

CHARLES, Albert Henry

Albert Henry Charles was born in Membury 1886. His parents were Francis Charles, a labourer (born in Membury in 1828 and died in 1886) and Mary Jane (b 1850 in Stockland nee: Rockett) . His father died the year he was born, leaving his mother with 5 children.

1891 the Charles family were living in Spring Cottage, Playstreet, Membury, *and* Mary had reverted to her maiden name (no marriage certificate could be found). Mary worked as a laundress as did the oldest sister Martha (18), and John (12), Joel (10), Ellen (8) and Albert (5) went to school.

However on the 1901 census, she called herself Mary Charles, living at Heath Common, but by 1911, she had reverted back again to Mary Jane Rockett, still living at Heath Common, Membury.

In 1901 Albert, aged 15, was working as a servant and living with Mary Clarke (59) and her nephew Charles Clarke (22) at the Masons Arms, Branscombe – Mary being the inn keeper.

In 1911 Albert was now 25 and a journeyman butcher, living as a boarder with Joseph and Rosa Bisley and their children at 136 Northwold Road, Hackney in London.

Albert followed his elder brother, Joel in the army and joined the Coldstream Guards (Reg No 13653) on 12 November 1914 aged 28, at Stratford, London. His next of kin was his mother still living in Membury. He was 5' 8" with good physical development. He embarked at Southampton on 15 August 1915 for the 4th battalion. His medical record is very difficult to read, but seemed to have been sick in a field hospital in May and embarked for England on 17 May 1918 and then twisted his ankle and spent 19 days in hospital in August 1918.