

Noel Duncan Braithwaite

Remembered with Honour

Helles Memorial

In Memory of

Sergeant

1125, 1st/7th Bn., Manchester Regiment who died on 07 June 1915 Age 24



Published in the Reporter 26th June 1915.

A POPULAR ASHTON NON-COM
KILLED IN THE DARDANELLES.

Colour Sergeant 1125 NOEL DUNCAN BRAITHWAITE, who is included in the list of Ashton Territorials killed in action at the Dardanelles, was one of the most popular non commissioned officers and his loss has elicited universal expressions of regret. Of him it may well be said, "He did his best". He left the business of Coal Merchant, which he had founded at Park Parade Station Ashton, and forsaking all his social obligations he, in a truly patriotic spirit, offered himself for foreign service on behalf of his King and Country. A bright and intelligent young man, he was greatly beloved by his comrades. As the camp correspondent of the Reporter he had a facile pen, and his graphic descriptions of camp life were always read with interest.

He was the son of Mr and Mrs John Braithwaite, Beech House, Queens Square, Mossley Road, Ashton, and was 24 years of age. (NOEL DUNCAN BRAITHWAITE is recorded on the Helles Memorial to the missing).

Historical Information The Helles Memorial

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.

1/9th Battalion

August 1914: in Ashton-under-Lyne. Part of East Lancashire Brigade, East Lancashire Division. Moved to near Bury.

25 September 1914 : landed at Alexandria in Egypt.

10 May 1915 : landed on Gallipoli.

26 May 1915 : formation became 126th Brigade, 42nd (East Lancashire) Division.

Late December 1915 : evacuated from Gallipoli, landed on Mudros and proceeded to Egypt.

2 March 1917 : landed Marseilles and proceeded to the Western Front.

19 February 1918 : transferred to 198th Brigade in 66th (2nd East Lancashire) Division, absorbing 2/9th Bn and renamed as 9th Battalion.

April 1918 : reduced to cadre.

22 July 1918 : transferred to 199th Brigade in same Division. Absorbed 13th Bn, newly arrived from Salonika, on 13 August 1918.

Background:

In 1911 the family were living at Queens Square, Ashton-under-Lyne

John Braithwaite aged 51 a building employer

Mary Jane his wife aged 49

Reginald aged 24 a bricklayer

Noel Duncan 19 an Elementary School Teacher working for the Borough Council

Edith Ann 13

Reenie aged 11

John and Mary Jane had been married for 16 years she was born at Woolwich

In 1901 living at 35 Whiteacre Road and John is listed as a Stonemason

In 1891 living at 143 Whiteacre Road and he is listed with his first wife Ruth

John married Ruth Annie Charlesworth at Ashton Christ Church in 1885 (CE1/5/28)

Then married Mary Jane Wilson in a Civil Marriage n 1895.

He is also listed n the Ashton-under-Lyne War Memorial.