

# Corporal Albert Pink

## The Hampshire Regiment



Albert Pink died of disease at Rawalpindi India (now Pakistan) on 8th December 1917, whilst serving as a Private Soldier with 1st Garrison Battalion Somerset Light Infantry. He is buried in the Rawalpindi War Cemetery. He had served his country in the Hampshire Regiment during the Boer War and the Great War.

Albert was born in 1879 in Hartley Wintney, the third son of Mr Albert F and Mrs Mary K Pink. At the 1881 census the family were living in Alverstoke, Portsmouth with Mr Pink's occupation being a Baker and Grocer. Albert senior died a young man and it seems the family was divided between relatives.

Young Albert along with 2 younger brothers, Thomas and Alfred came to live with their grandparents in Greywell. At the 1891 census, 12 year old Albert is recorded living at the Wharf, with 3 generations of the Pink family, Grandfather Henry as head of household was a 54 year old general labourer.

Albert, known in the village as 'Darkie' grew up with the other Greywell children, but around 1900/01 joined the army along with his friend Walter Dicker who was also living at the Wharf.

The 1901 census records him living in barracks in Winchester whilst serving as a Private in the Hampshire Regiment. He was in South Africa with 2nd Battalion at the end of the Boer War and would have been awarded the South Africa Medals. He was still in the regiment in 1908 and is recorded in the Regimental Journal of December that year, embarking for England from foreign service in S Africa and he would have previously served in Malta and Bermuda.



Albert was out of uniform 1909 when he married Ada Mary Rogers from Greywell. Perhaps they were childhood sweethearts, as they grew up together here in the village. At the 1911 census he and Ada Mary were living in West Street, Odiham. Albert was employed as a general labourer and would still have had an army reservist commitment.

At the outbreak of war, Albert was called up and arrived in France on 31st August to join the 1st Bn Hampshire Regiment as a battle casualty replacement during the retreat from Mons. He would then have taken part in the battles of the Aisne in September and at Ypres in October /November 1914.



No Service History or Medical Records are available for Albert, but his Medal Record shows he was promoted to Corporal. There is also a record of Pte A Pink in the Military Hospital at Boulogne in January 1915, listed as sick.

If he returned to the Battalion from hospital, he would have been present in all their actions in Ypres and the Somme during 1915 and 1916.

Albert was transferred to the 1st Garrison Bn Somerset Light Infantry which was formed in Plymouth in January 1917 and moved to Rawalpindi India (now Pakistan) in February. He may have been medically downgraded due to sickness or wounds. For Britain it was still vitally important to hold the Empire and overseas garrisons were stripped of able men for the front.

On garrison duty in India, Albert survived until December. It is not known how he died but dysentery, fever, malaria and other illnesses still claimed large numbers of lives during WW1. The conditions endured by troops in the trenches took a heavy toll on health.

Pte Albert Pink was awarded the British War Medal, The Victory Medal and the 1914/15 Star.

In September 1919 his widow Ada Mary back in Greywell with her family, applied for her late husband's medals.

