

# Francis Edward Seward

## died of wounds 29 Jun 1915

### age 40 years



Frank's father John was a baker and married Elizabeth Green in 1873 at the age of 40. Francis Edward (Frank) was born in the spring of 1875. The family were living in Winterbourne, Berkshire.

Sadly, Frank's mother died in 1876 and he was boarded out with the Goodchild family. By the age of 16 he was living with his maternal grandparents in Shepton Mallett. He was working as an agricultural labourer.

In 1892 Frank joined the army at Winchester. His attestation papers show that he joined the 3rd Hampshire Regiment for 7 years service and 5 years in reserve. His service number then was 3890

While he was growing up his aunt, Ann Seward, had married Charles Stevens, a carpenter, and in 1881 they were living in Dummer. Their daughter Edith who was born in 1877, Frank's first cousin, appears to have developed a special bond with the young man.

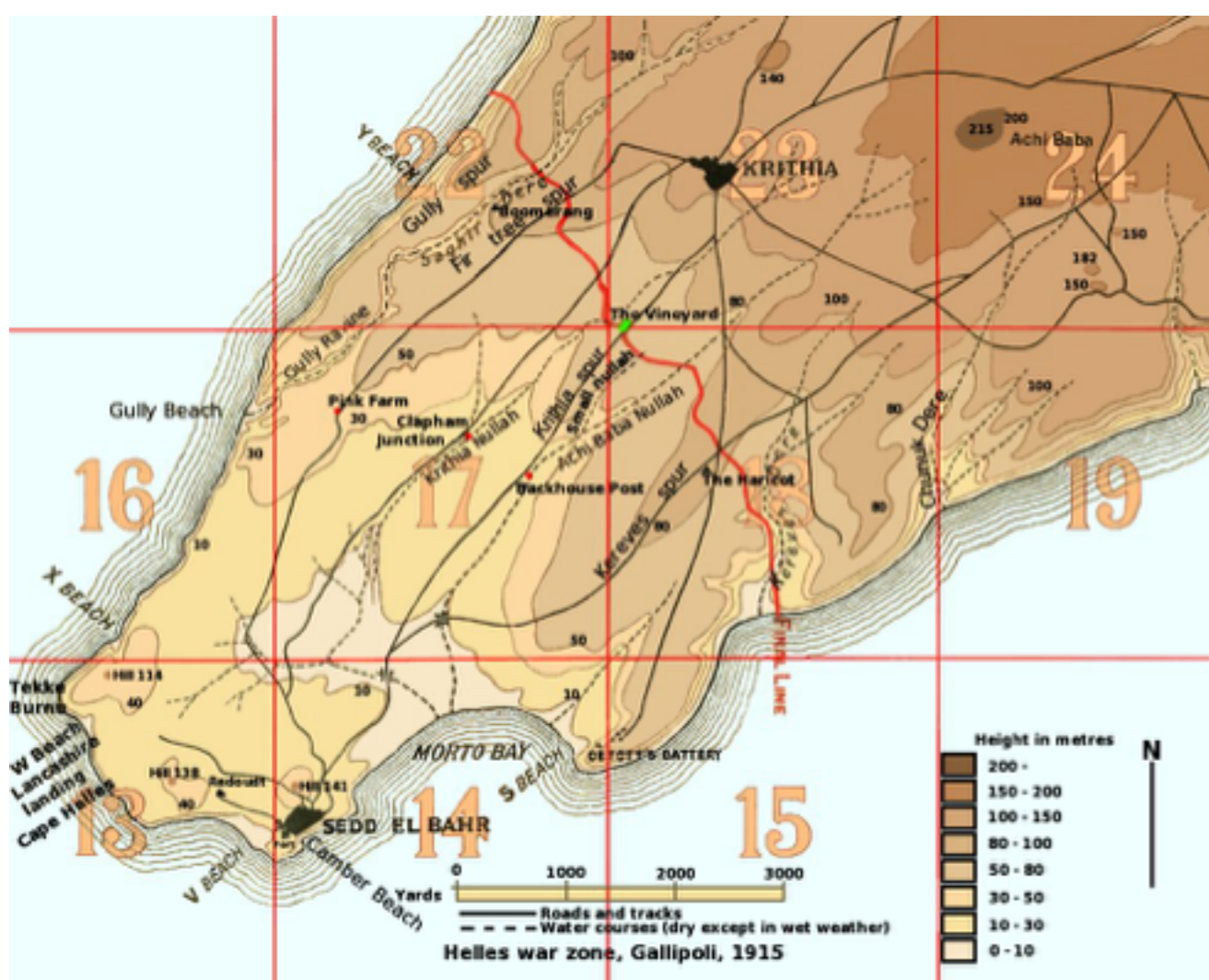
In 1891, at the age of 14, Edith was a servant with the Page family at The Foundry in Dummer, but by 1911 she was back home looking after her widowed father.

By 1911 Frank had completed his 7 years service and was working as a farm labourer. He was living as a boarder with the Wilmott family (the blacksmith) in Dummer. Edith and Frank were therefore both in Dummer in 1911.

Frank signed up again as a Private in the 2nd Battalion Hampshire Regiment, regimental number 3/4670. He is recorded as disembarking in June 1915 and by 29th June 1915 he was dead. On some documents he is recorded as 'Killed in Action', on others 'Died of Wounds'. He appears to have been involved in the Battle of Gully Ravine as part of the 88th Brigade.

By 1915 Edith was working at the dairy in Crowd Hill, Eastleigh. She appears never to have married.

### Helles war zone, Gallipoli 1915



### The Battle of Gully Ravine 28th June to 5th July 1915

Following advances made by the French forces in their sector Hamilton, commanding, decided on a further push through Gully Ravine and on the spurs to either side. An advance was planned for Monday 28th June 1915.

On the left, the Indian Brigades were in charge on Gully Spur. In the Gully itself, 1/Border Regiment was to advance, and on Fir Tree Spur, newly arrived elements of the 156th Brigade were supported by 88th Brigade in reserve. Because the left flank was considered the tougher option, artillery support on the right was proportionally lacking, with very few high explosive shells available and only about half the field guns generally considered adequate for the force were sent in.

After almost 2 hours of artillery bombardment, the 1st Border Regiment went forward on Fir Tree Spur against a Turkish machine gun post and trench system. The redoubt was taken, but the neighbouring 'Turkey Trench' proved much harder. The following waves of the 156th Brigade were cut down by hitherto unknown Turkish machine guns. **As a result of the losses to the 156th Brigade and parts of the reserve, 88th Brigade, the Hampshire were sent forward that night.**

Over on Gully Spur, progress was swifter, though with significant losses, and no less than five Turkish trenches were taken. Fighting continued until the 5th July, and after consolidation, the allies had advanced about a kilometre on the left and 500 metres on the right. In Gully Ravine itself, a new front line had been established, named 'Border Barricade' after the 1/Border regiment who established it.

The battle of Gully Ravine marked the allies' furthest significant advance at Helles, and cost some 3800 lives, half of these from amongst the new and inexperienced 156th Brigade on Fir Tree Spur. The Turkish admitted to losing some 14,000 men dead, 10,000 alone on 28th June.

WILL. 8/117273/1

I will leave all what I desire to my relations that his  
Miss Stevens  
Dummer  
Mr Basingstoke Hants  
From No 4670 The Regt  
Ft Seward Hants

1877

Frank's undated, informal will which was honoured by the War Department on 25th April 1916.

Miss Stevens received £1 11s 7d In 1919 she received a further £3 0s 0d as a war gratuity as his sole legatee.

### UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War, 1914-1919

NAME:	Frank Seward
BIRTH PLACE:	Winterbourne, Berks
DEATH DATE:	29 Jun 1915
DEATH PLACE:	Gallipoli
ENLISTMENT PLACE:	Basingstoke, Hants
RANK:	Private
REGIMENT:	Hampshire Regiment
BATTALION:	2nd Battalion
REGIMENTAL NUMBER:	3/4670
TYPE OF CASUALTY:	Died of wounds
THEATRE OF WAR:	Balkan Theatre



Hampshire Regiment 2nd Battalion WW1 movements and history. The section in red is when Frank Seward was serving.

04.08.1914 Stationed at Mhow, India at the outbreak of war.

16.11.1914 Embarked for England from Bombay arriving at Plymouth 22.12.1914 and then moved to Romsey.

13.02.1915 Moved to Stratford-on-Avon and joined the 88th Brigade of the 29th Division and then moved to Warwick.

29.03.1915 Mobilised for war and embarked for Gallipoli from Avonmouth via Alexandria. 25.04.1915 Landed at Gallipoli and engaged in various actions including The Battles for Krithia and the Achi Baba heights.

08.01.1916 Evacuated to Alexandria due to heavy casualties from combat, disease and severe weather conditions.

Mar 1916 Moved to France landing at Marseilles where the Division engaged in various actions on the Western Front.


11.11.1918 Ended the war in Belgium, near Lessines.

In Memory of  
Private  
**Frank Seward**

3/4670, 2nd Bn., Hampshire Regiment who died on 29 June 1915 Age 40

Cousin of E. Stevens, of The Laurels Dairy, Crowd Hill, Eastleigh, Hants.

Remembered with Honour  
Helles Memorial



Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission