought of by the Warden of that college. Arthur Oakes leaves a mother and a young wife to whom he was wedded but a few days before his departure.

The Faculty of Economics at Sydney University honours the memory of AW Oakes by each year awarding the Arthur Oakes Memorial Prize of $500 for the “Best student in the History of Economic thought.”

John & Mary Small Descendants Association Inc. 2010.

ARTHUR WELLESLEY OAKES (1886-1915)
By Jean Stewart (1C7 21), May 2010

Arthur was born at Wilcannia on 18 June 1886. He attended All Saints College, Bathurst and after matriculation in 1902 he entered the University of Sydney taking five years to complete an Arts degree. He passed in Economics and Commerce I in 1907, Latin, English, Algebra, Trigonometry and Economics II (Credit) and failed in Geometry in 1909, subsequently passing the deferred examination. He passed in Latin II, Geology I and Economics III with High Distinction in 1909 and in 1910 passed in Latin III, History III and Philosophy III. He received an MA in the School of Philosophy (Economics), "cum laude", with a thesis on Immigration in 1913. In brief references to him in his grandmother, Elizabeth Oakes’ letters, he was obviously doing well and his family was pleased when he passed his exams. He became an accountant and worked for a firm which sent him on business to Melbourne about four times a year. He moved to Brisbane working for accountancy firm Yarwood et al, and was thought of so highly that he was paid £1000 a year.

In 1912 he wrote to Archbishop Donaldson stating that he had written to the Premier Asking that Government scholarships of equal value should be given to both country and local students so that the latter would also be encouraged to live in College. At the time the country students got the larger scholarships. If more students could be encouraged to live in the College, then St John’s would be better able to cope financially. He suggested a petition with Emmanuel College may help achieve this aim. On 18 August 1913 he wrote to his mother describing his design for the College Badge which he had used for the first time on his letter to her. It was a shield divided into four quarters – one of four kangaroo dogs rampant to indicate the site of the College on Kangaroo Point, the Southern Cross, a sword to ‘suggest how sharp we are’ and little asterisks to represent people who don’t know the meaning of the Latin motto.

With modifications the logo is still used. In the same letter he indicated that he had bought a farm and was considering buying more to add to it. While he was at St. John’s he contributed to the Women’s College fund raising effort to build a college by producing A Brisbane Calendar 1914. His contribution was a quotation from Emerson:

“A foolish consistency is the hobgoblin of little minds”.

He enlisted on 24 August 1914 at Rosebery when he was 28 years old. In his
Attestation Paper he stated that he was not married. He also stated that he had resigned after serving for three years in the N S W 3rd Infantry. He was assigned to Squadron “B” of the First Light Horse Regiment. He was tall at 6 feet 1 inch and weighed 13 stone, with a fair complexion and brown eyes and hair. His occupation was that of accountant. Before departing from Australia he married Nellie Harriet Duesbury, daughter of J.W. Duesbury of Wyalda, Cremorne Point. His father married them in Sydney and it was so rushed that his mother was not able to attend the wedding. It was a short lived marriage because he left for war soon after.

At Gallipoli the commander of the 1st Light Horse Brigade was Colonel Chauvel and it was stationed at Pope’s, Courtney’s and Quinn’s Posts in weekly reliefs with other regiments. Oakes sent back pictures from Egypt of himself and his horses.

On 7 August 1915 the 1st Light Horse Brigade was part of the strategy of the most terrible action at the Nek. The plan was that various Light Horse regiments from virtually impossible positions were to storm the Turkish trenches only a few yards away at the Nek with only bayonets. When they stormed the Nek and then Baby 700 the 1st Light Horse at Pope’s and Quinn’s under Major Glasgow was simultaneously to seize a part of The Chessboard beyond Baby 700. The right half of the attacking force was to set off early and make its way round the foot of Pope’s into the mouth of Waterfall Gully, which was there sheltered from the enemy, would climb the valley and form up ready to assault the right of Dead Man’s Ridge. The other half of the force under Major Reid was to climb over the parapet at Pope’s and charging across the shallow end of the gully, attacked the left of the Turkish position.

The two groups were to assault simultaneously. They were to maintain constant firing on enemy trenches at Chessboard and the Nek but in the event the terrible slaughter of the Australians at the Nek resulted in the failure of the plan. It is not known which part Arthur Oakes played in this plan but he died at Pope’s.

When news of his death was received by his family some correspondence ensued between, his father-in-law, J.W. Duesbury and the Base Records Department in Melbourne. According to this a Lieutenant Colonel Merrington had returned invalided to Australia and had visited Oakes’ widow. He reported that Arthur Oakes, “On the Evening of the 6th August he, knowing the desperate nature of the attack to be made, handed to Lt. Colonel Merrington, his private papers and mementoes to be forwarded To his wife, in the event of his death. Unfortunately he was killed on the 7th August as stated, and Col. Merrington made up his papers and other articles, including his diary and a number of photos into a parcel, and handed same on the 9th August to Captain Chisholm, then Acting Adjutant of the 1st Light Horse. Captain Chisholm promised to send the packet in due course, but it has never arrived”.

A memorial service was held for family and friends at Kelso where many tributes were delivered and his father contributed a verse:

The Hero

*The painter may picture, the poet may sing,*  
*The author his story incite.*

*He shoulders his rifle and fights for his King,*  
*For Liberty, Justice and Right.*

*We talk about glory and honour and fame,*  
*And cheer for the red, white and blue,*

*He hears the clear call, and sends in his name –*  
*A man to his manhood is true.*
We live, and he falls, as he lived, without blame,
And the old flag still floats as of yore,
But he leaves behind the best record – the name
Of a hero – and what would you more?

Eventually the personal effects consisting of photos, album, housewife, (2 razors in case), 2 diaries, cover and prayer book were sent to his listed next-of-kin, his father Archdeacon Oakes, The Rectory, Kelso, via Thomas Cook & Son. Arthur Oakes’ wife was asked to establish her status by furnishing a marriage certificate because the army records stated that he was not married. Gradually the formalities proceeded. His solicitors received information to carry out the terms of his will, his insurers received notice of his death so that payments could be finalised. By 26 October Nellie Harriett Oakes had established her credentials and was granted £52 p.a. War Pension.

In 1921 she received a Memorial Scroll and in 1922 a Memorial Plaque and Victory Medal. She lived the rest of her life in Cremorne with her sister and died unmarried in the 1960s.

The life of Arthur Wellesley Oakes is commemorated by a prize for economics at Sydney University. His name is also inscribed on the Queensland University Roll of Honour 1914-1918, Pro Patria Ceciderunt, at the entrance to the Great Court.

(Following entry is copied from online “Australian Dictionary of Biography.”)

Oakes, George Spencer (1855–1932)

By Ruth Teale

George Spencer Oakes (1855-1932), Anglican clergyman, was born on 10 December 1855 at Crookwell, New South Wales, son of John Leigh Oakes, grazier, and his wife Elizabeth Mary, née Shelley, both Parramatta born. His father was a son of Francis Oakes and his mother a granddaughter of William Shelley. In 1864 his family moved to Mittagong but George often stayed with his cousin the Rev. James Hassall, gaol chaplain and minister at Berrima. Oakes attended Berrima Public School and in August 1870 became a pupil-teacher. From 1872 he taught and studied at St James' Denominational School in Sydney and in 1874 attended Fort Street Training School. He served at various Sydney schools and in August 1875 was appointed assistant teacher at Bathurst Public School. He resigned in August 1877.

His uncle the Rev. Thomas Hassall encouraged George to enter the ministry. Bishop Barker deprecated his inadequate education, but Canon Thomas Smith had Oakes appointed a lay reader at Milltown (South Bathurst). He studied also with Edwin Bean and Bishop Marsden. Made deacon on 21 December 1878 and priest on 21 December 1879 by Marsden, Oakes was 'turned loose' upon 'the wild and woolly west' and promptly forgot his book learning, which he later claimed was 'no great disadvantage'. He served at Coonamble (1879), Brewarrina (1883), Wilcannia (1883), Bourke (1887) and Warren (1888). He had married Helen Nina Colquhoun at Prahran, Melbourne, on 15 July 1885.

Oakes was a superb bushman. He drove like Jehu, furiously, anything in tandem and after 1918 a motor car. He could break a horse, camp out overnight or swim a flooded river; he claimed to have married, buried or baptized a member of every family west of Dubbo, and was generally acknowledged to be the parson in A. B. Paterson's poem, 'The Bush Christening'. He was popular on outback stations for his recitations of A. L. Gordon's poetry.
In 1894 Oakes became rector of Holy Trinity, Kelso, and in 1902 sub-dean of the pro-cathedral there. That year he went to South Africa as a chaplain with the 1st Australian Commonwealth Horse and was awarded the Queen’s Medal. On his return, he became rural dean of Bathurst, archdeacon in 1903 and in 1905 chaplain to the Commonwealth Military Forces and Bathurst gaol. When administrator of the diocese in 1911-23, his strong personality, family connexions and knowledge of the west were invaluable. He frequently represented Bathurst on provincial and general synods.

His excellent memory for the names of stations and their owners and affiliations made him a good journalist. He founded and edited the diocesan *Church News*, and later wrote for the *Bush Brother*, the *Castlereagh* (Gilgandra), the *Sydney Morning Herald* and *Daily Telegraph*. His articles were lively and often challenging. He also published *Jubilee of the Diocese of Bathurst, 1870-1920* (1920) and *Kelso Church and the Pioneers of the West* (1923). Oakes retired from Kelso in 1924, became honorary historical secretary of the Australasian Pioneer’s Club, Sydney, and published ‘Bush memories’ in the *Journal of the Royal Australian Historical Society* (1921).

Survived by his wife and two daughters, Oakes died at Bathurst on 17 August 1932. His only son, Trooper Arthur Wellesley Oakes had died on Gallipoli in 1915. Many memorials to the family adorn Holy Trinity, Kelso.

**LATE MR. J. W. DUESBURY.**

The funeral of the late Mr. J. W. Duesbury of Wyandra, Cremorne Point, took place on Monday last, at Gore Hill Cemetery. Deceased was well-known in commercial circles, and was on the board of several Sydney companies. The funeral was attended by Mr. Frank W. Duesbury (son), Mr. G. Duesbury (brother), Mr. G. Duesbury, Jun. (nephew), Mr. G. Sergeant (nephew), A.S.C. 1895-1902 Mr. Clive Smith (son-in-law), Messrs. W. J. and F. Biggs (brothers-in-law), the Rev. W. L. Paterson (brother-in-law), and many Sydney business men. The service at the grave was conducted by the Ven. Archdeacon Oakes, of Kelso, assisted by the Rev. C. E. Curtis, of St Chad’s, Cremorne. **Mr. Duesbury leaves a widow, two sons, and four daughters, the third being the widow of the late Trooper Arthur Oakes, who fell at Gallipoli.**

SMH 31/5/1916
OAKES, ARTHUR WELLESLEY.
M.A., Diploma in Economics and Commerce, F.C.P.A.:
Trooper, 1st A.L.H. Regt., A.I.F., Gallipoli.

Enlisting and sailing in October, 1914, served with B Squadron in Anzac from the Landing until death.

Killed in Action, in an attack on Turkish trenches opposite Pope's Hill, 7th August, 1915. Commemorated in Lone Pine Memorial.

The ARTHUR OAKES Memorial Prize has been founded and is awarded annually in the Faculty of Economics.

Early education at All Saints' College, Bathurst.

Descendant of earliest pioneer Australian settlers.

"He fell in the van of a most heroic charge against the Turkish trenches at the third trench."

"Without pressure, from pure patriotism, he gave up everything . . . 'finis coronat opus.' The position where he fell speaks as to his bravery."—O.C.
superintendent operations. A few companies of British troops (I believe) were to advance up the gully towards Baby 700 at the same time.

That night I resolved on my own line of action in the coming engagement, viz., (1) to go up to the trenches with as many field-dressings as I could procure, especially as the M.O. was establishing the waterfall, south of Pope's, and (2) to prepare large tins of coffee for the men engaged in the work. Major Poulton assisted me in the preparations for this work, which I managed to carry through on a fairly large scale. I had brought a good supply of coffee with my kit from Leamore on my recent return from a week's stay in the Island.

Before turning in, I called on Major Glasgow at M.S. of the Post, and found there Majors Glasgow and Moffat Reid, also Lieut. Nettleton. In conversation, I advised the officers to dress as much like the men as possible, in view of the deliberate efforts of the foe to kill off the officers. In response to my suggestion, Glasgow called his M.O. Barnes, and told him to cut down his "shanks" for "shorts." He also promised me that he would wear the soldier's slouch hat instead of the officer's cap. He was the only officer of the last to return unwounded on the night. Glasgow informed me that he would lead the charge up from the waterfall on the right, while Reid would lead over the summit of Pope's trenches. In parting with these brave men, who knew that they looked death in the face, I said, "Major, I'm afraid I may not wake in time for the beginning of the charge." Glasgow replied, "No fear about that, Padre, for we are to have a bombardment like we had this afternoon at Lone Pine!"

It was just on 4 A.M. The bombardment was ludicrously weak; but presently there was such a burst of rifle and machine gun fire as I had never heard before. I hoped that our men would not go out against it. I was not surprised through the foggy dusk to the trenches, a man shouted in my ear that they had just gone out; I soon had no idea about the order to go. Troopers were shot as they rose over the parapet, and fell back into the arms of their comrades. With great difficulty we got some of them out of the narrow saps. The line of wounded grew around me as I worked in the support-trenches single-handed. By 5 A.M. arrived with the first big tin of hot coffee, which was good for many of the wounded. The din of battle was terrible, and the reports that flickered through were not very encouraging.

The heights of Russell's Top we could see the Australian Troopers of the 3rd Bde., making their attack, and falling beneath the foe's cruel fire. Slightly below, at Quinn's, the struggle had eased off when Major Logan had been killed with his doomed handful. Complaints were made that the charges had not been synchronized as they were planned. Consequently, it was stated, the enemy had been able to take the attackers in detail.

The hours passed. The 3rd Bde., filed up behind us in the support trenches to relieve the strain on the reserve squadron. I had given first-aid to thirteen men, some of whom, alas, were beyond all help.

About 7.30 the survivors of the gallant charge began to stagger back. There were very few of them. Out of 312 men of the last L.I., who went out in this desperate attack, there were 165 casualties. Lieuts. Holman and Harris (both wounded) came up from the waterfall, followed by Major Glasgow. They drained the cups of hot coffee, Glasgow told me it was the most refreshing drink he ever had. They
Counter-attacks had been repulsed in the Lone Pine area. It was for the night of the 6-7th August. The idea was to pin the Ottoman army to the centre while Sir Hamilton struck the real blow on the left.

The 2nd Regt. was to attack the trenches at Quinn's, to the hostile position; and the 3rd L.H. Brigade on Russell's Walker's was to charge at the Nek and Baby 700. All hands it was the most desperate business that had ever come our way; there was no repining. Packs were put up and preparations for bombardment, attack with bombs and bayonets, and the occupation of enemy lines. Two squadrons of each were to be hurled forward, with one in reserve; and the 3rd to act as a reserve unit for the 1st L.H.Bde. Major Logan the 2nd Regt., and Major Moffat Reid the 1st, although Major Post Commandant, intimated his intention of advancing in the superintend operations. A few companies of British troops I believe were to advance up the gully towards Baby 700 at time.

That night I resolved on my own line of action in the engagement, viz. (1) to go up to the trenches with as many draughts as I could procure, especially as the M.O. was set his mid-post near the Waterfall, south of Pope's; and (2) to carry through on a fairly large scale. I had brought a bag of coffee with my kit from Lemnos on my recent return from a stay in the Island.

Before turning in, I called on Major Glasgow at M.Q. of Post, and found there Majors Glasgow and Moffat Reid, also I Nettleton. In conversation, I advised the officers to dress like the men as possible, in view of the deliberate effort to kill off the officers. In response to my suggestion, Glasgow called his batman Barnes, and told him to cut down his "shorts". He also promised me that he would wear the solid slouch hat instead of the officer's cap. He was the only other man to return unwounded on the morrow; Glasgow informed me he would lead the charge up from the Waterfall on the right. Reid would lead over the summit of Pope's trenches. In par these brave men, who knew that they looked death in the face "Major, I'm afraid I may not wake in time for the beginning charge." Glasgow replied, "No fear about that, Padre, for have a bombardment like we had this afternoon at Lone Pine!

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