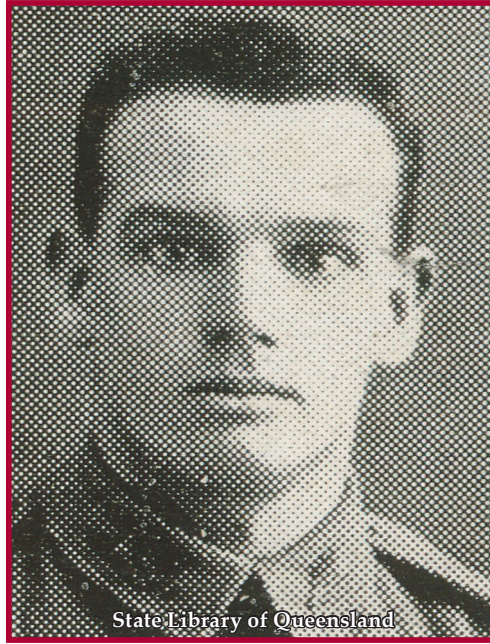


EDWIN MAURICE LITTLE

Date of Birth:	6 July 1893
Student Number:	1116
Enrolment:	5 February 1907
Age Entered IGS:	14 years
Final Day at IGS:	March 1907



Unit:	15 th Battalion
Regimental Number:	309
Enlistment:	21 October 1914
Age at Enlistment:	21 years
Final Day of Service:	20 October 1915 - WIA

THE TRUE MEMORIAL

*What mean these monuments of bronze and stone,
That in our midst like sentinels are set?
What mean these words I read with solemn tone?
Methinks a vow is made—"Lest we forget!"
But lately on a hundred fields we saw,
Our sons to wondrous heights of valour rise;
They deemed stern hardship but the price of war,
And every bayonet-thrust a patriot's prize.*

*And they their lives thus rendered to the State,
In noble tribute to their country's worth;
But vain the tall memorial and ornate,
Till men in honour serve their land of birth.
One recompense alone to those who fell,
Can we who hold the land in trust yet make,
And that—the dark disrupting force to quell,
And raise the nation's standard for their sake.*



'Owning' Little as an Old Boy may be a little contentious, as he left IGS after only a month to attend our great rival, Brisbane Grammar School. That being said, our war time school magazines all recorded him on their records, hence his inclusion here. After leaving BGS in 1909, Little ventured into the education field and became a teacher. After teaching in Gladstone for some time, he enlisted at the onset of the war, in 1914. His leadership skills were quickly realised, and he was given the rank of Sergeant.

Little served in the 4th Brigade, under (then) Brigadier-General John Monash. After completing his training in Egypt, he took part in the landing at Gallipoli. There, in the afternoon of the 25th of April, he helped to establish 'Quinn's Post'. It was the furthest 'point' that was achieved by the ANZACs, an achievement that in itself was quite amazing.

Due to the extensive casualties sustained by his unit, Little was quickly promoted to the rank of Lieutenant. After trying to hold off a Turkish raid, a bomb blast knocked Maurice to the ground and changed his life forever. He was dreadfully wounded - blinded in both eyes, lost part of one arm, and suffered a shocking injury to his knee. His story was published in the Queensland Times (2 December, 1915):

"On the 29th of May we received the order to stand to arms and attack. As the day went on, we could see it was going to be a big business. The Turks had been doing a lot of mining, and they managed to get a mine under us. They buried 13 of our men in one explosion. They were in the trenches only about 10 yards away - in fact, some of them were as near as 8 yards to us. We were called up to drive them out. Lieut. Dill and I went up with our platoons, under Major Quinn, who, as you know, was killed in the action.

My men gave their usual cheer, and charged. The Turks, however, started to hurl bombs. These were bursting and rolling down the hill on us. They began to fire at us over the top of the parapet. Lieut. Hill was wounded, and a man named Broughton was killed just over from us. A Sergeant was knocked down beside me, and I helped him down and got him away to safety. I moved over to the right a bit, and then we started to clean out the bomb-proof shelter where the Turks were.

A man named Simon helped me a good deal in this work, and before I came away, I recommended him to the Major. The man was shot in the head, and still refused to come below. He and I were throwing bombs into the shelter to clear it out. I began to think we had it pretty well cleared, when I saw a Turk coming over the top. Thinking to stop him with a bomb, I got one ready. I hung on to it too long, for just as I was about to throw it, it burst. I fell back, and I thought I could hear the men talking. They took me back to shelter. Afterwards it was discovered that the Turks had found the bomb-proof shelter too hot for them. There were 17 of them taken alive, and 23 were found dead...

Lieut. Little remarked that one officer had written of the engagement, "Hell alone can describe the situation."

The wounded man then went on to state that he was operated on in the hospital-ship on the same day as that on which he received his injuries, and on the 7th of January he was in the hospital at Alexandria."

Little made a remarkable recovery from his injuries - some suggest that it was largely due to the way his nurse, Miss Lizzie Crowler, attended to him. They were later married, against convention as Lizzie was 22 years Little's elder. Witnesses recount that his mates carried him in a chair down the aisle. Instead of shunning public life, Maurice thrived and he became actively involved in enlistment campaigns. He even stood for the seat of Bremer in the State Parliament in 1918. He later became President of the Sherwood RSL and became a journalist and poet [see opposite for one of his poems].

Little's remarkable spirit was undeniable, regardless of his apparent disabilities, he challenged himself to always give his best. Determined to further his education, Little and Lizzie travelled to England where he studied Economics at Oxford. He died in 1938, having lived a remarkable life, leaving an indelible mark on both Grammar schools.



State Library of Queensland
Lieut. Little, a bomb-shattered hero, leaving the hospital ship.