

GATLIFF, V. H. (D.S.O.)

Vivian Harold Gatliff was one of five sons of John Henry Gatliff (1848-1935) and Emma (née McLean) (1859-1948) who enlisted in the AIF and who are listed on the St Jude's Honour Board. The large and well-respected family lived above the Commercial Bank of Australia premises at 259-261 Lygon Street from 1895 until 1910, while J. H. Gatliff was Bank Manager.

Harold, as he was known, married Frances Dorothy Joan Brodrick in 1922 and the couple moved to Oakleigh. Later they lived in East Malvern. Between the wars, he held a number of senior artillery command appointments in the Citizens Military Force (CMF). During World War II, he served as Commander Royal Artillery, 4th Australian Infantry Division and then Commanding Officer Coast & Anti-Aircraft Defences, Victoria Lines of Communication Area. He was transferred to the Reserve of Officers 6 March 1943 with the honorary rank of Brigadier. V.H. Gatliff died in 1963.

AIF Project Entry

Vivian Harold GATLIFF

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| Date of birth | 11 January 1889 |
| Place of birth | Heathcote, Victoria |
| Marital status | Single |
| Age at embarkation | 25 |
| Height | 5' 6" |
| Next of kin | Father, John H Gatliff, 31 Normanby Avenue, Croxton, Victoria. |
| Previous military service | Served for 8.5 years, 22nd Battery, Australian Field Artillery. |
| Enlistment date | 18 August 1914 |
| Rank on enlistment | 2nd Lieutenant |
| Unit name | Field Artillery Brigade 2, Battery 5 |
| AWM Embarkation Roll number | 13/30/1 |
| Embarkation details | Unit embarked from Melbourne, Victoria, on board Transport A9 <i>Shropshire</i> on 20 October 1914. |
| Rank from Nominal Roll | Major |
| Unit from Nominal Roll | 1st Division Artillery |
| Recommendations (Medals and Awards) | Mention in Despatches Awarded, and promulgated, 'London Gazette', second Supplement, No. 30107 (1 June 1917); 'Commonwealth Gazette' No. 169 (4 October 1917). |

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| | Recommendation date: 9 March 1917 Mention in Despatches. Awarded, and gazetted, 'London Gazette', second Supplement, No. 30448 (28 December 1917); 'Commonwealth Gazette' No. 57 (18 April 1918). |
| Fate | Returned to Australia 8 July 1919 |
| Medals | Distinguished Service Order Source: 'Commonwealth Gazette' No. 57 Date: 18 April 1918 |
| Discharge date | 28 November 1919 |
| Family/military connections | Brothers: Captain Frank Edward GATLIFF, 1st Division Artillery, killed in action, 6 August 1917. 35327 Gunner Tom Walter GATLIFF, 13th Field Artillery Brigade, returned to Australia, 8 July 1919. 61609 Pte Wilfred Edgar GATLIFF, 13th Field Artillery Brigade, returned to Australia, 8 July 1919. |
| Other details | War service: Egypt, Gallipoli, Western Front. Wounded in action, Gallipoli, 9 August 1915. Commenced return to Australia on board HT <i>Friedrichsruh</i> , 8 July 1919; appointment terminated (discharged), Melbourne, 28 November 1919. Medals: Distinguished Service Order, 1914-15 Star, British War Medal, Victory Medal Also served in World War II: Service No V51953. |

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NAA: B2455, GATLIFE VH. SERN Major
NAA: B884, GATLIFF VH V1953.

Group portrait of officers of the Australian Field Artillery in front of the sphinx and pyramids at Giza.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

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Group portrait of Officers of the Australian Field Artillery in front of the sphinx and pyramids at Giza. All of the officers embarked on HMAT *Shropshire* from Melbourne on 20 October 1914.

Identified, left to right:

Standing: Captain (Capt) Gideon Jervis Crespin, Officer Commanding 2nd Field Artillery Brigade Ammunition Column (2FABAC); Capt Fred Leslie Biddle, No 4 Battery FAB; Major (Maj) Hector Osman Caddy, OC 5FAB; Maj John Brier Mills, OC No 6 Battery FAB; Lieutenant Colonel (Lt Col) George Jameson Johnston, OC headquarters 2FAB; Maj Owen Forbes Phillips, OC No 4 Battery FAB; Capt Norman MacDonald, Veterinary Officer; Capt James Goodall Francis Madden, OC No 3 Section, Divisional Ammunition Column (DAC).

Kneeling: Capt Cyril Herman Spurge, No 5 Battery; Lieutenant (Lt) Patrick John McCormack, No 4 Battery; Lt Clarence William Wolfenden, No 4 Battery; Lt William Roy Hodgson, No 5 Battery; Lt Alexander Moore Forbes, No 6 Battery; Lt Herbert Richard Byrne, BAC; Lt Robert Clive Crocker, BAC; Capt Raymond Stanley Whitford, Medical Officer; Capt George Ingram Stevenson, No 6 Battery; Capt Young.

Sitting: Lt Shirley Thomas William Goodwin, Orderly Officer; Lt Henry John Frederick Coe BAC; Lt Ross Cairns McCay, BAC; Lt Geoffrey Lewis Strachan, No 5 Battery; Lt Norman Siddall, No 4 Battery; Lt Arthur William Dodd, No 6 Battery; *and brothers Maj Vivian Harold Gatliff, No 5 Battery and Capt Frank Edward Gatliff, No 6 Battery, who was killed in action on 6 August 1917 in Belgium aged 22.*

Both of the Gatliff brothers from Croxton, Vic, enlisted in August 1914. The family also had three other brothers serving with the AIF. Maj Vivian Gatliff was later awarded DSO in 1917 and went on to serve as a Brigadier in the Second World War. An elder brother Charles Edwin Gatliff had served in the Boer War prior to serving in the First World War.