

Naours Silent Soldier Profile

MARGETTS, Ivor Stephen.

Enlistment number 2498.



Source: Australia War Memorial.

Name: Ivor Stephen Margetts
Service Number: 2498
Rank: 2nd Lieutenant
Occupation: Junior Master

Place of Enlistment : Hobart
Enlistment: 3rd September, 1914. **Marital**
Status: Single
Age at Embarkation: 23
Place of Birth: Launceston, Tasmania.
Family Information Stephen and Charlotte Margetts, Wynard Tasmania.

Enlisted with: 12th Battalion A Company

Date of embarkation: 20th October 1914

Place of embarkation: Hobart
Ship embarked on: A2 Geelong
Ship returned on : n/a

Other details:
Military Career: Enlisted as 2nd Lieutenant.
Captain 21st August 1915.

Fate: Killed in Action 23rd July 1916
Pozières. No Known Grave.
Commemorated on Villers
Brettoneux Wall.
AWM Roll of Honour Panel No
66.

Miscellaneous:

Served in Gallipoli and on the Western Front. He led his platoon at the Gallipoli landing.

Mentioned in despatches for gallant work as company commander London Gazette January 1917 Commonwealth Gazette June 1917 AWM holds a collection of personal Diaries from January 1915 to January 1916 .

A Cross was originally placed on his place of burial but was destroyed and never found. A famous picture of this exists. He was a prominent local footballer.

Biographie.

Gilles Prilaux et Andrea Gerrard

Ivor Stephen Margetts est né le 4 septembre 1891 à Launceston en Tasmanie, Is de Stephen Ward Margetts et Charlotte Margetts, de Wynyard. Il a 23 ans lorsqu'il s'enrôle le 3 Septembre 1914, au grade de second lieutenant dans le 12^{ème} bataillon. Il s'illustre à Gallipoli avec la première force expéditionnaire. En effet, alors que la bataille fait rage, et bien que ses vêtements sont criblés de balles, il sortira indemne du combat, tandis tous les autres of ciers de sa compagnie seront tués ou blessés. Il gagnera ici ses galons de capitaine. Il rejoint la France et sera tué à Pozières le 24 juillet 1916. Il a été enterré par ses hommes sur le champ de bataille (sa tombe a été photographié en 1917, ref E000532 et E00193), cependant durant l'offensive allemande du printemps 1918, ce secteur repasse aux mains des allemands et la tombe sera « effacée » et perdue à jamais. Le nom de Margetts est honoté sur le mémorial de Villers-Bretonneux. On sait par une correspondance du colonel MD Graham au père d'Ivor qu'il était un footballeur de premier plan et qu'il a joué en clubs lors de matchs importants dans le Nord comme dans le Sud, « *il est sur de dire qu'aucun of cier aussi populaire n'avait quitté les côtes de l'Australie* ».

Handwritten text on aged, yellowed paper, possibly a document or letter. The text is faint and difficult to read, but appears to include the name "J. M. ANGELTS" and the date "12/13/37".

The Story of Ivor Margetts

Ivor Stephen Margetts was born September 4, 1891 in Launceston in Tasmania, son of Stephen Ward and Charlotte Margetts Margetts, Wynyard. Ivor Margetts was a resident schoolmaster at the Hutchins School Hobart Tasmania. He was educated at the High School Launceston. Before the war, he had been a lieutenant in the 93rd Infantry. He was 23 when he enlisted on September 3, 1914, as a second lieutenant in the 12th Battalion. It went to Gallipoli with the first expeditionary force. He was aboard the ship called the Ribble as it headed towards its anchorage on Gallipoli. Margetts had written, "In the darkness and in silence we were carried towards the land which was to either make or mar the name of Australia. I am quite sure that very few of us realized that at last we were actually bound for our first baptism of fire." (Captain I S Margetts, Diary. [Gallipoli and the ANZACS webpage.](#))

Indeed, while the battle raged, and although his clothes were riddled with bullets, Margetts weathered the fight, while all other soldiers of his company were killed or injured. He earned his stripes as a Captain here. He left for Marseilles France on the 5th April, 1916 but Margetts was killed near Bazentin Road at the northeastern part of Pozieres on July 24th that year. He was buried by his men in the battlefield (his grave was photographed in 1917, and ref E000532 E00193). The small wooden cross in the famous photo was blown away two days later and then replaced with a more elaborate Celtic cross. This was then lost during the German spring offensive of 1918, when the sector returned to the hands of the Germans and the grave was erased forever. Now no-one knows where the Captain lies. Margetts was believed to have said, "look after the boys" as he was pulled into a trench after being shot. Stretcher bearer George McKenzie buried his captain. "He was the best man going. The men loved him. I cried like a kid when I found he was dead. I think he went because he was too good for the beastliness of war. I stuck up a little cross on his grave in memory of him."

His death was reported in the North Western Advocate and the Emu Bay Times (Tas.: Mon 25 Sept, 1916, Page 2)
CAPTAIN IVOR MARGETTS. HOW HE MET HIS DEATH.

In writing to some friends in Hobart, a well-known Colonel in France sends the following interesting statement in connection with the death of Captain Ivor Margetts, who was senior captain of the 12th Battalion and the officer commanding A Company:-

"You cannot imagine what a grief it is to me to have to tell you of Ivor's death. Somehow we were all so sure that he, above all others, was going to come through all right and live to be the example to his fellows which his ability was sure to have made him. It was a great shock to me when I heard it, as we had always been such good pals before the war, and so constantly together since. It was in the attack on Pozieres that he lost his life. On 22nd ult. we captured the near edge, and on the afternoon of 23rd it was reported that the village was clear, and we were told to occupy the far edge. Ivor and Captain Vowles went through the village, and chose the site for the

trenches we had to dig there, and it was just about dark, at 10 p.m., when he was leading his men up, that he was hit with a piece of shell in the chest, and died in a few minutes. The place was shelled so heavily afterwards, that we were doubtful of being able to hold it, and it was very difficult to send out the wounded. Ivor and others killed during the day were buried by Captain Connell and a party from A Co. after dusk the same evening on the outskirts of the village. Everyone is very grieved at his loss, as all knew and liked him. He will be hard to replace in the battalion, as he had a better military knowledge of both field and office work than I suppose any other officer of the battalion. The parents of deceased reside at Wynyard, and have already sent three of their sons to the front. These were Ivor, Stephen Athelstane, and Ralph Exton. Ralph Exton was at Gallipoli, and has since been invalided and sent home, on account of a strained heart. The other son Athelstane has joined the ambulance service, and is at present in Melbourne waiting to go to the front. (Trove; The North Western Advocate and the Emu Bay times, 25/9/16.)

The name of Margetts is honored on the Villers-Bretonneux memorial. We know from correspondence of Colonel Graham MD, Ivor's father, that he was a prominent footballer and played in clubs during important matches in the North as in the South, "is on to say that 'no-one as popular had ever left the shores of Australia. "



Sources; Australian War Memorial



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

E00193

Margetts' life and death is mentioned in many journals, books and newspaper articles as listed below;

<http://www.themercury.com.au/news/tasmania/somme-soldier-captain-ivor-margetts-became-hero-among-heroes/news->

story/58d4badaaae727966ecca1f0ebaefaf5

<http://www.news.com.au/national/anzac-day/world-war-i-battlefield-relic-from-pozieres-to-be-presented-at-launceston-ceremony/news-story/68cf35eb0effa0746d39a4c9abaa630a>

<http://www.themercury.com.au/news/opinion/editorial-one-selfless-sacrifice-a-life-called-to-mind/news-story/7b954c5c2cd1c1c43defd0aee31906ee>

The Great War by Les Carlynn.

Andrea Gerrard: Sabretache, Vol 52, No 4 Dec 2011:21-33.

A collection of diary page, cablegrams, letters, newspaper cuttings kept by Captain Margetts between January 1915 and January 1916 is held by the Australian War Memorial.

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES

Application for a Commission in the 1st Aust. Exp. Bn. Force

1. Name	MARGRETT'S IVOR STEPHEN	
2. Date of Birth	1891	
3. Direction of Education	Katholische Studien-Universität, Hermannstadt	
4. Military Qualifications (specify M.B. Army Service, if any, to be stated)	3 years 9th Infantry (Lake 12th Bn.) 2 1/2 years Commercial Service in Aust. Exp. Bn.	
5. Date at which applicant qualified as a member of the above military force	1911	
6. Trade, Art, Handicraft	Junior Master Satchels School & Cart	
7. Date of Birth and Age	Sept 22 1891	22 Years 11 Months
8. If a British Subject or a Naturalized British Subject	British Subject	
9. Married or Single	Single	
10. Postal Address	66 St. Margarets	71
11. Full Name	Stephen Ivor Margrett's	

NOTE: Candidates for Commissions in the Australian Forces must be at least 17 years of age, and must be British Subjects or Naturalized British Subjects, and must be of the age specified in the above form. They must also be of the age specified in the above form, and must be of the age specified in the above form.

MEDICAL CERTIFICATE

I, Dr. A. J. ... do hereby certify that the applicant of the following particulars respecting the above named applicant. I further certify that the applicant is not registered, has not been operated on by the hands, and is capable of bearing the fatigue incident to the performance of military duty.

Height 5' 3" Weight 135 lbs
Chest Measurement 37 1/2" Height 5' 3"
Signature of the examining Medical Officer Dr. A. J. ...

RECOMMENDATION AND CERTIFICATE OF COMMANDING OFFICER

I recommend that the candidate above named is appointed as a Private in the Corps under my command, and I certify:
1. That the candidate is of the age specified in the above form.
2. That the candidate is of the age specified in the above form.
3. That the candidate is of the age specified in the above form.
On appointment the candidate will be posted to 1st Aust. Exp. Bn.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF DISTRICT COMMANDANT
11th September 1914
H. J. ...

Sources;

1. <http://discoveringanzacs.naa.gov.au/browse/gallery/27903>
2. <http://www.gallipoli.gov.au/north-beach-and-the-sari-bair-range/the-landings-at-north-beach.php>
3. <http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/64605579?searchTerm=ivor>
4. <http://search.informit.com.au/documentSummary;dn=859975764219053;res=IELHSS>
5. <https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/1DRL/0478/>
6. <http://discoveringanzacs.naa.gov.au/browse/person/374335>
7. <http://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/SearchNRetrieve/Interface/ListingReports/ItemsListing.aspx>