165: Daniel Taylor

Basic Information [as recorded on local memorial or by CWGC]					
Name as recorded on local memorial or by CWGC:	Daniel Taylor				
Rank: Private					
Battalion / Regiment: 6th Bn. South Lancashire Regiment					
Service Number: 11692 Date of Death:	10 August 1915	Age at Death:	?		
Buried / Commemorated at: Helles Memorial, Gallipoli, Canakkale, Turkey					
Additional information given by CWGC: None					

Daniel Taylor was the son of collier Thomas and Mary Taylor of Little Neston and he was baptised at Neston 16 March 1894.

In the 1881 census Thomas, 25, was an unmarried collier lodging with labourer Thomas and Sarah Johnson on Burton Road and it was probably him (with others) who, on 5 October 1883, was fined 10 shillings with costs at Neston Petty Sessions for being drunk and disorderly in Neston.

Thomas married Mary Livens at Our Lady & St Nicholas & St Anne, the Liverpool Parish Church, in late 1887. Mary was a granddaughter of labourer Thomas and Hannah Livens of Bridge Street (her parentage is uncertain) and Mary had given birth to two illegitimate children:

Johnbaptised at Neston on 1 June 1883Anne Janebaptised at Neston on 12 December 1884.

In the 1891 census Thomas, Mary and Annie were living off Bridge Street, Neston:

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anna & Parlance the		Rug -	Specter It
1891 census (extract) – P	ear Tree Cr	escent, Bridge Street, Neston	
Thomas Taylor	37	coalminer	born Little Neston
Mary	29		born Neston
Annie J. Livens	6	step-daughter	born Neston

John Livens, Mary's illegitimate son, has not been located in the 1891 or 1901 census returns but it is believed that he died, aged 50, on Wirral in mid-1936.

Thomas and Mary had baptised a daughter, Alice, at Neston on 17 August 1888 but she died, aged 1 month, and was buried 8 September 1888. On 23 October 1891 they baptised their second child, also Alice, and Daniel was baptised 16 March 1894. At both baptisms Thomas was recorded as being a collier.

Mary Taylor died, aged 36, and was buried at Neston 19 February 1896 and at the census in 1901 Thomas Taylor, Daniel's father, was recorded as a coal miner (hewer) aged 47 lodging on Athol Street in Newton in Makerfield (Newton-le-Willows) on the Lancashire coalfield. Although Thomas had moved to Lancashire for employment, both Alice and Daniel remained on Wirral - in the 1901 census Daniel (described as nephew) was recorded, aged 7, in the household of agricultural labourer William and Alice Bennett in Ledsham and Alice (described as niece), aged 9, was in the household of general labourer William and Jane Cookson on Mill Street in Neston. It appears probable that Alice remained a spinster.

Daniel's half-sister, Annie Livens was recorded as a 16-year old domestic servant in the household of farmer Elizabeth Truman at Truman's Cottage, Ledsham, in the 1901 census. Annie *Levens* married Robert Jones at a Civil Marriage in Chester in early 1907.

By the time of the 1911 census Daniel, 17, a labourer, was lodging with engine driver David and Martha Corson at 24 Lime Street, Ellesmere Port but it seems quite possible that he moved sometime later as he attested for the 6th Battalion South Lancashire Regiment at Warrington on 1 September 1914. Recorded as a labourer, aged 20 years 180 days, he was described as being 5ft 4ins tall, of fair complexion, weighing 113lb (8 stone / 51.4kg) and with a 35½-inch expanded chest and brown hair and blue eyes.

The 6th (Service) Battalion, The South Lancashire Regiment was raised at Warrington in August 1914 as part of Kitchener's First New Army and joined the 38th Brigade, 13th (Western) Division. The troops trained at Tidworth garrison in south-east Wiltshire and spent the winter in billets at Winchester. Near the end of February 1915 the Division concentrated at Blackdown in Hampshire, with the 6th East Lancashires, at Alma Barracks. Whilst at Blackdown Daniel was found guilty of three offences:

11 April 1915	-	overstaying his pass from midnight until 9.30am on 15 April.
		Confined to barracks for 5 days and forfeited 4 days' pay.
1 June 1915	-	disobedience of Battalion orders and drinking from water
		bottle without permission. Confined to barracks for 3 days.
5 June 1915	-	
		5 days.

The troops sailed from Avonmouth on 16 June 1915 and whilst in transit Daniel faced another disciplinary charge relating to a parade for guard duty which resulted in him having to do an extra duty. The troops first landed at Malta and then progressed to Egypt for additional training at Alexandria before moving to Mudros, a small Greek port on the Mediterranean island of Lemnos.

Mudros assumed wartime significance in early 1915 when the Allies attempted to seize control of the Dardanelles Straits, some 50km away. The infantry landed at 'W' Beach on Cape Helles in Gallipoli between the 6 - 16 July to relieve the 29th Division and to serve in the Gully Ravine sector.

The landing at Cape Helles was part of the amphibious invasion of the Gallipoli peninsula by British and French forces.

With the support of the guns of the Royal Navy, the plan for the 29th Division was to advance six miles along the peninsula on the first day and seize the heights of Achi Baba. The British were then to go on to capture the forts that guarded the straits of the Dardanelles. A feigned landing at Bulair by the Royal Naval Division and a real landing at Anzac Cove were made to the north at Gaba Tepe, by the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps before dawn and a diversionary landing was made by French forces at Kum Kale on the Asiatic shore of the Straits.

However, the Helles landing was mismanaged by the British commander, Major General Aylmer Hunter-Weston and many troops were cut down before they could advance far from the coast. Daniel clearly survived this first landing and he, and the remaining troops of the 29th Division, returned to Mudros at the end of July. The entire division then sailed back to Gallipoli and landed at Anzac Cove between 3 - 5 August and the troops were in action at The Battle of Sari Bair (the 'August Offensive') where, it is probable, Daniel was killed.

The Gallipoli Campaign had raged on two fronts, Anzac and Helles, for three months since the initial invasion of 25 April 1915. With the Anzac landing a tense stalemate, the Allies had attempted to carry the offensive on the Helles battlefield at enormous cost for little gain.

In August, the British command proposed a new operation to reinvigorate the campaign by capturing the Sari Bair ridge, the high ground that dominated the middle of the peninsula above the Anzac landing. Control of the high ground would lead to control of the Dardanelles Straits and an advance from Anzac along the Aegean coast was initiated during the early hours of 6 August by General Godfrey and 22,000 troops, although advance reconnaissance was made difficult through highly effective Turkish sniping.

In spite of the crucial requirement for speedy progress, the advance northwards hit immediate delays amid the maze of ridges, gullies and stiff heat accompanying the operation. The effects of ongoing dysentery also exacted its toll and little progress was made on the first day.

Meanwhile a heavy diversionary attack launched from Anzac Cove south towards Lone Pine the same evening resulted in heavy fighting which continued throughout the following day, 7 August, with a number of Turkish trenches falling into Allied hands on 8 August. Fighting petered out at the close of 10 August (the day on which Daniel Taylor died) with both sides suffering from exhaustion.

The undisputed victors however were the Turkish force, despite losing up to 20,000 troops, as the Allied forces had not achieved any of their stated aims. Furthermore the

failure of the operation brought to an effective end Allied plans to break out of Anzac Cove.

Although the British managed to gain a foothold ashore, their plans were in disarray and over the following two months the British fought several costly battles to reach the first day objectives but were defeated by the Ottoman army.

[http://www.wartimememoriesproject.com/greatwar/allied/southlancashireregiment6 http://www.firstworldwar.com/battles/saribair.htm https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Sari_Bair]

Some further details of the actions of the 6th Battalion South Lancashire Regiment in Gallipoli in early August 1915 are shown by the War Diary, reproduced on the following pages. *Note: In the War Diary the term 'Gurkha' is consistently misspelt as 'Ghurka'. In the transcription the original spelling has been maintained.*



The heavily-gullied uplands of the Gallipoli peninsula inland of the landing zone of Anzac Cove (SW corner of map). The gullies, often steep-sided ravines, are watercourses (known locally as *deres*) although these were dry during most of the campaign and were used as access routes into the interior, the uplands forming a heavily-dissected plateau.

Aghyl Dere and Chailak Dere, both mentioned in the War Diary, are shown in the northern sector of this map extract. Victoria Gully lies south of Anzac Cove and the location of Gurkha Hill is unknown.

[Source: http://digitalarchive.mcmaster.ca/islandora/object/macrepo%3A3922]





Men of the 2-10th Gurkhas on the Sari Bair range during the August offensive. [Source: http://www.indiansongallipoli.com/indians-andgallipoli/the-august-offensive/]

Victoria Gully, Gallipoli, with the 3rd Field Dressing Station. [Source: http://collections.museumvictoria.com.au/items/169 9592]

When Daniel Taylor died on 10 August 1915 he had served for 344 days. In February 1916 his personal

possessions (these were unstated) were to be sent to his married half-sister, Annie Jones of 4 Back Harrison Row, Ditton Junction, near Widnes. His medals, however, were to be sent to his unmarried sister, Alice Taylor, who was living at the Wheatsheaf Inn, Upton Heath, near Chester. Daniel's father, Thomas, had died (date unknown) by 1919 and in August of that year it appears that both Alice Taylor and Annie Jones were living at 1 Pitville Cottages, Hale Road, Ditton.

John Livens, Daniel's half-brother (the illegitimate son of Mary, Daniel's mother) was recorded in the 1911 census as living at 2 Ethel Terrace, Greasby. Aged 27, a teamsman on a farm, he had been married for three years (he had married Elizabeth Shelbourne at West Derby Register Office in April/June 1907) and had two small children, John Willie (3) and George Edward (1).

John Livens died, aged 50, on Wirral in mid-1936.

Although Daniel Taylor's British War Medal and Victory Medal had been accepted by his married halfsister, Annie Jones, his 1914/15 Star medal was accepted by Mrs E. Godbold; Daniel's sister, Alice Taylor, married an Ernest Godbold on Wirral in April / June 1920 (not at Neston).

I hereby acknowledge the receipt of the British War Model. pranted in respect of the service of 1911692. South Lancs. Regiment. Date September the 197, 192 Signature I hereby acknowledge the receipt of the 1914 15 lat granted in respect of the service of 1.692. Date 4/7/20 1919 Signature CH us L. Gallold

Page | 1739

Place	Date Que	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
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ANZAC.	9.		at 1-30 an order was received to creep up the hill and advanced at 5.154	4
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HELLES 1 Aug. The Btn. returned to MUDROS arriving at 8am and went into bivouac.

MUDROS 2 Aug. The Btn. in bivouac.

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" " 3 Aug. Inspection by O.C. 38th Brigade.

" " 4 Aug. Embarked on H.M.T. OSMANIEH about 9.30am & landed at ANZAC COVE at 11pm & marched to VICTORIA GULLY.

ANZAC 5 Aug. Quiet Day. Improved terraces.

" " 6 Aug. VICTORIA GULLY shelled from 4.45am to 7am and again in the evening from 4.45pm until after dark. 68 casualties. The Btn. left bivouac at 10.45pm & arrived at CHAILAK DERE at 4.30am on the 7th.

7 Aug. Advanced up the CHAILAK DERE in support of the New Zealand Army Corps.
11pm received orders to join the 39th Infantry Brigade. Arrived 2.30am 8th inst.

" " 8 Aug. Ordered to follow Royal Warwick Regiment & to be ready to advance at 4.15am. The rear half of the Royal Warwick Regt. Lost touch with leading half Btn. and the Btn. was ordered to advance up the AGHYL DERE and join in the attack. On reaching the attacking troops found that the attack had ceased shortly after dark. 'D' Coy were sent forward to relieve the Worcester Regt. And entrench. B Coy & ½ A Coy to its right & the other half A Coy joined up with the 10th Ghurkas, 'G' Coy in support. The Naval searchlight from one of our ships interfered with entrenching for 3 hours.

ANZAC 9 Aug. At 1.30am orders were received to creep up the hill and assault at 5.15am. The 6th Ghurkas under Major Allanson & 2 Coys L. S. Lanc. Regt. under his orders on our right the whole to be in conjunction with the attack by the 5 Battns. Artillery bombardment 4.30am to 5.15am. The Btn. advanced and it occupied the Turkish trenches with few casualties. Unfortunately, attack by the 5 Btns. had been delayed & the Btn. & the 6th Ghurkas were not able to hold on to the position won & were compelled to retire back to line held by 6th Ghurkas losing heavily in doing so. 'C' Coy moved up into the gap. 3 Coys of the Btn. held on to GHURKA HILL until relieved by the R. Warwick Regt. when two companies returned to the original line 1 Coy remaining in support of R. Warwick Regt.

The eight month campaign in Gallipoli was fought by Commonwealth and French forces in an attempt to force Turkey out of the war, to relieve the deadlock of the Western Front in France and Belgium, and to open a supply route to Russia through the Dardanelles and the Black Sea. The Allies landed on the peninsula on 25-26 April 1915; the 29th Division at Cape Helles in the south and the Australian and New Zealand Corps north of Gaba Tepe on the west coast, an area soon known as Anzac. On 6 August, further landings were made at Suvla, just north of Anzac, and the climax of the campaign came in early August when simultaneous assaults were launched on all three fronts. However, the difficult terrain and stiff Turkish resistance soon led to the stalemate of trench warfare. From the end of August, no further serious action was fought and the lines remained unchanged. The peninsula was successfully evacuated in December and early January 1916. The Helles Memorial serves the dual function of Commonwealth battle memorial for the whole Gallipoli campaign and place of commemoration for many of those Commonwealth servicemen who died there and have no known grave. [CWGC]



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ANZAC 10 Aug. The Tanks bombed the position held by the R. Warwick Regt. all the night and at 3am opened a heavy rifle fire. No attack was made then but at 4.45am a strong attack was made and the enemy were able to occupy the hill to the left of that held by the Btn. & to bring enfilade fire to bear with M.G.s. Two companies supported the R. Warwick Regt. on GHURKA HILL and two companies extended the line to the left. Two M.G.s & twenty men in a redoubt were able to prevent the enemy advancing round our left flank. The Btn. suffered very heavy casualties and at 10am it was decided to withdraw to the second line. The Ghurkas retired first and at 10.30 the Btn. retired gradually to the second position. Few casualties during active retirement.

The Btn. had suffered very heavy casualties during the two days fighting. The M.G. section under Lieut. Van der Valle rejoined from the redoubt after dark.

" " 11 Aug. Major G. Mott took over command of the Btn. also of the R. Warwick Regt. Lieut. Col. H. L. Woods invalided. The Btn. took over the outpost line held by the 14th Sikhs.

12 Aug. Consolidated position. Water very scarce. Major Gover Cheshire Regt. arrived and took over the R. Warwick Regt.

13 Aug. Brig. Gen. Layley inspected the trenches.

14 Aug. Btn. took over Connaught Rangers' trenches in (? – word unclear).

15 Aug. Enemy fired on communication trench with mountain fire & M.G. causing some casualties.

16 Aug. Quiet.

17 Aug. Two drafts arrived bringing strength of Btn. to 400 (1st Reinforcement from MUDROS & a draft from ENGLAND. Relieved by Connaught Rangers at 8pm. Btn. went into next Gully arriving at 11pm.

18 Aug. In REST GULLY.

19 Aug. Relieved 'Kings Own' R. L. Regt. in trenches right sector, on the AGHYL DERE.

20 Aug. parts of 50 lent to R.E. rejoined.

Casualty Form-Active Servic Regiment or Corps 6 Regimental No. 11692 Ale Rank_ Name Enlisted (a) 1/9/14 Terms of Service (a). Service reckons from (a) Numerical position on Date of promotion to Date of appointment to lance rank roll of N.C.Os. present rank Extended. Re-engaged_ Qualification (b) Record of promotions, reductions, transfers, casualtics, etc., during active service, as reported on Army Form H. 213, Army Form A. 35, or in other official documents. The authority to be quoted in each case. Report Remarks from Army Form B, Form A. 36, or official documents. taken from Place Date From whom Army other Date received hasked IS auconia worenouth 13. 6 10/9/15 Killed in Action Gallipoli Battn 10/8/15 B 213. "Ath 204718 8/125024 Jaylor 139 m. 0.2/16 10-8-15 An 2 1 139 Lamis 1,139 109 Daniel li allipole Sis : acice 1 In Real tall Brother 13 8 M.O. 4. 16 13 8 Pla achim alice 2 11692 WAR GRATUIT 3 Regd. Paper 2/ 1994 Serial No. 2.7.6.50%

Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects, 1901-1929

In 1919 the army paid outstanding credits – mainly remaining wages – to soldiers or, in the case of those who had died, their family or nominated representatives. At the same time a War Gratuity was often paid. In May 1919 Daniel's siblings received a payment of outstanding wages of £5 1s 2d from the army and a War Gratuity, paid in September, of £3. This, a total value of £8 1s 2d, is equivalent to a *labour value* (wages) of around £1250 in 2016. The payments made were-

Half-sister Annie Jones: £1 13s 9d Sister Alice: £1 13s 9d + £2 Half-brother John Levins: £1 13s 8d + £1

The War Gratuity was introduced in December 1918 as a payment to be made to those men who had served in WW1 for a period of 6 months or more home service or for any length of service if a man had served overseas. The rules governing the gratuity were implemented under Army Order 17 of 1919 but the amount paid was related to the length of war service.

British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914-1920

Daniel Taylor died on the same day, and in the same Gallipoli campaign, as Alfred A. Smith [See **162**: Alfred A. Smith].

John Livens, Daniel's half-brother (the illegitimate son of Mary, Daniel's mother) died on Wirral in mid-1936

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aged 50. In 1939 his widow, Elizabeth (born 25 September 1885) was living on private means at 28 Briardale Road, Ellesmere Port.

Elizabeth died, aged 76, in mid-1961.

John Willie Livens, a son of Daniel Taylor's half-brother John Livens, married Ellen May Baker at St Paul's Church, Hooton, in late 1932. In the 1939 Register they are recorded as living at 42 Bishop's Gardens, Ellesmere Port:

0.0		-,		
John W I	livens	born 8 March 1908	railroad shunter, ARP	
			Ellesmere Port	
Ellen M		born 12 May 1910		
One line of the record has been redacted				
Joan M		born 2 April 1935		
	One line of the re	cord has been redacted		
It is not kno	wn when John and	Ellen died.		

George Edward Livens married Martha Chesworth at Christ Church, Chester, in early 1929 and at the time of the 1939 Register they were living at 40 Cromwell Road, Ellesmere Port:

George E Livens	born 1 April 1910	light commercial motor driver			
Martha	born 7 September 1906				
C	One line of the record has been redacted				
John Geoffrey	born 4 September 1930				
Two lines of the record have been redacted					
It is not known when George and Martha died.					

Daniel's sister, Alice Taylor, married Ernest Godbold at Christ Church, Ellesmere Port, in April / June 1920 and in the 1939 Register they are recorded at 100 Cambridge Road, Ellesmere Port:

Ernest Godbold	born 10 March 1891	iron foundry labourer
Alice	born 7 October 1891	
Mary	born 18 October 1920	cord finisher, electrical cable
		manufacturer's

born 29 September 1928

Richard

Alice Godbold died on Wirral aged 55 in late 1946 and Ernest died, aged 64, in early 1954.