

# Stories from the Honour Boards

Stories of those who served and are remembered on the Honour Boards in the Merrington Anzac Memorial Peace Chapel at Saint Andrew's Uniting Church

Booklet Number 105

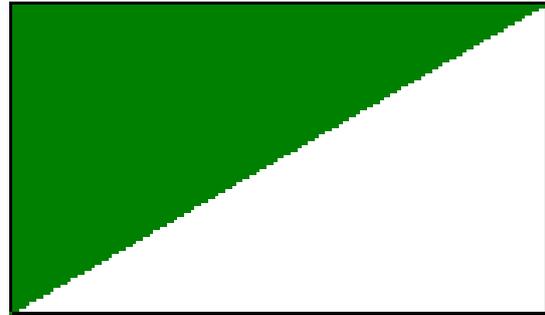
# **DOUGLAS DUNMORE CAMPBELL 1892-1916**



*The Light Horse on Parade*

*Photo by Captain Frank Hurley using the Paget Colour process*

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Please see a Guide if you would like a copy.**



*The hat badge and colour patch of the 2nd Light Horse Regiment of which Douglas was a member.*

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Corner Ann and Creek Streets  
Brisbane QLD 4000  
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## Trooper Douglas Dunmore Campbell

The successful defence of Romani (35km east of the Suez Canal) in August 1916 was the first large-scale victory for the Light Horse in World War 1 – but among the casualties was Trooper Douglas Dunmore Campbell of B Squadron, 2<sup>nd</sup> Australian Light Horse Regiment, 1<sup>st</sup> Light Horse Brigade.

We don't know exactly when he fell, but it must have been between 1 and 6 am on the morning of 4 August 1916.

On the night of 3 August large Turkish forces outflanked prepared infantry positions, intending to come in on those defences from their rear, but instead encountered a line of observation posts to which the 1<sup>st</sup> Light Horse Brigade (including the 2<sup>nd</sup> Light Horse Regiment) had been deployed just before dusk that day.

The posts were not entrenched and the 'line' was thin – B Squadron of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Light Horse Regiment in which Douglas Campbell served, was no more than 100 men spread over 2,000 yards of dunes and gullies. The Turks began to probe and by 1am in the morning of 4 August B Squadron reported that they were being attacked in strength. They were sent additional ammunition and told to hold on at all costs.

The communication line back to Brigade headquarters was broken and in volume vii of the *Official History* Gullett comments that 'from then to dawn the resistance depended upon the wits of squadron and troop leaders and the resource and resolution of the men'.

At 2.40am B Squadron was one of the units 'having very lively fighting' according to the Regimental history. Shortly after that, given the size of the attacking force, the defenders were forced to hurriedly fall back in stages to a pre-selected line - which with the help of some reinforcements was held until daylight.



*The bodies of Australian and New Zealand dead are prepared for burial following the Battle of Romani, 3-5 August 1916.*

The Regimental history was justified in concluding that 'We had the satisfaction of knowing that our strenuous night's fighting, by forcing the enemy to deploy before he intended, upset his plans and was a big factor in the subsequent victory'.

Douglas Campbell was buried at Etmaler, Romani with Chaplain HK Gordon present. His remains were later re-interred at the Kantara War Memorial Cemetery (Ref B.63).



**In Memory of  
Trooper DOUGLAS DUNMORE CAMPBELL**

**797, 2nd, Australian Light Horse  
who died age 23  
on 04 August 1916**

**Son of John Dunmore Campbell and Mary Campbell, of  
"Donatello," Riverton St., Clayfield, Brisbane, Queensland.**

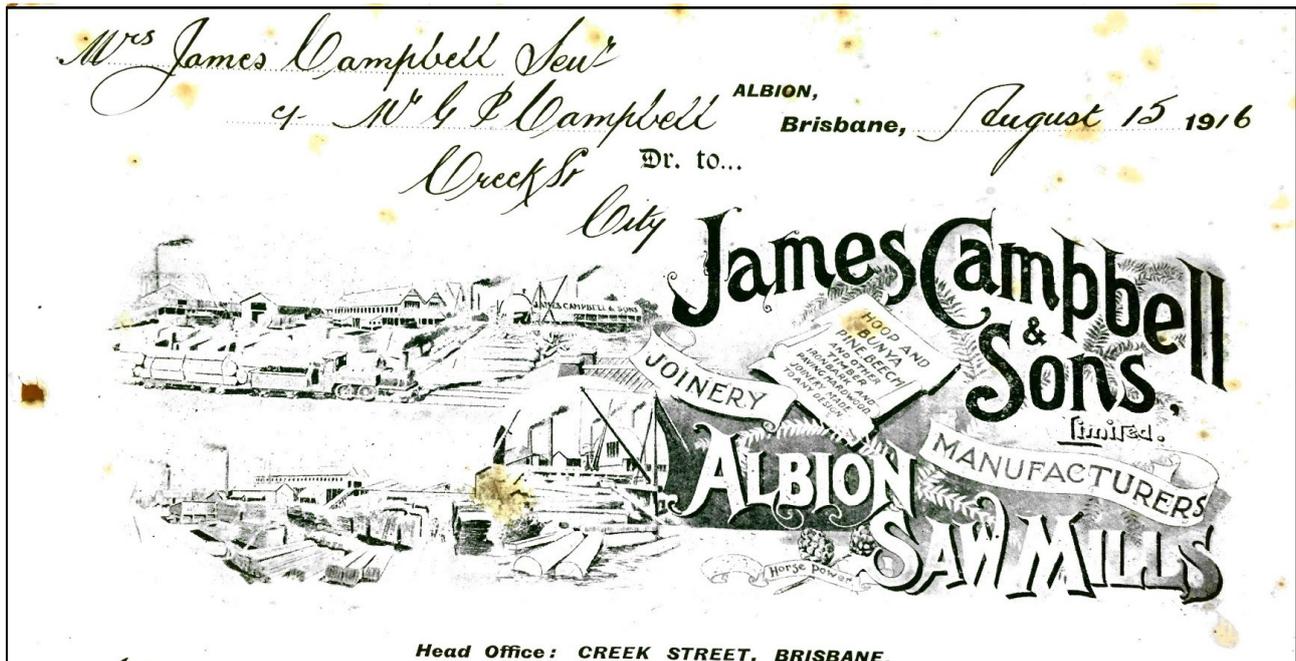
**Remembered with honour  
KANTARA WAR MEMORIAL CEMETERY**



## Family background

Douglas Dunmore Campbell was born in the suburb of New Farm, Brisbane to John Dunmore Campbell and his Irish-born wife Mary ('Minnie') nee Cameron.

Douglas' father worked in the family firm – James Campbell and Sons - and from 1896 was chairman and managing director.



After serving in local government, JD Campbell held the seat of Moreton in the Queensland Legislative Assembly for 10 years, and was briefly minister for railways 1907-08. Outside of politics he was associated with many organisations such as the Marine Board of Queensland, the Queensland Employers Federation, the Brisbane Hospital Committee of Management and the Queensland Rugby Union.



*Douglas' father  
John Dunmore Campbell  
1854-1909*

The family firm had been established by Douglas' paternal grandfather, James Campbell. James was a very successful businessman and manufacturer, as well as a political radical – willingly giving his workers an eight-hour day. He served as an alderman on the Brisbane Municipal Council and was an unofficial spokesman for migrants, particularly Scots.

### **Early life and enlistment**

JD Campbell and his family lived at Donatello in Riverton Street in the Brisbane suburb of Clayfield. Douglas attended the Brisbane Central School, and then the Technical College.



*Douglas Campbell*

When Douglas enlisted in Brisbane on 19 January 1915 he was placed with reinforcements for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Light Horse Regiment. He was aged 22, his occupation stockman, his religion Presbyterian, and he was 181.6cms tall, weighed 76.2kg, and had blue eyes, brown hair and a fair complexion.

### **Service**

Douglas embarked in Brisbane on the HMAT *Itria* A53 on 9 February 1915, and was taken on strength with the 1<sup>st</sup> Light Horse Training Regiment in Egypt on 28 April 1915.

He arrived on Gallipoli on 9 July 1915, when the 2<sup>nd</sup> Light Horse Regiment was holding Pope's Hill. However, on 18 July he was hospitalised with appendicitis, and taken first to Malta, then Hampstead Military Hospital in England and then in October 1915 to Harefield Park (No.1 Australian Auxiliary Hospital).

It was not until 10 June 1916 that Douglas was able to return to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Light Horse, who were by then at Romani. In the ensuing period the 2<sup>nd</sup> conducted a number of lengthy, exhausting patrols into the Sinai. Douglas was hospitalised for a week in late July – the records don't reveal the cause.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

J02888

*Romani, 1916. Tent lines of the First Australian Light Horse Brigade during bombing of their camp. Eight men were killed and 22 wounded. Thirty-six horses were killed and 123 went missing.*



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

J02639

*Australian Light Horsemen camped in an oasis near Romani. The oasis offered concealment from enemy aircraft.*

As outlined earlier, just before dusk on 3 August 1916 the 2<sup>nd</sup> was deployed, and Douglas fell in the fighting in the early hours of the next day.

### **Postscript**

In the evening of 20 August 1916 an in memoriam service for Douglas filled Scots Presbyterian Church in Clayfield.



Douglas' mother – who found dealing with correspondence about Douglas and his grave distressing if not impossible to deal with - was on the communion roll at Saint Andrew's Church (on the corner of Ann and Creek Streets) in the city. In that Church Douglas was listed on both an Honour Board and on a brass plaque for those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

His first cousin Frank Banister Campbell, who died in May 1917 and is the subject of a separate entry, is similarly listed. (See Booklet 104 *Frank Banister Campbell*)

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Compiled by Ian Carnell

Brisbane, 2016





*Lest we forget*