

# MEDIA RELEASE

1 May 2015

## ***State Library Remembers the Sacrifice of Former Staff Member – Lance Corporal Sylvester Sydney Day, 1887-1915***

In a memorial service on Monday, 4 May 2015, the State Library of South Australia is honouring the ultimate sacrifice of former staff member Lance Corporal Sylvester Sydney Day in World War 1.

Lance Corporal Day was the first Library staff member to enlist in WW1 and the only Library staff member to be killed in the conflict. In his honour staff of the State Library and our neighbouring institutions, the Art Gallery of SA and South Australian Museum will come together to remember their fallen colleague. The service includes the laying of a wreath by James Bruce (Chair, Libraries Board of South Australia) and the playing of the Last Post.

The wreath will be laid at the foot of a large phototext portrait of Lance Corporal Day which has recently been installed in the foyer of the State Library. The portrait will remain until December 2015 to coincide with the anniversary of the withdrawal of Anzac forces from Gallipoli.

### **The Life of Lance Corporal Sylvester Sydney Day**

Born in Adelaide in 1887, Day was educated at Christian Brothers' College and Adelaide University. In 1902 he joined the staff of the Public Library, Museum and Art Gallery as a cadet and in 1910 was appointed First Library Assistant. He was a favourite with visitors to the institution because of his courteous manner. Day married Rosalind Mary Robertson on 1 September 1910, and they had two children – Robert Sydney and Patricia Florence.

Day enlisted on 11 September 1914 and became a Lance Corporal in the 16<sup>th</sup> Battalion, AIF. He embarked from Melbourne on HMAT A40 Ceramic on 22 December 1914, arriving in Egypt in early February 1915. His battalion there became part of the 4th Brigade, which landed at Gallipoli in the early evening of 25 April 1915.

The 16th Battalion was in action for five days following the landing, fighting to move forward. Many casualties were sustained by sniper fire. They rested on 1 and 2 May, but sniper fire still

took its toll. On the night of 2 May the 16<sup>th</sup> Battalion went into action again, fighting and digging trenches under constant enemy fire.

Day was killed in this action.

He is commemorated on the Lone Pine Memorial.

### **We need your help**

We know a little about the life of Sylvester Sydney Day but we would like to know more.

We invite the public to share their stories about Day with us so we can learn more about the man and help to enrich our collections at the State Library.

Visit SA Memory to share your story - <http://www.samemory.sa.gov.au/site/page.cfm?u=620> or email [centenaryofanzac.SLSA@slsa.sa.gov.au](mailto:centenaryofanzac.SLSA@slsa.sa.gov.au).

### **MEDIA NOTE:**

Media representatives are invited to attend the Memorial Service.

### **MEMORIAL SERVICE DETAILS:**

Monday, 4 May 2015, 9.15am  
Treasures Wall, Level 1  
State Library of South Australia

### **MEDIA CONTACTS:**

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