

In Memory of

Private

Charles William Eaton

8541, 17th Bn., Manchester Regiment who died on 01 July 1916

Remembered with Honour

Thiepval Memorial



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

Private Charles William Eaton

17th Battalion, Manchester Regiment

(2nd Manchester Pals)

Died: 01 July 1916

Age: 23

How Died: Killed in Action

Country of burial: France

Cemetery or Memorial: Thiepval Memorial Cemetery, Somme.

Extra Information:

Born on the 26th March 1893 during the June quarter 1893 in the Altrincham R.D. - ref: 8a/183, the eldest son of George & Elizaeth Ann Eaton (nee Derbyshire).

1901 Census - 7 Rainbow Terrace, Hale. Son - aged: 8 - born: Hale. Head of household - George Eaton - Married - aged: 30 - occ: Coachman (Domestic) - born: Altrincham. Also - Elizabeth A. Eaton - Wife - aged: 32 - born: Altrincham. Plus 3 younger brothers - Merlin 6; Joseph 4; Albert H. 2.

1911 Census - Grove Lane, Hale. Son - aged: 18 - occ: Office of Cotton Waste Manufacturer - born: Altrincham. Head of household - George Eaton - Married - aged: 41 - occ: Day Gardener - born: Lymm. Also - Elizabeth Ann Eaton - Wife - aged: 42 - born: Altrincham. Plus 5 younger siblings and a niece. His brothers were - Merlin 16; Joseph 14; Albert Howcroft 12 and Arthur 6.

Employed by Messrs J.& N. Phillips & Co, Manchester.

MIC - states that he was posted to France on the 8th November 1915.

WO363 - Aged 21 years 6 months when he attested on the 3rd September 1914. Occupation: Warehouseman. Confirms that he went to France on the 8th November 1915. He was 5 feet 7½ inches in height - weighed 131 lb - chest measurement 32/34 inches. He had dark hair, brown eyes and a dark complexion. It confirms the details of his three brothers - Merlin, Albert and Arthur, plus his sister - Nellie. He was killed in action at Montauban, Somme.

He was guilty of three misconducts. It is not possible to read what they were, but they were as follows with the date of his hearings. 4 days C.B. on 25th April 1915. 2 days C.B. on 10th May 1915. 4 days Field Punishment No.2 for which he also had to forfeit 5 days pay on 22nd October 1915.

The 17th Bn Manchester Rgt were part of 30th Division, 90 Brigade who were detailed to attack Montauban Village on the 1st July 1916. The 16th, 17th & 18th Battalions in that order attacked across quite a wide section of No Mans Land to attack the German 'Valley Trench' and 'Silesia Trench'. At 08.30 hrs the 16th & 17th Battalions advanced in comparative safety up 'Railway Valley' to the east of 'Talus Boisé' aided by a smoke screen laid by others. Leaving this cover, they came under fire from 'Breslau Alley' but pushed forward and reached 'Train Alley'. They caught up with the British barrage and had to halt. The British barrage caused many casualties amongst their own men. Another smoke screen was laid from 'Glatz Redoubt' and the Manchester's and Royal Scots moved forward and arrived at the deserted village at 10.05 hrs. In the early afternoon the German artillery further to the north laid an accurate and continuous barrage on the village that caused many British casualties. The barrage ended between 16.00 hrs and 17.00 hrs. It is quite likely that Charles died during this barrage.

His death reported in the 18/07/1916 edition of the Altrincham Guardian.

Listed as a Second Lieutenant on the Christ Church Memorial and as a Private on St. Peter's Memorial. Listed in the Guardian Year Book - Roll of Honour for 1917.

Commemorated on the private family gravestone in Christchurch Churchyard, Timperley.

His father, George died 01/11/1918 aged 49 years and his mother, Elizabeth Ann died 19/06/1956 aged 88 years.

Memorials found on:

St. Peter's Church, Hale

Christ Church, Timperley

Altrincham United Reformed Church, Hale

Seamon's Moss Endowed School, Oldfield Brow

Altrincham & District Roll of Honour



Thiepval Memorial to the Missing, Somme, France