

Capt CYRIL HERNERT DODSON LANE.

Cyril was born Cyril Herbert Dodson on 23rd Feb 1888 at Waverley, the son of Herbert J Dodson and his wife Kate E, nee Johnson. Herbert died in 1889 when Cyril was just one and his mother married Herbert W Lane in 1891, hence the addition of "Lane" to Cyril's name. His parents lived in Armidale where Herbert W Lane became the State MLA for Armidale. Cyril went to school in Armidale and then on to Sydney Technical College. He was in the cadets and then the CMF where he was a Captain in the 2nd Woollahra Infantry.

On 11th August he joined the AN&MEF as a Captain and on 18th August was appointed Adjutant.



Officers Mess Rabaul. Cyril 3rd from right seated.

Cyril returned from Rabaul on the EASTERN and was discharged, term expired, on 6th Feb 1915.

In the same year he married Evelyn C McLurcan.

On 7th May 1915 he was appointed the 18th Battalion as Captain.



Capt Lane in 1915.

On 1st June he was promoted Major and departed Sydney with the battalion on board the CERAMIC and on 25th June eventually landing at ANZAC Cove on 22nd August. Just 7 days later, on 29th August he was killed in action.

Cyril volunteered to lead the next attack on Hill 60 on 27 August. He again led his company against the Turkish positions and again entered the Turkish trenches. He was killed during the close quarters fighting and his surviving men were forced to withdraw. His body could not be recovered at the time and following the war his name was commemorated on the Lone Pine Memorial. Four months after his death, his wife Evelyn gave birth to their daughter Evelyn Dodson Lane and later remarried.

Cyril is remembered at the Lone Pine Memorial, Gallipoli and on Panel 86 at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra.

Cyril's brother, Lt Lionel William Lane was later killed at Messines, Flanders on 21st November 1917. He was with the 53rd Battalion.