

Shoeing Smith Corporal William Charles Holloway

3rd (King's Own) Hussars



Shoeing Smith Corporal William Charles Holloway was wounded near Albert on the Somme, whilst serving with the 3rd Hussars and died at Etaples Military Hospital on 2nd October 1916. He was 26 years of age. He is buried in the Commonwealth War Graves Military Cemetery at Etaples, Pas de Calais, France.

Charlie Holloway was born in Greywell on 6th October 1889 the first son of seven children to Henry William (Harry) and Sarah Jane Holloway. The family first lived in a cottage at Bidden Water (since demolished) but moved into the village sometime before the 1901 census when the family were recorded living in The Street.

Charlie started School in Greywell on 27th November 1895 along with his sister Lucy. He and his younger brother Fred were remembered in the village as '...big strapping lads. Proper terrors....always out for a bit of fun'.

Very little of his Army Service Record has survived, but it is known that Charlie joined the 3rd (King's Own) Hussars and at the 1911 census was serving overseas in the garrison at Roberts Heights, Transvaal, South Africa as a single Private Soldier with the regiment. He was still with them at the outbreak of war in 1914.



Even by that time, cavalry and horses were still very much in use with the army on the battlefield. Charlie had trained as a Shoeing Smith and been promoted to Corporal.

The 3rd Hussars were sent to France with the first of the British Expeditionary Force and arrived in Rouen on 17th August 1914. By the 21st, the regiment was in action opposing the German Cavalry at Mons. For a fortnight the retreat from Mons saw the regiment pushed back 200 miles until the 5th September when the tide of war turned and the allies advanced from the Marne to the Aisne.

By October 1914 they were in Ypres with the cavalry fighting as infantry holding the lines at Messines, St Julien and Bellewaarde lake, under intense pressure.

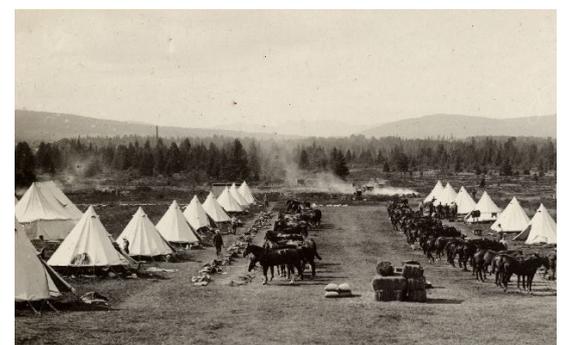


On one day alone they lost fifty percent of their number in casualties, until the regiment was put into reserve in June 1915.

The 3rd Hussars were still in reserve in Flanders on 1st July 1916 and did not take part in the disastrous action on the Somme. However they were moved south in September in anticipation of a breakthrough on the Somme and kept in reserve, bivouacked near Dernacourt and Albert, providing working parties to the forward troops.

The Regiment War Diary of 25th September 1916 records:

.....At 9.00 pm a German aeroplane dropped 2 bombs on the bivouac of 3rd Hussars. One bomb dropped in 'A' Squadron [One man] was killed and 6 NCOs and men wounded of whom [one more later] died, 10 horses were killed and destroyed and 15 wounded. A second bomb fell some 50 yds from 'B' Echelon & did no damage.



Charlie Holloway died of wounds at the Military Hospital in Etaples in Northern France on 2nd October and it is thought he was one of the casualties evacuated to hospital after this air attack. No other enemy actions or casualties are recorded with the regiment during the period.

Shoeing Smith Cpl William Charles Holloway was awarded the 1914/15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

