

John Courtenay HORE



Born: 1896, Kingswear, Dartmouth, Devon
Occupation: Unknown
Enlisted: West Kirby, Cheshire: 1914 (Volunteer)
Unit: 1/4th Cheshire Regt. (TF)
Rank/number: Private: No.1476
Death: Killed in action, 8th December 1915
Detail: John died during the last days of the doomed Gallipoli campaign in the Dardenelles. By this stage the ill-judged attempt to force Turkey out of the war had failed and Allied troops on the peninsular had been reduced to trench warfare. On 8th December 1915 John was killed in the Green Hill area at Suvla Bay, almost certainly in a skirmish or by a sniper.

Age at death: 19

Military info: John, aged 18, enlisted shortly after war broke out in August 1914. He joined the 4th Cheshires, a territorial unit based in his home town of Birkenhead in Cheshire. After mobilisation the battalion spent months training and kicking their heels around the UK. In March 1915 rumours circulated that they were to be sent to India, but in May this was cancelled and they were told only that they would be heading for a hot climate. On 14th July the 4th Cheshires sailed as part of 159th Brigade, 53rd (Welsh) Division. In fact, the division was to join the battle on the Gallipoli peninsular. This controversial campaign was fought by British, Dominion and French forces from April to December 1915 in an attempt to force Turkey out of the war and open a supply route to their ally Russia. But an ill-judged naval assault, difficult terrain, poor generalship and a tenacious Turkish Army meant the operation was doomed from the start. The Cheshires landed in Suvla Bay on 8th August as part of an attack to support a breakout from Anzac Cove. But leadership failures created such chaos that they had no idea where they were until a map was found on the beach. The battalion was rushed into a botched attack on Chocolate Hill and suffered over 400 casualties. Other attacks failed and trench warfare ensued. John died on 8th December - the day evacuation of Gallipoli was ordered.

Grave/memorial: John is buried at the Green Hill Cemetery, Gallipoli, and is commemorated at St Petroc's Church, Padstow and on the Padstow War Memorial.

Family info: Father: Philip Hore, former RN signalman and Coastguard, born Porthpean, St Austell, Cornwall in 1860. Mother: Henrietta Courtenay, born Padstow, Cornwall in 1863. They lived at Ferndale Rd, Hoylake, Birkenhead, Cheshire.

Additional info: John's elder brother William also died in the war. He was one of 1,397 British sailors killed when 3 old cruisers were sunk by one sub on 22nd September 1914.



This information was researched by Peter Smith, who is currently writing a book about Padstow's part in the Great War. Anyone wishing to correct errors or supply additional information can write to him at 24 Mallard Drive, Uckfield, East Sussex TN22 5PW. Also phone 01825 762226 or email smithpeter24@gmail.com