

## CHARLIE WHITELAND

Dear Mike, (18 October 2010)

Thank you so much for taking an interest in my Great Uncle Charlie's case.

I didn't get a chance to work on it till this evening but I've gone through all my papers and this is what I have so far.

He was born Basford, Nottingham in Jan-March 1899 and his parents were Charles Robert Whiteland and Mary Agnes Whiteland, nee Bell. His father died in June 1900 in Nottingham. By the census of 1901 his mother is recorded as widowed and is still living in Nottingham 'by her own means' (the family history says that she took in lodgers and one of them was a Harry William Ellis who was a curate. In the census he is recorded as living there, though born in Meldreth, Cambs. He got a church living in Lode and asked my great grandmother Mary Agnes Whiteland to come to Lode to be his housekeeper and to bring her children. My mother told me that he later committed suicide - though I don't know when, where or how.

Regarding the war record for Charlie; I went onto the military sites and rooted around a bit and came across the entries that you found. The date of death for Charlie is identical with the date on the gravestone in the churchyard 22nd June 1918. The thing that doesn't add up is that I've always been told that he died as a POW in Germany, and that is what is recorded on the gravestone. However that doesn't necessarily make it accurate. However I know I have seen Red Cross cards from him in Germany, and I remember looking up the place and finding it in what used to be East Germany. This conflicts with the idea that he's buried in Northern France.

However that he might have been in the Notts and Derby Regiment is quite likely. He had birth roots in Nottingham. I also know that my Grandmother Elsie, Charlie's only sister b.1895, met her future husbands the brothers Claude and Harold Sibley through Charlie and the regiment. I've looked up their military records and they are both in the Notts and Derby (Claude Reg no.28202 as cpl) and Harold as either Pte 105617, or 106044(Notts and Derby) (though Leicester Reg 60599, and C of Hussars 43882) I don't know what the numbers signify though they must be identification numbers. That supports the link with Charlie and the Notts and Derby Reg.

I have ordered a number of certificates from the GRO which should arrive next weekend. They should confirm most of the details. I've also called my cousin who is the only other surviving descendent of Elsie, Neil Sommerville to see what paperwork he's got. When I next am able to go down to Southampton to see my mother I will see if I can get all the crucial identifying documents from her about his military service and where he died etc. In the interim I will see if there is anything more about Charlie in the military files etc.

I hope this is helpful. Thank you so much for taking an interest in him.

With best wishes,

Nuala Webb

Hello Mike, (14 November 2010)

Many, many thanks. So he was remembered. It's good to know where it is. But I am also extremely grateful for Charlie being remembered at Lode, where his mother made her home... and which has always had a special place in our family history. Somebody rang me this morning to say that he's been added to the list of fallen at Lode for Remembrance Day.

Do you still want me to write a piece for the Lode Star now? I'm off now to our Remembrance Day parade with my two boys in cubs and beavers.

Thanks again,

Nuala

Private Charlie Whiteland

