



World War I Casualty Biography

Alfred Charles Hayes Lance Corporal 9098, 1st Battalion Wiltshire Regiment

Alfred was born 2nd September 1895 his birth being recorded in the September Quarter of 1895 in the Marlborough Registration District. He was baptised at Broad Hinton on 20th October 1895. His parents were George William and Belinda Hayes. His father was a carter on Hankerton Field Farm where they lived in one of the cottages. He had three brothers William, John and Albert and a sister Mary.

On the 12th March 1900 Alfred was admitted to the Avebury Church of England School.

In 1901 the family are residing at Paradise's Farm, Avebury and are recorded as:
George, Head, Age 40, Carter on a farm, born in Avebury; Belinda, Wife, Age, 35, born in Aldbourne;
Charles, Son, Age 5, born in Broad Hinton; Mary, Daughter, Age 4, born in Broad Hinton; William,
Son, Age 1, born in Broad Hinton.

In 1911 the family were living at Hankerton Field Cottage, Hankerton. The 1911 census records the family as:
George, Head, Age 50, Carter on a farm, born in Avebury; Belinda, Wife, Age, 44, born in Aldbourne;
Alfred Charles, Son, Age 16, Under carter on farm, born in Broad Hinton; William George, Son, Age 12, Scholar, born in Broad Hinton; John, Son, Age 7, born in Broad Hinton; Albert Edward, Son, Age 11, Scholar, born in Broad Hinton.

Alfred enlisted into the 1st Battalion Duke of Edinburgh's (Wiltshire Regiment) at Devizes and achieved the rank of Lance Corporal His service number was 9098.

The Battle of Loos

Late in September 1915 the British Army attacked at Loos, about 25 miles south of Ypres. On the 25th September the 1st Battalion were in close support of the Royal Irish Rifles and 2nd Lancashires, whose task was to assault the German trenches at Hooge. As so often happened with subsidiary attacks the losses were severe. By 2 a.m. Alfred's regiment were in position near the Menin Road. About 2 hours later the British artillery opened fire and drew a tremendous return fire which was kept up throughout the day. By evening it was found the Royal Irish Rifles and South Lancashires had been pushed back to their original positions. They were finally relieved by the 4th Royal Fusiliers. The

casualty toll was recorded as 18 killed one of which was presumably Albert and 76 wounded. This was a big price to pay for an abortive attack.

Alfred Charles was killed in action 25th September 1915 in four weeks before his 20th birthday.

Alfred has no known grave and is commemorated on the Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Ieper, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. His name is recorded on Panel 53.



Alfred Charles Heyes is also commemorated on the War Memorial Plaque in Holy Cross Church, Hankerton

