

Name, Rank & Regiment of Soldier:

Charles Alfred Bunn

Private

Sherwood Foresters (Notts & Derbys Regt)

1914

transferred to **2nd Bn Royal Marines Light**

Infantry – 1914

Service no. PO/75(S)



Date of birth	Died of wounds	Age
13 th Aug 1893 ¹	17 Nov 1916	23yrs

Background: Charles Bunn

1901 Census: The Bunn family lived at 88 High Street², Collingham

1911 Census:

James Bunn. 47yrs Land Agent's Assistant b. Lincoln c1864 (*d. 1955*)

Mary Bunn. 44yrs b. S Collingham c 1867 *d. 1944*

Married 20 years

Gladys Mary 19yrs No occupation b. N Collingham c1892 (*d. 1973*)

Charles Alfred. 17yrs No occupation b N Collingham c1894

Margaret Alice 14 yrs b N Collingham c1897

Louise 13yrs b N Collingham c1898 (*died 1915*)

Edith 11yrs b N Collingham c1900

Dorothy Annie 9yrs b N Collingham c1902 died 1916³

Marjorie 7yrs b N Collingham c1904

1916: Parents' address was 30, Carolgate, Retford, Notts. Charles had moved to Warsop by then and was working as a fitter in the pit.

¹ Naval Casualties Index piece 007 via Ancestry

² 88 High Street is 'The Barn', off the High Street behind Bank House.

³ Re: Dorothy Anne Bunn's date of death - see additional information p 5

Military History: Pte. Charles Bunn

Enlisted: 1914 in Warsop

Charles Bunn was working as a fitter at Warsop⁴ Colliery when he responded to Kitchener's 'Call to Arms' in 1914, joining the Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Regiment. This provided a massive surplus of recruits for the Army. However, the Admiralty had an immediate requirement for recruits and toured the Army depots for volunteers.

2nd Batt. Royal Marines Light Infantry

600 'Kitchener's men' voluntarily transferred from the Army to the RMLI in September 1914, some of whom had only spent 1 day 'with the colours' in the Army. A very high proportion were miners or labourers. Four hundred of these transfers were from the Sherwood Foresters (Nottinghamshire & Derbyshire Regiment), half of whom were sent to the Portsmouth Division and given service numbers beginning PO. – Charles Bunn's number was PO/75(S).

Prior to WW1 all Royal Marines were engaged for Long Service – 12 years - of which there were 18,000 at the outbreak of War. In September 1914, short service recruitment began. Long Servicemen received 6 months training; short servicemen received 6 weeks infantry training.

Engagements during World War 1

From 4th – 9th October 1914; the Portsmouth Battalion was involved in the defence of Antwerp where 300 of their number were interned and 25 killed. This is likely before Charles had finished his training.

25 March 1915 – 9 January 1916: Gallipoli Campaign

Charles Bunn was wounded on 15 June 1915 on the Turkish Peninsular but was back in action within a fortnight. He was also in hospital in Cairo for a time suffering from dysentery. He proceeded straight to France in March 1915 and had been engaged there until his death.

1916

The Battalion were stationed in France and Belgium from May 1916

The Battalion saw action between 13th to 15th November 1916; the **Battle of the Ancre** - the final large scale British attack of the **Battle of the Somme** in 1916, before the winter brought a halt.

Researcher: Jeremy Lodge 29th Aug 2014

⁴ New Hucknall Colliery, Warsop, according to Frecknall p 77

Additional Information (2018)

The following information confirms that Bunn was wounded sustained on November 13th during **The Battle of the Ancre**:

'The first intimation of sad news was a letter to Charles' parents from a Chaplain dated 14th November, stating he had been wounded the previous day and was in a casualty clearing station. The next letter, from the sister-in-charge, said he died on 18th November⁵ from a severe gunshot wound to the abdomen: 'He was too ill to talk or to realise that he would not get better.'

A lively member of Collingham's gymnastics, swimming and cricket clubs had succumbed to wounds in France.'

Source: – T Frecknall 'Collingham and district in The Great War'

Collingham Gymnastics Club

First mention of this in the trade directories appears in 1904 with an F. Hornagold as secretary. Fred Hoe (b 1860) is sec 1908 -1916. There is no mention of the club after 1920. The members probably trained in the Public Hall (later War Memorial Hall).

Memorials to Pte C Bunn

Pte C A Bunn is buried in Puchevillers British Cemetery, Somme Plot 6 B 25

Remembered on:

🕒 North Collingham - All Saints' Church - Cross War Memorial as Charles Alfred BUNN Pte. R.M.L.I.

🕒 North Collingham - All Saints' Church - Parishioners Plaque as Charles Alfred BUNN

🕒 Warsop with Sookholme - St Peter and St Pauls Church War Memorial as 'A Bunn'

🕒 There is also an inscription on Charles Bunn's parents' grave in South Collingham:

Inscription reads: 'ALSO PTE CHARLES ALFRED BUNN R.M.L.I./ ONLY AND DEARLY LOVED SON OF THE ABOVE/ WOUNDED IN GALLIPOLI 13TH JULY 1915. DIED OF WOUNDS/ RECEIVED IN ACTION BEFORE BEAUMONT HAMEL 17TH NOV 1916/ INTERRED AT PUCHEVILLIERS BRITISH CEMETERY/ AGED 23 YEARS/ "BE THOU FAITHFUL UNTO DEATH AND I WILL GIVE THEE A CROWN OF LIFE"⁶

⁵ All other sources CWGC etc state 17th November)

⁶ Many thanks to Nick Narracott, churchwarden at All Saints, Collingham, for sending the link to this grave/ January 2018

The Bunn Family in Collingham

Charles was one of 7 children and the only son of Lincoln-born **James Bunn** (1866-1955) and **Mary Bealby** (1867/8 – 1944) who married in 1890 in Farnsfield. They appear to have lived in Collingham for most of their early marriage and all their children were born here. James was a surveyor's assistant & probably worked for Smith-Woolley's on The Green during his time in Collingham.



Above: Brook House 12, Besthorpe Road. The Bealby family lived here for over 150 years. The poughmakers' workshop can be seen on the left. Photo HP

Mary Bunn was a Collingham native, being born in North⁷ Collingham and the eldest daughter of Benjamin Bealby (1842-1912), farmer of 250 acres around Besthorpe and Ann Bealby.

Mary's grandfather was the renowned Collingham ploughmaker, George Bealby (1803 – 1873) who built Brook House on Besthorpe Road. His workshop can still be seen

today. Benjamin and Ann Bealby moved away to Farnsfield and later Thorpe Salvin sometime after 1891. There are still direct descendants of Bealbys in that district today at Broomhill Grange Farm.

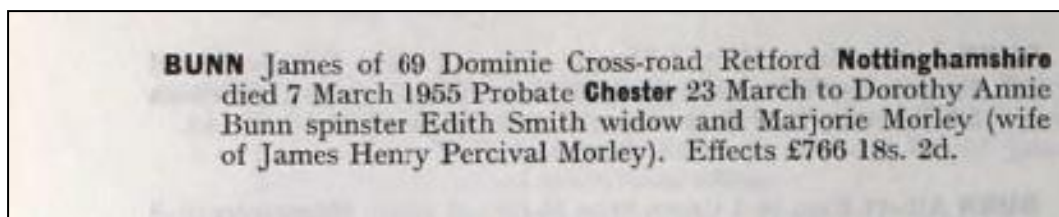
James Bunn was on the Vestry Committee of All Saints' Church in 1917 (see Vestry notebook in Nottinghamshire Archives PR/16.147). He was appointed 'special constable' in 1916 (temporary law enforcement officers in the absence of policemen who had enlisted).

The Bunns After WW1

James and Mary's address given at the time of Charles' death was 30, Carolgate, Retford (currently an optician's shop). They moved there after living in Collingham for over 20 years (longer for Mary), perhaps soon after daughter Louisa died in 1915. They later moved to Dominie Cross Road in Retford, a quiet street of late Victorian semi-detached villas near the town centre and this is the address given on both their probates in 1944 and 1955. They are buried in South Collingham. Louisa, their daughter, is buried in North Collingham.

⁷ There is some discrepancy here. In 1871, aged 4, she is living in North Collingham and was baptised at All Saints. However, she is listed as South Collingham on 1 census return and chose to be buried in South Collingham according to Imperial War Memorials website.

Dorothy Anne Bunn (spinster) died in 1969 (Worksop) aged 66. She was an executor of her father's will (1955) as were two of her sisters, Edith and Marjorie.



Above: James Bunn's probate on Ancestry.co.uk

HP 29/3/2018

Sources (J Lodge 2014):

<http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/rollofhonour/People/Details/4751> Accessed 28/08/2014

<http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/rollofhonour/WarMemorials/Details/200> Accessed 28/08/2014

<http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/rollofhonour/People/Details/2291> Accessed 28/08/2014

<http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/rollofhonour/People/Details/2291> Accessed by HP 2/01/2018

<http://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/details/r/C13334752?descriptiontype=Full&ref=ADM+157/2675/49> Accessed 28/08/2014

<http://www.cwgc.org/find-war-dead/casualty/510904/BUNN,%20CHARLES%20ALFRED> Accessed 28/08/2014

<http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/rollofhonour/WarMemorials/Details/385> Accessed 28/08/2014 – there appears to be no Bunn.

UK Royal Navy and Marine Records Accessed 29/08/2014

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_the_Ancre Accessed 28/08/2014

<http://jackclegg2.webspace.virginmedia.com/royal%20marines.htm#nine> Accessed 28/08/2014

<http://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/details/r/C13334752?descriptiontype=Full&ref=ADM+157/2675/49>

Tournay family tree (Owner VALGEN142) Ancestry.co.uk

Other Sources (2018): Picture of Charles Bunn courtesy of T Frecknall (original in Newark Advertiser)

Imperial War Memorials database

East Trent Genealogy database

Ancestry.co.uk

