

## **CHARLES WARMAN**

**Private**

**46th Company, Machine Gun Corps (Infantry)**

**Service No: 87576 (Formerly 8859, London Regt.)**

**Died: 1 August 1917. Killed in Action, aged 23**

Charles Warman was born in Beenham on 20 September 1893, his birth being registered in Bradfield. He was one of ten children of William Warman, butcher and his wife, Jane Elizabeth (nee Allen, d1932). The Warmans were a long established Beenham family dating back to at least 1851. In 1901 the family were living in the village - William 39 a butcher's assistant, his wife Jane 40 also of Beenham, together with William's widowed father, Josiah 70, and their children Gertrude A. 14, Nellie 12, Kate 10, George 8 (b 28 February, bp 5 Jun 1892), Charles 7, Lilly 5, Edith 3 (bp 6 Feb 1898), Frederick 1 (bp 3 Sep 1899) and Albert 7 months. With the exception of Gertrude who was born in Theale, all the children were born in the village. Ten years on, Charles now aged 17, was living at home on The Green with his parents and described as a farm worker together with five siblings George 19, Edith 13, Frederick 11, Albert 10 and now Alfred 8 (bp 25 Oct 1903).

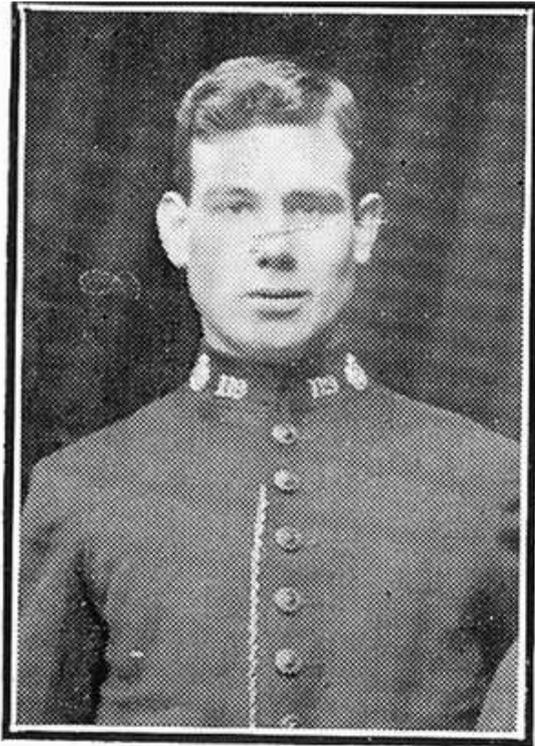
By 1914 Charles was a gardener in Woolhampton but on 2 February 1914, at the age of 20, he was appointed as PC119 in the Berkshire Constabulary. On 6 May, after completing his basic training at the Berkshire Constabulary Headquarters in Reading, Charles was posted to Maidenhead. Later that year on 19 December he assisted in the arrest of a private of the Durham Light Infantry stationed in Reading. The man was charged with assaulting two other police officers after being arrested for being Drunk and Disorderly in Castle Street, Reading.

The Reading Mercury of 30 Jan 1915 stated that Charles attended the funeral of his grandfather, Joseph (Josiah) Warman, a former grocer & baker of Beenham who was 84 years of age when he died on 19 Jan 1915.

On 1 December 1915, Charles was posted to Wantage and whilst there he volunteered to join the Army on 10 December 1915. On enlisting, Charles was described as 22 years and 3 months, 12 stone, six feet tall with a 39 inch chest and a vaccination scar on his right arm. On 27 December 1916 he was released by the Chief Constable of the Berkshire Constabulary, under the provisions of The Police (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1915.

On 9 January 1917 Charles was appointed as Private 8859, 14th Battalion London Regiment (London Scottish), but on 5 March 1917 he was posted to the training centre in Grantham of the Machine Gun Corps (Infantry). He was mobilised to France on 14 May 1917 travelling from Folkestone to Boulogne as private 87576 of the 46th Machine Gun Company.

Charles' enlistment papers gave details of his brothers and sisters. It showed George Warman aged 27 was a Gunner serving in France with the Royal Garrison Artillery, Frederick Warman 19, was Private 56648 in the 15 Btn. Hampshire Regiment and Albert Warman 18, was Private 62687 with the 51st Btn. Royal Welsh Regiment. His younger brother, Alfred was aged 16, and his sister Gertrude 33 was now Gertrude Sims of Penge, Nellie 21 now Nellie Turner of 25 Kingswood Rd., Penge, Kate now Kate Bradley of 92 Wells Rd. Sydenham, whilst Lily Warman, 23 was living at 1 Princess Row, Victoria and Edie Warman 21 at 32 Dover St., London.



**The late Pte. CHARLES WARMAN, M.G.C., of Beenham, a former member of the Berks Constabulary.—Killed in action.**

On 1 August 1917 Private 87576 Charles Warman, 46th Company, Machine Gun Corps was killed in action at the Battle of Ypres, in Belgium. On the day he died, the 46th MGC were involved in the Battle of Pilckem Ridge (31 July – 2 August 1917) the opening attack of the main part of the Third Battle of Ypres. The attack had mixed results; a substantial amount of ground was captured by the British and French and a large number of casualties were inflicted on the German defenders with 5,626 German prisoners taken. For the next few days both sides made local attacks to improve their positions, much hampered by the wet weather. The rains had a serious effect on operations in August, causing more problems for the British and French, who were advancing into the area devastated by artillery fire and partly flooded by the unseasonable rain.

Charles' death was reported on 18 August 1917 in the Reading Mercury. He has no known grave and is commemorated on Panel 56 of the Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium and on Police War Memorial, Sulhamstead "Private 87576, 46th Company, Machine Gun Corps (Infantry). Killed in action 1st August 1917. Aged 23. Born Beenham, Berkshire, enlisted Wantage. Son of William and Jane Warman, of Beenham, Reading, Berks. Formerly 8859, London Regiment"

Charles was awarded British War Medal and Victory Medal which were received by his father on 16 May 1922 who had also received effects to the value of £5 10s on 28 February 1918.

Of Charles' siblings, Gertrude A. (1886-) married Ernest Cecil Sims, Kate (1890-1919) married Frederick Bradley, George (1892-1966) married Jessie Millsom, Frederick died in 1981, Albert (1900-1986) married Margaret F. Weaver and Alfred died in 1966. In 1939, George WARMAN was living at 4 Mount Pleasant described as a builders labourer, together with his wife, Jessie. (b 1 September 1893).