

Albert Edward Stringer

Remembered with Honour

Helles Memorial

In Memory of

Second Lieutenant

9th Bn., Manchester Regiment who died on 07 June 1915 Age 37

Son of Edward and Ann Stringer, of 6, Trafalgar Square, Ashton-under-Lyne. B.Sc.,
Victoria University,

Manchester. Deputy Headmaster, Municipal Secondary School, Ashton-under-Lyne.

THE ASHTON TERRITORIALS. THE 9th BATTALION of the MANCHESTER
REGIMENT 1915 & GALLIPOLI

Published in the Reporter 26th June 1915.

LIEUTENANT STRINGER LEADS BRILLIANT CHARGE.

News was received on Wednesday by Captain RALPH LEES from Captain G. OKELL, that Lieut. A.E. STRINGER was killed in action in the Dardanelles, after a brilliant bayonet charge, and the capture of a Turkish trench directly in front of the Allies firing line.

The news was received with profound regret by everyone in Ashton who knew "NED" STRINGER, and it is not beyond the truth to say that even men had great difficulty in controlling their emotions. No one who ever came into contact with NED STRINGER could fail to appreciate his cheery and sympathetic manner. His personal charm was magnetic, and encouraged confidence. After he went to college, whenever he came back to Trafalgar Square School, the scholars had to beg him to teach them, and any teacher knows what a high tribute that meant to a teachers personality.

He was full of enthusiasm for his new calling after he had joined the Ashton Territorials, and whilst at Bury, prior to the battalions departure for Egypt, he was "beside himself with joy at setting out on a great adventure".

In his letter Captain OKELL describes the delight with which the officer and men of the Ashton Territorials took part in a hazardous undertaking. He says - *"It is my painful duty to inform you that NED (Lieutenant STRINGER) was killed in action on the evening of the 7th inst. On that day our Company was ordered to charge the enemy and clear them out of the trenches in front of the firing line. On the left were other troops not belonging to our battalion, who had a similar task to perform. Captain F. HAMER and Lieutenant WADE were to charge one trench, and NED and I the other trench. I was posted a little to the left to give the signal for the advance. I gave it shortly after 7.30, and with a mighty cheer our boys advanced. Immediately the enemy opened a terrific rifle and maxim fire, but NED and I succeeded in reaching the trench. Unfortunately the enemy were able to open an enfilading*



Second-Lieut. E. STRINGER,
Trafalgar Square, Ashton Territorials.
Killed on June 7th.

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Lieutenant A. E. STRINGER.

in doing so safely. HAMER and WADE were subjected to cross fire. Captain HAMER fell before he reached the trench. WADE succeeded in capturing the trench, and held it until about 2 o'clock in the morning. I was of the opinion that the trench would be enfiladed as soon as dawn came, and ordered the troops to evacuate the trench. All the battalion was shocked at the terrible news of NED. NED had made himself a favourite with the men, and also with his brother officers. We all send you our deepest sympathy". Lieutenant A.E STRINGER was the eldest son of the late Edward Stringer J.P. headmaster of the Trafalgar Square Day School. He was 37 years of age, and joined the Ashton Battalion of the Territorials at the outbreak of the war. (Second Lieutenant A.E. STRINGER is recorded on the Helles Memorial to the missing).

The above was taken from the Ashton Pals website, which in turn was taken from the Reporter:

Below is a Masonic write up for Lieutenant Stringer – a huge loss of life.

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|  | <p>2/Lieutenant Albert Edward STRINGER</p> <p>Infantry Died: 07/06/1915 - Age: 37</p> |  |
| <hr/> | | |
| Military: | | |
| Unit : | <u>1/9 Manchester Regiment</u> | |
| Action: | <u>Gallipoli</u> | |
| Buried : | HELLES MEMORIAL | |
| Grave Location: | | |
| Awards : | | |
| Summary : | | |
| <hr/> | | |
| Masonic Career: | | |
| Mother Lodge: | FIDELITY No. 430 | |
| Province: | East Lancashire | Initiated: |
| Rank: | Senior Deacon | Passed: |
| | | Raised: |
| Career Summary : | | |
| <hr/> | | |
| Legend: | | |
| <p>Summary: "Published in the Reporter 6th November 1915. LIEUT. BROADBENT. Lieut. J. BROADBENT, of the Ashton Territorials, has arrived home invalided from the Gallipoli Peninsula, where he had been since the battalion landed in May. He was reluctant to leave the Ashton Territorials, but the doctor ordered him home, in order that the jaundice which had attacked him should not have any more serious consequences. Lieut. BROADBENT is better known to Ashton as Major BROADBENT, councillor for St. Michael's</p> | | |

Ward in the Conservative interest. In September last Major BROADBENT rejoined the 9th Battalion Manchester Regiment, (from which he retired about four years ago with the rank of hon. major) and took over the duties of transport officer, for which he was admirably fitted, and he has rendered yeoman service to the battalion both in Egypt and at the Dardanelles. Lieut. BROADBENT has 21 years service to his credit with the old Volunteers and the Ashton Territorials, and it is well known that he revelled in the military life. He could not resist the opportunity of seeing active service with the men he had helped to train in times of peace, and the boys were proud to have 'the gallant little major' back with them. Lieut. BROADBENT came home on the Aquitania, and arrived at Mayfield Station, Manchester, about 1.30 last Thursday morning. He was taken to the Whitworth Street Military Hospital, and on Friday the medical board granted him a month's sick leave. Before motoring to his home, Bella Vista, Castleton, where he went to reside a few years ago, Lieut. BROADBENT paid a hurried visit to Ashton, and was heartily welcomed by those of his old acquaintances who were fortunate enough to see him. Had he been well enough on the Saturday he would have been present at the ceremony at the Ashton Town Hall, when his brother officer, Lieut. W.T. FORSHAW, V.C. was honoured with the Freedom of the Borough. Lieut. BROADBENT had a warm reception from his many friends at Castleton. He had taken a fairly prominent part in the local life of the district, and was a member of the Chapel-en-le-Frith District Council, and deputy chairman of the Highways Committee. Lieut. BROADBENT gave a Reporter representative an account of the splendid way the Ashton Territorials had played their part on the Gallipoli Peninsula. "One thing which has struck me more than anything else" he said, "is the cheerfulness of the men, and the fine way they have tackled everything they have been told to do. They are always laughing and joking. A funny man in a battalion is worth a great deal, and we had some rare humourist. They have been in some tight corners, but their spirits have never flagged. The old Ninth have done some fine work, and they have got a grand reputation amongst the soldiers out there. The Turks are very clean fighters," said Lieut. BROADBENT. "On many occasions wounded British soldiers have been found, their injuries carefully bandaged with Turkish bandages, and the Turks have left water for them to drink. I was speaking to poor FRANK HAMER just before he was killed. If ever there was a brave and true man on this earth it was FRANK HAMER. It was a knockdown blow when I heard that both he and ALBERT EDWARD STRINGER had been killed. STRINGER was wonderfully popular, and a jolly good chap. He was what you might term my 'stable companion,' for we shared the same quarters." Lieut. BROADBENT paid a glowing tribute to the work of Major CONNERY, who had infused much spirit into the men. Major CONNERY'S motto was "Men of the firing line first." Published in the Reporter 26th June 1915. LIEUTENANT STRINGER LEADS BRILLIANT CHARGE. News was received on Wednesday by Captain RALPH LEES from Captain G. OKELL, that Lieut. A.E. STRINGER was killed in action in the Dardanelles, after a brilliant bayonet charge, and the capture of a Turkish trench directly in front of the Allies firing line. The news was received with profound regret by everyone in Ashton who knew "NED" STRINGER, and it is not beyond the truth to say that even men had great difficulty in controlling their emotions. No one who ever came into contact with NED STRINGER could fail to appreciate his cheery and sympathetic manner. His personal charm was magnetic, and encouraged confidence. After he went to college, whenever he came back to Trafalgar Square School, the scholars had to beg him to teach them, and any teacher knows what a high tribute that meant to a teachers personality. He was full of enthusiasm for his new calling after he had joined the Ashton Territorials, and whilst at Bury, prior to the battalions departure for Egypt, he was "beside himself with joy at setting out on a great adventure". In his letter Captain OKELL describes the delight with which the

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Other Data:

Family: Son of Edward and Ann Stringer, of 6, Trafalgar Square, Ashton-under-Lyne. .

Extract from the Calendar of Probate for Albert Edward Stringer

STRINGER Albert Edward of 6 Trafalgar-square Ashton-under-Lyne **Lancashire** second lieutenant 9th battalion Manchester regiment died 7 June 1915 in Gallipoli Turkey Probate **London** 10 November to Elizabeth Ann Lees (wife of Ralph Lees). Effects £1120 5s. 6d.

Extract from his father's Will

STRINGER Edward of Trafalgar-square Ashton-under-Lyne Lancashire schoolmaster died 3 June 1900 Probate **Manchester** 9 July to Ann Stringer widow Elizabeth Ann Lees (wife of Ralph Lees) Bertha Stringer spinster and Albert Edward Stringer schoolmaster Effects £5277 12s.

I couldn't find the family in the 1911 census, despite a thorough search, but did find them 1861,1871,1881,1891,1901.

Background:

In 1901 the family are at 2 Trafalgar Square comprising Albert's widowed mother Ann aged 50 born at Denton. Ann was living on Independent means, probably from wise investment of the money her husband left in his Will (see above). There are four siblings all involved in teaching

Bertha aged 28 a Schoolmistress
Albert aged 23 a Schoolmaster
Janet aged 19 Assistant Schoolmistress
John James aged 15 a Pupil Teacher

1891 they are living at 6 Trafalgar Square, Albert's father is still alive and is a Headmaster, and he was born at Stockport.

In 1881 they are living at 59 Cambridge Street, Edward is a Schoolmaster and his eldest daughter is already a pupil teacher.

They are at the same address in **1871**.

In 1861 Edward is still at home living with his parents on Church Street in Droylsden. His father, John is an engine maker and young Edward is already a pupil teacher.

So in conclusion Education had been in the family for 55 years when Albert Edward died in the Dardenelles.