

THE SUPERB AND RARE 'GALLIPOLI' D.C.M. MEDAL AND DOCUMENT GROUP AWARDED TO AN N.C.O., 1ST AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY 'FOR GREAT GALLANTRY' DESTROYING A MACHINE GUN DURING A RAID ON 'GERMAN OFFICER'S TRENCH', 5 JUNE 1915, HIMSELF AND HIS OFFICER SHOOTING CREW AND THE LOCK OF THE MACHINE GUN THROUGH A LOOPHOLE IN A COVERED TRENCH. ADDITIONALLY SPECIALLY MENTIONED IN DIVISIONAL ORDERS 'FOR CONSPICUOUS GALLANTRY OR VALUABLE SERVICES DURING THE PERIOD 25.5.15-28.6.15', HE WAS FURTHER M.I.D. AND SERIOUSLY WOUNDED DURING 1ST BRIGADES FAMED ATTACK ON LONE PINE, 6 AUGUST 1915, HIS BATTALION WINNING TWO V.C.'S. SENT TO ENGLAND FOR TREATMENT, HE REJOINED HIS BATTALION IN FRANCE IN JULY 1916 AND WAS WOUNDED AGAIN DURING THE BATTLE OF POZIERIES BEING DISCHARGED IN 1917 DUE TO THE AMPUTATION OF HIS LOWER RIGHT LEG



DISTINGUISHED CONDUCT MEDAL G.V.R. '457 L. CPL C. DAVIS. 1/AUST:I.F.' PRIVATELY ENGRAVED AFTER IMPRESSED NAMING 'JUNE 1915', 1914-15 STAR '457 L/CPL C. DAVIS. 1/BN. A.I.F.', BRITISH WAR MEDAL '457 CPL C. DAVIS. 1/BN. A.I.F.', VICTORY MEDAL '457 CPL C. DAVIS. 1 BN. A.I.F.', WITH M.I.D. OAK LEAVES. MOUNTED AS WORN

D.C.M. London Gazette 3 September 1915:

"For great gallantry on the 5th June 1915, during the operations near Gaba Tepe (Dardanelles). He was one of a small party who led by an Officer and under heavy fire, made a direct attack on a machine gun, which was destroyed."

The original recommendation, which was a joint one with Lieutenant Lloyd stated:

"At 3 am on 5th June 1915, Lieut L. Lloyd, A Company, 1st Battalion, took 100 men and attacked what is known as 'German Officers Trench', in which there was several machine

guns, which were harassing Quinn's Post. He was unable to get the left hand machine gun which was his chief objective, out of the trench owing to somewhat heavy head cover, but destroyed the gun with rifle fire. He also personally shot two Turks with his own pistol, while the detachment under his command partially destroyed the head cover for about fifty yard of trench into which they fired. They must have inflicted a good number of casualties on the Turks for in addition to firing on them they bombed them. The detachment was ultimately taken in the flank from the S.E. from what was known as "Johnston's Jolly" and had to retire sustaining 32 casualties.

Lieutenant Lloyd mentioned No 457 Lance Corporal C. Davis, 1st Battalion, as being one of 10 men who accompanied him in the direct attack on the main machine gun, and as being the man who when they could not get the gun out of the trench, destroyed it with rifle fire.

I recommend Lieut Lloyd for the Military Cross and Lance Corporal Davis for the D.C.M."

M.I.D. London Gazette 5 November 1915 – For Lone Pine. Sir Ian Hamilton Despatch, 22 September 1915

Additionally, Special Mention in Divisional Order No 161 'For conspicuous gallantry or valuable services during the period 25.5.15-28.6.15'



CORPORAL CHARLES DAVIS 1ST BATTALION, AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCES

Charles Davis, a 22 year old Carpenter, enlisted into the 1st Battalion, Australian Imperial Forces in Sydney on 27 August 1914. Originally from Tewkesbury, he had emigrated to Australia some years previously and noted in his service record 18 month prior service with the Territorials.

GALLIPOLI

Having joined 'B' Company, he embarked overseas with his battalion on 18 October 1914 and following training in Egypt and Lemnos Island, Davis and the 1st Battalion took part in the Gallipoli landings at Gaba Tepe on 25 April 1915.



Charles Davis was not the only emigrant from the Tewkesbury area to have enlisted into the AIF. A study of the lists of volunteers that

The local photographers and cameleers obviously did a roaring trade when the Anzacs visited the famous Sphinx. Charles Davis 3rd from left.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1st_Battalion_\(Australia\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1st_Battalion_(Australia))

'43 members of 1st Battalion were KIA on 25 April with several more who were WIA subsequently DOW while being evacuated by hospital ships to Egypt most of them were buried at sea.

While in the firing line on 19 May 1915 1st Battalion was involved in the Defence of Anzac which saw the defeat of a major Turkish attack intended to drive the Australian and New Zealanders back into the sea. The Turkish attack failed with heavy losses on both sides but significantly more so for the Turkish attackers. With the dead and dying left out in No-Man's land to rot and create a major health problem an armistice was called so that the dead could be recovered and given a decent burial.'

Promoted Lance Corporal, Davis's Service papers note he was wounded on 28 June 1915, though presumably this must have been a slight wound as he was not admitted to hospital, and it is only listed once. On 6 June 1915, he would be conspicuous for his gallantry during the raid on 'German Officer's Trench', being awarded the D.C.M. for his deeds. He was also Promoted Corporal on 20 June 1915 and Specially Mentioned in Divisional Orders 'For conspicuous gallantry or valuable services during the period 25.5.15-28.6.15'

From The History of the First Battalion, A.I.F., 1914-1919:

"On June 4th instructions were received that a party of 10 men, accompanied by 5 sappers with gun cotton, was to be sent out that night in an endeavour to surprise and destroy a machine-gun in German Officers' Trench, which was troubling the 4th Brigade. Lieut. G. A. Street went out at about 10 p.m., but encountered a trench occupied by the enemy in front of Courtney's Post, and lying between him and the machine-gun position. He returned and reported that it was impossible to surprise the post. Orders came from Divisional Headquarters that an attack was to be made before moonrise by 100 men, the machine-gun silenced, and as much damage as possible done to the trench

and the overhead cover. At the time the order was received the moon was already up, though not visible from Divisional Headquarters. Lieut. E. Longfield Lloyd was detailed to lead the attack, with Lieut. H. Wells in charge of the second line. After some delay caused by instructions having been received to wait for engineers with gun-cotton, the attack was launched at about 3 a.m. on June 5. The object was successfully achieved. The Turks employed machine-gun fire, sweeping the front of the trench. Casualties were five killed and 28 wounded. The overhead cover was very heavy, and little could be done with it.

The machine-gun was destroyed by Lieut. Lloyd and No. 457 Lance-Cpl. C. Davis. They found it impossible to get into the trench at this point, but shot the crew through the emplacement. The gun was then destroyed by firing into the mechanism with an automatic pistol and a rifle. For his feat Lieut. Lloyd was awarded the Military Cross, and Lance-Cpl. Davis the D.C.M. “



The raid on ‘German Officer’s Trench’ from Bean:

“...As the fusillade rapidly increased, many of the raiders fired a few hurried shots into the trench, kicked down some of the heavy sandbags, and then, since there appeared nothing else to be done, ran back to their own lines. The second party was then in the act of leaving Steele’s. and, finding the first men returning, came back with them. Meanwhile Lloyd and several others had reached the north-western angle. The shadow in its interior was deep, but Turks could be seen at the loop-holes, and Lloyd, standing on the parapet, emptied his revolver into them. One of the men near him, Lance-Corporal Davis, whom he had directed to search for the machine-gun, discovered what appeared to be the weapon in question at a loop-hole near the corner of the trench. After firing three rounds at its lock from a distance of 5 feet, he thrust his rifle into the loop-hole itself and fired three more. Within less than five minutes of starting the party was back, with the exception of a few of the more seriously wounded, who were being lifted into the trench. In those few minutes, of some seventy who left Steele’s Post, 4 were killed and 28 wounded, of whom one died...”

The Battalion continued its service at Gallipoli until 29 June when it was taken off Gallipoli for rest on Imbros Island returning to Gallipoli on July 6 1915.



BATTLE OF LONE PINE MENTIONED IN DESPATCHES AND SERIOUSLY WOUNDED

'On 6 August it (1st Battalion) was heavily involved in the 1st Brigade attack on Lone Pine a fiercely defended Turkish stronghold. The Battalion repelled of a number of increasingly ferocious counter-attacks as the bitter, often hand-to-hand battle, continued for five days before the Battalion was relieved by 2nd Battalion. However, it would re-enter the Lone Pine trenches later in August. The Australian attack on Lone Pine was the only "offensive" operation to be successful throughout the whole of the Gallipoli campaign.

For most conspicuous bravery and devotion on 7-8 August in the trenches at Lone Pine, Gallipoli, Lance Corporal Leonard Maurice Keyzor of 1st Battalion was awarded a Victoria Cross.

For most conspicuous bravery at Lone Pine trenches in the Gallipoli Campaign on 9th August 1915, Captain Alfred John Shout MC of 1st Battalion was awarded a Victoria Cross.

In addition to the above Lone Pine VC's, the History of the 1st Battalion also lists Captain Sasse as being awarded the DSO, Lance Corporal Tallon the DCM and 6 Officers and 5 NCO's/Men, including Corporal Davis, being mentioned in Sir Ian Hamilton's despatch of 22 September 1915

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Lone_Pine

In addition to being Mentioned in Despatches, Corporal Davis was wounded for a second time, this time seriously during the first day of the battle of Lone Pine, 6 August 1915, recorded as GSW to the back/right kidney.

Transferred to Murdos and then Malta, he was then sent to England, being admitted to No5 London General Hospital on 30 August 1915. Whilst convalescing at this hospital, he met Emily Florence Smith, a nurse at the hospital, with whom he would marry in the first months of 1916. Still recovering from his wounds, he was placed on the Supernumerary List and was absent for 3 months (leave??).

On 7 May 1916, he embarked to rejoin his unit, now in France, rejoining his battalion on 27 July 1916



POZIERES AND SERIOUSLY WOUNDED AGAIN AND DISCHARGED

'On 23 July 1916, 1st Battalion took part in the fiery cauldron that is now known as the battle of Pozieres where the 1st Australian, 2nd Australian and 4th Australian Divisions would endure seven weeks of the heaviest fighting experienced so far and suffer over 23,000 casualties. Each of the Divisions would enter into the front line hell hole of Pozieres on two occasions with the most savage fighting taking place at Windmill Hill and Mouquet Farm.'

Of the location known as Windmill Hill, one of the key objectives capture by the Australians, Official Historian, Captain Charles Bean wrote: "The Windmill site, bought later by the Australian War Memorial Board – with the old mound still there – marks a ridge more densely sown with Australian sacrifice than any other place on earth".

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Pozi%C3%A8res

Corporal Davis was wounded for a third time, suffering a GSW to his right foot at Pozieres on 20 August. Admitted to No3 London General Hospital on 26 August 1916, on 5 September, Davis's right foot was amputated just above the ankle as it had become septic. Transferred to 2nd (Australian) Auxiliary Hospital on 19 January 1917, his leg was amputated again 8 inches below the knee on 1 February 1917. He was granted furlough on 26 June 1917, returning to hospital on 16 June, he was granted 2 weeks furlough again on 24 July 1917. He was finally discharged from the A.I.F. in the UK on 11 September 1917, 'in consequence of being permanently unfit for service at home or abroad'.

After discharge, he briefly resided in Bargoed, South Wales, but was back in Tewkesbury by January 1918, before returning to Australia on 12 March 1918. Having returned to Australia, he resided at 149 Annadale Street, Annandale, Sydney from where he requested information on gratuity for the DCM in June 1920 and applied for his campaign medals in 1921.

Charles and Emily Davis later returned to England, noted in the 1939 Register as in Twining, Tewkesbury where he worked as a Master carpenter. He died on 23 May 1954. A 7 page article on Charles Davis's war service, which contained several photographs of him, was published in the Tewkesbury Historical Society Bulletin 2021 (copy with group)



THE GROUP CONSISTS OF:

- 1) Davis's medals as described above, condition VF
- 2) Framed Original Mentioned in Despatches certificate for Lone Pine dated 22 September 1915
- 3) Framed original discharge certificate, frame glazed on reverse also

4) Framed original and named King's Certificate scroll for honourably discharged disabled servicemen, dated 11 September 1917

5) Original copy of The ANZAC Book for Gallipoli, published in 1916, contains soldiers stories from Gallipoli, illustration etc. 170 pages

6) Original copy of the RSA New South Wales ANZAC Memorial, dated Sydney 25 April 1916, inscribed as a gift from Charles's mother, dated 30/7/17. Various pages have dried poppy leaves between them. Contains rolls of honours, soldiers stories, portraits and scenes from ANZAC etc. 300 plus pages

7) Framed copy studio photograph of Davis and another ANZAC in uniform

8) Tewkesbury Historical Society Bulletin 2021 with article on Davis as noted above

Sold with the following digital records: Service records, DCM recommendation, War Diaries for periods of Davis's frontline service, History of the First Battalion, A.I.F, Australian Military Journal, Chapters from Bean etc.





The War of 1914-1918.

*Australian Imperial Force
457 L./C. C. Davis, 1st Inj. Bn.*

*was mentioned in a Despatch from
General Sir Ian F. M. Hamilton, G.C.B., D.S.O., A.D.C.
dated 22nd September 1915*

*for gallant and distinguished services in the Field.
I have it in command from the King to record His Majesty's
high appreciation of the services rendered.*

Christmas Churchill

Secretary of State for War.

*War Office
Whitehall, S.W.
1st March 1919.*



AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL EXPEDITIONARY FORCE

Certificate of Discharge of 57 (Rank) Corporal
 (Name) Charles Davis
 (Regiment or Corps) 1st Battalion
 in the State or County of Worcestershire
 Attested at Sydney, New South Wales on the
27th August 1917 for the Australian Imperial
Force Regiment or Corps at the age of 22 years.

He is discharged in consequence of being permanently unfit for
War Service at home or abroad with effect from
11th September 1917

Service towards completion of engagement	3 years 16 days	Medals	<u>D.C.M.</u>
In A.I.F.	3 years 16 days	and	<u>London Gazette</u>
Service Abroad		Decorations	<u>29886 dated 1915</u>

Signature of Officer Commanding Regiment or Corps. Administrative H. Qs A.I.F.
 Place London, England
 Date 11th September 1917

Discharge confirmed at London, England
 Signature Administrative H. Qs A.I.F.
 Date 11th September 1917

SHOULD THIS PARCHMENT BE LOST OR MISLaid, NO DUPLICATE OF IT CAN BE OBTAINED.



127 DCM's awarded to Australians for the Gallipoli campaign, this being 1 of 29 DCM's awarded to men of the 1st Battalion during the entire war.

A superb and rare Australian multiple gallantry group for Gallipoli