

J Barnes
Remembered with Honour
Twelve Tree Copse Cemetery
In Memory of
Private

16836, 1st Bn., King's Own Scottish Borderers who died on 11 August 1915 Age 25

Son of Thomas and Martha Barnes, of 31A, Ridge Hill Lane, Stalybridge;

Husband of the late Lilly Barnes.

Background:

Son of Thomas and Martha Barnes, of 31A, Ridge Hill Lane, Stalybridge; husband of the late Lilly Barnes. He married Lily Davies in the Register Office in 1914, possibly just before he sailed reference RM/122/158

According to the 1911 Census Thomas and Martha had a grocers and drapers business, they had been married for 22 years, James was an Elementary School Teacher. He had two brothers Ernest 18 and Percy 16 and a sister Patty aged 12.

Obit from the Reporter:

He was killed in the Dardanelles after he had volunteered to charge a Turkish position. Before the war he was studying to become a teacher at Manchester Training College and was living at 8 Gerrard Street. Stalybridge.

The King's Own Scottish Borderers
Battalions of the Regular Army

1st Battalion

August 1914: in Lucknow, India.

Returned to England on 28 December 1914 and came under orders of 87th Brigade, 29th Division. Moved to Rugby.

Sailed from Avonmouth on 18 March 1915 and landed at Cape Helles on Gallipoli 25 April 1915.

8 January 1916: evacuated from Gallipoli and moved to Alexandra in Egypt.

18 March 1916: arrived at Marseilles for service in France.

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Between 1 May and the beginning of June, the 29th Indian Infantry Brigade and 42nd (East Lancashire) Division landed on the peninsula. With these reinforcements, the Allied force at Helles pushed forward once more on 4 June, but again to little effect. A further attack between 28 June and 5 July at Gully Ravine inflicted heavy casualties on the Turks, but despite local gains - at one point the line was pushed forward more than a kilometre - there was no breakthrough. By 13 July the advance at Helles was effectively over and the position remained unchanged until the evacuation in January 1916.

It has proven to be very difficult to determine the losses of both sides in this most appalling and costly theatre: perhaps the most realistic estimates are that the Turkish army suffered 300,000 casualties (including the many sick) and the Allies, 265,000. The consequent effect of diverting troops and supplies sorely needed on the Western Front, particularly for the assault at Loos, is impossible to quantify.

Conditions on Gallipoli defy description. The terrain and close fighting did not allow for the dead to be buried. Flies and other vermin flourished in the heat, which caused epidemic sickness. In October 1915, winter storms caused much damage and human hardship, and in December, a great blizzard - followed by cataclysmic thaw - caused casualties of 10% (15,000 men) throughout the British contingent, and no doubt

something similar on the Turkish side. Of the 213,000 British casualties on Gallipoli, 145,000 were due to sickness; chief causes being dysentery, diarrhoea, and enteric fever.



He is commemorated on the Stalybridge War Memorial

Sources:

www.cheshirebmd.org.uk for marriage details.

www.ancestry.co.uk for census information and medal certificate.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission: www.cwgc.org.uk for individual and cemetery info.

The Long Long trail: <http://www.1914-1918.net/> for battalion info.

www.carlscam.com: for local War Memorial information and images.

The marriage references is taken from the Cheshire bmd website and is the reference needed in order to order copies of the original certificate

