

Charles Woolgar

Lance Sergeant 6402691, 1st Battalion Royal Sussex Regiment



Charles was born on 6th April 1919 at West Grinstead, the second son of Edwin and Emily Kate Woolgar of Shipley. Charles' father Edwin fought in the Great War with the Royal Garrison Artillery, and his records show that he enlisted in 1915, just over a year after he married his wife, Kate. Edwin was a farm labourer and he and his wife lived at Wickwood, Shipley. Charles' older brother Edwin was born in 1915 and Shipley School registers show that a third child, Kitty was born in 1925 and a fourth, Clement in 1930.

Charles attended Shipley School along with his brother Edwin and later, sister Kitty and brother Clement. Charles started school in 1924 and left, aged 14, for employment in 1933. During this period the family was living first at Knepp Mill, and later at West Lodge, Shipley.

In the 1939 Register Charles' parents were living at West Lodge, Shipley and Charles appears to have already left home. He enlisted into the 1st Battalion of the Royal Sussex Regiment which in 1939 was based in Egypt. The Battalion joined the 7th Brigade of the 4th Indian Division near Cairo and so began an association which was to last until the end of the War. By April 1941 the Regiment had taken part in the East African Campaign and completed its objective to liberate Eritrea and Abyssinia from the Italians. In November 1941 the Regiment returned to North Africa, and played an important part in the fighting of the Western Desert Campaign, which took place in the deserts of Egypt and Libya.

It was during this campaign that Charles was reported wounded in action on Casualty List 730. It was not until nine months later, on 21st September 1942, that he was reported as missing, believed to be a prisoner of war on Casualty List 949. Three months after this Charles was confirmed killed in action on Casualty List 1012 posted on 21st December 1942. The date of his death is recorded as 21st September 1942.

Charles is buried in Al Alamein War Cemetery in Egypt. His inscription on his headstone, a cross, reads "In loving memory of our dear son Charles, forever in our thoughts". Charles was 23 years old. He was awarded the War Medal 1939 – 1945 and 1939 – 1945 Star.



Left: War Medal 1939 – 1945



Right: 1939 – 1945 Star

In Memory of
Lance Serjeant

Charles Woolgar

6402691, 1st Bn., Royal Sussex Regiment who died on 21 September 1942 Age 23

Son of Edwin and Emily Kate Woolgar, of Shipley, Sussex.

Remembered with Honour
El Alamein War Cemetery



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission