

LANCE CORPORAL THOMAS JOHN OSBORNE

1633, 1st Battalion, Herefordshire Regiment

Died aged 23 on 15 August 1915

Remembered with honour at *Hill 10 Cemetery, Turkey*; Sp. Mem. 45

Commemorated in Tewkesbury at the Cross and in the Abbey



Hill 10 Cemetery, Turkey



'1914-15 Star' Medal



Herefordshire Regiment

THOMAS JOHN OSBORNE was born in Tewkesbury in 1892, the son of John Osborne and his wife Elizabeth (formerly Hovey), both from Tewkesbury. They had a total of eight children, of whom five were still alive in 1911. In 1901 the family, including Thomas, was living at 45 Church Street and John's occupation was described as a corn porter. Thomas went on to work for the Wesleyan Assurance Society and at the Town Club, but by 1911 the family had moved to Hereford, where they lived at 2 Ledbury Road. At the time, both John and Thomas were working for the Wesleyan Assurance Society, John as Assistant Superintendent and Thomas as an Agent. John was also steward of the YMCA whilst Thomas was steward of the Billiard Room. Thomas married Winifred Alice Brookes in Hereford in May 1915, just three months before his death.

Thomas John Osborne enlisted at Hereford in the Herefordshire Regiment whose battalions were all Territorial Force units. He joined C Company of the 1st/1st Battalion, the only battalion in the regiment to serve overseas. It was mobilised in August 1914 and by 15 May 1915 it was part of the 158th Infantry Brigade in the 53rd (Welsh) Division.

On 16 July 1915 the battalion embarked at Devonport on *SS Euripides* with a strength of 29 officers and 969 other ranks. By the time it had reached Port Said in Egypt, it had reduced to 25 officers and 750 other ranks. His depleted battalion went on to land at 'C' beach at Suvla

Bay on Gallipoli at 7.20am on 9 August 1915. The action, known as the *Landing at Suvla Bay* (6-15 August 1915), was an amphibious landing made as part of the August Offensive, the final British attempt to break the deadlock of the campaign, and by breaking out from the Anzac sector, five miles to the south. However, the landing was mismanaged and quickly reached the same stalemate conditions that prevailed on the other fronts at Anzac and Helles. Nevertheless, for their part in the landing, the battalion was specifically mentioned in despatches by General Ian Hamilton: *'the 1st/1st Herefordshire, which attacked with impetuosity and courage between Hetman Chair and Kaslar Chair about Azmak Dere on the extreme right of his line'*.

Lance Corporal Thomas John Osborne was reported killed in action on 15 August 1915. His body was never recovered or identified and he is remembered instead in *Hill 10 Cemetery* on the Gallipoli peninsula on Special Memorial 45; this commemorates a number of casualties buried in one of the 150 unidentified graves. He was awarded the *'1914-15 Star'* medal.

Although the family had moved to Hereford, the *Register* reprinted his obituary from the *Hereford Times* and Lance Corporal Osborne's name was included on all the appropriate memorials in Tewkesbury. Thomas's widow, Winifred, remarried in late 1920 to Henry Hickey. They subsequently lived at 'Sweet Briar', Lugwardine, Herefordshire.