# Charles Richard Winchcomb N°86441 / N°117913



Royal Army Medical Corp N°Z Company, Blackpool N°H Company, Fovant N°13 Company, Perth N°80 Sanitary Section Egypt

Charles was born on the 22<sup>nd</sup> May 1898 in Charlton Horethorne, Somerset, 9<sup>th</sup> of 10 children and 5<sup>th</sup> son to Sergeant Major James Winchcomb.

				(Page 6)	)		
	BAPTIS . in the	SMS soler	nnized in	the Parish o	of Sharl		e Year 18 98
	When Baptized.	Child's Christian Name.	Parent Christian.	's Name, Surname.	Abode	Quality, Trade, or Profession.	By whom the Ceremony was performed.
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In 1899 the family moved to Peashill, Ripley in Derbyshire. On the 1901 census Charles is shown aged 3.

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His mother died in 1901 and father died in 1908 and the older children were charged with the care of the younger children. In the 1911 census he was listed as a border living with the Addison family at Beech Farm, Near Green, Bardwell, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk and at school. One of Charles 5 elder sister s Georgina Henrietta Winchcomb married William Addison in 1905 in Derbyshire when she was 18 and at some point moved to Suffolk, to Williams uncle's farm. On the death of their father in 1908 Charles moved to Suffolk to live with is sister on the farm.

#### 1911 census

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(To be filled up by, or on be Write below the Number of Rooms in Dwelling (House, Tenement, or Apartm Count the kitchen as a room but do not scullery, landing, lobby, closet, baths nor warehouse, office, shop.	this I declare tha		ctly filled up to the best	arge, of this dwelling.) t of my knowledge and belief. Allhords well. Bury A Elmunds

Beech Farm, Bardwell.



When War broke out Charles was 16 and may still have been living on the farm but at some point he moved back north, to Heanor and on the 22<sup>nd</sup> May 1916, his 18<sup>th</sup> birthday joined the Army Reserve No 86441. He had lost two of his brothers John and William both killed in action in summer 1915 and a third brother, William was serving in the Royal Garrison Artillery. This may have been his motivation to join as soon as he was of age. He spent 358 days in the army reserve.

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On the 15th May 1917 at Ilkeston he was called up an and joined the Royal Army Medical Corp. His profession was listed as a 'Banksman' (Colliery) which indicated he may have been in Heanor for some time working in the mines. He was given the Regimental number 117913. He was 5 foot 6<sup>1/4</sup> inches with a 38inch waist.

Charles was given a B2 medical classification meaning he had problems with his vision which rendered him unfit for front line service but able to 'walk to and from work, a distance not exceeding five miles, and see and hear sufficiently well for ordinary purposes but not to shoot a weapon'. He was deemed fine for garrison duties at home and abroad.

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For men deemed to	be enlisted in H	M. Regular F	orces for General	Service with the Colours or
in the Reserve for	the period of th	e War, or Ex-	soldiers recalled for	Service with the Colours or Service with the Colours, 1916.
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On the 18th May1917 Charles was posted to 'Z' Company RAMC Training Centre that was located in Blackpool, one of their biggest training centres in the UK.

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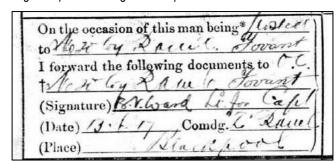
Paintings of tents of the RAMC training centre at Blackpool ©IWM



The date of this photo of Charles is unknown but he is in RAMC uniform with red cross badges on his arms. The young man to stood beside him is unknow. It may have been taken before he left for his training.

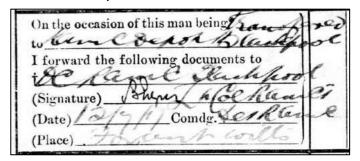


After 1 month, on the 13th June 1917 he was posted to 'No H' Company Royal Army Medical Corp at Fovant in Wiltshire. A large camp for returning and recuperation soldiers. Fovant Central No.29 Hospital had beds for 21 officers and 588 ranks.





After another month, on the 12<sup>th</sup> July 1917 Charles was posted back to the RAMC Depot in Blackpool to C Company where he remained for 6 months until the 14<sup>th</sup> January 1918.

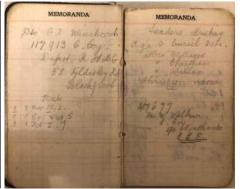


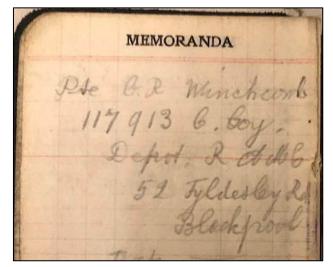
I the front of a 1918 diary owned by Charles's brother- in-law, Arthur Gaunt his military details are noted in the front:

Pte C R Winchcomb, 117913, C Coy, Depot RAMC, 52 Tyldesly Road Blackpool.

(Also noted in the Diary - '47677 Pte W(illiam) Walker, C Coy, 1/2 Northants EEF' - may have been a family friend – joined Sherwood Foresters depot 8/5/17 and sent to Egypt late 1917)



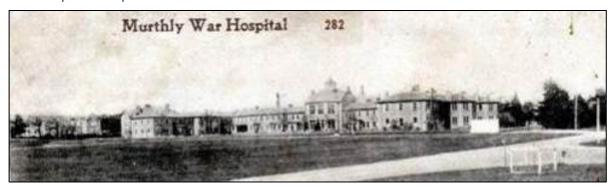




On the 14th January 1918 he was posted to No 13 Company RAMC to the Military Hospital in Perth, Scotland.

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(Date)	14-1.18 Coinds	Dall. E.A.
(Place)	Blackfron	<i>.</i>

The Murthly War Hospital was formerly the Perth District Asylum at Perth and had 350 beds. Its primary use was a specialist mental hospital for recuperation soldiers.



After 11 months at the Murthly Hospital Charles's home service came to an end on the 14th June 1918. After 1 year 31 day he was posted overseas.

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On the 15th June 1918 Charles set of EREEF (En-Rout Egyptian Expeditionary Force ). On the 29th June 1918 after 15 days at sea he arrived (probably at Alexandria) when he was officially posted to the EEF (Egyptian Expeditionary Force)

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€€ 3.	30.	6.	18.	18.1.19	203



Once in Egypt Charles was attached the 80th Sanitary Section RAMC who had been in Egypt since 1915.

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	comb Char	les Roshard
Unit 80 San See:	Part (	(II. C.
Unit. 9.5. Space 5.20.	Or Corps	

A Sanitary Section consisted of an officer, 2 sergeants, 2 corporals, 20 privates and 1 Bateman. Their jobs were to maintain clean water supplies, cooking facilities, billets, de-lousing stations, checking latrines, and other sanitary measures.

An official description of duties of the Sanitary section is found in RAMC training manual for 1911 paragraph's 148 to 150: Sections: (i) allotted to districts--inspection work with Water supply and conservancy, chemical and Bacteriological work in Labs at Railheads and at Bases, supervision of Disinfecting stations.

Squads: (i) execute the skilled work in connection with disinfection; the provision of pure water, build incinerators—act as sanitary police.

As Charles arrived in Egypt as Spanish flu, part of a world Pandemic took hold there, The first wave of the appeared around May/June. Hitting its most lethal peak at the end of October lasting until just after Christmas, resulting in a large number of casualties in the last eight weeks of 1918. When the pandemic hit Egypt, the Anglo-Egyptian government was caught with its pants down. Hospitals and clinics were overwhelmed. In Cairo, cinemas were closed, but not theatres; bars were closed, but not cafes. The death toll was 138,000 but may have been as high as 180,000 people — over 1% of Egypt's population according to the census conducted in 1917 with most deaths in the last 8 weeks of 1918.

No80 Sanitary Section was based at Serum Camp, Cairo when Charles arrived but had men spread across a number of different locations, usually on their own.

July 1918

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The only entry in the units war diary referring to men Joining the unit is on the 17<sup>th</sup> July. With Charles being posted to the EEF on the 30<sup>th</sup> June it may have taken a couple of weeks to sort his posting to the No80 Section and get there. They are referred to as 'B' Substitution personnel arriving for training in sanitary duties.

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16	*#*		

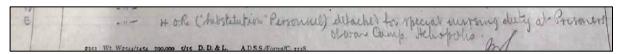
Charles was classified 'B2' for his service. B2 medical classification meaning he had problems with his vision which rendered him unfit for front line service but able to 'walk to and from work, a distance not exceeding five miles, and see and hear sufficiently well for ordinary purposes but not to shoot a weapon'

MEDICAL CLASSIFICATION AS TO FITNESS FOR SERVICE ON JOINING.

#### August 1918

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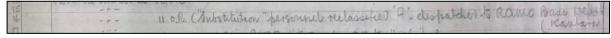
The war diary notes 4 of the 'B Substitution' personnel being attached for special nursing duty at the Turkish Prisoner Of War Camp at Heliopolis (a suburb of Cairo). Charles could potentially have been one of these men as he already had his RAMC training and was classified B2. The remainder of the 'Substitution' personnel remained at the camp at Serum Camp.



### Heliopolis Turkish POW camp



On the 16th July 11 of the 'Substitution' personnel were reclassified 'A' and despatched to the RAMC base at Kantara on the banks of the Suez Canal (Kantara Camp pictured). Again with his RAMC training Charles could have been amongst these men reclassified B to A.

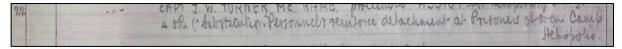


#### Kantara





On the 22<sup>nd</sup> July another 4 of the 'B Substitution' personnel were sent to the POW camp.



By Septemember 1918, of the 22 men who arrived by september 8 were at the POW camp at Heliopolis, 11 at the RAMC base at Kantara, the rest at Serum Camp.

1918	Summary of Events and Information	100		
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### November 1918

There is no mention in the units ward diary regarding the armistice signed in France on the 11<sup>th</sup> November. Charles saw the war in Europe come to an end in Egypt.

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#### December 1918

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## January 1919

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-		E. L. C. ant Indian Camp, Nelta Barrage
		Camp areas in Heliopolis - Zerton area.  anti-Ily, anti-mosquito, disintection and water duties, and general panitary
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After 203 days in Egypt, on the 19th January 1919 Charles left Egypt, ERUK (En-Route UK) arriving back on the 8th February 1919.

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ERUK.	19.	11.	19.	8	? -	2.19	-	21.

One month later, on the 8<sup>th</sup> March 1919 Charles was demobilized in the 'Woking District' and returned back to the remains of the family in Derbyshire. His Protection and Identity Certificate is dated 9<sup>th</sup> February 1919, the day after he returned to the UK and lists his home as Loscoe Road Heanor Derbyshire, it is stamped with the issuing office of Clipstone. In Nottinghamshire, 30 miles. His elder Brother and the only one of brothers not to serve in the war, Henry James Winchcomb, lived at 46 Loscoe Road, Heanor. This certificate also shows he received an advance of £2.

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Regtl. No. Rank Record Office  Unit Regt. or Pay Office  I have received an advance of £2. † Address for Pay  (Signature of Soldier)  The above named soldier is granted 28 days furlough from the date stamped hereon pending (as far as can be ascertained) which will date from the last day of furlough after which date uniform will not be worn except upon occasions authorized by Army Orders.  *If for Final Demobilization insert 1. Dissembodiment insert 2. Transfer to Reserve insert 3.  Record Office  Pay Office  Pay Office  Command  Born in the Year  Medical Category  Place of rejoining in case of emergency  Specialist Military Qualification
Unit Regt. or Pay Office  I have received an advance of £2.  (Signature of Soldier)  The above-named soldier is granted 28 days furlough from the date stamped hereon pending (as far as can be ascertained) which will date from the last day of furlough after which date uniform will not be worn except upon occasions authorized by Army Orders.  "If for Final Demobilization insert 1. Dissembodiment insert 2. Transfer to Reserve insert 3.  Pay Office  Pay Office  Pay Office  (Signature of Soldier)  Theatre of War or Command Born in the Year  Medical Category  Place of rejoining in case of emergency  Specialist Military Qualification
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+ As this is the address to which pay and discharge documents will be sent unless further notification is re any change of address must be reported at once to the Record Office and the Pay Office as noted above, otherwise d settlement will occur.

The Date of this photo is unknow but Charles is in uniform, and pictured with his sister Alice Rose Winchcomb and her Fiancé Arthur Gaunt and next to Charles possibly Georgina Winchcomb on the right.

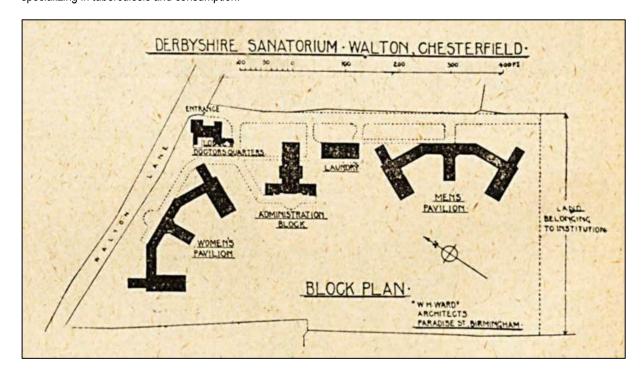


In June 1919, just a few months after he was demobilized from the army Charles, pictured far right attended the wedding of his sister Alice Rose (my Great Grandmother) to Arthur Gaunt. (Harold Gaunt, Arthurs brother was Killed in action in 1916)





Following demobilized Charles underwent 2 courses of treatment for pulmonary tuberculosis at the Walton Sanatorium near Chesterfield. This was a hospital built in 1913/14 and used premaritally for the treatment of service men and ex servicemen specializing in tuberculosis and consumption.



Following the treatments and a result of the tuberculosis Charles entered a Disability request around the 12th August 1920, around 1 year 6 months after being discharged

around 1 your of months artor borning alcordarged	W8635-GD1758 600,000 1/10 HWV(P1145/2) Army Form Z. 69,
Request for Discharge Documents.  MINISTRY OF PENSIONS, ST. S. BULION COURTY, ST. KING'S ROAD, S.W. S. Road, S. R	Form of Receipt to accompany Documents and Statement as to Disability (Army Form Z. 22).  (See para. 3024 Demobilization Regulations).  Received from Officer i/e Records  the documents of Regtl. No.  Names in full  (Surname first)  Unit and Corps  Royal Army Interdical Corps.  Temporary Army Form B. 103 only forwarded.  (Streke this portion out if not applicable.)  NOTES.  1. The Officer i/e Records will complete the above particing.  The Officer i/e Records will complete the above particing.
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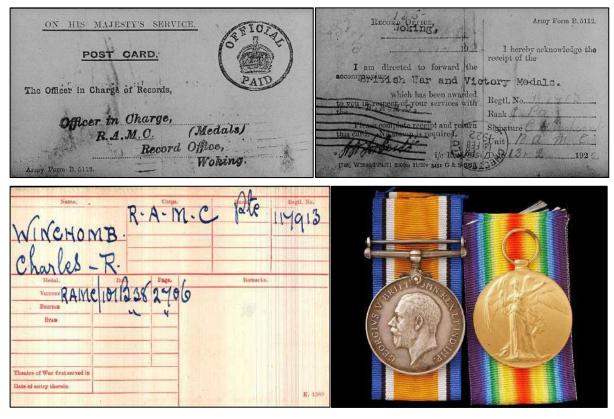
On the 2/3<sup>rd</sup> November 1920 the East Midlands Region denied his military disability pension claim for 2 counts of disability, Pulmonary Tuberculosis and ......... as they were deemed 'disability not connected with service – no grounds for award'. Charles then contested the decision submitting to a Pensions Appel Tribunal which on the 31<sup>st</sup> March 1921 reversed the decision stating he had 100% disability resulting form Pulmonary Tuberculosis granting him an award of 40 shillings backdated to the 8<sup>th</sup> July 1920.

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2.11.20 'no grounds for awards' 31.3.21 - 100% disability 40 shillings award

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On the 13th February 1922 Charles received the British War and Victory medals (location of Charles medals unknown)



In Charles pensions and disability index he is shown transferring from the East Midlands to London region on the 8th July 1922. By this time he moved back to live with his sister, Georgina and her husband William Addison at Beech Farm in Bardwell, Suffolk, may be he felt it better suited to aid his condition.

Pensions and disability index shows him with Pulmonary Tuberculosis with multiple assessments through 1920/21. In 1920 he has 'no grounds for award and 1921 the disability is measured at 100%

NEW REGIONAL NO. 1918293	Form No. S.5. 36  Waranne for block letters)  Unit and Regiment or Corp  Are of Discharge.  Address A.C. School of Corp  Disabilities:	8. 3. 19: Vear o Reth Description	Birth Marita Status S. S. M. M. S. M	Date c	f commencement {					
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Beech Farm Bardwell.



In the 1921 census Charles aged 23 is living on Bardwell with his sister. His is noted a 'Visitor' and his occupation a Miner but also an 'Invalid'

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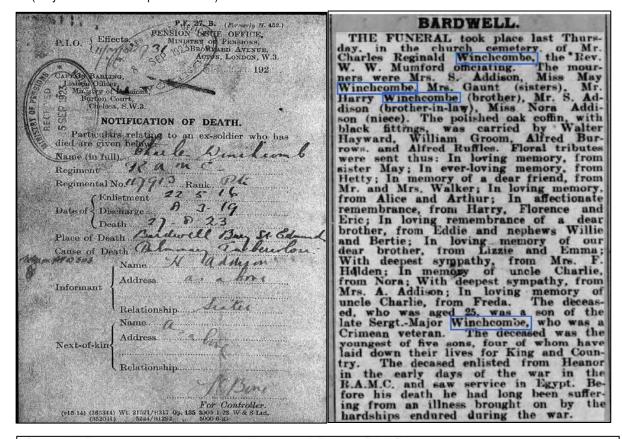
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Charles lived at the farm with his sister for the next 13 months until on the 27th August 1923 aged just 25 he succumbed to the tuberculosis and passed away.

Deaths - Bury Free Press 8th September 1923 (Richard misprinted as Reginald)



On 5<sup>th</sup> September 1923 the Ministry of Pensions received notification of his death and on the 8<sup>th</sup> his funeral was noted in the (Bury Free Press 8<sup>th</sup> September 1923).



winchcomb Charles Richard otherwise Charles otherwise Charlie of Bardwell Suffolk died 27 August 1923 Probate Bury St. Edmunds 4 September to Henry James Winchcomb bootmaker. Effects £139 9s. 7d.