



*Codford St. Mary*  
*World War I Casualty Biographies*

**Private Gilbert Shoemark**

Service No: 15385, Date of death: 16th August 1915

Royal Dublin Fusiliers, 7th Bn.

Helles Memorial, Panel 190 –196



Helles Memorial, Turkey – Photo: Commonwealth War Graves Commission

Gilbert Shoemark was the son of Henry, an agricultural labourer, and Mary Shoemark, born at Stoke-under-Ham, Somerset, (Gilbert *Shoemake* born in June quarter 1889, Yeovil Registration District.)

In the 1901 census, Gilbert, aged 12, was living at Codford St. Mary with his parents, Henry, 48, and Mary, 49, and his brothers and sisters, Rose, 26, Sidney, 21, Henry, 16 and Frederick, 6.

Gilbert's mother, Mary Shoemark died, aged 60 in 1910, in the Salisbury District.

In the 1911 census, Gilbert, aged 22, was living at Homington Down Barn, with his father Henry, brother Frederick George, and Mabel Dora Clarke, aged 19, his cousin.

Gilbert Shoemark enlisted at Salisbury. He was formerly in the Wiltshire Regiment, No.12187. and he died at Gallipoli, Turkey.

## **Historical Information**

The eight month campaign in Gallipoli was fought by Commonwealth and French forces in an attempt to force Turkey out of the war, to relieve the deadlock of the Western Front in France and Belgium, and to open a supply route to Russia through the Dardanelles and the Black Sea.

The Allies landed on the peninsula on 25-26 April 1915; the 29th Division at Cape Helles in the south and the Australian and New Zealand Corps north of Gaba Tepe on the west coast, an area soon known as Anzac. On 6 August, further landings were made at Suvla, just north of Anzac, and the climax of the campaign came in early August when simultaneous assaults were launched on all three fronts. However, the difficult terrain and stiff Turkish resistance soon led to the stalemate of trench warfare. From the end of August, no further serious action was fought and the lines remained unchanged. The peninsula was successfully evacuated in December and early January 1916. **Source: Commonwealth War Graves Commission**

**1881 census at Stoke, Somerset** lists Gilbert's family before he was born. His father Henry Shumack, 28 an agricultural labourer, his mother Mary, 30, and older brothers and sisters, Frederick, 11, Rosa, 6, Albert 4 and Sidney 9 months old.

### **1891 census at Martock, Somerset**

Gilbert Shoemark, 2 was living with his parents, Henry, 38, and Mary, 39, and brothers and sisters, Albert, 13, Sidney, 10, Julia, 8, and Henry, 5.

### **1901 at Codford St. Mary**

Henry Shoemark, age 48, agricultural labourer  
Mary Shoemark, age 49, born in Montacute, Somerset  
Rose Shoemark, daughter, age 26, domestic servant  
Sidney Shoemark, son, age 21, agricultural labourer  
Henry Shoemark, son, age 16, stable lad on farm  
Gilbert, son, age 12  
Frederick, son age 6, born Goathill, Sherborne, Dorset  
Albert William Gaylord, boarder, age 21, born Martock, Somerset

### **1911 Census at Homington Down Barn, Homington**

Henry Shoemark, born Martock, Somerset, in 1853  
Gilbert Shoemark, age 22, born Stoke under Ham in 1889  
Frederick George Shoemark, born Dorset in 1895  
Mabel Dora Clarke, niece, born Stoke under Ham in 1892

Gilbert Shoemark is commemorated on the Homington & Coombe Bissett War Memorial and is named in the Homington & Coombe Bissett Section of the Diocese of Salisbury Memorial Book, Salisbury Cathedral, Salisbury.