

Private John Charles Christopher Beagles[©]

Regimental number: 203548¹

1st/4th Battalion, Duke of Wellington's (West Riding) Regiment

born: 1887 – died: 18 August 1917

Private John Charles Christopher Beagles was born in 1887² and baptized on 4 October 1887 in Whaplode, Lincolnshire.³ He was the son of William and Mary Jane (née Redhead) Beagles. Both his parents were born in Shephay Stonel in Lincolnshire—William in about 1853 and Mary Jane in about 1856.⁴ They married in Chorlton, Lancashire in 1878⁵ and had ten children, six of whom survived childhood.⁶ The children included Sarah Jane (born on 11 February 1880),⁷ William (born on 17 October 1882),⁸ Annie (born in 1886),⁹ John, Elizabeth (born in 1889),¹⁰ Elsie Isabella Mary (born in 1893)¹¹ and Albert Victor (born in 1894).¹² Three other children died in childhood: Mary Ann (born on 11 March 1879, but died about a year later),¹³ William (born on 17 October 1882 and died in the spring of 1884)¹⁴ and Jonathan William (born in 12 May 1884 and died the following October).¹⁵ The identity of the tenth child—probably the fourth to have died—is not known.

In 1891, the family was living at Whaplode Bank in Whaplode, where John's father was an agricultural labourer.¹⁶ Ten years later, the family had moved a few miles away to Holbeach.¹⁷ John's father died in 1905,¹⁸ and in 1911 the family was living in the village of Holbeach Drove.¹⁹ His mother was working as a caretaker at a school and John had become a farm labourer.

John enlisted in the 4th Battalion of the West Riding Regiment in Spalding, Lincolnshire. On the morning of 8 August 1917, the 6th Battalion of the West Riding Regiment carried out a successful raid on the left of the 4th Battalion's front.²⁰ Enemy artillery attacks were very active during the afternoon and night. John was likely wounded in these actions²¹ and was admitted to the 1st Canadian Casualty Clearing Station on 8 August with gunshot wounds to his head and arms and a fractured leg.²² He survived for ten days, dying on 18 August.²³ He was buried in Adinkerke Military Cemetery (Grave Reference: C. 30). Adinkerke Military Cemetery is 20 kilometres east of Dunkirk, in the community of De Panne, just across the border into Belgium. There are 168 Commonwealth soldiers from the Great War buried in the cemetery.²⁴

On the day that he was admitted, John was one of 120 soldiers to be admitted to the 1st CCCS.²⁵ A total of 1,896 were admitted in the month of August.

The monies from the army owing to John upon his death were sent to his mother.²⁶ He was also awarded two medals, but his mother had to petition His Majesty the King for the medals in February 1921.²⁷ He was awarded the British War Medal (for service overseas between 1914 and 1918) and the Victory Medal (for service in an operational theatre).

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¹ The Regimental number shown in the 1st CCCS chaplains' journal is probably wrong. ("Record of Deaths, 17 February 1916 - 10 February 1919, a record maintained at No. 1 CCCS," *Library and Archives Canada*, (records accessed 2013 and 2016), Record Group 9, series IIC10, volume 4556, Record number 335) The number 203548 appears on all his other army records.

² "England & Wales, FreeBMD Birth Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 6 May 2016), entry for John Charles C Beagles, Registration district: Holbeach, Inferred County: Lincolnshire, Volume: 7a, Page: 387

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- ³ "England, Select Births and Christenings, 1538–1975," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 6 May 2016), entry for John Charles Christopher Beagles, FHL Film Number: 1542156, Reference ID: 2:392TMZM
- ⁴ "1891 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 6 May 2016), entry for John Charles Beagles, Registration district: Holbeach, ED, institution, or vessel: 6, Piece: 2566, Folio: 59, Page Number: 1
- ⁵ "England & Wales, FreeBMD Marriage Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 6 May 2016), entry for William Beagles, Registration district: Chorlton, Inferred County: Lancashire, Volume: 8c, Page: 870
- ⁶ "1911 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 6 May 2016), entry for John C Beagles, Registration district: Holbeach, Registration District Number: 414, Sub-registration district: Gedney Hill, ED, institution, or vessel: 4, Piece: 19513
- ⁷ "Manchester, England, Church of England Births and Baptisms, 1813–1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 6 May 2016), entry for Sarah Jane Beagles, Reference Number: M320/7/1/2, Item Number: 5, Archive Roll: 817
- ⁸ "Manchester, England, Church of England Births and Baptisms, 1813–1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 6 May 2016), entry for William Beagles, Reference Number: M320/7/1/3, Item Number: 6, Archive Roll: 817
- ⁹ "England & Wales, FreeBMD Birth Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 6 May 2016), entry for Annie Beagles, Registration district: Holbeach, Inferred County: Lincolnshire, Volume: 7a, Page: 396; "England, Select Births and Christenings, 1538–1975," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 6 May 2016), entry for Annie Beagles, FHL Film Number: 1542156, Reference ID: 2:392TMCW
- ¹⁰ "England & Wales, FreeBMD Birth Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 6 May 2016), entry for Annie Beagles, Registration district: Holbeach, Inferred County: Lincolnshire, Volume: 7a, Page: 419; "England, Select Births and Christenings, 1538–1975," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 6 May 2016), entry for Elizabeth Beagles, FHL Film Number: 1542156
- ¹¹ "England & Wales, FreeBMD Birth Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 6 May 2016), entry for Elsie Isabella M Beagles, Registration district: Holbeach, Inferred County: Lincolnshire, Volume: 7a, Page: 421; "England, Select Births and Christenings, 1538–1975," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 6 May 2016), entry for Elsie Isabella Mary Beagles, FHL Film Number: 1542156, Reference ID: 2:392TQB7
- ¹² "England & Wales, FreeBMD Birth Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 6 May 2016), entry for Albert Victor Beagles, Registration district: Holbeach, Inferred County: Lincolnshire, Volume: 7a, Page: 410; "England, Select Births and Christenings, 1538–1975," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 6 May 2016), entry for Albert Victor Beagles, FHL Film Number: 1542156, Reference ID: 2:392TR7R
- ¹³ "Manchester, England, Church of England Births and Baptisms, 1813–1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 6 May 2016), entry for Mary Ann Beagles, Reference Number: M321/2/1/3, Item Number: 6, Archive Roll: 822; "England & Wales, FreeBMD Death Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 6 May 2016), entry for Mary Ann Beagles, Registration district: Chorlton, Inferred County: Lancashire, Volume: 8c, Page: 490
- ¹⁴ "Manchester, England, Church of England Births and Baptisms, 1813–1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 6 May 2016), entry for William Beagles, Reference Number: M320/7/1/3, Item Number: 6, Archive Roll: 817; "England & Wales, FreeBMD Death Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 6 May 2016), entry for William Beagles, Registration district: Chorlton, Inferred County: Lancashire, Volume: 8c, Page: 524
- ¹⁵ "Manchester, England, Church of England Births and Baptisms, 1813–1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 6 May 2016), entry for Jonathan William Beagles, Reference Number: M320/7/1/3, Item Number: 6, Archive Roll: 817; "England & Wales, FreeBMD Death Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 6 May 2016), entry for Jonathan William Beagles, Registration district: Holbeach, Inferred County: Lincolnshire, Volume: 7a, Page: 257
- ¹⁶ "1891 England Census," entry for John Charles Beagles

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- ¹⁷ "1901 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk; accessed 11 January 2016), entry for John Beagles, Registration district: Holbeach, Sub-registration district: Gedney Hill, ED, institution, or vessel: 4, Piece: 3035, Folio: 54, Page Number: 7, Household schedule number: 40
- ¹⁸ "England & Wales, FreeBMD Death Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk; accessed 6 May 2016), entry for William Beagles, Registration district: Holbeach, Inferred County: Cambridgeshire, Volume: 3b, Page: 85
- ¹⁹ "1911 England Census," entry for John C Beagles
- ²⁰ "UK, WWI War Diaries (France, Belgium and Germany), 1914–1920," Regiment or Unit: Duke of Wellington's (West Riding) Regiment, Sub Unit: 1/4th Battalion. Division: 49th Division, Diary Dates: 1915 Apr 1 - 1915 Dec 31, Piece Description: Piece 2799/1-4: 147 Infantry Brigade: 1/4 Bttn Duke of Wellington's (West Riding) (1915 Apr - 1919 Jun), Piece Number: 2799
- ²¹ Ibid.
- ²² "Record of Deaths, 17 February 1916 - 10 February 1919, a record maintained at No. 1 CCCS," Record number 335
- ²³ "Commonwealth War Graves Commission," (www.cwgc.org; accessed 6 May 2016), entry for Beagles, J., Service No: 203548
- ²⁴ "Adinkerke Military Cemetery," Commonwealth War Graves Commission (<http://www.cwgc.org/>; accessed 30 April 2016)
- ²⁵ "War Diaries of the First World War: 1st Canadian Casualty Clearing Station 1914/08/13-1919/03/31," *Library and Archives Canada* (http://data4.collectionscanada.gc.ca/netacgi/nph-brs?s1=casualty+clearing&s13=&s12=&l=20&s9=RG9&s7=9-52&Sect1=IMAGE&Sect2=THESOFF&Sect4=AND&Sect5=WARDPEN&Sect6=HITOFF&d=FINDD&p=1&u=http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/archivianet/02016202_e.html&r=1&f=G)
- ²⁶ "UK, Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects, 1901–1929," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk; accessed 6 May 2016), entry for John Beagles
- ²⁷ "British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914–1920," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk; accessed 6 May 2016), entry for John Beagles