

# Albert Charles Spicer, killed in action, 6th August 1915

## and his younger brother

# Francis William Spicer, killed in action, 10th August 1915



The Spicer brothers came from a large family of 13 children, 5 boys and 8 girls. By 1911, 9 were still living. Their father, Francis Thomas Spicer Lovelock, was born in Burbage, Wiltshire in 1844. He married Eliza Whitbread on Christmas Eve 1867. He was a carter by trade.

Although some of the children carried the Lovelock name he had dropped it in favour of another family name, Spicer, by 1876.

Albert and Francis Jr. were both born in Wootton St Lawrence in 1883 and 1888 respectively. Their father was living and working there, probably at Lone Farm.

By 1901 the family were living in Cliddesden in one of several cottages associated with Swallick farm.

In 1911 Francis Thomas is recorded as being a stockman at Southwood Farm. Meanwhile his son Francis William (known as William) was boarding at Clump Farm and working as a carter. Edgar Lake is listed as being the Head at Clump Farm. Albert was still at home and working as a carter on Southwood Farm with his father.

Both men enlisted with the Hampshire Regiment. Albert Charles was a private in the 2nd Battalion Royal Hampshire Regiment No: 14862. He disembarked in Gallipoli on 15th June 1915. He died on 6th August of that year as part of the 29th Division offensive at Krithia.

His brother Francis William was a private in the 10th Battalion Royal Hampshire Regiment No: 10266. He disembarked at Suvla in Gallipoli on the 6th August 1915 surviving the onslaught on landing that killed so many.

In the military records of effects and medal entitlements he is recorded as having died on or since 10 August 1915. On the memorial roll in All Saints' Church he is recorded as missing. He fought in the battle of Chunuk Bair.

Albert was 32 years old when he died. Francis was 27 years old. Neither were married. They are remembered on the Helles Memorial.



### 2nd Battalion Royal Hampshire Regiment

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.

### 10th (Service) Battalion Royal Hampshire Regiment

Aug 1914 Formed at Winchester as part of the First New Army (K1) and then moved to Dublin and then to Mullingar.

Mar 1915 Moved to Curragh and joined the 29th Brigade of the 10th Division and then moved on to Basingstoke.

07.07.1915 Mobilised for war and embarked for Gallipoli from Liverpool via Mudros.

06.08.1915 Landed at Gallipoli and engaged in various actions including; Sari Bair, Chunuk Bair and at Hill 60.

30.09.1915 Evacuated to Mudros due to heavy losses from combat, disease and severe weather conditions.



Helles Memorial



British troops on the beach at Suvla after the 6th August landings



British troops on the hill behind Suvla

### Krithia Vineyard 6th - 13th August 1915

This offensive was planned as a series of diversions due to be launched from Anzac and Helles to divert attention from the planned landings at Suvla and the break out from Anzac.

Due to the shortage of artillery, the attack was split into two parts with the 88th Brigade of the 29th Division attacking on the afternoon of the 6th August. This division included the **2nd Battalion, The Hampshire Regiment**.

They attacked and captured some of the Ottoman trenches twice and both times were beaten back by a counter attack. The British failed to hold any ground and the 88th Division was effectively destroyed as a fighting force.

The British casualties in the first 24 hours of fighting, covering the original attacks of the 88th Brigade and the two brigades of the 42nd Division, were 3,469.

The total casualties of the 29th Division in Gallipoli alone amounted to around 34,000.

### The battle of Chunuk Bair - 10th August 1915

As the day dawned on the 10th August the New Zealanders holding Chunuk Bair had been replaced overnight by two New Army battalions, the Lancashires and the Wiltshires.

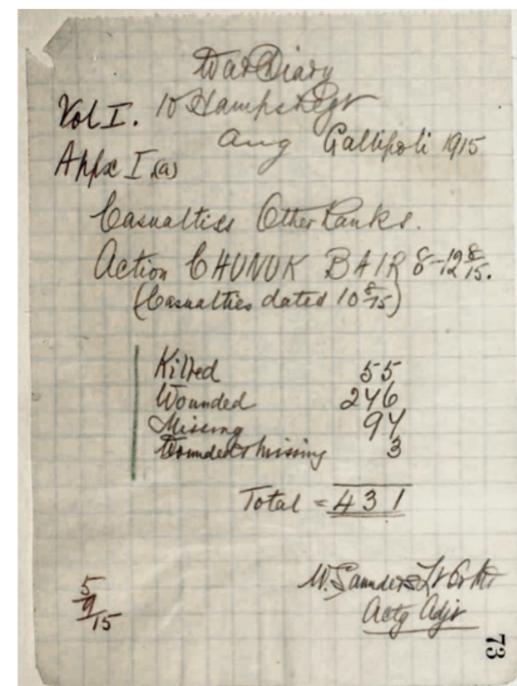
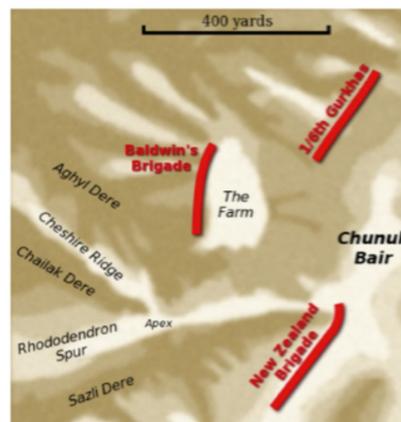
Brigadier General Baldwin's brigade of around 3000, which included the **10th Hampshires**, were in support on a flat area known as The Farm but had only arrived there the day before.

That morning, Mustafa Kemal led an overwhelming Ottoman counter attack to retake Chunuk Bair. His plan was not subtle, it was to overrun the defenders by sheer weight of numbers.

The Ottomans swept over the Lancashire battalion on the summit, wiping it out. The Wiltshires were killed or driven into the steep valleys. The Ottomans headed down driving the New Army troops before them. Gunners positioned on the Apex shot down the Ottomans as they continued down the Rhododendron Spur but also killed many New Army troops due the nature of the fighting.

The Ottomans also descended to the small plateau of the Farm and annihilated Baldwin's brigade. About 1,000 British were killed, the rest driven off into the surrounding gullies.

In 1919 burial teams found the Farm still covered in the bones of the men from Baldwin's brigade, who were interred in The Farm Commonwealth War Graves Commission cemetery when it was constructed on the site after the Armistice.



Losses sustained by 10th Hampshire Regiment at Chunuk Bair on the 10th August 1915 taken from the Regimental War Diary.

Name	Rank	Service Number	Date of Death	Age	Regiment / Service	Service Country	Grave / Memorial Reference	Cemetery / Memorial Name
SPICER, ALBERT CHARLES	Private	14862	06/08/1915	32	Hampshire Regiment	United Kingdom	Panel 125-134 or 223-226 228-229 & 328.	HELLES MEMORIAL

Name	Rank	Service Number	Date of Death	Age	Regiment / Service	Service Country	Grave / Memorial Reference	Cemetery / Memorial Name
SPICER, FRANCIS WILLIAM	Private	10266	10/08/1915	27	Hampshire Regiment	United Kingdom	Panel 125-134 or 223-226 228-229 & 328.	HELLES MEMORIAL