



**Albert Victor Marlow (S4/056867)**. At the outbreak of WW1 all regular army units that had been acting as garrisons around the 'Empire', were recalled to England and were reformed to make up the 29<sup>th</sup> Division. Albert had enlisted in Bulford - although we don't know when - joining the Royal Army Service Corps (ASC) - the 'transport unit' of the 29<sup>th</sup> Division. On reaching Cape Helles in April, Albert would have been part of the supply line carrying supplies to the front using horses, carts, wagons and bicycles.

The Battle of Gallipoli begun on the morning of 25<sup>th</sup> April 1915. Its purpose was to attack and ultimately disable the Ottoman Empire which had allied with Germany and to gain control of the Dardanelles. The 29<sup>th</sup> Division fought their way ashore at Helles despite fierce Turkish resistance. Private Albert survived, however the Division suffered 34,000 casualties. The fighting continued for weeks and in August Albert's Division moved to fight at Suvla Bay. At the end of the first day, none of the British objectives were achieved and the advance was stopped after 800 metres. The Battle of Scimitar Hill on 21<sup>st</sup> August was another disaster with high casualties (5,300 out of 14,300 men who participated). The carnage continued and on 23<sup>rd</sup> September 1915, after facing months of snipers, artillery fire, disease and severe cold, **Albert was killed in action. He was 18 years old.**

For most of his very short life, Albert lived in Chertsey in Surrey. His parents Edmund (b1872 in Heston) and Susan (nee Cawley b1872 in Clerkenwell) were married in a civil ceremony in Kingston in 1890 and they had six children – Esther, Edmund, Horace, Albert, Gerald and Elsie. Albert's father worked as a railway signalman. The Censuses also tell us that this compassionate family took in 'foundlings'.

Shortly after the 1911 Census was compiled, Albert's father died. He was only 40. Without her husband's wage, Susan would now be struggling to bring up her family. Perhaps this was about the time that the family moved to Isleworth which offered more opportunities for employment – in the market gardens or in local industries. In 1912 Albert's mother married William Newell. In Aug 1913, Albert's brother Horace signed up in Hounslow, to the King's Royal Rifles Corps. The pay was regular. Horace's Army records tell us he is living at 143 Linkfield Road with his mother Susan and younger brother Gerald. Thus in May 1915 **Sarah had two sons fighting for their country and both would lose their lives as a result of the war.** **Postscript:** Horace was injured at Festubert and was pensioned out of the army as his left hand 'was practically useless'. Horace married Matilda Tillman at St John's Church in June 1918 and died six months later **aged 22**, possibly from sepsis.



Courtesy of the National Army Museum

Private Albert lies in Hill 10 Cemetery in Turkey. Ref II.B.19. He was awarded the British & Victory Medal.

**Gallipoli 1915. The photo shows a morning inspection. The conditions were appalling. Casualties from the heat and disease overwhelmed the medical facilities.**