

# 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.

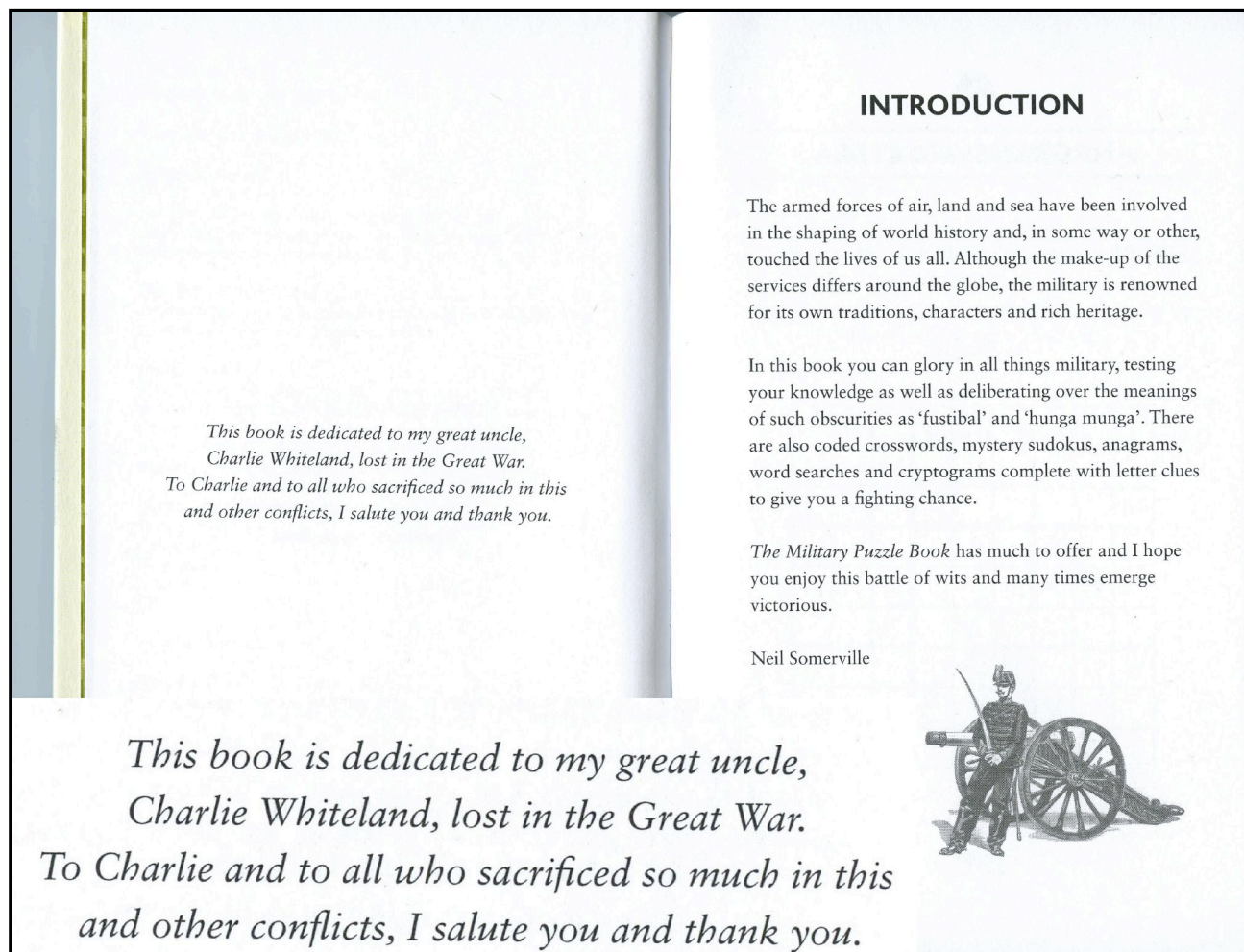
## Memorial Plaque (medallion)

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,<sup>[1]</sup> and continued to be issued into the 1930s to commemorate people who died as a consequence of the war.<sup>[2]</sup>

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.



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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

*Rest-in-Peace Charlie, You Are Remembered*