



**Lieutenant Colonel H. A. GODDARD CMG, DSO, VD**

[1869 – 1955]



**Colonel Goddard was President of the Club 1913 -14**

Henry Arthur Goddard was born on 13 December 1869 at West Hackney, Middlesex, England, son of Henry Goddard [1840-1892], insurance clerk, and his wife Elizabeth (née Simmons) [1841-1920].

Henry was the second of their three children:

- Elizabeth Rebecca [1867-1954]
- Annie Alice [1874-1956]

He migrated to Australia in 1890 on the *Culgoa* (ex-Tilbury to Brisbane) and settled in Brisbane. On 28 June 1897, describing himself as a clerk, he married Elizabeth Maud (née Morrow) [1872-1961] at All Saints Anglican Church, Brisbane. They had three children:

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- Horace Leopold <sup>1</sup> [1898-1984] Born in Toowoomba, died in Melbourne. Married Eva Joan (née Anderson) in 1929 in Melbourne.
- Evelyn Maud [b.1900] moved to Sydney with family in 1920. It is believed she remained un-married and died in Sydney.
- Henry Arthur [1907] Henry died shortly after birth.

The family lived on Wickham Terrace and at South Brisbane, and later in the eastern suburbs of Sydney.

Henry gradually established a successful importing business (H.A. Goddard Pty Ltd) with offices interstate. Amongst others, the company imported books and publications and eventually had a large bookstore in Sydney. He was interested in growing malting barley and experimented with this crop on the Darling Downs. In 1906-15 he was also the consul for Paraguay in Brisbane.

His business interests required extensive travel overseas, affording him the opportunity to attend military manoeuvres in England and to observe developments on the Continent. Although not a professional soldier, he developed a wide knowledge of military affairs.

As a young man in England, Goddard had been a sergeant in the Essex Rifle Volunteers and took a keen interest in military matters. In 1899 he was commissioned in the Queensland Defence Force, a Captain in 1906, and by 1913 had risen to command the 7<sup>th</sup> Infantry (Moreton) Regiment. On the outbreak of war in 1914 he was placed in command of the Brisbane defences.

Putting his business affairs in order, Goddard joined the Australian Imperial Force with the rank of lieutenant-colonel on 16 March 1915 and was appointed to command the 25<sup>th</sup> Battalion. When changes were made to commands in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Division, he was transferred to command the 17<sup>th</sup> Battalion, which he joined as it embarked from Sydney on the troopship *Themistocles* in May 1915, bound for Egypt. From there the battalion sailed for Gallipoli in August but without Goddard who was in hospital. He was on the *Southland* sailing to rejoin the unit when the ship was torpedoed on 2 September. Rescued by a Royal Navy vessel he was taken to Lemnos and finally landed on Gallipoli on 6 September. He took command of his battalion next day in the trenches at Quinn's Post. He served there until the evacuation and remained behind until the last parties of the unit were ready to move out on 20 December 1915. The 17<sup>th</sup> Battalion sailed to Lemnos, then to Alexandria, Egypt where orders were received to proceed to Tel el Kebir. Goddard's health had suffered on Gallipoli and he was admitted to hospital with dysentery in January 1916. In April he was invalided to Australia.

In mid-July 1916 he again embarked for overseas service. He reported to AIF Headquarters in London and was appointed to command the recently raised 35<sup>th</sup> Battalion (part of the new 3<sup>rd</sup> Division) in October. He arrived in France with his new command in November. After serving in a quiet sector at Armentières the battalion took part in the battle of Messines in June 1917.

The battalion was heavily committed in the battle of Broodseinde Ridge on 4 October and in the attack on Passchendaele Ridge a week later. Weary and depleted, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Division was eventually sent back to the quieter sector in the north where it remained until early in 1918.

Although never robust, Goddard performed outstanding work during the great German offensive near Amiens in March-April 1918. With the enemy advancing on the city, the 9<sup>th</sup> Brigade was detached from the division and rushed to reinforce the defences in front of Villers-Bretonneux. In the

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<sup>1</sup> Private H.L. Goddard 1914 - 9<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion; 1917-19 – 11 Field Company, RAE, then 35<sup>th</sup> Battalion (Passchendaele, Villers- Bretonneux); 1942-45 - 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion Volunteer Defence Corps.

brigadier's absence Goddard established headquarters in the town and took temporary command of the brigade. On 4 April the Germans commenced a devastating bombardment. The infantry fell back on the town and Goddard found his headquarters in the front line. The situation was desperate, but Goddard acted promptly and decisively, bringing all his reserves forward and ordering the commanding officer of the 36<sup>th</sup> Battalion to counter-attack immediately. Under strong leadership the Australians rallied and assisted by the British cavalry and some infantry, held the line and repulsed the enemy. Early next morning Goddard ordered his weary troops to attack again. The enemy was taken by surprise and driven back from the town and for the moment Amiens was saved.

On 5 May Goddard's battalion played the major role in the successful attack at Morlancourt. Next month he was promoted colonel and temporary brigadier general and appointed to command the 9<sup>th</sup> Brigade which he led during the British Somme offensive until the end of the war. Important actions included the battle of Bray-sur-Somme and the attack on the Hindenburg line.

For his work at Messines and his contribution to the efficiency of the brigade Goddard was awarded the Distinguished Service Order in the 1918 New Year's Honours.

Goddard was mentioned in dispatches three times, and after the Armistice the awards of the Commander of the Order of St Michael and St George (CMG) and the Belgian Croix de Guerre were announced.

Goddard returned to Australia in 1920 and resumed his business and militia interests. He moved to Sydney and in 1921-26 commanded the 14<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade, with the rank of honorary brigadier general. He was also Honorary Colonel of the 17<sup>th</sup> Battalion. He was placed on the retired list in 1931 with the rank of Brigadier.

Goddard continued to travel, was commercial representative of *The Times* in Australia, and remained active in business until his death. He was joined in his importing company after the war by his son Horace Leopold (who had served as a private in his father's 35<sup>th</sup> Battalion during the war). Horace was managing the Melbourne office by 1926 and returned to the Sydney Head Office after his father's death in 1955. Horace later retired to Melbourne.

It is likely that Goddard joined the Club about 1900. At the time of his presidency he was a significant business figure in Brisbane and was commanding a militia battalion.

For twenty-one years, until 1947, he was president of the Imperial Service Club at its Barrack Street premises. The ISC was the United Service Club's sister club in Sydney and was formed at the end of World War I – and he is the only member to have been President of both Clubs.

In appearance Goddard was tall and spare with a lean countenance behind a heavy dark moustache. 'A quiet, witty, scholarly man, far removed from the mud and blood of Flanders' trenches', he soldiered with quiet efficiency. 'With his intellectual and military qualifications he combined the attributes of sincerity, courtesy, a dry humour and natural dignity in his relations with superiors and subordinates alike'.

Brigadier Goddard died in Concord Repatriation Hospital, Sydney, on 24 October 1955.



Brigadier Goddard c1950

Sources included:

- Various web pages
- *United Service Club, Queensland: The First Century, 1892-1992* by Flight Lieutenant Murray Adams and Lieutenant Colonel Peter Charlton
- Club Meeting Minutes, Annual Reports, and sundry documents
- Australian Dictionary of Biography, Volume 9, (MUP), 1983
- AWM & NAA archives
- Trove