

THE FALLEN OF SUTTON-IN-CRAVEN



2<sup>ND</sup> LIEUTENANT NELSON WIDDUP PETTY

ROYAL LANCASHIRE FUSILIERS

KILLED IN ACTION 28<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 1915

BORN IN 1886 AT HELLIFIELD, THE SON OF JOHN AND  
ELLEN PETTY

# Petty Family History

- 1881 census shows John, his wife Ellen and their 3 children living at Main St, Sutton-in-Craven as follows:

Name	Age	Work	Birth place	Birth year
John (Head)	28	Mechanic and Iron Planer	Bowling, Bradford, Yorkshire	1853 - 1896
Ellen (wife)	26		Foulridge, Lancashire	1855 - 1901
Richard	4	Scholar	Sutton-in-Craven	1878 - 1895
John William	2		Sutton-in-Craven	1879 - 1896
Robert Henry	baby		Sutton-in-Craven	1881



Main Street, Sutton-in-Craven  
(source: photo provided by David Smith)

- **1891 census** shows John, his wife Ellen and their 7 children living at Ellers Rd, Sutton-in-Craven as follows:

Name	Age	Work	Birth place	Birth year
John (Head)	38	Warehouseman worsted	Bowling, Bradford, Yorkshire	1853 - 1896
Ellen (wife)	36		Foulridge, Lancashire	1855 - 1901
Richard	13	Worsted spinner	Sutton-in-Craven	1878 - 1895
John William	12	Worsted spinner half time	Sutton-in-Craven	1879 - 1896
Robert Henry	10	Worsted spinner half time	Sutton-in-Craven	1881
James	7	Scholar	Hellifield, Yorkshire	1884
Nelson Widdup	5	Scholar	Hellifield, Yorkshire	1886 - 1915
Charles Frederick	3	Scholar	Hellifield, Yorkshire	1888
Sarah Jane	1		Hellifield, Yorkshire	1890



Dow well, Ellers Rd, Sutton-in-Craven

(source: Rachel Simpson & Richard Whiteoak from the Glyn Whiteoak collection)

- **1901 census** shows Nelson Widdup Petty living with his 6 siblings and a house keeper. Both parents and 2 eldest brothers were now deceased. They were now living at 32, Gordon St, Sutton-in-Craven as follows:

Name	Age	Work	Birth place	Birth year
Robert Henry	20	Farm labourer	Sutton-in-Craven	1881
James	17	Cloth weaver	Hellifield, Yorkshire	1884
Nelson Widdup	15	Jobber worsted mill	Hellifield, Yorkshire	1886 - 1915
Charles Frederick	13	Jobber worsted mill	Hellifield, Yorkshire	1888
Sarah Jane	11		Hellifield, Yorkshire	1890
Martha Ellen	9		Sutton-in-Craven	1892
Florence Elizabeth	6		Sutton-in-Craven	1895
Emma Jackson (House Keeper)	39	Working House Keeper	Leeds, Yorkshire	1862



Gordon St, Sutton-in-Craven (circa 1900)

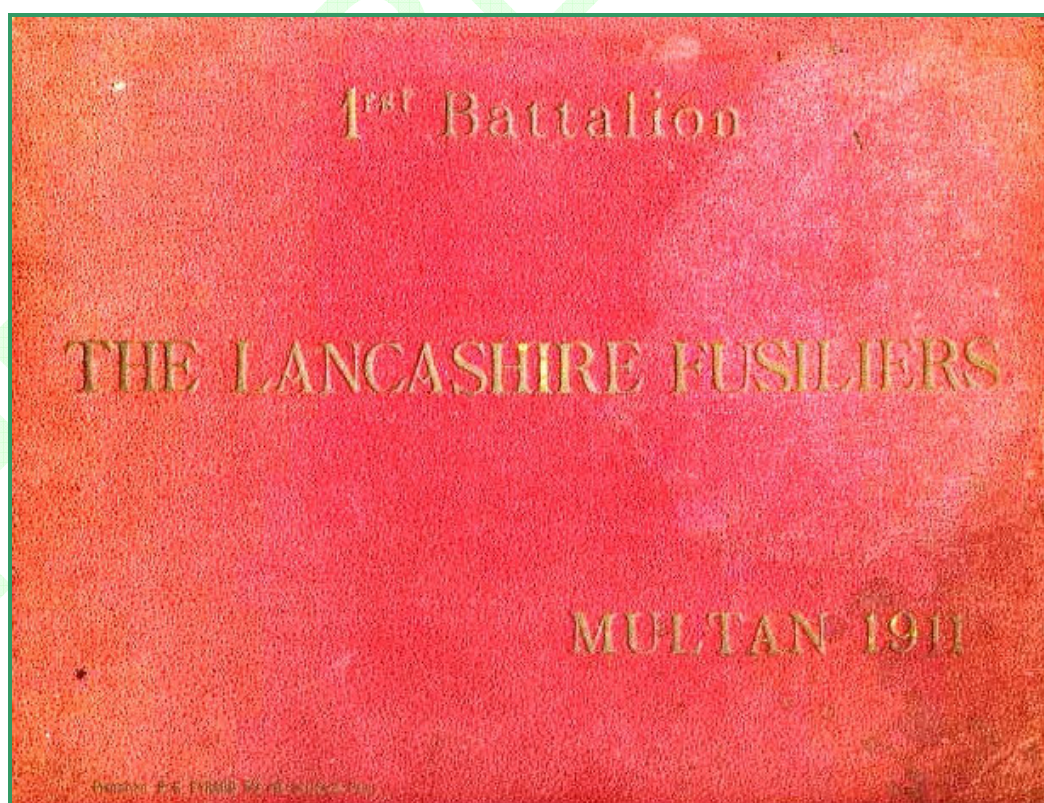
(source: Rachel Simpson & Richard Whiteoak from the Glyn Whiteoak collection)



- **1911 census** shows 5 of Nelson Widdup Petty's siblings, all single and still living at 32, Gordon St, Sutton-in-Craven as follows:

Name	Age	Work	Birth place	Birth year
Robert Henry	30	House painter	Sutton-in-Craven	1881
Charles Frederick	22	Gardener domestic	Hellifield, Yorkshire	1888
Sarah Jane	21	Shop keeper grocer	Hellifield, Yorkshire	1890
Martha Ellen	18	Rover worsted	Sutton-in-Craven	1892
Florence Elizabeth	16	Weaver	Sutton-in-Craven	1895

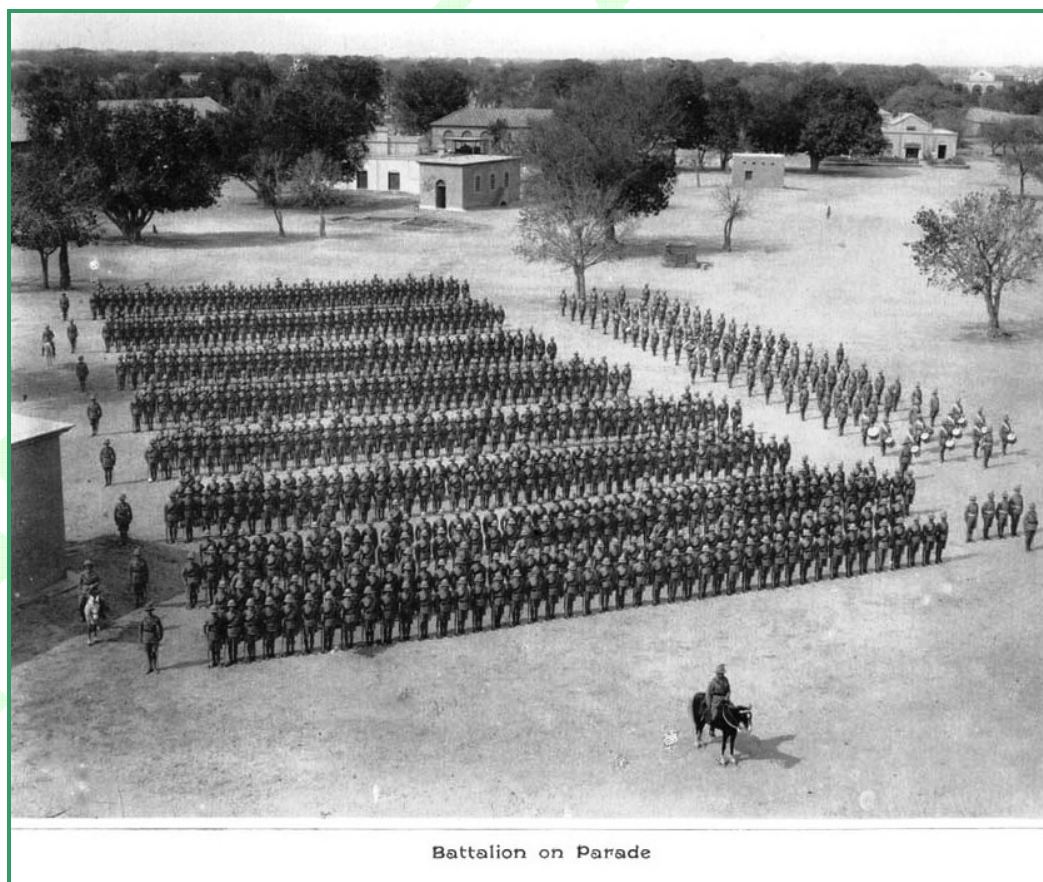
At the time of the 1911 UK census, Nelson Widdup Petty was serving in India as a soldier with the 1st battalion of the Lancashire Fusiliers. He had previously joined the Lancashire Fusiliers as a Pte in 1904 and served in India from 1907 – 1911



(source: [lancs-fusiliers.co.uk](http://lancs-fusiliers.co.uk))



(source: [lancs-fusiliers.co.uk](http://lancs-fusiliers.co.uk))



1st battalion Lancashire Fusiliers on parade, Multan India 1911  
(source: [lancs-fusiliers.co.uk](http://lancs-fusiliers.co.uk))



Nelson Widdup Petty  
(source: *Craven's Part in the Great War* [www.cpgw.org.uk](http://www.cpgw.org.uk))



In addition to service in India from 1907 – 1911, Nelson Widdup Petty also saw service in Malta, Egypt, Aden and South Africa with the Lancashire Fusiliers. When WW1 was declared he returned from India where he had previously been promoted to Sergeant.



Sgt Nelson Widdup Petty, 1st battalion Lancashire Fusiliers, India  
(source: photo supplied by Robert Smith)



# World War 1



It had been **99 years** since Britain was last involved in a major European conflict following the defeat of Napoleon at the Battle of Waterloo in 1815



The official announcement by Germany of the war (Berlin, August 2nd 1914)



People waiting for news on Parliament Square in London on August 3rd 1914, the day before Britain declared war on Germany



'Jubilant' scenes outside Buckingham Palace on August 4th 1914, the day that war was declared



## August 4<sup>th</sup> 1914

### Britain declares war on Germany

The 1st Battalion of the Lancashire Fusiliers was based in Karachi, India at the outbreak of war on the 4th Aug 1914. 289 Sergeant Nelson Widdup Petty had been serving as a professional soldier with this battalion since 1904.

The Lancashire Fusiliers raised a total of thirty one battalions during World War I and was represented in every campaign of the war, losing a total of 13,642 men killed in action. The Lancashire Fusiliers also ended WW1 with more Victoria Crosses (eighteen) than any other regiment in the British Army.

In October 1914, the 1st Battalion Lancashire Fusiliers were redeployed from Karachi, India to Aden in Yemen before sailing back to England in December 1914.

Nelson Widdup Petty took the opportunity to pay a visit back home to Sutton-in-Craven at Christmas 1914 having just received his commission to Officer. He was promoted from the rank of Sergeant to 2nd Lieutenant.

On 16th March 1915 the battalion sailed from Avonmouth near Bristol to prepare for the **Gallipoli Campaign** in Turkey, landing at Alexandria in Egypt on the 29th March 1915 and then Mudros on the Mediterranean island of Lemnos on the 10th April 1915.



WW1 Lancashire Fusiliers Cap Badge

Name.		Corps.	Rank	Regtl. No.
PETTY		Lanc. Fus.	Lt	282.
Nelson		Lancs Fus	2/Lieut	**
Medal.		Roll.	Page.	R&FR H/1101A/4. No rank, released O.D. Ken a 28/6/15 IV x10499 d/23.6.22 NW/1/14443
VICTORY Fus		* OFF/130	190	
BRITISH		"	"	
15 STAR		* OFF/130	28	
Theatre of War first served in		Gallipoli		
Date of entry therein		- 17		

16/2

K. 138

W9W 1/14443

MEDAL INDEX CARD for Nelson Petty (source: The National Archives)

Correspondence

Address

J. Petty. Esq. (brother)  
 36. Gordon St.  
 Sutton - in - Green.  
 Reigley 14/10/20

(1475) Wt. W2793/EP8142 1,000m 12/21 J.F.W. E 8231.

MEDAL INDEX CARD (reverse) for Nelson Petty (source: The National Archives)





Sergeant Nelson Widdup Petty, 1st battalion Lancashire Fusiliers  
(source: *Craven's Part in the Great War* [www.cpgw.org.uk](http://www.cpgw.org.uk))  
(Photograph courtesy of Liz Rishworth of Sutton-in-Craven)

# Gallipoli Campaign

The **Gallipoli Campaign**, also known as the **Dardanelles Campaign** took place at the peninsula of Gallipoli in the Turkish Ottoman Empire between the 25th April 1915 and the 9th January 1916. It was one of the Allies great disasters during World War 1.

Germany and Austria-Hungary blocked Russia's land trade routes to Europe, while no easy sea route existed. Therefore the Allies were keen to capture the Ottoman capital of Istanbul and secure a sea route to Russia via the Black Sea. This would open an effective supply route to Russia and assist efforts on the Eastern Front, which in turn would help to relieve pressure on the Western Front.

The plan for attacking the Dardanelles was developed by Winston Churchill, First Lord of the Admiralty, in an attempt to end the war early by creating a new war front that the Central Powers could not cope with.



Winston Churchill during WW1

The campaign was also the first major battle undertaken by the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps (ANZAC) during WW1 and is often considered to mark the birth of national consciousness in both of these countries. Anzac Day on the 25th April remains the most significant commemoration of military casualties and veterans in Australia and New Zealand, surpassing Armistice Day/Remembrance Day.

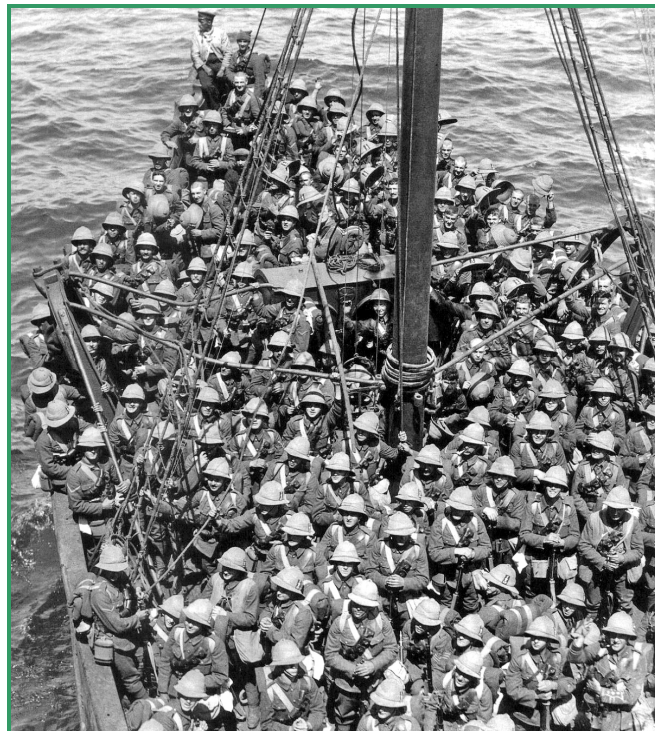
Using ships of the Royal Navy, Churchill believed, partially due to faulty intelligence, that the straits could be forced, opening the way for a direct assault on Constantinople. This plan was approved and several of the Royal Navy's older and obsolete battleships were transferred to the Mediterranean.

Operations against the Dardanelles began on February 19th 1915 with British ships bombarding Turkish defenses in several attacks throughout February & March with little effect.



Panoramic view of the Dardanelles fleet, February 1915

With the failure of the naval campaign, it became clear to Allied leaders that a ground force was going to be needed to eliminate the Turkish artillery on the Gallipoli Peninsula which commanded the straits.



A boat carrying Lancashire Fusiliers, bound for Gallipoli  
(source: [lancs-fusiliers.co.uk](http://lancs-fusiliers.co.uk))



## 'Lancashire Landing'

At early dawn on 25th April 1915, the 1st Battalion of the Lancashire Fusiliers landed on W Beach, to the west of Cape Helles the southernmost tip of the Gallipoli Peninsula. The Turks waited until the Fusiliers were almost ashore, then opened fire from very deadly hidden machine-guns which caused a large number of casualties.



Landings at W beach, Gallipoli 25th April 1915  
(source: [lancs-fusiliers.co.uk](http://lancs-fusiliers.co.uk))

Despite heavy losses, notwithstanding the terrific fire from the enemy, the survivors kept a toehold on the beach and eventually advanced up both sides of the cliff cutting the wire entanglements and driving the defending Turks out of their trenches.

The 1st Battalion of the Lancashire Fusiliers suffered 533 casualties that morning, over half its strength.

Later that same morning other units were diverted to W Beach to reinforce the troops who were advancing on their inland objectives.



In the landing of the 1st Battalion of the Lancashire Fusiliers at Cape Helles on the 25th April 1915, the regiment won the distinction of 6 Victoria Crosses. This is popularly referred to as the **'Six VCs before breakfast'** and W Beach was renamed **'Lancashire Landing'** in honour of the Battalion that had captured it.



Copy Victoria Cross  
(source: owned by Andrew Monkhouse)



(source: [lancs-fusiliers.co.uk](http://lancs-fusiliers.co.uk))

The first landings on April 25th 1915 were badly mismanaged. Meeting stiff resistance and against difficult terrain, British troops took heavy casualties in establishing beachheads. The Australian's & New Zealander's also suffered heavy casualties during the Anzac landings.

The repeated failure of the Allies to make any progress at Gallipoli led to a new plan for the Dardanelles Campaign in the August offensive.

Another major landing by British troops took place at Sulva Bay on the night of the 6th August 1915. However, attempts to sweep across the Turkish peninsula ended in failure. By the end of August the Allies had lost over 40,000 men.

In October 1915 the decision to evacuate from Gallipoli was made. The operation began at Sulva Bay on the 7th December 1915.

The 1st Battalion of the Lancashire Fusiliers remained on Gallipoli until it was evacuated with other Allied forces on the 2nd January arriving in Alexandria in Egypt on the 8th January 1916

The last of the Allied troops were evacuated from Helles on the 9th January, 1916.





View from the battleship HMS Cornwallis: Burning of British stores during the withdrawal from Gallipoli  
(source: [www.gwpda.org/photos](http://www.gwpda.org/photos))

### Casualty statistics for the Gallipoli (Dardanelles) campaign

Nations	Died	Wounded	Total Casualties
Great Britain	21,255	52,230	73,485
France (estimate)	10,000	17,000	27,000
Australia	8,709	19,441	28,150
New Zealand	2,721	4,752	7,473
India	1,358	3,421	4,779
Newfoundland	49	93	142
Turkey (Ottoman Empire)	86,692	164,617	251,309

Having survived the initial landings at W beach on the 25th April 1915, 2nd Lieutenant Nelson Widdup Petty was **Killed in Action** on the 28th June 1915. He was shot through the head whilst leading his men forward in a bayonet charge on Turkish trenches.

He was 30 years of age



Article Date: 23 July 1915

#### DEATH OF LIEUTENANT NELSON PETTY OF SUTTON

The death of Lieut. Nelson Petty of the 1st Lancashire Fusiliers 29th Regiment, has been received with deep regret. Lieut. Petty was well known in the district, although most of his time has been spent abroad. In his recent furloughs, after many years' absence, many acquaintances had been formed. His gentlemanly and courteous bearing gaining for him many friends. He entered the Army as a private many years' ago, and only received his commission last Christmas. It was hoped that a long and prosperous career was before him. Lieut. Petty was a popular officer, both with his fellow officers and men, as is shown by the following letters which have been received by his brothers, Mr. J.H. Petty of Gordon Street, Sutton Mill, and Mr. R.H. Petty of Colne, Lancashire:-

Mr. J.H. Petty

"Dear Sir, By this time you will have officially heard of your brother's death. I am writing to express my deepest sympathy in your terrible bereavement. He was a most popular as well as a most efficient officer, and his death is very deeply regretted by all of those who had the good fortune to come into contact with him, and who knew him thoroughly. If it is possible to soften such a blow, I am sure that you must be comforted by the knowledge of the very gallant death that he died. I am positive that he would not have preferred any other death but the one that he died, gallantry leading his men forward, being in a



bayonet charge, he himself being shot through the head. Again, expressing my deepest sympathy. I am, sir, yours respectfully. G. Palmer, Lieut."

Writing from the same address to Mr. R.H. Petty, of 45 Clarence Street, Colne, Second Lieut. J. O'Brien, says:- "Permit me, on behalf of the officers, N.C. officers and men of the above company to offer our heartfelt sympathy with yourself and other relatives and friends of Lieut. Petty, Lancashire Fusiliers. Until recently he was serving with us and only joined his regiment as a temporary measure to make up a shortage of officers. He was killed leading his men during an attack - a very successful one be it known - on the Turkish trenches on the 28th June. A first rate officer and sound comrade, he is a great loss to his country, and very deeply regretted by all ranks of the Cycle Company."

(source: *Craven's Part in the Great War* [www.cpgw.org.uk](http://www.cpgw.org.uk))



## Casualty Details

**Name:** PETTY, NELSON WIDDUP

**Initials:** N W

**Nationality:** United Kingdom

**Rank:** Lieutenant

**Regiment/Service:** Lancashire Fusiliers

**Unit Text:** "C" Coy. 1st Bn.

**Age:** 30

**Date of Death:** 28/06/1915

**Additional information:** Brother of James Petty, of 36, Gordon St., Sutton-in-Craven, Keighley, Yorks.

**Casualty Type:** Commonwealth War Dead

**Grave/Memorial Reference:** Panel 58 to 72 or 218 to 219.

**Memorial:** HELLES MEMORIAL

(source: *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* [www.cwgc.org/](http://www.cwgc.org/))

# HELLES MEMORIAL



Helles Memorial, Turkey  
(source: *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* [www.cwgc.org/](http://www.cwgc.org/))



Helles Memorial, Turkey



The Helles Memorial was completed in 1924 and is both the memorial to the Gallipoli Campaign and to the 20,763 men who fell in that campaign and whose graves are unknown or who were lost or buried at sea in Gallipoli waters.

Inscribed on it are the names of all the ships that took part in the campaign and the titles of the army formations and units which served on the Peninsula together with the names of 18,985 sailors, soldiers and marines from the United Kingdom, 248 soldiers from Australia, and 1,530 soldiers of the Indian Army.

The largest number of names on the Helles Memorial is from the Lancashire Fusiliers with 1,357 commemorations on panels 58 – 72.

In addition to the Helles Memorial, there are four other Memorials to the Missing at Gallipoli.

2nd Lieutenant Nelson Widdup Petty is also remembered on the Sutton-in-Craven war memorial and in the burial grounds of St Thomas' Church.



Sutton-in-Craven War Memorial (photo taken by Paul Wilkinson)





Sutton-in-Craven War Memorial

(source: Rachel Simpson & Richard Whiteoak from the Glyn Whiteoak collection)





St Thomas' Church burial ground, Sutton-in-Craven  
(source: photo taken by Josie Walsh)



2nd Lieutenant Nelson Widdup Petty was posthumously awarded the  
1914/15 Star, British War Medal & Victory Medal



Original trio of WW1 medals, obverse (1914/15 star unnamed original)



Original trio of WW1 medals, reverse (1914/15 star unnamed original)  
(source: owned by Andrew Monkhouse)



A Memorial Plaque inscribed with the soldiers name was also given to the family of those who were killed during WW1



Original WW1 Memorial Plaque issued to the next of kin  
Also referred to as a Death Plaque or Dead Man's Penny  
(source: plaque owned & photo provided by Robert Smith)



## Lest we Forget

### CRAVEN'S ROLL OF HONOUR



**2nd Lieut. Petty.**

2ND LIEUT. NELSON WIDDUP PETTY, Lancashire Fusiliers, brother of Mr. James Petty, Gordon Street, Sutton. Lieut. Petty enlisted nearly eleven years before the war as a private in the Lancashire Fusiliers, and had seen service in Malta, Egypt, Aden, South Africa and India. When war was declared, he returned from India as a sergeant, but was promoted in January, 1915, to the rank of 2nd Lieut. After a short stay in training he went out with the British Forces to the Dardanelles, where he met his death on the 28th June, 1915.

source: *Craven's Part in the Great War*  
(original 1919 copy owned by Andrew Monkhouse)

# FOR THE FALLEN

*THEY SHALL NOT GROW OLD, AS WE THAT ARE  
LEFT GROW OLD*

*AGE SHALL NOT WEARY THEM, NOR THE YEARS  
CONDEMN*

*AT THE GOING DOWN OF THE SUN AND IN THE  
MORNING*

*WE WILL REMEMBER THEM*

**LAURENCE BINYON, 1869-1943**



(Information compiled by Andrew Monkhouse 2011)