

Bushey Fatalities at Gallipoli

In 1915, the British and ANZAC (Australian and New Zealand Army Corps) set out to capture Constantinople, the capital of the Ottoman Empire, which was an ally of Germany during the war.

The force landed at Gallipoli on 25 April, meeting fierce resistance from the Ottoman Army commanded by Mustafa Kemal (later known as Atatürk). The fighting quickly sank into stalemate and by May 1915 trench warfare had taken hold of the battlefield.



John Lionel Calvert Booth

was a very talented artist who, as a child, illustrated and wrote stories for the rest of his family. He studied at the Herkomer Art School and boarded with a family at 16, Falconer Road in Bushey.

During the Boer War he was a war artist and correspondent for Punch magazine. He married Margaret Dockerill, known as 'Daisy', who was also an artist. They had two sons and emigrated to Australia in 1914. John enlisted as a member of the ANZAC expeditionary forces. He died at sea, aged 38, on 28 April 1915 as a result of wounds received at Gallipoli. Among his possession returned to his wife was his beloved banjo, which went everywhere with him.



After a series of costly attacks, in which both sides had suffered heavy casualties and endured great hardships, the British government decide to withdraw its troops. The last soldier was evacuated on 9 January 1916.

AMONG THE BUSHEY SERVICEMEN KILLED AT GALLIPOLI

Trooper **Harry Hickman Binyon**, originally of Grover Road, Oxhey, emigrated to Australia. He became a farm labourer and enlisted in the Australian Light Horse on 27 November 1914. He was killed in action, aged 41, on 30 May 1915. He was buried at Ari Burnu Cemetery, Anzac Cove. He is commemorated on the St Matthew's Church memorial.

Private **Alexander Pursell** of 16, Capel Road, Oxhey, was a Private in the London Regiment. In 1911 he was living with his widowed mother and was employed as a store boy at the gas works in the Lower High Street, Watford. He died on 27 September 1915, aged 20, and is buried at Green Hill Cemetery, Gallipoli. He is commemorated on the St Matthew's Church memorial

1915

25 APRIL

The Allies began a nine-month battle for the Turkish peninsula of Gallipoli.