



Captain R.A.N. PLANT VRD

[1884 – 1937]



Captain Plant was elected to Life Membership of the Club in 1937.

Reginald Arthur Neville Plant was born in Thornborough (near Mareeba) on 28 September 1884. His father was Charles Frederic Plant ¹, a mine manager, and his mother Isabel Marion (née Pegus) [1850-1929]. He was the eldest of five children:

- Hilda Florence Neville [1886-1943] Born in Charters Towers. Married John MacDonald Grant ² in 1922. Died in Brisbane.
- Harold Frederick Hood [1888-1916] Born in Charters Towers. Unmarried. A medical practitioner. Captain Plant was killed in action in

¹ Lieutenant Colonel C.F. Plant VRD [1843-1932] Life Member of the Club.

² Lieutenant Colonel John MacDonald Grant MC, VD [1883-1977] 1913-1938 Engineer and Signals Officer AIF and Citizen Forces; 1938-41 Commanding Officer 61st Battalion (Queensland Cameron Highlanders); 1941 Retired, Honorary rank of Colonel.

We thank the History Interest Group and other volunteers who have researched and prepared these Notes. The series will be progressively expanded and developed. They are intended as casual reading for the benefit of Members, who are encouraged to advise of any inaccuracies in the material.

Please do not reproduce them or distribute them outside of the Club membership.

- Eric Clive Pegus³ [1890-1950] Pozieres, France serving with 1st Australian General Hospital. Born in Charters Towers. Married Oona Hunter (née Brown) and had two children. He died in Sydney. Eric Plant was a Club member and served on the Committee 1933, 1935 and as Vice-President in 1934.
- Oenone Elfrida Maud [1892-1928] Born in Charters Towers. Married John Ferndale Finlay, a master mariner, in 1919 and died in Brisbane.

His father was a very successful gold mine manager and owner in Charters Towers. He purchased *Woodlands*, 24 Woodland Street, Ashgrove, Brisbane in 1889 for the benefit of his children's education and used the large property to stay at when in Brisbane until he retired there in 1897/8.

Reginald attended Brisbane Grammar School. In 1900 he was the Corps Bugler in the school's Cadet Corps. After school and on enlistment for war service his occupation was listed as "sheep station overseer", "grazier" or "station owner" and after the war as a "land agent".

Reginald never married and is recorded as living at the family homes (*Fernvale* and *Woodlands* in Ashgrove) until his death.

Following School Cadets, his military service involved:

1900-04	13th (QMI) ALH in Brisbane, (which became the 2nd (QMI) ALH in 1910).
January 1904	Commissioned Lieutenant in 13 th ALH Unattached List
1906	Believed posted briefly to 9 th Australian Infantry (Moreton) Regiment
October 1914	Enlisted for overseas service as Corporal with A Company, 5 th ALH, Brisbane
January 1915	Promoted Sergeant, B Company, 5 th ALH
May 1915	Wounded at Gallipoli
August 1915	Promoted 2 nd Lieutenant
September 1915	Hospitalised sick Cyprus and Alexandria
October 1915	Promoted Lieutenant
November 1915	Wounded (twice), Gallipoli - remained on duty then hospitalised Cairo Bomb wound to eyes, hospitalised at Heliopolis
August 1916	Serious gun shot wound to chest, in action subsequent to the Battle of Romani
September 1916	To Australia on HT "Ascanius"; placed on Supernumerary List
April 1917	Resumed duties 1 Military District
August 1917	ALH reinforcements – Lieutenant to 5 th ALH; Honorary Captain
October 1917	Arrived Suez on TS "Kyarra"
November 1917	Returned to Australia (Brisbane via Melbourne) on HT A55
January 1918	Reappointed 5 th ALH – Lieutenant
February 1918	Embarked Sydney for Middle East on A18 "Wiltshire" Posted to training duties at the ANZAC Corps training area at Moascar
April 1919	ADC to GOC AIF in Egypt ⁴ ; promoted Temporary Captain
August 1919	Honorary Captain
November 1919	Ceased duties as ADC
January 1920	Returned to Australia on HT "Wahehe"; AIF appointment terminated.

Reginald saw service at Gallipoli (as a Lieutenant in 5th Australian Light Horse); as did his younger brothers Eric (as a Lieutenant in 9th Infantry Battalion) and Harold (as Regimental Medical Officer of 8th Infantry Battalion).

³ Major General Eric Plant CB, DSO*, OBE, CdeG served as an infantry officer in First World War, and then in senior staff and instructional postings until retiring in 1949.

⁴ Major General Sir Granville de Laune Rynie, KCMG, CB, VD

“Reggie” Plant was a member of the Club by 1912. While he never served on the Committee, he was by all accounts a very active and sociable member; and the club history records some “exciting” events with his involvement.

In 1937, he donated a perpetual cup for the Annual Billiards Competition.



Captain Reginald Plant died Brisbane on 24 December 1937, aged 53

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
- NAA Archives