

## **Private Albert Charlesworth<sup>©</sup>**

**Regimental number: 99291**

**1st/5th Battalion, The King's (Liverpool Regiment)**

**born: 6 February 1899–died: 1 May 1918**

Private Albert Charlesworth was born on 6 February 1899<sup>1</sup> in Chesterfield, Derbyshire,<sup>2</sup> the son of James and Emma Charlesworth. He was baptized a month later, on 5 March.<sup>3</sup> His parents—James, born on 21 January 1870,<sup>4</sup> and the former Emma Huffinley, born on 24 February 1871<sup>5</sup>—married in the parish church in Lofthouse, Yorkshire, on 1 February 1890. James, just 20 years old, was a colliery foreman.<sup>6</sup>

Just after their marriage, James and Emma were living in Lee Moor, Lofthouse, just north of Wakefield, Yorkshire. The birth of the first of their children was registered there the following year. Over the next 19 years, they had 11 children and the family moved between Yorkshire and Derbyshire—perhaps following work in the coal mines. The first three children were registered in Wakefield:

- Albany was born in about September 1891,<sup>7</sup> but sadly he died a year later and was buried in St Peter's Church in Stanley, just outside Wakefield, on 24 October 1892;<sup>8</sup>
- Lewis was born on 23 January 1893, but died at the age of 2 and was also buried in St Peter's Church)<sup>9</sup> and
- Their first daughter, Ivy, was born on 2 March 1895).<sup>10</sup>

Sometime in the mid-1890s, the family moved south, about 35 miles away, to Sheffield, Derbyshire, where they had another son—Cyril, born on 9 June 1897.<sup>11</sup> The births of the next two children were registered in Chesterfield, just 12 miles further south:

- Albert and
- James William, who born late on 23 August 1900, but died a few months later.<sup>12</sup>

In 1901, the family was living on Hephthorne Lane in North Wingfield, near Chesterfield, Derbyshire, where James was a colliery stocker (stationery engine).<sup>13</sup> Just before the birth of their next child, James and Emma moved 20 miles again to Doncaster, Derbyshire, where the births of the last five children were registered:

- Evelyn (born on 16 October 1901),<sup>14</sup>
- Edith (born in 1903),<sup>15</sup>
- Lionel Leap (born on 29 February 1904),<sup>16</sup>
- Frank (born on 14 December 1906)<sup>17</sup> and
- Willis, born in 1909, but probably died in 1911.<sup>18</sup>

In 1911, the family was living at 31 Oliver Street in Mexborough, Yorkshire, which is about eight miles from Doncaster and half way between Doncaster and Rotherham. James was now a colliery engineman.<sup>19</sup>

It was in Mexborough, Yorkshire, that Albert enlisted in the British Expeditionary Force in about April 1917.<sup>20</sup> He first served with the Notts and Derby Regiment (regimental number 97886), but transferred at some point to the 1st/5th Battalion, The King's (Liverpool) Regiment.<sup>21</sup>

In late April 1918, his battalion was stationed near Festubert, just east of Béthune, in northern France. On 27 April, the battalion relieved the 5th Battalion of the South Lancashire Regiment. The next day was quiet, but there was heavy shelling in the evening, which continued the following day. It was quiet after 7 p.m. and the next day as well.<sup>22</sup> It is not clear how Albert was injured, but he was admitted to No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station on 30 April with shrapnel wounds to his back. He died there the next day and was buried the following day in Pernes Military Cemetery (Row A, Plot 2, Grave 36) with the Canadian chaplain G. C. d'Easum presiding.<sup>23</sup> Albert was just 19 years old.

Pernes British Military Cemetery was only set up in April 1918, when No. 1 and No. 4 CCCSs came to Pernes, driven back by the German advance.<sup>24</sup> Albert was one of 115 soldiers to die at the station in May 1918.

The chaplain sent a letter to Albert's brother Cyril, who was probably serving on H.M.H.S. *Carisbrook Castle*. The letter was sent c/o General Post Office in Southampton. During most of the war, H.M.H.S. *Carisbrook Castle* served as an army troop ship in the Mediterranean.<sup>25</sup>

After the war, Albert's parents were still living in Mexborough.<sup>26</sup> His father received the monies owing to him from the army upon his death<sup>27</sup> and arranged for the following inscription on his gravestone:

CHRIST ACCEPT HIM  
GOD RECEIVE HIM<sup>28</sup>

Albert was awarded posthumously the British War Medal (for service overseas between 1914 and 1918) and the Victory Medal (for service in an operational theatre).<sup>29</sup>

In 1939, James and Emma were living at 33 Adwick Road in Mexborough, with their children, Lionel and Frank. James was retired but Lionel was a coop grocer's first assistant and Frank a power house attendant.<sup>30</sup>

Their son Cyril was living at 15 Brookfield Avenue in Swinton, Yorkshire, where he was also a power house attendant in a coke oven by-product plant—the by-product was produced when converting coal to coke.<sup>31</sup> Living with him were his wife Dora (nee Banks), whom he had married in 1924,<sup>32</sup> and a son, Donald, born in 1925.<sup>33</sup>

Their daughter Evelyn had married Rodney J. C. Fletcher, a welder in glass bottle manufacturer, in 1934.<sup>34</sup> Five years later they were living at "Lodore" on Wath Road, in Wath-upon-Dearne, Yorkshire.<sup>35</sup>

It is not known what became Albert's two other siblings—Ivy and Edith.

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<sup>1</sup> "England, Select Births and Christenings, 1538–1975," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 23 January 2019), entry for Albert Charlesworth, FHL film number: 1752117

<sup>2</sup> "GRO online index–birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 1 July 2019), entry for Chesterfield, Albert, Registration district: Chesterfield, Volume 07B, Page 672

<sup>3</sup> "England, Select Births and Christenings, 1538–1975," *Ancestry*, entry for Albert Charlesworth

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<sup>4</sup> "1939 England and Wales Register," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 14 June 2019), entry for James Charlesworth, Schedule number: 269, Sub-schedule Number: 1, Enumeration district: KNRF, Registration district: 512a/1

<sup>5</sup> Ibid.

<sup>6</sup> "West Yorkshire, England, Marriages and Banns, 1813–1935," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 22 June 2019), entry for James Charlesworth

<sup>7</sup> "West Yorkshire, England, Church of England Births and Baptisms, 1813–1910," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 29 June 2019), entry for Albany Charlesworth

<sup>8</sup> "West Yorkshire, England, Deaths and Burials, 1813–1985," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 1 July 2019), entry for Albany Charlesworth

<sup>9</sup> "West Yorkshire, England, Church of England Births and Baptisms, 1813–1910," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 29 June 2019), entry for Lewis Charlesworth; "West Yorkshire, England, Deaths and Burials, 1813–1985," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 1 July 2019), entry for Lewis Charlesworth

<sup>10</sup> "West Yorkshire, England, Church of England Births and Baptisms, 1813–1910," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 29 June 2019), entry for Ivy Charlesworth

<sup>11</sup> "1939 England and Wales Register," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 14 June 2019), entry for Cyril Charlesworth, Schedule number: 144, Sub-schedule Number: 1, Enumeration district: KOVG, Registration district: 511 A/4 20

<sup>12</sup> "Derbyshire, England, Church of England Baptisms, 1813–1916," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 29 June 2019), entry for James William Charlesworth; "England & Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 1 July 2019), entry for James William Charlesworth, Registration district: Doncaster, Inferred county: Yorkshire West Riding, Volume: 9c, Page: 557

<sup>13</sup> "1901 England Census," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 11 January 2019), entry for Albert Charlesworth, Registration district: Chesterfield, Sub-registration district: Ashoever?, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 18, Piece: 3242, Folio: 132, Page: 18, Household schedule number: 108

<sup>14</sup> "England, Select Births and Christenings, 1538–1975," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 23 January 2019), entry for Evelyn Charlesworth, FHL film number: 2104227

<sup>15</sup> "GRO online index–birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 1 July 2019), entry for Chesterfield, Edith, Registration district: Doncaster, Volume 09C, Page 901

<sup>16</sup> "1939 England and Wales Register," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 14 June 2019), entry for James Charlesworth

<sup>17</sup> "1939 England and Wales Register," *Ancestry*, entry for James Charlesworth

<sup>18</sup> "GRO online index–birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 1 July 2019), entry for Chesterfield, Willis, Registration district: Doncaster, Volume 09C, Page 837; "England, Select Deaths and Burials, 1538–1991," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 1 July 2019), entry for Willis Charlesworth, FHL film number: 2104229, Reference ID: item 3 p 166

<sup>19</sup> "1911 England Census," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 5 January 2019), entry for Bruno Whittle, Registration district: Doncaster, Registration district number: 512, Sub-registration district: Barnbrough, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 18, Piece: 28174

<sup>20</sup> Based on "War Gratuity Calculator" (<https://wargratiuity.wordpress.com/2015/08/16/gratuity-calculator/>: accessed 18 May 2017); "UK, Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects, 1901–1929," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 22 June 2019), entry for Albert Charlesworth

<sup>21</sup> "UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War, 1914–1919," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 22 June 2019), entry for Albert Charlesworth

<sup>22</sup> "UK, WWI War Diaries (France, Belgium and Germany), 1914–1920," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 30 June 2019), Regiment or unit: King's (Liverpool) Regiment, Sub-unit: 5th Battalion, 6th Battalion, Division: 55th Division, Diary dates: 1916 Jan–1919 Apr, Piece description: Piece 2926: 165 Infantry Brigade (1916–1919), Piece number: 2926

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- <sup>24</sup> "Pernes British Military Cemetery," *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* (<http://www.cwgc.org/>: accessed 13 January 2015)
- <sup>25</sup> HMHS Carisbrook Castle," *Roll of Honour* (<http://www.roll-of-honour.com/Ships/HMHSCarisbrookCastle.html>: accessed 1 July 2019)
- <sup>26</sup> *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* ([www.cwgc.org](http://www.cwgc.org/): accessed 23 June 2019), entry for Charlesworth, Albert, Service No: 99291
- <sup>27</sup> "UK, Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects, 1901–1929," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 22 June 2019), entry for Albert Charlesworth
- <sup>28</sup> *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* ([www.cwgc.org](http://www.cwgc.org/): accessed 23 June 2019), entry for Charlesworth, Albert
- <sup>29</sup> "British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914–1920," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 22 June 2019), entry for Albert Charlesworth
- <sup>30</sup> "1939 England and Wales Register," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 14 June 2019), entry for James Charlesworth
- <sup>31</sup> "The Coke Oven By-Product Plant," (<http://www.accci.org/Byproduct.pdf>: accessed 2 July 2019)
- <sup>32</sup> "England & Wales, Civil Registration Marriage Index, 1916–2005," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 26 November 2019), entry for Cyril Charlesworth, Registration district: Rotherham, Inferred county: Yorkshire West Riding, Volume: 9c, Page: 1411
- <sup>33</sup> "1939 England and Wales Register," *Ancestry*, entry for Cyril Charlesworth
- <sup>34</sup> "England & Wales, Civil Registration Marriage Index, 1916–2005," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 26 November 2019), entry for Evelyn Charlesworth, Registration district: Rotherham, Inferred county: Yorkshire West Riding, Volume: 9c, Page: 220
- <sup>35</sup> "1939 England and Wales Register," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 14 June 2019), entry for Evelyn Fletcher, Schedule number: 380, Sub-schedule Number: 1, Enumeration district: KOZL, Registration district: 511 A/4