

Owen Glendower Howell-Price

Owen was born on 23 February 1890 at Kiama and was educated at Windsor Grammar School and Kogarah High School.



A bank clerk before beginning training in agriculture at the Government Experiment Farm at Nyngan, he served for a period in the citizen forces and on 27 August 1914 was commissioned second lieutenant in the 3rd Battalion, A.I.F.

The battalion left Sydney in October and arrived in Egypt in December. During this time he was appointed assistant adjutant and when the adjutant was killed on the first day of the Gallipoli landing he succeeded him. He was promoted captain on 4 August 1915.

During the fighting at Lone Pine he won the Military Cross and was also mentioned in dispatches. Casualties were heavy and on 5 September he was promoted to Major and assumed temporary command of the battalion. He was wounded on 9 September but remained on duty.

Having revealed his ability as a fine trainer and organizer, Owen was confirmed in rank on 1 December. For a short period in Egypt after the evacuation he was temporarily superseded in command.

The 3rd Battalion arrived in France on 28 March 1916 and Owen was promoted to Lieutenant-Colonel on 12 May. In July and August the battalion fought bloody battles at Pozières and Mouquet Farm during which time Howell-Price set a magnificent example of courage, always visiting the most forward positions. For his leadership he was awarded the D.S.O. and mentioned in dispatches again. On 3 November 1916, near Flers, he was shot in the head and he died next day. His last words were 'Give my love to the battalion'. He was buried at Ancre-side Wood, and a commemorative service was held at Flesselles attended by the whole unit. Probably because of his youth, Owen Howell-Price took his responsibilities too seriously to be popular with his officers and men, but underlying his sternness and austerity was a deep and single-minded loyalty to his unit.

(Australian Dictionary of Biography)

LIEUT.-COL. HOWELL-PRICE.
DEATH FROM WOUNDS.
A MILITARY CROSS HERO.

The Rev. John Howell-Price, of St. Silas' Rectory, Waterloo, was yesterday officially advised that his fourth son, Lieut.-Colonel Owen Glendower Howell-Price, died of wounds on the 4th inst.

As a captain he was awarded the Military Cross for conspicuous gallantry at Lone Pine, and was decorated personally by the King at Buckingham Palace. He was one of the youngest lieut.-colonels in the British army, and was born at Kiama 26 years ago. He went away with the 3rd Battalion in October, 1914, as a second lieutenant, and was promoted on the field to lieutenant, then to captain, major, and lieut.-colonel.

The official record relating to the honour conferred upon him says:—"He showed the greatest bravery in leading an attack, frequently rallying the men under heavy fire, and restoring order at critical moments. He killed three Turks with his own hands."

As a second lieutenant he took part in the famous landing in Gallipoli. He was recalled from the trenches to take up the duties of adjutant when Captain Burns, a great personal friend of his, was killed. These two had been in camp together in Australia and in Egypt.

Lieut.-Colonel Howell-Price, who subsequently went to France, was twice wounded on Gallipoli, once on one of his hands and once on the neck. He was urged to retire, but refused to do so. The wound on the neck was a very deep one, but he had it bound up and went on fighting, saying "The Turks will have to pay for it."

For some years Lieut.-Colonel Howell-Price was in the head office of the Commercial Banking Company of Sydney, but three months before the war broke out he had resigned to go on the land.

— Sydney Morning Herald, 14 November 1916.
p.6.



— Heilly Station Cemetery, Mericourt-Labbe. Grave Reference: V. A. 14.
Commonwealth War Graves Commission

