

Croome Stories

Charles Gallie was a 2nd Lieutenant in the Royal Scots Fusiliers/Royal Flying Corps. Charles was born on 4th February 1892 in Shipton near York. He was the son of John Alexander and Louisa Gallie. His father was a forester, employed by the Earl of Coventry born in Scotland and his mother was born in Yorkshire.

In 1901 Charles was living with his parents, brothers Athol and John and sister Catherine at Croome D'Abitot. His father was an estate bailiff.

By 1911 Charles had left home and was working as a motor repairer in Slough, Buckinghamshire. He enlisted in the Royal Scots Fusiliers the following year before transferring to the Royal Flying Corps.

The Royal Flying Corps was formed in April 1912. In July 1913 Charles was promoted to the rank of 1st Class Air Mechanic. Following the outbreak of war in August 1914, Charles, by now an experienced and well qualified pilot, was attached to No. 6 Squadron, ferrying aircraft to the squadrons in France and Belgium. His records date his service in France as starting on 7 October 1914.

After his tour of duty as a ferry pilot, Charles was posted back to Upavon as an Instructor. In May 1915, he was posted to No. 2 Squadron, at Merville in France, as a pilot on front-line duties – reconnaissance and artillery spotting over the trenches. In June, he gained promotion to 2nd Lieutenant, and 10 days later his squadron moved to Hesdigneul.

On 22nd August 1915, Lt. Gallie and his Observer Lt. Robert Walker Wallace set out from Hesdigneul on a reconnaissance flight over enemy territory. On that fateful day, they died in action when their aircraft was shot down, probably by German shell fire, falling near the village of Marquillies, east of Lille. They both lie buried in the Cabaret-Rouge British Cemetery.

Harold Drew was a private in the 1st Battalion Worcestershire Regiment. Harold was born in 1887 in Severn Stoke, Upton on Severn, Worcestershire and was baptised on 4th September 1887 in Severn Stoke. He was the son of James and Theresa Drew. His father was a blacksmith. Both his parents were born in Worcester.

In 1901 Harold was living with his parents, brothers Henry and Cecil and daughter Lillian and Norah in High Green, Worcestershire. His father was a blacksmith.

In 1911 Harold was living at The Stables, Strensham, Worcester. He was a stableman.

On 1st April 1918, the 1st Battalion Worcestershire Regiment held the line near Castel, France, during the German Spring Offensive. Following days of intense combat, French troops relieved them that night. The battalion then marched to Dommartin, were transported by buses out of the battle area, and rested in Hangest. Harold was killed in action on the Somme on 1st April 1918 and is remembered on the Pozieres Memorial, France.

Robert Hull was a Corporal in the 24th Battalion Royal Fusiliers. Robert was born in Whittingham, Lancashire in 1894 and was baptised on 6th May 1894 in the parish of Goosnargh, Lancashire. He was the son of Cuthbert and Agnes Hull. His father was a shepherd born in Greenhalgh, Lancashire and his mother was born in Stalmine, Lancashire.

In 1901 Robert was living with his parents, brother James and sister Rose at 125 Moss Lane, Much Hoole, Lancashire. His father was a farm worker.

In 1911 Robert was living with his parents, brothers James and Richard and sisters Rose and Mary in Severn Stoke, Worcestershire. His father was a farm bailiff, and Robert was working with farm horses.

Robert enlisted in Worcester in 24th Battalion Royal Fusiliers.

On 25th August 1918, the 24th Battalion Royal Fusiliers (2nd Sportsman's Battalion) was actively engaged in the Advance to Victory, pushing the German forces north of Bapaume. On this specific day, the 24th and their division played a role in the capture of the villages of Behagnies and Sapignies. Robert died on 25th August 1918 and is remembered at the Gomiecourt South Cemetery.

William Edwards was a private in the 4th Battalion Worcestershire Regiment. William was born in South Kensington, London. He enlisted in Droitwich, Worcestershire in the 4th Battalion Worcestershire Regiment.

On 14th October 1915, the 4th Battalion Worcestershire Regiment was enduring the gruelling trench warfare of the Gallipoli Campaign. Attached to the 88th Brigade of the 29th Division, the exhausted battalion was holding positions in the Cape Helles sector after suffering devastating casualties in August. William was killed in action 14th October 1915 Gallipoli and is buried in Azmak Cemetery, Suvla, Turkey.