

# ON THE BRINK

## The Politics of Conflict 1914-1916 Project

ACTIVE SERVICE

### JOHN HEANEY

John Heaney was born in Dungiven to Catholic parents, and like many from rural backgrounds, travelled to find work. John had travelled the well trod path to Scotland and found himself in Ayrshire when war broke out. John was only 19 or 20 working in Scotland as a migrant farm labourer. Instead of coming home to enlist for the war effort, John quickly joined the Royal Scottish Fusiliers in Kilmarnock, and later disembarked in Gallipoli on 7th June 1915.

On the twelfth of July an attack was made on Turkish trenches. General Sir Ian Hamilton, Commander in Chief of Mediterranean Expeditionary Force commented in dispatches :

*“a fine feat of arms had been accomplished, and a solid and enduring advance had been achieved.....”*

John Heaney from Dungiven was amongst the 3,000 Allied soldiers who died in the accomplishment.



John Heaney  
Courtesy of John O’Kane