

Benjamin Shatwell

Remembered with Honour

Helles Memorial

In Memory of

Private

2718, 1st/9th Bn., Manchester Regiment who died on 13 August 1915

Turkey (including Gallipoli)

Identified Casualties:

20885

Location Information

The Anzac and Suvla cemeteries are first signposted from the left hand junction of the Eceabat- Bigali Road. From this junction travel into the main Anzac area.

Follow the road to Helles, opposite the Kabatepe Museum, at 14.2 kms. Take a right turn at the 'T' junction and at 14.3 kms. Take the left fork. After a total of 22.8 kms, take a right turn to the memorial along a rough track 500m long.

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.

Visiting Information

August 2013 NOTE: Renovation works are now complete and the memorial is now accessible to visitors.

The Panel Numbers quoted at the end of each entry relate to the panels dedicated to the Regiment served with. In some instances where a casualty is recorded as attached to another Regiment, his name may alternatively appear within their Regimental Panels. Please refer to the on-site Memorial Register Introduction to determine the alternative panel numbers if you do not find the name within the quoted Panels.

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.

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.

There are four other Memorials to the Missing at Gallipoli. The Lone Pine, Hill 60, and Chunuk Bair Memorials commemorate Australian and New Zealanders at Anzac. The Twelve Tree Copse Memorial commemorates the New Zealanders at Helles. Naval casualties of the United Kingdom lost or buried at sea are recorded on their respective Memorials at Portsmouth, Plymouth and Chatham, in the United Kingdom.

History of the 1st/9th Battalion of the Manchester Regiment:

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.

Gallipoli

The East Lancashire Division began to embark at Alexandria on 1 May 1915. The first transports left next day, and the last on 6 May. 14,224 men of the Division landed at Cape Helles. The Division was involved in three notable attempts to break out of the Helles bridgehead to capture the dominating heights around the village of Krithia. These attacks took place on 6-8 May (in which only the Lancashire Fusiliers Brigade of the Division took part), 4 June and 6-13 August. The last of these is known officially as the Battle of Krithia Vineyard, which gives some impression of the relatively small areas being so violently contested. It was undertaken not only to try to capture ground but to divert Turk attention from a large British landing further up the coast at Suvla Bay; an enterprise which failed and ultimately led to the decision to evacuate the hopeless position on Gallipoli.

By mid August 1915 the East Lancashire Division, through battle casualties and sickness, was down to little more than one third of its normal establishment. It received reinforcement in the shape of men of the Yeomanry, fighting dismounted. The Division, along with all other units in the Helles bridgehead, made a successful withdrawal from Gallipoli by 8 January 1916.

Background:

In 1911 the family are living at 43 Birch Street, Ashton-under-Lyne. His father George Frederick a widower (aged 60) is a Traveller in Mineral Water. His three sisters Annie (aged 30), Florence (aged 24), and Miriam (aged 21) are all Elementary School Teachers. Benjamin is a Steam Engine Fitter and his younger brother Ernest (aged 15) is a part-time student.

In 1901 they are living at 12 Garside Street, Ashton-under-Lyne, His mother Mary Jane is still alive and his father is still a Traveller in mineral Water, there is also an older brother George.

In 1891 they are living at 87 Chapel Street, Dukinfield.

His Mum and Dad were married at Stalybridge New St Georges Church in 1878:

County of San Carlos
 Surname: Key Rank or Profession of Father: Cotton Weaver
Key Rank or Profession of Father: Cotton Spinner

by me, H. H. Hutchinson

This Marriage was solemnized between us, Albert Henry Lee and Clara Willis in the Presence of us, Albert Cook and John Keels

County of San Carlos
 Surname: Key Rank or Profession of Father: Tailor
Key Rank or Profession of Father: Mechanic

by me, H. H. Hutchinson

This Marriage was solemnized between us, George Frederick Stratton and Mary Jane Stewart in the Presence of us, John Stewart and Jessie Stewart

1877. Marriage solemnized at St. George's Church in the Parish of St. George's in the County of San Carlos

No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the Time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.
449	14 th June 1878.	Albert Henry Lee	25 years	Bachelor	Clerk	Bradford Yukshim	Joseph Lee Woodbridge	
		Clara Willis	20 years	Spinster		Stalybridge	Samuel Cullman	

Married in the above Church according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Established Church, after Banns, by me, H. H. Hutchinson

This Marriage was solemnized between us, Albert Henry Lee and Clara Willis in the Presence of us, Albert Cook and John Keels

1878. Marriage solemnized at St. George's Church in the Parish of St. George's in the County of San Carlos

No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the Time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.
450	July 1878.	George Frederick Stratton	24 years	Bachelor	Book Binder	Stalybridge	George Stratton	Overlooker
		Mary Jane Stewart	21 years	Spinster		Stalybridge	Andrew Stewart	Beasfounder

Married in the above Church according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Established Church, after Banns, by me, H. H. Hutchinson

This Marriage was solemnized between us, George Frederick Stratton and Mary Jane Stewart in the Presence of us, John Stewart and Jessie Stewart