

The 6th Battalion of the Lincolnshire Regiment and the Gallipoli Campaign



A sketch of the frontline near Sulva Bay showing the trenches occupied by the 6th Battalion of the Lincolnshire Regiment. Document reference: REGI.

The 6th Battalion of the Lincolnshire Regiment was raised at Lincoln in August 1914 as part of Kitchener's First New Army and eventually became a component of the 33rd Brigade in the 11th (Northern) Division. After initial training near Lincoln, the unit moved to Belton Park near Grantham for additional military instruction.

The 6th Battalion sailed for the Mediterranean from Liverpool on 1st July 1915 and disembarked at Cape Helles on Gallipoli on 18th July. The unit was soon in the frontline and over the next few weeks the Lincolns suffered significant casualties through enemy sniping and outbreaks of dysentery.

On the night of 6/7th August 1915, the 6th Battalion made a successful landing at Sulva Bay. After moving inland the Lincolns played a key role in taking the strategically important position called Chocolate Hill, which cost the unit over 60 casualties. Over the next few days the Lincolns were ordered to undertake a number of unsuccessful assaults on the Turkish positions on the Anafarta Ridge. On 9th August 1915 the Adjutant of the 6th Battalion, Captain Percy Hansen, was awarded the Victoria Cross for rescuing 6 wounded men who were trapped in burning undergrowth and pinned down by Turkish fire.

The Lincolns were taken out of the line on 12th August and given several days to rest and recuperate. They were then committed to the Battle of Scimitar Hill on 21st August, which proved to be a costly failure. Over the next few weeks the Lincolns had to endure appalling conditions on the frontline during which temperatures rose so high that even the tinned bully beef turned to liquid.

The ferocious heat came to a sudden end on 26th November when the unit was engulfed by a blizzard. The trenches became flooded and a number of men were drowned. The rain was followed by snow and the battalion suffered over 100 casualties due to frostbite. The Lincolns finally left Sulva Bay on the night of 20/21st December 1915, having been given the dubious privilege of holding the frontline in the final hours before the British evacuation of Gallipoli.

Private Walter Hales

Walter Hales served with the 6th Battalion of the Lincolnshire Regiment and was killed in action during the Gallipoli campaign on 6th October 1915, aged 19. He was the son of William and Theodosia Hales of North Lane, Navenby.

BAPTISMS solemnized in the Parish of <i>Navenby.</i>							
in the County of <i>Lincoln</i> in the Year 1896							
When Born.	When Baptized.	Child's Christian Name.	Parents' Name.		Abode.	Quality, Trade, or Profession.	By whom the Ceremony was performed.
			Christian.	Surname.			
1896 <i>Sept.</i> 15 No. 721.	1896 <i>Oct.</i> 11 th	<i>Arthur</i> Son of	<i>Enoch</i> & <i>Parriett</i>	<i>Lightfoot</i>	<i>Navenby</i>	<i>Agricultural</i> <i>Labourer</i>	<i>George T. Ramsay</i> <i>Rector</i>
1896 <i>October</i> 3 rd No. 722.	1896 <i>October</i> 29 th	<i>Thomas</i> <i>William</i> Son of	<i>William</i> & <i>Lucy</i>	<i>Pridgeon</i>	<i>Navenby</i>	<i>Labourer</i>	<i>George</i> <i>Reynolds</i> <i>Curate.</i>
1896 <i>October</i> 4 th No. 723.	1896 <i>November</i> 1 st	<i>Walter</i> Son of	<i>William</i> and <i>Theodosia</i>	<i>Hales</i>	<i>Navenby</i>	<i>Farmer</i>	<i>George</i> <i>R.</i> <i>Reynolds</i> <i>Curate.</i>

Extract from the parish register for Navenby showing the entry for the baptism of Walter Hales (third entry down). Document reference: Navenby Par 1/8.



One of the oldest men from the 6th Battalion of the Lincolnshire Regiment to be killed during the Gallipoli Campaign was Private C S Newborn. He died on 15th October 1915, aged 46. Document reference: REGI/MLL 17883.