

15834 Private Charlie Northover

7th Battalion Prince of Wales's, (North Staffordshire) Regiment.



Charlie Northover was born in Warminster during 1881, the fourth son of Henry and Sarah Northover (nee Horder). His parents were born in Dorset, but must have moved to Warminster around 1866. By 1891 the family were living at 17 West Street, Warminster; Henry was employed as a gardener and his wife Sarah was caring for seven children at home. Charlie was listed as a Scholar, aged 10. By 1901, Charlie aged 20, has moved to Swindon, and is living as a boarder with a Francis and Sarah Seull at 11 Maxwell Street, employed as a drilling machinist. In 1914 Charlie is living at 45 Heathcote Street, Kidsgrove, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire and was employed as a Borax Refiner.

Charlie enlisted on 2nd December 1914 in Stoke-on-Trent, and was enrolled into the 7th Battalion Prince of Wales's, (North Staffordshire) Regiment. In January 1915 the Battalion were billeted in Basingstoke and then moved down to Blackdown (Aldershot) in February 1915 for final training.

On the 19th September 1915 Charlie is posted to the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force fighting in Gallipoli at Suvla Bay where they were engaged in various actions against the Turkish forces.

The 7th Battalion Prince of Wales's, (North Staffordshire) Regiment was evacuated from Suvla Bay during the 19th and 20th December 1915, and after a weeks rest they were moved to the Helles bridgehead. They were in action during the last Turkish attacks at Helles on the 7th January 1916, and were evacuated from Helles on the 8th and 9th January.

On the 26 January 1916 the Battalion is evacuated to Egypt due to heavy casualties from combat, disease and severe weather conditions. On the 29th February 1916 the Battalion are moved to Mesopotamia to join the force being assembled near Sheikh Sa'ad for the relief of the besieged garrison at Kut al Amara. They joined the Tigris Corps on the 27th March and were in action in the unsuccessful attempts to relieve the besieged 8,000 strong British-Indian garrison at Kut al Amara, 160 kilometres (about 100 miles) south of Baghdad.

Charlie was killed in action on the 9th of April 1916, age 35 during the first Battle of Kut al Amara. At the time, he was a private, regimental number 15834 in "B" Company. He is commemorated on the Basra Memorial, Panel 34 in Iraq. Having also served in the Balkans campaign he was awarded the Victory, British War medals and 1914 -1915 Star.



Pip, Squeak and Wilfred