

Connected to Imber



Lest we Forget

World War I



9441 PRIVATE

A. E. NORRIS

WILTSHIRE REGIMENT

10TH AUGUST, 1915

Arthur Edward NORRIS

Arthur Edward Norris was born in 1893 at Stourton, Wiltshire to parents George & Mary Elizabeth Norris (nee Ryan). His birth was registered in December quarter, 1893 & he was baptised at Stourton. Arthur's parents had married in 1887 at St Michael the Archangel Church, Mere, Wiltshire.

The 1901 Census recorded Arthur Norris as a 7 year old, living with his family at Shave Mead. Stourton, in a 4 roomed dwelling. His parents were listed as George Norris (Farm Labourer, aged 35, born Mere) & Mary E. Norris (aged 36, born Woolwich, Kent). Arthur was one of seven children listed on this Census – Louis (Farm Labourer, aged 16, born Mere), Frank (Farm Labourer, aged 13, born Mere), Ernest (aged 11, born Stourton), Ellen (aged 9, born Stourton), then Arthur, Alice (aged 5, born Stourton) & William (aged 4, born Stourton).

The 1911 Census recorded Arthur Edward Norris as an 18 year old Horseman on Farm, living with his family at 10 Church Street, Imber in a 4 roomed dwelling. His parents were listed as George Norris (Carter on a Farm, aged 45) & Mary Elizabeth Norris (aged 46). George & Mary Norris had been married for 23 years & had 8 children, all still living. Only four of their children were still living at home in this Census – Ernest (Horseman on Farm, aged 21), then Arthur, William James (Labourer on Farm, aged 14) & Thomas (aged 6, born Kilmington, Wilts).

Arthur Edward Norris enlisted with the Wiltshire Regiment at Devizes, Wiltshire. He was given the rank of Private & the service number of 9441. Arthur was residing at Bath, Somerset at the time he enlisted.

Private Arthur Edward Norris's Medal Index Card records that he first entered a Theatre of War on 30th June, 1915 at the Balkans.

Private Arthur Edward Norris was killed in action on 10th August, 2015 at Gallipoli. He was attached to 5th Battalion, Wiltshire Regiment at the time of his death. The UK Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects lists Pte Arthur Edward Norris, 9441, as "Assumed dead".

Private Arthur Edward Norris is remembered on the Helles Memorial, Turkey – Panels 156 to 158 as he has no known grave. His death is acknowledged by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Arthur Edward Norris, 9441, 5th Bn., Wiltshire Regiment, as the son of George and Mary Elizabeth Norris, of Norton Ferris, Kilmington, Bath.

5th Battalion, Wiltshire Regiment

The 5th (Service) Battalion was raised at Assaye Barracks in Tidworth, August 1914. The numbers raised were too large so the 6th (Service) battalion was also raised from the 5th Battalion overspill of manpower.

1915

In July 1915 the 5th (Service) Battalion set sail for the Dardanelles and by the 17th were all ashore at Cape Helles, on the Gallipoli Peninsula. Two days later they were in the trenches facing the Turkish Army. On the 6th August they took part in a night attack to capture a ridge of hills to assist the British landing at Suvla bay. The following day they took part in the attack at Sari Bair. This was a successful attack, but the response was fast and very violent. They were attacked by a Turkish Division led by Mustapha Kemal. The battalion was overrun with half the battalion never being seen again. The battalion was reorganised, returning to trench warfare with the main enemy being dysentery and jaundice. On the 18th December they embarked for Mudros returning ten days later in a blizzard, here they saw in 1916.

War Diary – 5th Battalion

10th August, 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 Gulley 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 gulley (SALZLI BEIT). The bottom of the gulley 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 Gulley till night, this also was done with more success. (A party of 5 men was rescued from the Gulley 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)

(Information on 5th Battalion from [The Wardrobe](#) – Home of the Infantry Regiments of Berkshire & Wiltshire)

Private Arthur E. Norris was entitled to 1915 Star, British War Medal & Victory Medal. His Medal Index Card lists "Died".



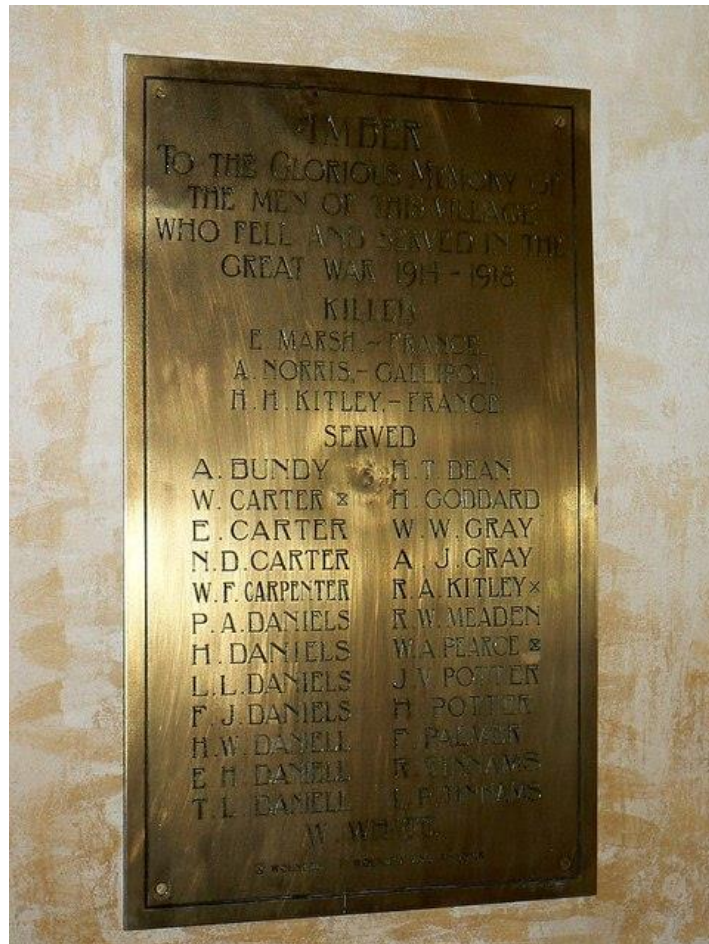
1915 Star, British War Medal & Victory Medal

A. E. Norris is remembered in Casualties of WW1 from the Diocese of Salisbury Memorial book for the parish of Imber, Wiltshire. He is also remembered on the Imber Memorial Plaques.



Imber War Memorial Plaque (1920)





Memorial Plaque inside St. Giles' Church, Imber (Photo by Brian Robert Marshall)



Helles Memorial, Turkey

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.

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.

(Information & Photos from CWGC)



THE HELLES MEMORIAL

