



# Ewart Wells, 1884-1915

Second-Lieutenant Ewart Linley Wells was the first of the three rowing club members to be killed at Gallipoli. He was born in Bedford in 1884, one of 11 children to Albert and Emily Wells. His father was an architect, who ultimately settled in Hastings. Ewart attended Richard Hale School in Hertford and then King's College, London where he obtained a Classics degree in 1905.

Ewart's association with Marlow probably began in 1908 when he joined the teaching staff of Sir William Borlase's School. He left England for New Zealand in 1913 and was appointed as a schoolmaster at Wanganui Collegiate School in May 1914.

Ewart enlisted as a Second-Lieutenant in the Wellington Regiment in January 1915. In April, his regiment left New Zealand by sea to support the Gallipoli campaign, arriving there the following month. On 8 August, his regiment was one of a number sent to capture the hill of Chunuk Bair. In fighting that lasted all day, the Allies took the hill, but with a terrible loss of life. Out of the 760 men of the Wellington Regiment who set out for the summit, 711 became casualties, including Ewart. His company commander described him as 'a very gallant soldier who had shown himself just what an officer ought to be.' Ewart's body was never recovered and his final resting place is unknown.



Ewart Wells



The war memorial at Chunuk Bair to the New Zealand forces

Ewart was a member of the rowing club during the time that he was teaching in Marlow. In 1911, he rowed at three in the fixed seat Junior Fours at Bourne End Regatta. The crew won the first heat against Maidenhead and beat Henley in the semi-final, but lost the final of Maiden Fours at Reading Regatta to Reading.



Painting of the fighting at Chunuk Bair, August 1915



Chunk Bair as it is today.