

Charles William Gingell

Private, 7th Battalion Somerset Light Infantry. Enlisted at Taunton, November 22nd, 1915. Served in France. Killed in action, August 16th, 1917. General Service and Victory Medals.



CHARLES GINGELL WAS born in Box in 1883, the son of Alfred and Hannah Jane (née Masters). His parents had both been working independently in Box in 1881 – Alfred, originally from Atworth, was a labourer and Hannah, from Westcombe in Somerset, was a housemaid living and working at the Kingsdown Asylum. After Charles's birth it appears that the family moved back to Somerset, where Alfred died in 1889 when Charles was only six. In 1891 he was living with his mother and grandmother in Batcombe in Somerset.

In 1900, in Shepton Mallett, Hannah married Frederick Lodge, who was originally from Elley Green, Corsham, and Hannah and Frederick were living in Elley Green by 1901.

Charles was boarding in Bitterne in Hampshire in 1901, working as a garden labourer, but by 1911 he had returned to Somerset, where he was living with his 91-year-old grandmother and was now a carter for a coal haulier.

Charles enlisted for the Army in 1915 when he was 32. He joined the Somerset Light Infantry and would have fought in France. He was killed in action on 16th August 1917 and is buried at the Tyne Cot Memorial in Belgium.

His mother Hannah continued to live in the Corsham area, and died in 1930.