In Remembrance of Charlie Whiteland

Private Charlie Whiteland.

Born Jan 1899 in Basford, Nottinghamshire

Died 22 June 1918 of pneumonia when a prisoner-of-war in Alsace, France

Regimental number: 41467 1st Battalion

North Staffordshire Regiment

Charlie was taken prisoner on the Somme battlefield on 25 March 1918. The North Staffordshire Regiment had fought a rear guard action against the German offensive Operation Michael. British lines were overrun on the first day, 22 March, after an opening barrage that included poison gas.

Charlie died of pneumonia three months later in a German Field Hospital, about 10-km from his final resting place in the Plaine French National Cemetery (the link states his date of death as the 20 June, but all other records confirm he died on 22 June 1918).









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In 2014 I was given a memorial plaque dedicated to Charlie by my father, a piece of military memorabilia he'd bought from an antique's stall as was his hobby. These plaques, commonly called 'death pennies', were given to the families of British or Commonwealth nation soldiers, sailors & aircrew killed in the Great War.

Memorial Plaque (medallion)

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

The **Memorial Plaque** was issued after the First World War to the next-of-kin of all British Empire service personnel who were killed as a result of the war.

The plaques (which could be described as large plaquettes) about 4.72 inches (120 mm) in diameter, were cast in bronze, and came to be known as the "Dead Man's Penny", because of the similarity in appearance to the much smaller penny coin which itself had a diameter of only 1.215 inches (30.9 mm). 1,355,000 plaques were issued, which used a total of 450 tons of bronze,^[1] and continued to be issued into the 1930s to commemorate people who died as a consequence of the war.^[2]

In 2016, after tracing Charlie's relatives, I was able to return his memorial plaque to his family. They were unaware of the memorial plaque's existence but Charlie had not been forgotten. His name was added to the list of fallen in his home town for Remembrance Day 2010 and in 2014 Charlie's great-nephew, an author, dedicated a military puzzle book to Charlie's memory.

INTRODUCTION

The armed forces of air, land and sea have been involved in the shaping of world history and, in some way or other, touched the lives of us all. Although the make-up of the services differs around the globe, the military is renowned for its own traditions, characters and rich heritage.

In this book you can glory in all things military, testing your knowledge as well as deliberating over the meanings of such obscurities as 'fustibal' and 'hunga munga'. There are also coded crosswords, mystery sudokus, anagrams, word searches and cryptograms complete with letter clues to give you a fighting chance.

The Military Puzzle Book has much to offer and I hope you enjoy this battle of wits and many times emerge victorious.

Neil Somerville

This book is dedicated to my great uncle, Charlie Whiteland, lost in the Great War. To Charlie and to all who sacrificed so much in this and other conflicts, I salute you and thank you.

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In Memory of

Private

C Whiteland

41467, 1st Bn., North Staffordshire Regiment who died on 22 June 1918

Remembered with Honour Plaine French National Cemetery





Commemorated in perpetuity by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission