JACQUES, FRANCIS AUGUSTUS  Lieutenant Colonel   29th Indian Brigade

14TH (KING GEORGE’S OWN) FEROZEPORE SIKHS

Born Leyland  Enlisted Not Known  Living Mooltan, India, in the Indian Army.

Ref: ‘Officers Died in the Great War, 1914-1919’, and Appendix Part III:-
‘Deceased European Officers of the Indian Army.’

Chorley Guardian and Leyland Hundred Advertiser  Sat  19th June 1915

Lt. Col. Francis A. Jacques, Commanding Officer of the 14th Ferozepore Sikhs, has been killed in action with the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force at the Dardanelles – April 24th, 1915 (see later ‘Note’ re. this date).

Third son of the late Canon Kinton Jacques (Curate of Leyland and Rector of Brindle), he was born at Leyland in 1873 (sic). His brother Capt. Jacques is also with the Indian Forces, in the Lancers, and at present in France.

Lt. Col. Jacques married in 1914 his cousin Olivia Katherine, daughter of Mr. Burkill Jacques of San Diego, California, and leaves her with two infant daughters.

Chorley Weekly News  19th June 1915

Reports the death of Col. Jacques in similar vein to the ‘Guardian’ above. Additionally, it states – “He saw service in the Black Mountain and Chitral campaigns and the Chinese Expedition, for each of which he received medals and clasps.”

Preston Guardian  Sat  19th June 1915

The casualty list on Tuesday included the name of Lt. Col. Frank Augustus Jacques, who was in command of the 14th (King George’s Own) Ferozepore Sikhs, and who was killed in action with the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force in the Dardanelles.

Col. Jacques was the third son of the late Canon Jacques, Rector of Brindle, who died as recently as April 24th, and, like his father and other members of his family, was well-known and held in the highest affection in the district.

Born at Leyland in 1867, Colonel Jacques was educated at Rossall School, and passing through the Militia battalion of the 47th (Loyal North Lancashire) Regiment, he joined the Indian Army, being gazetted to the regiment of which he rose to the command. He saw service in the Black Mountain and Chitral campaigns and the Chinese Expedition, for each of which he gained medals and clasps.

Before proceeding to the Dardanelles he was engaged with his regiment in connection with the Turkish attack on the Suez Canal. He was an efficient officer, shrewd, reliant, and keen, and had a good influence with officers and men.

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He married, in 1904, his cousin Olivia Katherine, daughter of Mr. Burkill Jacques, of San Diego,
California, and leaves her surviving with two infant daughters. His brother, Captain Jacques, is also with the Indian Forces in the Lancers, and at present in the trenches in France (photo in this issue).

Lt. Col. Jacques’s name does not appear on any memorial in Leyland.

Commonwealth War Graves Commission

With no known grave, Lt. Col. Jacques is commemorated on the: -

HELLES MEMORIAL, TURKEY

Aged 48, Francis Augustus was the son of the Rev. Canon Kinton and Caroline Jacques; and husband of Olivia Katherine Jacques of San Diego, California, U.S.A.

The Will of Francis Augustus Jacques of the 14th Sikhs stationed at Mooltan in India.

Probate granted at London November 3rd, 1915 to the Rev. James Kinton Jacques, Clerk and George Philip Rigbye Jacques, Captain in the 19th Lancers. Effects £1,440.2s.0d.

“Gallipoli 1915”: Campaign Series 8 by Philip J. Haythornthwaite.

The 14th (King George’s Own) Ferozepore Sikhs was part of the 29th Indian Brigade which, with the 125th (Lancashire Fusiliers) Brigade, were shipped from Egypt in May as reinforcements for the 2nd Battle of Krithia, when they were attached to the ravaged 29th Division.

It would seem that Col. Jacques was killed on the first day of the 3rd Battle of Krithia.

“Defeat At Gallipoli” By Nigel Steel and Peter Hart.

Friday the 4th of June 1915 was a hot summer’s day. The bombardment of identified Turkish strongpoints opened at 08.00 and at 11.05 the concentrated barrage of the whole Turkish front line began. So started the 3rd Battle of Krithia.

As the infantry attacked all along the line at 12.00, the artillery switched their fire to the trenches immediately in the rear of the Turkish front line.

– On the 29th Division front the 29th Indian Brigade suffered severely as they tried to advance –

‘On the extreme left the 6th Gurkas moved forward under cover of the cliffs and reached the end of the first enemy trench almost unobserved. The attached Lancashire Fusilier Battalion attacking the centre were mown down almost to a man before they had got many yards from their own parapet. The 14th Sikhs, on the right of the Brigade, started with the advantage of some dead ground, and made some progress, but when they emerged into view they were practically annihilated, and although some of the survivors got as far as the Turkish wire, they were there killed. The 14th Sikhs, as a fighting unit, had ceased to exist.’ (Quoting ‘Memories of Four Fronts’ by Lt. General Sir William Marshall [Later Brigadier General] ).

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Colonel Jacques, an uncle, was killed in the Dardanelles last year. (Note: William Baldwin Jacques [Late Vicar of St. John’s, Whittle], was the eldest son of the Rev. Canon Kinton Jacques [One time Curate of Leyland and Rector of Brindle]. Colonel F.A. Jacques was William Baldwin’s younger brother).

Note 1:- In the Chorley Guardian report of June 19th, 1915 reporting the death of Col. Jacques, the date given, in error, is the date of death of his father, the Rev. Canon Jacques. Also, Francis Augustus’s date of birth is given incorrectly; the date given in the Preston Guardian report, 1867, is correct.

Note 2:- A brief report of the death of Col. Jacques appears in the Lancashire Daily Post of June 16th, 1915. There is much less information in this report than in either the Chorley or the Preston Guardian, but does include a photograph.

Note 3:- The Helles Memorial bears over 20,000 names and is both the memorial to the Gallipoli campaign and to men who fell in that campaign and whose graves are unknown or who were lost or buried at sea in Gallipoli waters, except for the men of Australia and New Zealand who are named on other memorials. The Memorial stands on the tip of the peninsula and is in the form of an obelisk over 30 metres high and can be seen by ships passing through the Dardanelles (C.W.G.C.).

Jacques, Francis Augustus. W. E. Waring 2003