

# **EDGAR ALEXANDER TOM WILLIS**

**Sergeant  
12425**

**4th Battalion, South Wales Borderers  
died on  
Saturday 25th September 1915  
aged 29**

**EDGAR ALEXANDER TOM WILLIS  
is buried in  
AZMAK CEMETERY, SULVA  
Turkey**

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. On 6 August, further troops 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. With Hill 10 Cemetery, Azmak recalls the northern part of the Suvla operations and the attempts to take and hold the Kiretch Tepi ridge and the high ground to the east. The cemetery was made after the Armistice when graves were brought in from isolated sites in the area. There are now 1,074 First World War servicemen buried or commemorated in this cemetery.

Tom Willis is buried in Plot II. Row G. Grave 19.



### COLWALL FAMILY'S FINE RECORD SEVEN SONS IN THE ARMY

It is the proud boast of Mr and Mrs T Willis of Hill House, Colwall that they have sent seven sons to serve their country in the war. One has already laid down his life and another is a prisoner in Germany.

#### SERGEANT EDGAR ALEXANDER TOM WILLS

South Wales Borderers, sixth son joined the Army on the outbreak of war when in the employ of Mr F Ballard. He was eventually sent to the Dardanelles where he was killed on September 25th. He was 22 years of age and single. He is the first Colwall man to be killed in the land forces and a former pupil of Colwall Free Boys School.

Name.	Corps.	Rank	Regtl. No.
<b>WILLIS</b> Tom.	S. Wales Bunde	Cpl	12425
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Medal.	Roll.	Page.	Remarks.
VICTORY	J/1/101 Bk.	489	Killed 23-9-15
BRITISH	- do -	- do -	
15 STARS	J/1/2132	142	
Theatre of War first served in	2 <sup>nd</sup> Balkans		
Date of entry therein	19-7-15		

K. 1380.

Edgar Alexander Tom Willis was born in Colwall and baptised in Colwall on December 14th 1892. He was one of the eleven children of Thomas and Eliza Willis. The family lived in Hill House, Camp Road, Upper Colwall. In 1911 Tom and three of his brothers were boarding in Rhymney and they were all pit top workers in the Rhymney Colliery. Tom enlisted in Brecon and joined the South Wales Borderers. The 4th Battalion went out in July 1915 to the Dardanelles and Tom, an Acting Sergeant, was killed in action at Gallipoli on 25th September 1915. He is buried in Azmak Cemetery, Sulva.