

Albert Thornley
(c1894 – 13 August 1915)

The only census record showing Albert is for 1911 when he was 16 years of age. He was living with his uncle and aunt, **Henry and Amelia Holt** in Gibraltar Street in Gilnow, Bolton, together with his brother James and sister Lily.



Albert's employment was described as a Crofter in a Bleach Works. Henry Holt was shown as a Towel Crofter also in a bleach works. Previous censuses in 1881 and 1891 show his parents, Richard (a gardener) and Alice Thornley living in Halliwell.

Albert's enrolment records in 1915 show him living at 4 Pool Terrace, Smithills, close to St Peter's church across the way from Moss Bank Park. (see below) He described himself as a "Crofter" and was single aged 20 years.

In the Bolton Journal of 10th September 1915 he was described as "lodged with Mrs Hulme". He was brought up, (according to the paper) at Eden's Orphanage. He was a capable swimmer, and gained a certificate of the Royal Humane Society in 1905. As a boy he attended the Saviour's Church where he obtained many prizes for religious knowledge. Albert was a regular attender at the **Smithills Chapel**, where he was a member of the choir, and a Sunday School teacher. He played cricket several times for **Christ Church, Heaton** and is on their roll of honour, which contains the names of about 40

on the club's books. He also played football for St Peter's.

Prior to enlisting he was employed at **Messrs. R. H. Ainsworth, Son and Co. Limited's** croft, Halliwell. The main bleaching room in the bleaching factory was, and still is, called a croft.



Albert was given a Number: 19188 and assigned to the **Kings Own Scottish Border Regiment**. The 1st Battalion sailed from Avonmouth on 17th March 1915 for Gallipoli (via Malta, Alexandria, Egypt and Mudros, a small Greek port on the Mediterranean island of Lemnos). He wrote to Mrs Hulme from Malta enclosing a photograph of the

Royal Edward, and promising to write upon arrival at the Dardanelles. The Battalion (part of the 87th Brigade of the 29th Division) landed from HMS Implacable or HMS Euryalus at Cape Helles on 25th April 1915. His Regiment was involved in the Battle of Krithia Vineyard against troops of the Ottoman Empire, which was fought between 6th August and 13 August 1915. It is reported that there were 4,120 casualties of this battle. He was reported 'missing, believed drowned'.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission records show that he was in the First Battalion Border Regiment when he died on 13th August 1915 aged 21. He is remembered with Honour on the Helles Memorial in Turkey, which is predominantly for those who died in or around Gallipoli and have no known resting place.



