

Charles Henry White

killed in action 20 Dec 1916

age 28 years



Charles Henry White's father, Thomas Henry White, was born in Exton, Hampshire in 1851. He worked as an agricultural labourer in various places including Braishfield and Ovington. By 1911 he was living in Dummer Down and working as a Farm Bailiff. Charles' mother Ellen was born in Sheffield. They had married in 1884 and their first child, Susan Elizabeth, was born in 1885 in Slackstead, Farley Chamberlayne. Charles Henry was born in 1888, also in Slackstead.

In 1903 Charles enlisted in the Scots Guards but a year later was discharged as medically unfit to serve. The attestation papers from 1903 give a description of the young man, aged 18.

In 1911 Charles Henry was single, working as a carter and living with his parents in Dummer Down. His sister Susan had married James Norgate in 1905 and had two daughters, Susan Ellen and Lilian.

Charles enlisted in the Hampshire Regiment. He held the rank of Lance Corporal and his number was 18648. Unfortunately Charles Henry's enlistment papers in 1915 cannot be traced and are assumed to be amongst the "burned documents" destroyed in WW2 bombing.

Name:	Charles Henry White
Birth Place:	Slackstead, Hants
Death Date:	20 Dec 1916
Death Place:	France and Flanders
Enlistment Place:	Basingstoke, Hants
Rank:	L Corporal
Regiment:	Hampshire Regiment
Battalion:	1st Battalion
Regimental Number:	18648
Type of Casualty:	Killed in Action
Theatre of War:	Western European Theatre

Description of Charles Henry White on Enlistment.

Apparent Age 18 years H months.
(To be determined according to the instructions given in the Regulations for Army Medical Services.)

On Enlistment.	After six months' service and gymnastic course.
Height <u>6</u> ft. <u>1</u> in.	ft. in.
Weight <u>145</u> lbs. lbs.
Class of build (Give when fully expanded.) (Range of expansion) <u>H</u> in. in.
Complexion <u>Fresh</u>	
Eyes <u>Blue</u>	
Hair <u>Brown</u>	

Distinctive marks, and marks indicating congenital peculiarities or previous disease.
(Should the Medical Officer be of opinion that the recruit has served before, he will, unless the man acknowledges to any previous service, attach a slip to this sheet, for the information of the approving Officer.)

Scar right knee. esp.
Birth mark right shoulder

Church of England of E.
Presbyterian
Wesleyan
Baptist or Congregationalist
Other Protestants (Designation to be stated)
Roman Catholic
Jews

A description of the young Charles Henry White in 1903 from his attestation papers. He had enlisted for short term service in the Scots Guards.

At 6ft he was quite tall, compared with his contemporaries, and had blue eyes and brown hair. He also had a scar on his kneecap and a birthmark on his right shoulder.

20th December 1916

The 1st Hampshires had been billeted in Abbeville for most of November 1916 but December 7th marked a return to the front.

They spent a week in a camp near Bray and then, on December 15th, moved up to Priez Farm near Combles. This area had recently been taken over from the French and conditions left a lot to be desired.

On December 19th they relieved the East Lancashires opposite the most westerly end of St. Pierre Vaast Wood. Here the line consisted of shell holes, not continuous trenches, and was very muddy. The enemy were about 500 yards away and there was some artillery activity but otherwise not much action was seen. In spite of this, during their rotations with a total of six days on the line and four in reserve, 15 men were killed or missing, one officer and eleven men wounded and conditions were so awful that seven officers and 77 men were admitted to hospital.

On the 20th December nothing in particular is recorded in the war diaries, except that the enemy's artillery was described as 'decidedly active'.

However, this was the day that 2nd Lt. R.A.B. Hall was wounded and it appears that this may have been as a result of an artillery strike that also resulted in the death of Charles White. The wounds that R.A.B. Hall sustained were severe enough for him to relinquish his commission on the 22nd December 1916 on the grounds of ill health.

On the 29th December the 1st Hampshires were relieved and returned to Bray.

.18
WILL.

In the event of my death I give the whole of my property and effects to my mother Mrs H H White
Dummerdown Farm
Basingstoke
Hants
England
No. 18648

Signature Charles Henry White
Rank and Regiment Lt. 1st Bn. Hampshire Regt
Date 8th June 1916

The will of Charles Henry White

Name:	WHITE	Corps:	Hamp R	Regt. No.:	18648
Charles H					
Serial:		Roll:		Page:	
VICTORY					
BRITISH					
15 STAR					
Theatre of War first served in <u>(2B) Helles</u>					
Date of entry therein <u>31-10-16</u>					

Medal roll entry for Charles Henry White



Charles's gravestone in the Sully-Saillisel British Cemetery



In Memory of
Lance Corporal
C H White
18648, 1st Bn., Hampshire Regiment who died on 20 December 1916

Remembered with Honour
Sully-Saillisel British Cemetery

Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

The 1st Battalion, Hampshire Regiment

At the outbreak of war the 1st Battalion was in the 4th Division, 11th Brigade and between August 21st and 22nd left Southampton on the Braemar Castle and Cestrian and disembarked at Le Havre. They were detained at Le Cateau.

1914

The Battle of Le Cateau, The Battle of the Marne, The Battle of the Aisne, The Battle of Messines

Dec 1914. This Battalion took part in the Christmas Truce.

1915

The Second Battle of Ypres

1916

The Battle of Albert, The Battle of Le Transloy

1917

The First and Third battles of the Scarpe, The Battle of Polygon Wood, The Battle of Broodseinde, The Battle of Poelcapelle, The First Battle of Passchendaele.

1918

The First Battle of Arras, The Battle of Hazebrouck, The Battle of Bethune, The Advance in Flanders, The Battle of the Scarpe, The Battle of Drocourt-Queant, The Battle of the Canal du Nord, The Battle of the Selle, The Battle of Valenciennes.