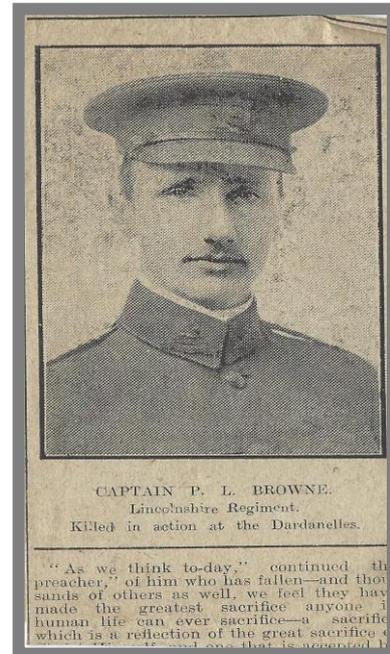


Name, Rank & Regiment of Soldier:

Browne, Percival Leathley

Captain Lincolnshire Regiment

6th Service 2nd Battalion in command of 'B' Company



Date of birth	Date KIA	Age
11 th July 1883	9 August 1915	32

Background: Percy L. Browne

Percival (Percy) Leathley Browne was the second son of Rev. Samuel Browne and Mary Browne née Armitage. He was born in Plumtree, Notts, where his father was the Rector at St Mary's Church. Percival had an older brother, Montague (see previous entry – RIP) and two sisters, Althea (later Mrs Macauley) and Eleanor Dorothy¹.

Mary Browne was widowed in 1906 and came to Collingham sometime around 1909/1910, living in South Collingham House until 1921 and Rutland House thereafter. Percy was already in the army and probably only stayed in Collingham on furlough. He was stationed in India and later (1910) Bermuda. The 1911 Census gave Percy's abode as the Lincoln Barracks (now the Museum of Lincolnshire Life on Burton Road). Percy married Joan Edith Lister Burton (1884 – 1935) from Somersby, Lincs., daughter of landowner Langhorne Burton. The ceremony took place at St Andrew's Church, Marylebone on July 2nd 1914.

A little over a year later, Joan was widowed. She applied for her husband's medals on 28 October 1919, giving addresses of South Collingham Hall (sic - should be South Collingham House), Newark, and The Royal Park Hotel, Hyde Park, London. She never remarried.

¹ Miss Dorothy Browne founded the Collingham Girl Guides in 1914 & was involved in many good causes such as the British Red Cross Working Party during the war. Her mother, Mary, always permitted Dale Field for use by the Sunday School annual treats.

Military History: Captain P L Browne

Browne was a professional soldier. He entered the Lincolnshire Regiment from the Militia in 1902. He was promoted to lieutenant in 1904 and captain in 1913.

The 6th Battalion Lincolnshire Regiment was the first new 'service' battalion of the Lincolnshire Regiment – in other words, made up of volunteers and recruits rather than regular army men. 'A' and 'B' Companies were formed first (August 1914) with the experienced Browne in charge of 'B' Company. A 'C' and 'D' Company soon joined them. Their initial training was at Belton House near Grantham followed by other camps in England. They embarked for Gallipoli on June 30th and 'dropped anchor' in Mudros Harbour on July 18th.

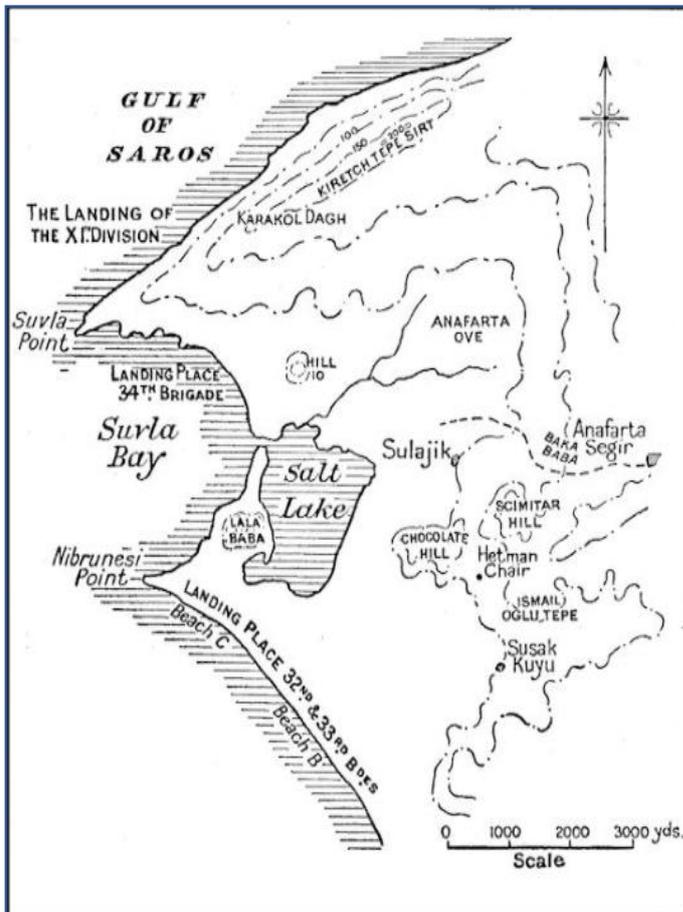
The 6th Battalion was part of the 33rd Brigade/ 11th Division alongside troops from mainly other Midlands Regiments such as the 9th Sherwood Foresters. They landed at Suvla Bay (Turkey) on 6th August.

Background to The Gallipoli Campaign ²

'The eight month long 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 troops (including the 6th Battalion Lincolnshire Regiment) were put ashore 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. The aim of the Suvla force had been to quickly secure the sparsely held high ground surrounding the bay and Salt Lake, but confused landings and indecision caused fatal delays allowing the Turks to reinforce and only a few of the objectives were taken with difficulty Green Hill and Chocolate Hill (which form together Yilghin Burnu), rise from the eastern shore of the salt lake. They were captured on 7 August 1915 by the 6th Lincolns and the 6th Border Regiment but once taken, no further advance was then made. On the two following days, unsuccessful efforts were made to push on along the ridge of 'W' Hill (Ismail Oglu Tepe), leading to Anafarta Sagir and on 21 August, the attack of the 11th and 29th Divisions and the 2nd South Midland Mounted Brigade to take Scimitar Hill, although pressed with great resolution, left the front line where it had been.'

² Source: <http://www.cwgc.org/find-a-cemetery/cemetery/2000105/GREEN%20HILL%20CEMETERY>



Left:
Sketch of Suvla Bay from a sketch by Major Hansen
VC from Spring's account.

The following extract is from *'The History of the 6th (Service) Battalion Lincolnshire Regiment 1914-1919'* by Colonel F G Spring (1878-1963) written in 1920 reprinted 2008³.

'At 2.00 am on August 9th the battalion left the bivouacs at Lala Baba, and proceeded along the north side of the Salt Lake, to Chocolate Hill when we came under fire... The enemy were in large numbers and our casualties became very heavy but the men put up a stubborn fight and held on steadily...'

Spring then describes how the hill top was covered in gorse and the heavy shelling had set it on fire. *'...it quickly spread and drove our men back. The air was black with smoke, blinding the men, and all the time the Turks poured on a heavy fire. With no alternative, the Colonel, at 12.15 pm gave the orders to withdraw...'*

The colonel, who was also injured in the attack, continues: *'... casualties that day were terrible... the worst the battalion had ever suffered in a single attack.'*

The footnote states 12 officers were killed, wounded and missing and 391 rank and file, out of a possible 17 officers and 561 other ranks. Captain Browne was one of the officers killed. Several other local men fought in this battle including Pte. Arthur Tonn (see profile KIA 1916) and Michael Edmonds Colton of South Scarle Hall (died Gallipoli).

³ The History of the 6th (Service) Battalion Lincolnshire Regiment 1914-1919 Col F G Spring published by Poacher Books 2008

A tribute to Browne from Rev. A Maxwell of St John the Baptist, South Collingham September 1915 Newsletter

*'The ghastly tragedy of this terrible war has again been brought home to our minds here in Collingham by the news of the death of Captain Percival Leathley Browne, which happened on the field of battle on or about August 7th in the neighbourhood of the Dardanelles. Our deepest sympathy and sorrow are with all the members of his family in the cruel bereavement which has befallen them. They will derive comfort from the fact that their dear one died a brave and noble death while defending the honour and safety of his country, and still greater comfort from the knowledge that in Christ Jesus our Divine Redeemer death is but the gate of life Eternal and that in him all who love Him will meet again never more to experience the horrors of war, or misery, or parting, or death. This is the unspeakable comfort of all believers. RIP.'*⁴

Captain Browne is remembered on South Collingham War Memorials and Roll of Honour and on a plaque in Plumtree St Mary the Virgin.

He is buried in Green Hill Cemetery, Turkey Plot: II.B 3



Above: Photo of Browne's plaque in Plumtree Church UKNIWM Ref - 27270 c/o Peter Gillings Nottinghamshire County Council Roll of Honour website

A similar brass plaque memorial to Percy's brother, Montague Browne, who died the following April from wounds sustained in the Easter Uprising is also in St Mary the Virgin Church, Plumtree (see separate profile).

⁴ CDLHS Archives Box B (Ref EC/B/47 Collingham Archives)

Right: Scan of newspaper cutting reporting Captain PL Browne's death from the Newark Advertiser Collingham and District Local History Society archives

SEPT 1st 1915

THE NEWARK ADVERTISER

COLLINGHAM OFFICER KILLED.

CAPTAIN P. L. BROWNE, OF THE LINCOLNSHIRE REGIMENT.

With regret is recorded the death on the field of honour of Captain Percy Leathley Browne, of the Lincolnshire Regiment. The gallant officer, who is officially reported killed in action at the Dardanelles between August 7th and 11th, was the younger son of the late Rev. S. B. Browne, Plumtree, Nottingham, and of Mrs. Browne, South Collingham House, and was 32 years of age. He entered the Lincolnshire Regiment from the Militia in May, 1902, and his promotions were dated November, 1904 (Lieutenant), and October, 1913 (Captain). Posted to the 2nd Battalion of the Lincolnshires, he was attached to the 6th Service Battalion towards the end of last October, and went to the front with his regiment.

MEMORIAL SERVICE AT COLLINGHAM.

A service in memory of the deceased officer was held at South Collingham Church yesterday, conducted by Canon Blakeney, vicar of Melton Mowbray, who had known Captain P. L. Browne from childhood. The Vicar of North Collingham Church (Rev. R. F. Gould) presided at the organ, and also read the lesson. There was a large attendance at the service, among those present being the following officers from the Lincolnshire Regiment: Col. Ivatt, commanding the depot at Lincoln; Colonel Ruston, Major Wilson, and Captain Blackwood, D.S.O.

The service commenced with the hymn, "Lord God of Hosts, whose Mighty Hand," and the hymn before the address was "Abide with Me." Psalm 103 was chanted, and the Nunc Dimittis sung.

Canon Blakeney, in the course of an inspiring address, said: "These are days which make even the most thoughtless think. It would be a mere truism to say this afternoon that we are living in the most remarkable times in the history of the world. We are all conscious of this terrible war which is bringing destruction and sorrow and agony in every direction, and at such a period as this we are, too, confronted as we are not at other times by the great realities of life and death. I suppose there is no one in this country who has not been forced by the events of the last few months to think of death and to think of life, and the great meaning of the great scheme of life more than ever before. To-day we meet at a memorial service to commemorate

BRAVE, GALLANT AND CHRISTIAN SOLDIER.

and at such a service as this we feel that thoughts are suggested to our minds which must produce an effect more or less upon our lives. Memorial services at the present time are, sad to say, very frequent. But what is the object of a memorial service? It is not only to bring before your minds what was noblest and best and most heroic in the conduct of one who is gone. It is also to help those who are in sorrow and grief. The object of a memorial service is not to sadden or intensify grief; not to make life darker, but rather to point our hearts and voices to higher regions of joy and light which live for ever where we know that one day all mysteries and all problems of human existence will be explained for ever in the light of God."

Sources:

Ancestry (<https://www.ancestry.co.uk/>)

Collingham & District Local History Society (<http://collingham-history.org.uk/>)

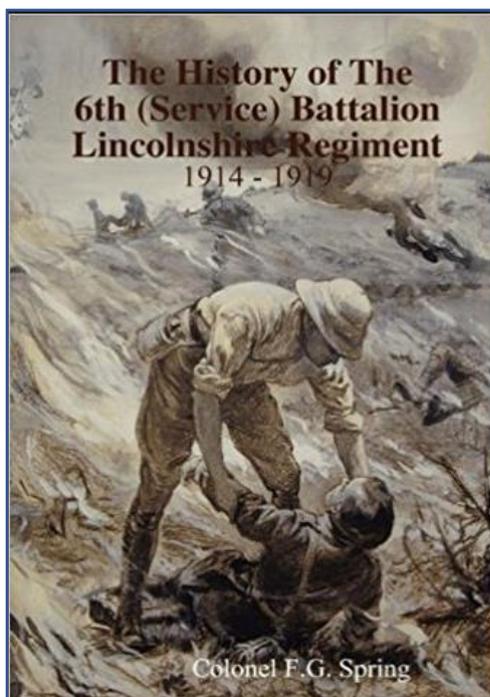
East Trent Genealogy (<http://www.easttrentgenealogy.co.uk/>)

Commonwealth War Graves Commission (<https://www.cwgc.org/>)

Nottinghamshire County Council Roll of Honour
(<http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/rollofhonour>)

The Long, Long Trail (<http://www.longlongtrail.co.uk/>)

Book: The History of The 6th (Service) Battalion Lincolnshire Regiment by Col. F G Spring



Left: Cover of the new edition of Col. Spring's History of the 6th (Service) Battalion

