

Durrington

Roll of Honour



Lest we Forget

World War I



CH/10352 LANCE SERJEANT

F. W. BROWN

ROYAL MARINE LIGHT INFANTRY

13th JULY, 1915

Fred Walter BROWN

Fred Walter Brown was born at Fawkham, Kent on 19th August, 1878 to parents Edward George & Mary Brown (nee Packman). Fred's parents had married in the district of North Aylesford in 1874. Fred's birth was registered in the district of Dartford, Kent in the September quarter of 1878.

The 1881 Census recorded Fred W. Brown as a 2 year old, living with his family at Gate Fawkham, Dartford. His parents were listed as Edward G. Brown (Wheelwright & Carpenter, aged 36, born Shorne, Kent) & Mary Brown (aged 34, born Cobham, Kent). Fred was one of 4 children listed in this Census – Albert E. (aged 5), William G. (aged 4), then Fred & Eleanor M. (aged 1). All the children had been born at Fawkham, Kent.

The 1891 Census recorded Frederick W. Brown as a 12 year old, Grocer's Assistant, living with his family at 1 Loughton Terrace, Halling, Kent. His parents were listed as Edward G. Brown (Builder, aged 41) & Mary Brown (aged 45). Fred was one of nine children listed in this Census – Albert E. (Blacksmith, aged 15), William G. (Carpenter, aged 14), then Frederick, Eleanor M. (aged 11), Edwin G. (aged 9, born Fawkham), Ebenezer (aged 8, born Longfield), Walter G. (aged 6, born Cliffe), Leonard (aged 5, born Frindsbury) & John O. (aged 3, born Frindsbury).

Fred Walter Brown enlisted with Royal Marine Light Infantry on 15th February, 1897. He was given a service number of CH/10352.

Fred W. Brown married Amy Jane Adlam at All Saints Church, Durrington, Wiltshire in 1909. Their marriage was registered in the June quarter, 1909 in the district of Amesbury.

A birth was registered in June quarter, 1910 in the district of Amesbury for Eileen May Brown.

The 1911 Census recorded Fred Brown as a 32 year old, married Carpenter, living with his wife & daughter at Syrencot Pennings, Figheldean, Amesbury, Wiltshire - a 4 roomed dwelling. Amy Brown (aged 22, born Bulford, Wiltshire) & Fred had been married for one year & had one child – Eileen Brown (aged 10 months, born Figheldean, Wiltshire)

A birth was registered in September quarter, 1911 in the district of Amesbury, with mother's maiden name of Adlam, for Walter F. Brown.

In February 1915, the Chatham and Plymouth battalions of the Royal Marine Light Infantry were sent to the Dardanelles to assist naval operations against the forts. The Plymouth Battalion, landing at "Y" beach on April 25th, was the first to set foot on the peninsula, although by mistaken orders, they were re-embarked the next day after heavy casualties. Three days later, the Chatham and Portsmouth Battalions landed at Anzac and earned imperishable fame in repelling the fierce Turkish attack which began on April 30th.

Lance Sergeant Fred Walter Brown was part of British offensive at Helles, Turkey on 12th & 13th July, 1915. He was killed or died as a direct result of enemy action on 13th July, 1915 – as recorded on UK Royal Navy & Royal Marine War Graves Roll 1914-1919. Lance Sgt Brown's records show

that at the time of his death he was attached to Royal Marine Light Infantry Chatham Battalion, Royal Naval Division & was killed at Dardanelles / Gallipoli.

On 12th July, 1915 British Forces at Helles launched an attack known as the Action of Achi Baba Nullah. Some Turkish trenches were captured but no significant headway was made. One unit – a battalion of the Kings Own Scottish Borders – lost more than 300 men killed and 200 wounded. At the end of the day, one British commanding Officer wrote that the troops in one sector “could not be induced to go forward”.

Between June and 13th July, 1915, British Forces had advanced just 500 yards at Helles at a cost of more than 17,000 casualties. Turkish casualties in the same period amounted to more than 40,000. One British soldier wrote of the Helles battlefield that it “looked like a midden and smelt like an open cemetery.”

Lance Sergeant Fred Walter Brown was entitled to 1914 Star, Victory & British War Medals.

Lance Sergeant Fred Walter Brown is remembered on the Helles Memorial in Turkey – Panels 2 to 7 as he has no known grave. His death is acknowledged by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. The CWGC does not have any further information on him.

Amy Jane Brown, widow of Fred Walter Brown, remarried in March quarter, 1919 in the district of West Ham, Essex/Greater London. She married Herbert Eades.

Probate was granted on 31st May, 1926 in London. Details recorded – Fred Walter Brown of Bulford Rd, Durrington died 13th July, 1915 near the Dardanelles. Administration to Amy Jane Eades (wife of Herbert Eades) Effects £70.

Helles Memorial, Turkey

The Helles Memorial stands on the tip of the Gallipoli Peninsula. It takes the form of an obelisk over 30 metres high that can be seen by ships passing through the Dardanelles.

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

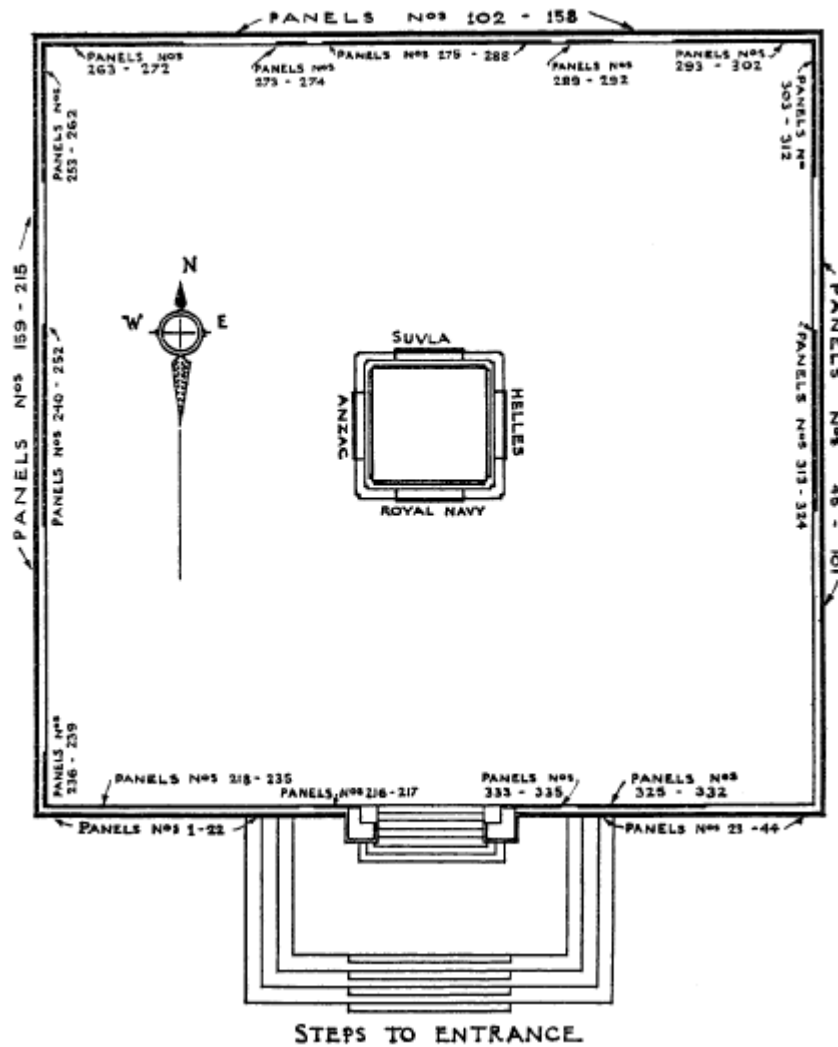
trench warfare. From the end of August, no further serious action was fought and the lines remained unchanged. The peninsula was successfully evacuated in December and early January 1916.

The Helles Memorial serves the dual function of Commonwealth battle memorial for the whole Gallipoli campaign and place of commemoration for many of those Commonwealth servicemen who died there and have no known grave.

The United Kingdom and Indian forces named on the memorial died in operations throughout the peninsula, the Australians at Helles. There are also panels for those who died or were buried at sea in Gallipoli waters. The memorial bears more than 21,000 names.



(Photo from CWGC)



F. W. Brown is remembered as a Casualty of WW1 in the Diocese of Salisbury Memorial Book for Durrington.

Sergt. Fred W. Brown is also remembered on the Durrington War Memorial, Wiltshire.



(Photo courtesy of Ian King 2010)