Charles Hunter



Rank: - Private

Number: - 42568

Regiment: - South Staffordshire Regiment (Formerly 13314 KOYLI) 1st/5th Bn. (Territorial Force)

Killed in Action: - 28/09/1918 Age: 27 years

Cemetery: - Roisel Community Cemetery Extension, Somme, France 11.J.16

Family Details

Charles was born in Leeds in c.1891 the son of Joshua and Hannah Hunter nee Arminson who had married on the 24th July 1874 at St. John the Evangelist Church, Leeds.

Sarah Jane was born in 1877 followed by Albert Edward 1879, Ethel 1882, Alice 1885, Jackson 1887, Ellen 1889, James 1892, Samuel 1895,

In 1891 when the census was taken, he was described as Baby Hunter aged 3 months when the family was living at 1, Viscount Place, Leeds and his father was employed as a tanner.

In 1901 the family was living at 1/3, Horrocks Street, Leeds and Joshua was employed as a leather tanner. A decade later in 1911 Joshua is working as a Leather Stoker at a tanners and curriers whilst Johnson was working as skin handler and Charles as a skin scudder at a tanners and curriers. The family later moved to Upper Bracken Farm, Shelf, Halifax, Yorks. His effects were left to his mother, Hannah. Charles was the father of an illegitimate child born to Miss S.H. Rodgers of 5, Alma Terrace, High Street, Batley who later moved to live at 9, Jubilee Street, Woodhouse, Leeds.

Service Details

Private 13314 Charles Hunter, 9th (Service) battalion King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry (KOYLI) embarked at Southampton for Boulogne, France on 11 September 1915. Charles enlisted at Leeds. His service record has not survived and so it is not possible to determine the date of his enlistment but it can be said that it is likely that he volunteered shortly after war was declared in August 1914.

9th KOYLI was formed at Pontefract in September 1914 as part of K3 and came under command of 64th Brigade in 21st Division. Moved to Berkhamsted and then to Halton Park (Tring) in October 1914, going on to billets in Maidenhead in November. The battalion returned to huts in Halton Park in April/May 1915 and after firing their first course the infantry moved to Witley Camp on 9th August. Lord Kitchener inspected the Division on the march on 12 August.

Advanced parties embarked for France began on 2 September 1915 and the main body began to cross the Channel five days later. Units moved to assemble

near Tilques, completing concentration on 13 September. The Division's first experience was truly appalling. Having been in France for only a few days, lengthy forced marches brought it into the reserve for the British assault at Loos. GHQ planning left it too far behind to be a useful reinforcement on the first day, but it was sent into action on 26 September, whereupon it suffered over 3,800 casualties for very little gain.

It is probable that Private Hunter remained with 9th KOYLI until he was transferred to the 2/6th South Staffordshire, 2nd North Midland Division, sometime after February 1917. With KOYLI he would have fought at The Battle of Loos and he would have seen ferocious action in the 1916 Battles of the Somme including the first day on 1 July 1916.

It is not known when or why he was, at some stage, transferred to the 2/6th battalion South Staffordshire Regiment. His service number became 42568. The Battalion did not embark for France until 25 February 1917 and was disbanded there on 31 July 1918. It is likely that he was then transferred, on that date, to the 2/5th battalion South Staffordshire, in the 137th Brigade of the 46th (North Midland) Division. He was serving with this battalion when he was killed in action on 28 September 1918 in the lead up to the Battle of St. Quentin.

The St Quentin Canal had been incorporated within the defences of the German held Hindenburg Line. Known as the 'Siegfried Stellung' to its German defenders it was considered an impregnable series of fortified redoubts, machine gun positions and fields of thick wire entanglements, ten miles deep and measuring a distance of forty miles from Cambrai to Le Fère. The St. Quentin Canal sector of the Hindenburg Line was regarded to be the most strongly defended section and the audacious operation launched by the 137th Brigade, 46th Division to assault and capture it on 29 September 1918 was considered to be a suicide mission.

He was awarded the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal and Victory Medal.

Charles is remembered with Honour at Batley War Memorial

Thanks to Alan Howe.



File passed to Regn 4 Yorks 6/7/22

DEPENDANT'S PENSION.

D.1

4/D/9537

Case No. D.P. 224 H.

Name Hunter. C.

Regimental No. 42568

Regiment or ~~Ship~~ S. Staffs

Rank Pte

DEAD

1) D.C.I 2310.
2) D.C.I 2696.

Documents received from Paymaster

Date and cause of death 28.9.18 Killed in action

Dependant 1) Miss S. H. Rodgers (2) Mrs Hannah Hunter

Address 5 Alma Terrace, High Street. Batley.
09 Jubilee St Woodhouse Leeds

Relationship Guardian of Illegitimate Child (Mother

Pension 6/8. art 18.(2) a week from 22.10.18. to 28.4.30.

Date awarded

If refused reason

Papers

F6496 18149/875 50m (12) 2/18 J.P. Gp. 159
F7622 4115/1048 100m (12) 5/18

Transferred to— ..... Region.

New Regional No. .....

OTHER ACTION.

Rec'd from Pio. Sfr.
- Ass to Pio.
- MPDP 9 to H.Qo.

S.B. 36 D.

Particulars of Man (Men).

Name 1 HUNTER. Charles.

Regiment 1 S. Staffs. Regtl. No. 1 42568.

Rank 1 Marital Status 1

Date and Cause of Death 1

Whole Serving After Discharge 1 Case No. 1

Regional No. 4/D/ 9537

Particulars of Claimant(s).

Name 1 HUNTER. Mrs. Hannah.

Address 1 Upper Bracken Farm, Sheffs, Halifax

Relationship 1

New Address 1

Age 1

Particulars of Award.	Particulars of Award.	Particulars of Award.	Action.	Action.	Action.
6/- art. 21(19) from 22-6-19. for life no marriage [illegible] 6-9-19	OK				

CHARGE CARRIED TO SHIP 26.6.38

Researched by members of
Batley History Group