In Memory of Private JOHN HORACE HABGOOD

2012, Berkshire Yeomanry

Who died, age 24, on 21 August 1915 Son of George William and Ann Frances Habgood, of

Marlborough House, Faringdon, Berks.

Remembered with honour Faringdon War Memorial and HELLES MEMORIAL, TURKEY



Commemorated in perpetuity by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

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. The memorial bears more than 21,000 names.

George Habgood was a Draper in 1891 and the family lived at 22 Market Place, Faringdon at this time. John had four elder sisters and a brother who were; Gertrude aged 9, Elsie 7, Gladys 5, Doris 4 and Henry aged 2, John was 4 months old at the time of the census. The family were reasonably wealthy and had a number of live-in servants.