

Connected to Hindon

Roll of Honour



Lest we Forget

World War 1



14539 PRIVATE

A. E. BLANDFORD

WILTSHIRE REGIMENT

10TH AUGUST, 1915

Albert Edward BLANDFORD

Albert Edward Blandford was born at Hindon, Wiltshire in 1881. His birth was registered in the district of Tisbury, Wiltshire in the June quarter of 1881.

The 1891 Census recorded Albert Blandford as an 8 year old Scholar living with his grandparents at High Street, Hindon, Wiltshire. His grandparents were listed as Charles Blandford (Plumber, Painter & Glazier, aged 53, born Tisbury) & Sarah Blandford (aged 52, born Donhead St. Mary). Also listed were Lucy Blandford, daughter of Charles & Sarah (aged 16, born Hindon) & Mary Blandford, Albert's younger sister, (aged 1, born Hindon).

The 1901 Census recorded Albert E. Blandford as an 18 year old Gardener, living with his grandparents at 32 High Street, Wiltshire. His grandparents were listed as Charles Blandford (House Painter & Glazier, aged 63) & Sarah M. Blandford (aged 62). Also listed was Laura M. Blandford, Albert's younger sister (aged 11).

Albert Edward Blandford married Annie Amelia Appleby in 1901. Their marriage was registered in the June quarter, 1901 in the district of Kingston, Surrey.

The 1911 Census recorded Albert Blandford as a married 30 year old Domestic Gardener living in a 4 roomed dwelling at Morgans Vale, Redlynch, Salisbury, Wiltshire. His wife was listed as Annie Blandford (aged 30?, born Colchester, Essex). Albert & Annie Blandford had been married for 10 years & had 3 children – Dorothy (At school, aged 9, born Kingston, Surrey), Charles (At School, aged 8, born Farnborough, Hants) & Alfred (At School, aged 7, born West Tytherly, Hants).

Albert Edward Blandford enlisted at Salisbury with the Duke of Edinburgh's (Wiltshire) Regiment in 1915. He was given the rank of Private & a service number of 14539.

Private Albert Edward Blandford entered a Theatre of War on 12th July, 1915 at the Balkans.

Private Albert Edward Blandford was killed in action on 10th August, 1915 at Gallipoli.

Private Albert Edward Blandford is remembered on the Helles Memorial, Turkey – Panel 156, as he has no known grave. His death is acknowledged by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. The CWGC lists Private Albert Edward Blandford, 14539, 5th Battalion, Wiltshire Regiment, as the husband of Annie Amelia Blandford.

5th Battalion, Wiltshire Regiment

On the 1st of July 1915 the 5th Battalion sailed from Avonmouth landing at Alexandria then moving to Mudros, by the 4th of July, to prepare for a landing at Gallipoli. The Infantry landed on Cape Helles between the 6th and 16th of July to relieve 29th Division. They returned to Mudros at the end of the month, and the entire Division landed at ANZAC Cove between the 3rd and 5th of August. They suffered heavy casualties in the Turkish attack on the 10th of August and were in action in The Battle of Sari Bair, The Battle of Russell's Top and The Battle of Hill 60, at ANZAC. Soon afterwards they transferred from ANZAC to Suvla Bay. They were evacuated from Suvla on the 19th and 20th of December 1915, and after a week's rest they moved to the Helles bridgehead. They were in action during the last Turkish attacks at Helles on the 7th of January 1916 and were evacuated from Helles on the 8th and 9th January, 1916.

5th Battalion Wiltshire Regiment War Diary

Date – 10/8/1915

Location – Gallipoli, Anzac

1 a.m (01.00) Battalion moves away in single file less D company and part of B company (The history of this party will be given separately as far as possible. H B L B) Order of march C - Machine guns - A - B companies "Move

by a steep and winding course to a cup-shaped deformation at the head of the Gully to the right and some distance in front of our salient." (Words of 2 Lieut R.W.M. Dewhurst one of the few officers on the march who subsequently survived.) The Battalion was guided, as far as I am able to ascertain by a New Zealand Officer. Here they arrived two hours before sunrise (circa 0.300) and the men were told to dig into dugouts and make themselves comfortable as the position was quite safe. Men therefore removed equipment and rifles. This position I take it to be just N. of the H in Chunuk Bair and the march to it from the Aghyl Dere must have been via the APEX (Ref. Gallipoli Map 1.20,000 Koya Dere) (Circa) 4.30 a.m. As soon as it was light machine guns opened on the men lying in their dug outs. About 1/4 of an hour later there was a rush of Turks from both sides of the depression which drove the men, unarmed and unequipped down the gully (SALZLI BEIT). The bottom of the gully commanded by machine guns and so escape was cut off. Three courses were possible:- 1. To rush past the machine guns down the Sazli Beit, this was tried but in nearly all cases proved fatal. 2. To climb the northern slope of the ravine under fire and try to escape over the top. This was done in a few cases with success. 3. Hide in Gully till night, this also was done with more success. (A party of 5 men was rescued from the Gully having been there 16 days - ie:- from Aug 10 - Aug 26th. They reported numbers of men who were wounded, were unable to get away and died of exhaustion and starvation. H.B.L.B) Parties arrived on the Beach in fours, fives, and some carried bodies during the 11th, 12th and 13th unarmed, unequipped and demoralised. The Battalion when mustered on the Beach mustered roughly 420 (This includes 76 men lately arrived as Details from Lemnos.) Officer casualties:- Lt Col. J Carden (missing) 2nd Lieut J.E.R Firmin (killed) 2nd Lt G Gamman (missing) Maj. F Ricketts (killed) 2nd Lieut W.Y. Radcliffe (killed) Lieut A.J Hinxman (missing) Maj. W.S Hern (killed) 2nd Lieut C.G.C Fisher-Brown (missing) Capt & ADJ A.C Belcher (killed) Lieut A.W. Hockett (missing) Lieut F.E Hill (wounded) Lieut Brown (wounded - attached) 1a.m (0100) After the Battalion had marched off (A. C and part of B). D company under Major Hern relieved the Gurkhas with the Royal Irish Rifles in reserve. The position was attacked at dawn on Tuesday (10th) morning and through the retirement of the regiments on right and left. D company are left 'in the air'. Major Hern and Lieut J.E.R Firmin killed but remainder hold on until surrounded and are forced to retire into Gully. Here reorganised and sent up to a counter attack - unsuccessfully and with large loss. Lieut Gamman killed - several wanton attacks attempted with handfuls of men. At night men retire from Gully, some taking refuge with 38th Bde. Tuesday August 10th - Sunday August 15th Reorganisation of Regiment Officers Lt J.C Bush Lt R.W.M Dewhurst Lt H.B.L Braund Lt J.C McDonnell Lt J.H Moore Lt W.R Wrigley (sic) [Wrigley] Joined as M.O. Capt C.V Single (A.A.M.C)

(Source: The War Diaries of 5th Bn Wiltshire Regiment – [The Wardrobe](#))

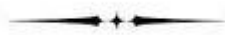
Private Albert E. Blandford was entitled to 1915 Star, British War Medal & Victory Medal.



1915 Star, British War Medal & Victory Medal

Private Albert Edward Blandford is not remembered on the Hindon War Memorial.

A. E. Blandford is remembered in the Casualties of World War 1 from the Diocese of Salisbury Memorial Book for 1914 – 1918 for the parish of Morgan's Vale (Downton).



Helles Memorial – Gallipoli, Turkey

The Helles Memorial stands at the tip of the Peninsula and is in the form of an obelisk, over 30 metres high that can be seen by ships passing through the Dardanelles. The Helles Memorial is a Commonwealth War Graves Commission Memorial that contains over 21,000 names. There are 4 other Memorials to the Missing at Gallipoli.

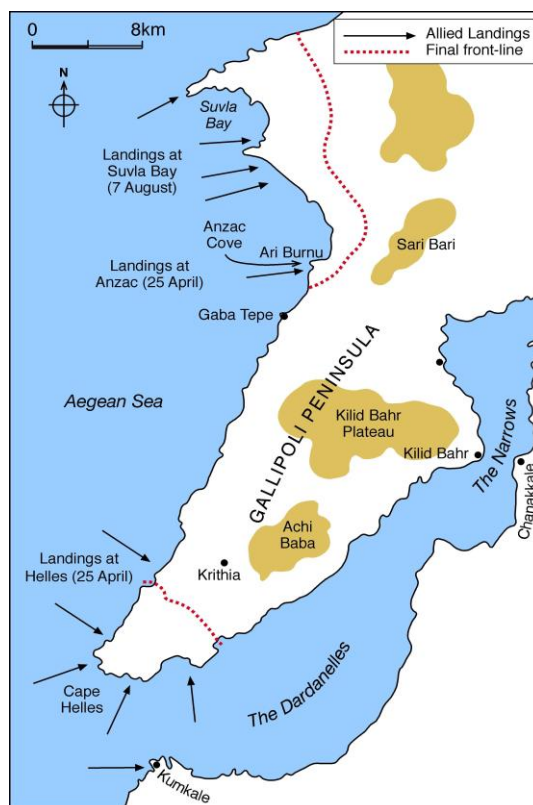
The eight month campaign in Gallipoli was fought by Commonwealth and French forces in an attempt to force Turkey out of the war, to relieve the deadlock of the Western Front in France and Belgium, and to open a supply route to Russia through the Dardanelles and the Black Sea.

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.

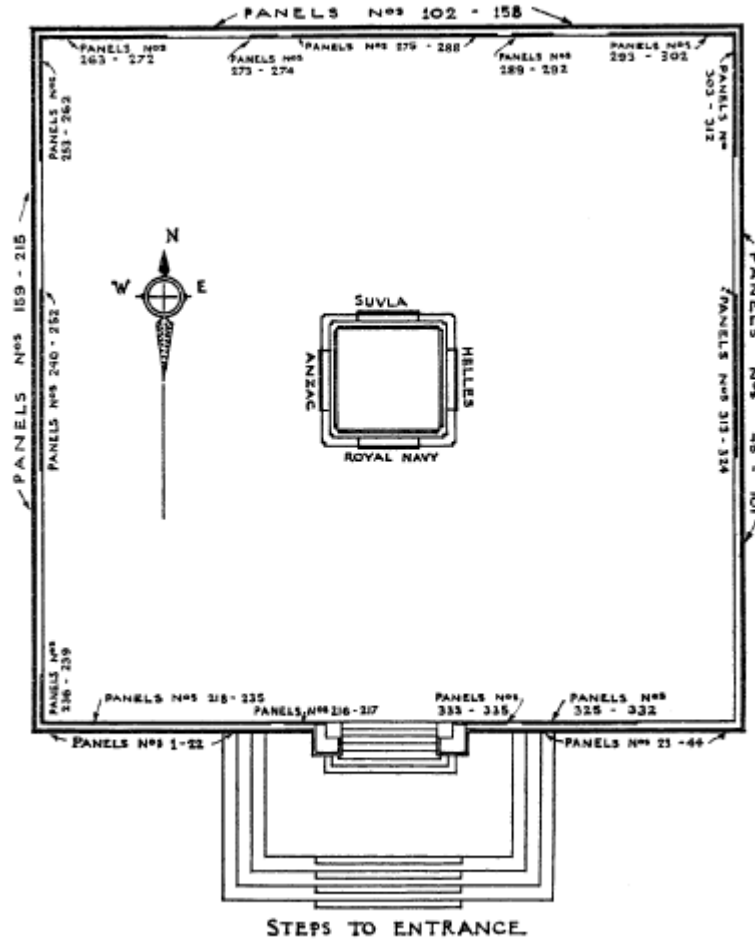
The United Kingdom and Indian forces named on the memorial died in operations throughout the peninsula, the Australians at Helles. There are also panels for those who died or were buried at sea in Gallipoli waters. The Memorial bears more than 21,000 names.

(Information from CWGC)





THE HELLES MEMORIAL



PLAN INDICATING THE POSITION OF THE PANELS