

Details of casualties mentioned in the diary of Staff Sergeant James Hall, "Y" Battery, 15th Brigade, Royal Horse Artillery:

MACLEOD, Lieutenant Alistair Roderick (*Hamish*) *

"Y" Battery, 15th Brigade, R.H.A.

Born January 12, 1892, at 44, Gloucester Place, Hyde Park, London, W., the second son of Simon John Fraser Macleod, K.C., Commissioner of the Board of Control, and Catherine Florence (née Nelson) of 26, Albert Hall Mansions, Kensington, London, S.W. He was educated at Cheltenham College and at the Royal Military Academy, Woolwich. On December 22, 1911, he was gazetted 2nd Lieutenant in the R.F.A. and on December 23, 1914, he was promoted to Lieutenant and appointed to the 135th Battery. He proceeded to France in August 1914, where he participated in the retreat from Mons, the battle of the Marne, and the battle of the Aisne. Before daybreak on the morning of October 21, 1914, while on observation duty near Le Gheir, he and forty others were captured by the 104th Saxon Regiment. They were placed in the cellar of a convent to protect them from a British bombardment, and were subsequently released when the British recaptured the lost trenches. In November 1914 he was wounded in the shoulder by shrapnel and received a concussion from the explosion of the shell, and evacuated to hospital in England. After his recovery he was transferred to the R.H.A. On April 25, 1915, he (along with his batman, Gunner McCarthy, and five signallers) landed at "W" Beach with 1st Battalion The Lancashire Fusiliers as Artillery Observation Officer for certain ships covering the landing at "W" Beach, Helles. While seeking shelter under the cliffs he was mortally wounded. He was dragged to shelter by Gunner McCarthy then evacuated to H.M.S. *Euryalus*. Lieutenant McCarthy died while being lifted onboard the ship, aged 23 years. Buried at sea. Name commemorated on the Helles Memorial and on a brass tablet in St. Nicholas Church, Studland, Dorset.

On April 26, 1915, Staff Sergeant James Hall of "Y" Battery, noted in his diary:

One of our officers who had got on shore with Lans.Fs. together with a signaller was killed in landing.

Report in *The Times* (London) of May 10, 1915. Photo in de Ruvigny's *Roll of Honour, Volume I*, page 239, and *Bond of Sacrifice, Volume II*, page ---.

TAYLOR, Lieutenant Ezra Dolphin *

"Y" Battery, 15th Brigade, R.H.A.

Lieutenant Taylor was the husband of Charlotte Eliza Taylor of Rotherham, Yorkshire. Father of Cissie and Phillis. Killed in action on April 28, 1915, aged 37 years. Buried Skew Bridge Cemetery, Helles.

On April 28, 1915, Staff Sergeant James Hall of "Y" Battery, noted in his diary:

Another officer killed behind the guns. Terribly hot work. Hell!

Lieutenant Taylor's will was probated to his wife in London on July 1, 1915. His estate was valued at £152 15s 0d.

BARFORD, Armament Staff Sergeant John William *

No.T/442 Royal Army Ordnance Corps attached "Y" Battery, 15th Brigade, R.H.A.
Staff Sergeant Barford was born in West Ham, Essex, and enlisted Woolwich, Kent.
Killed in action on May 10, 1915. Buried Pink Farm Cemetery, Helles.

On May 10, 1915, Staff Sergeant James Hall of "Y" Battery noted in his diary:

Lost my best friend, Sergeant Barford, who was killed just as we were talking together about a job we had just completed on one of the guns.

WHITE, Gunner Francis Robert *

No.63074 "Y" Battery, R.H.A.

Born in Rotherhithe, Surrey, and enlisted in London, the husband of Maud Mary White of Leamington Spa. On May 1, 1915, he was mortally wounded. Died of wounds on a hospital ship on May 5, 1915, aged 25 years, and buried at sea. Name commemorated on the Helles Memorial.

On May 1, 1915, Staff Sergeant James Hall of "Y" Battery noted in his diary:

Last nights terrible. Infantry forced to give way through the French giving way. We had to dig trenches along guns and man them with only 50 rounds per man under terrible machine gun and rifle fire. Several men hit and one Sgt killed in space of 5 mins but when day broke just as we were fagged out, we opened fire with our guns 4.30am to 6.00am at gun fire guns red hot but kept up a steady fire until 7am. We have slaughtered thousands.

ELDRIDGE, Gunner John Laurence

No.79921 "Y" Battery, R.H.A.

Born in Freshwater, Isle of Wight, and enlisted in Newport, Isle of Wight, the son of John and Grace Eldridge of Norton Green, Yarmouth, Isle of Wight. Killed in action June 19, 1915, aged 18 years. Buried Pink Farm Cemetery, Helles.

On June 19, 1915, Staff Sergeant James Hall of "Y" Battery noted in his diary:

Reinforcements again shelled when passing our guns. More killed including one of our gunners.

On July 5, 1915, he noted in his diary:

Saw a French transport torpedoed just off shore. Went down in 2 mins.

This was the French transport Carthage, torpedoed on July 4.

FITZSIMMONS, Gunner Joseph George

No.2/877 3rd Battery, Second Reinforcements and Samoan Advance Force, New Zealand Artillery

Born in Armidale, New South Wales, Australia, the son of Peter and Amelia Fitzsimmons of 40, Mortimer Terrace, Wellington. Husband of Elizabeth Fitzsimmons of 14, Allen Street, Leichhardt, Sydney, N.S.W. (NOTE: At the time of his enlistment he noted that he was single and indicated his mother as his next of kin.) Killed in action in the Helles sector on July 11, 1915, aged 36 years. Name commemorated on the Twelve Tree Copse (New Zealand) Memorial.

On July 11, 1915, Staff Sergeant James Hall of "Y" Battery, Royal Horse Artillery, noted in his diary:

New Zealand battery to our left front got severely shelled. Waggon blown up and some gunners killed.

WRIGHT, Battery Sergeant Major Charles Edward

No.22164 "Y" Battery, R.H.A.

B.S.M. Wright enlisted in Woolwich, Kent. He served with "L" Battery, R.H.A., in France in 1914 (entitled to the 1914 Star instead of the 1914-15 Star). Died of typhoid on August 3, 1915, in Alexandria, Egypt. Buried Chatby War Memorial Cemetery, Alexandria.

On August 15, 1915, Staff Sergeant James Hall of "Y" Battery noted in his diary:

Our Sgt Major died with enteritis. It seems pitiful that he should escape from the smash up of L Battery in France, then die out here of fever.