

STEWARD Charles



Private Essex Yeomanry "A" Squadron.

Killed in action: 11/04/1917

Service No: 80613

In 1901 living at Barn Hall Road, Tolleshunt Knights, were John Steward, a 45 year old engine driver and his wife Alice (42). Their children are shown as George (20), John (14), Lottie (12), **Charles (9)**, Annie (4), Millie (2) and Robert, 1 month. His brother John also died while serving in the 10th Battalion Essex Regiment on the 10th February 1917 and is buried at Tolleshunt Knights. The 1901 census shows that George, John & Charles were all born in Tollesbury. The CD Rom "*Soldiers Died in the Great War 1914-19*", shows Charles Steward 80613 place of birth not given, enlisted at Colchester and his residence given as Wivenhoe, Essex. He enlisted on 9 January 1915. He proceeded overseas on 8 June 1915. He had a war loan of £1 11s when he was posted as missing and served with "A" Squadron. He was involved in the action at Monchy-le-Proux (April 1917). where the Essex Yeomanry fought tenaciously for three days and repelled a determined German counter-attack. In this savage encounter nineteen troopers were killed and 106 wounded.

11th April 1917 Essex Yeomanry - ARRAS

Early on the morning of 11 April the cavalry stood to and initially moved forward to the positions they had occupied the previous afternoon, where they awaited news on the infantry advance. By 8.30 a.m. reports began to come in that the village of Monchy-le-Preux had been captured and they were ordered to advance across the open ground to reinforce the hard-pressed infantry. The Essex Yeomanry and 10th Hussars of the 8th Cavalry Brigade advanced to the north of Monchy-le-Preux and after coming under heavy machine gun fire from their flank they wheeled, in accordance with their orders, southward and into the village. There they were subjected to a very heavy German artillery bombardment that caused tremendous casualties, especially among the horses, and also their commander, Brigadier-General Bulkeley-Johnson who was killed by a sniper while dismounted and assessing the situation on the north of the village.

Meanwhile on their right flank the 3rd Dragoon Guards had simultaneously advanced with B Squadron leading the gallop for the 2,000 yards towards their objective, the road that ran due south from Monchy-le-Preux for about 1,000 yards to the junction with the Arras – Cambrai Road. B Squadron arrived at the road at about 9.25 a.m. and C Squadron arrived a few minutes later. A Squadron and the HQ, plus two guns of the Royal Field Artillery, had taken up a position about two thirds of the way to the road and the guns came into immediate action at 9.30 a.m. Further guns arrived about 45 minutes later and also came into action



He received the 1914-15 Star; the 1914-1920 War Medal; the 1914-1919 Victory Medal.

Name STEWART <i>Charles</i>		Grade <i>Corporal</i>	Rank <i>Plt</i>	Regt No. <i>1775</i> <i>804/5</i>
Serial <i>15</i>	Unit <i>CC/10781 72</i>	Remarks <i>Men A</i>		
Service <i>do do</i>				
Status of War and record to <i>1 France</i>				
Date of entry Canada <i>8.6.15</i>				

Casualty Type: Commonwealth War Dead Grave/Memorial Reference: Bay 1. Memorial: ARRAS MEMORIAL



The French handed over Arras to Commonwealth forces in the spring of 1916 and the system of tunnels upon which the town is built were used and developed in preparation for the major offensive planned for April 1917. The Commonwealth section of the FAUBOURG D'AMIENS CEMETERY was begun in March 1916, behind the French military cemetery established earlier. It continued to be used by field ambulances and fighting units until November 1918. The cemetery was enlarged after the Armistice when graves were brought in from the battlefields and from two smaller cemeteries in the vicinity. The cemetery contains 2,651 Commonwealth burials of the First World War. In addition, there are 30 war graves of other nationalities, most of them German. During the Second World War, Arras was occupied by United Kingdom forces headquarters until the town was evacuated on 23 May 1940. Arras then remained in German hands until retaken by Commonwealth and Free French forces on 1 September 1944. The cemetery contains seven Commonwealth burials of the Second World War. The graves in the French military cemetery were removed after the First World War to other burial grounds and the land they had occupied was used for the construction of the Arras Memorial and Arras Flying Services Memorial. The ARRAS MEMORIAL commemorates almost 35,000 servicemen from the United Kingdom, South Africa and New Zealand who died in the Arras sector between the spring of 1916 and 7 August 1918, the eve of the Advance to Victory, and have no known grave. The most conspicuous events of this period were the Arras offensive of April-May 1917, and the German attack in the spring of 1918. Canadian and Australian servicemen killed in these operations are commemorated by memorials at Vimy and Villers-Bretonneux. A separate memorial remembers those killed in the Battle of Cambrai in 1917. The ARRAS FLYING SERVICES MEMORIAL commemorates nearly 1,000 airmen of the Royal Naval Air Service, the Royal Flying Corps, and the Royal Air Force, either by attachment from other arms of the forces of the Commonwealth or by original enlistment, who were killed on the whole Western Front and who have no known

grave. Both cemetery and memorial were designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens, with sculpture by Sir William Reid Dick. No. of Identified Casualties: 34718

Last updated 09/03/2008



Saint Mary's Tollesbury