

CHARLES DEW

Born: 5th February 1899, Framingham Pigot¹

Enlisted: 5th February 1917 (called up), Norwich - 17th Battalion Royal Fusiliers (Private 75229)²



Died: 21st December 1918 – Wood Norton³

Age: 19

Memorial: Buried in Wood Norton churchyard

Medals: British War Medal; Victory Medal; Silver War Badge⁴



Residence: The Lodge, Wood Norton⁵

Charles Dew was born on the 5th February 1899, the son of Thomas George and Ann Elizabeth Dew. He was baptised on the 14th May 1899, in Framingham Pigot parish church (see Figure 1).

Born Feb 5 th 1899.	May 14 th 1899 No. 675.	Charles	Thomas George Ann Elizabeth	Dew.	Framingham Pigot	Game Keeper	R. A. Towle
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Figure 1: Extract from the Framingham Pigot Baptisms, 1899

¹ FreeBMD, Quarter to March 1899, Henstead, Vol.4b, p.209 (www.freebmd.org.uk); Baptisms Register, 1899, Framingham Pigot (www.familysearch.org).

² UK, Silver War Badge Records, 1914-1920 (www.ancestry.co.uk); British Army WW1 Pension Records 1914-1920 (www.ancestry.co.uk).

³ *Transcript and Index to Wood Norton, Norfolk, Parish Registers*, compiled by Keith and Shirley Howell (February 2000), Burials, 1918 (p.131).

⁴ British Army WW1 Medal Roll Index Cards, 1914-1920 (www.ancestry.co.uk); UK, Silver War Badge Records, 1914-1920 (www.ancestry.co.uk).

⁵ British Army WW1 Pension Records 1914-1920 (www.ancestry.co.uk).

Whilst the British Army WW1 Service Records 1914-1920 do not appear to have survived for Charles, his WW1 Pension Records have.⁶ These records note that he was 5' 2" tall, his occupation was 'motor driver', and he lived with his family at The Lodge, Wood Norton. This was the lodge to Wood Norton Hall, so Charles may, therefore, have been employed as a driver at the Hall before he was called up.

He served in a variety of units. On call up (5th February 1917) he was posted to the 29th Reserve Battalion (Royal Fusiliers), then moved to the 255th Infantry Battalion, then to the 52nd Battalion (Reserves, Royal Fusiliers). There was a spell in the Royal West Surrey Regiment (between December 1917 and February 1918), and then a move to the British Expeditionary Force (BEF) on the 18th February 1918. On the 20th February 1918 he joined the 17th Battalion, Royal Fusiliers and was posted to France, but this overseas service was short lived - just a couple of months from the 18th February 1918 to the 29th March 1918.⁷

Charles was wounded in action at Cambrai on the 22nd March 1918. In his *Medical Report* form (dated stamped 4th October 1918), it is reported that:

States he was hit on R. Arm by shrapnel piercing the muscles in middle 1/3 of Arm. Was sent to 2nd Canadian Hosp near Boulogne & later transferred to England 2nd Gen Western Manchester.

The 2nd Canadian Hospital was the first of a series of Canadian base hospitals along the French coast between Boulogne and Dieppe.⁸ The 2nd Western General Hospital, located in Manchester and surrounding towns became the largest military hospital in the UK.⁹

The *Medical Report* form concludes with the opinion of the medical board, noting that the injury was a 'through and through' gun-shot wound:

G.S.W. Right Upper Arm (T&T) March 1918. Unable to fully extend or flex R. arm. Considerable atrophy of muscles of R forearm & hand. Loss of sensation over little finger & under side of ring finger. Scar 2 inches long inner border of R biceps. Oblique scar 2 inches over part of biceps.

It was further noted that the disability was likely to last for 12 months, and that this 'temporary' disability was assessed at 50%. After being wounded in action Charles was transferred to the 6th Battalion, Royal Fusiliers on the 13th August 1918, a Reserve Battalion based in Carrickfergus, Ireland. It was from this regiment that he was discharged on the 2nd October 1918 under the King's Regulations 392 (xvi)(a) K.R. Wnds [Wounds], *surplus to military requirements (having suffered impairment since entry into the service)*, with a 60% pension for a six month period (until the 8th April 1919). He was awarded the Silver War Badge (number 472163) on the 28th April 1920 (see *Figure 2*).¹⁰

⁶ British Army WW1 Pension Records 1914-1920 (www.ancestry.co.uk).

⁷ UK, WW1 Service Medal and Award Rolls, 1914-1920 (www.ancestry.co.uk).

⁸ See <http://www.royalmontrealregiment.com/no-2-canadian-stationary-hospital-first-canadian-unit-landed-in-france/>.

⁹ See <http://rusholmearchive.org/rusholme-military-hospitals-1914-1918>.

¹⁰ UK, Silver War Badge Records, 1914-1920 (www.ancestry.co.uk).

Name	Corps	Rank	Regt. No.
DEW Charles	R. Fus	Pte	83/45299
Medal	Roll	Page	Remarks
VICTORY	TP/104 B24	3437	
BRITISH	no	no	
STAR			
Theatre of War first served in			
Date of entry therein			

W.B. Dist TP/104

K 1880

Figure 2: Medal Roll index card for Charles Dew

Sadly, just over two months after being discharged from the army, Charles died at home on the 21st December 1918, aged 19. His death certificate records the cause of death as (1) *pneumonia* and (2) *influenza*. He was buried in Wood Norton churchyard on the 24th December 1918; his headstone bears the inscription *One of the Heroes*.

Whether his death was as a result of the 'Spanish Flu' pandemic is not known, but the outbreak of the disease in the UK reached its peak at the end of the war, brought home (it is thought) by those servicemen returning from the trenches in Northern France. Young adults were particularly affected, and the disease progressed quickly in those cases, rapidly developing into pneumonia.¹¹

It appears that Charles's mother, Ann, applied to the British Ministry for Pensions for a Dependant's Pension in early 1919 (see Figure 3).¹² Unfortunately the outcome of the application is not known, as the card states that it was *put away pending application*.

DEPENDANT'S PENSION.		D.1
Name	DEW Charles	Regimental No. 8/45299
Regiment or Ship	6 th Royal Fusiliers	Rank Pte
Documents received from Paymaster	24.1.19.	
Date and cause of death	21.12.18.	
Dependant	Mrs Ann Elizabeth Dew	
Address	Wood Norton, East Dereham, Norfolk	
Relationship	Mother	
Pension	Put away pending application a week from	
Date awarded	If refused	
Papers	reason	

Case No. D.P. 260D

F6496 18149/875 50m (72) 2/18 J.P. Gp. 159
F7622 4116/1048 100m (72) 5/18

Figure 3: Dependant's Pension card in respect of Charles Dew

¹¹ See: <https://www.historic-uk.com/HistoryUK/HistoryofBritain/The-Spanish-Flu-pandemic-of-1918/>.

¹² UK, WW1 Pension Ledgers and Index Cards, 1914-1923 (www.ancestry.co.uk).

Further research into Charles's family reveals that his father, Thomas George Dew, was born in 1864 in Salthouse, the son of George Valentine and Martha Ann Dew (nee Bunn).¹³ Thomas married Ann Elizabeth Platten, the daughter of George and Charlotte Platten, on the 31st May 1886, in Kelling parish church.¹⁴ He died on the 15th January 1937, aged 72, and is buried in Wood Norton.¹⁵ Ann Elizabeth Platten was born in 1868, in County Durham.¹⁶ She died in 1944, aged 76, and is buried in Wood Norton.¹⁷

The 1911 census for Wood Norton¹⁸ records that Thomas (aged 46, and a game keeper) and Ann had eight children, with the three youngest living at home:

Name	Born	Died
Martha Ann	1897, Kelling. ¹⁹ In the 1911 census, Martha is aged 23, married, and living in Hellington (Burgh Apton). ²⁰ She married Arthur Brookes in 1908. ²¹	1956, Hellington (Burgh Apton) with a recorded age of 67. ²²
George Thomas	16 June 1890, Spennymoor, Durham. ²³ In the 1911 census, he is aged 20 and a farmworker, living with his widowed grandmother, Martha Ann Dew, in Holt. ²⁴	26 th December 1969, Foulsham Road, Wood Norton, aged 79. ²⁵
James *	23 rd August 1892, Letheringsett. Baptised 27 th March 1898, Framingham Pigot. ²⁶ In the 1911 census, he is aged 18 and a 'Puller', living with his uncle, William Dew, in Annfield Plain (Durham). ²⁷ He served in WW1, and married Sarah Kate Preston in 1921. ²⁸	1967, Yelverton, aged 74. ²⁹

¹³ FreeBMD, *Quarter to December 1864, Erpingham, Vol.4b, p.75* (www.freebmd.org.uk).

¹⁴ Marriage Register, Kelling, 1886 (www.ancestry.co.uk).

¹⁵ *England and Wales, National Probate Calendar, (Index of Wills and Administrations), 1858-1966, 1973-1995* (www.ancestry.co.uk); *Transcript and Index to Wood Norton, Norfolk, Parish Registers*, compiled by Keith and Shirley Howell (February 2000), Burials, 1937 (p.132).

¹⁶ FreeBMD, *Quarter to March 1868, Durham, Vol.10a, p.269* (www.freebmd.org.uk).

¹⁷ *Transcript and Index to Wood Norton, Norfolk, Parish Registers*, compiled by Keith and Shirley Howell (February 2000), Burials, 1944 (p.132).

¹⁸ 1911 census, Wood Norton, (Schedule 158) (www.ancestry.co.uk).

¹⁹ FreeBMD, *Quarter to September 1897, Erpingham, Vol.4b, p.69* (www.freebmd.org.uk); 1901 census, Framingham Pigot (p.8) (www.ancestry.co.uk).

²⁰ 1911 census, Hellington (Schedule 62) (www.ancestry.co.uk).

²¹ Marriage Register, Thursford, 1908 (www.ancestry.co.uk).

²² FreeBMD, *Quarter to March 1956, Norwich Outer, Vol.4b, p.913* (www.freebmd.org.uk).

²³ FreeBMD, *Birth, Quarter to September 1890, Durham, Vol.10a, p.371* (www.freebmd.org.uk); 1901 census, Framingham Pigot, (p.8) (www.ancestry.co.uk); FreeBMD, *Death, Quarter to December 1969, Norwich, Vol.4b, p.2037* (www.freebmd.org.uk). The death record gives his date of birth as 16 June 1890.

²⁴ 1911 census, Holt (Schedule 255) (www.ancestry.co.uk).

²⁵ FreeBMD, *Quarter to December 1969, Norwich, Vol.4b, p.2037* (www.freebmd.org.uk); Find a Will (<https://probatesearch.service.gov.uk/#wills>).

²⁶ Baptisms Register, Framingham Pigot, 1898 (www.ancestry.co.uk); 1901 census, Framingham Pigot (p.8) (www.ancestry.co.uk); FreeBMD *Quarter to December 1892, Erpingham, Vol.4b, p.65* (www.freebmd.org.uk).

²⁷ 1911 census, Kyo (Durham) (Schedule 279) (www.ancestry.co.uk). His occupation may refer to either the coal mining, stonemason or joinery trades, given the employment of his uncle and cousins.

²⁸ FreeBMD, *Quarter to December 1921, Aylsham, Vol.4b, p.282* (www.freebmd.org.uk).

²⁹ FreeBMD, *Quarter to March 1967, Norwich Outer, Vol.4b, p.875* (www.freebmd.org.uk); Ancestry family tree (www.ancestry.co.uk).

Rose	Born 28 October 1894. Baptised 9 th December 1894, Kelling. ³⁰ In the 1911 census, she is aged 16, and a parlour maid for the Norris family. ³¹ She married Sidney Herbert Myhill on the 29 th November 1915, in Wood Norton parish church. ³²	1981, aged 87. ³³
Beatrice Jane *	8 th March 1897, Framingham Pigot. Baptised 27 th March 1898, Framingham Pigot. ³⁴ In the 1911 census, she is aged 14 and living with family relatives (Rose Hannah McCormick, nee Platten) in South Wales. ³⁵ She married Joseph Shipley on the 16 th September 1925, in Wood Norton parish church. ³⁶	1960, aged 62. ³⁷
Charles	5 th February 1899, Framingham Pigot. In the 1911 census, he is aged 12, and at school.	21 st December 1918, Wood Norton.
Grace Charlotte	11 th June 1901, Framingham Pigot. Baptised 13 th April 1902, Framingham Pigot. ³⁸ In the 1911 census, she is aged 9, and at school. ³⁹	12 th May 1969, Hoe (Dereham), aged 68. ⁴⁰
Walter Norton	3 rd January 1910, Wood Norton. Baptised 15 th May 1910, Wood Norton. ⁴¹ In the 1911 census he is aged 1. ⁴² He married Agnes Wilde in 1936. ⁴³	1982, aged 72. ⁴⁴

* James and Beatrice were baptised on the same day

James Dew is also recorded on the Wood Norton war memorial, as he served in WW1 (in the Suffolk Regiment and the Tank Corps) – he survived the conflict.

³⁰ FreeBMD, *Quarter to December 1894, Erpingham, Vol.4b, p.80* (www.freebmd.org.uk); 1901 census, Framingham Pigot (p.8) (www.ancestry.co.uk); Baptisms Register, Kelling, 1894 (www.ancestry.co.uk).

³¹ 1911 census, Wood Norton (Schedule 153) (www.ancestry.co.uk).

³² *Transcript and Index to Wood Norton, Norfolk, Parish Registers*, compiled by Keith and Shirley Howell (February 2000), Marriages, 1915 (p.102).

³³ FreeBMD, *Quarter to September 1981, East Dereham, Vol.10, p.985* (www.freebmd.org.uk). The death record gives her date of birth as 28 October 1894.

³⁴ Baptisms Register, Framingham Pigot, 1898 (www.ancestry.co.uk); 1901 census, Framingham Pigot (p.8) (www.ancestry.co.uk).

³⁵ 1911 census, Rhondda (Schedule 28) (www.ancestry.co.uk).

³⁶ *Transcript and Index to Wood Norton, Norfolk, Parish Registers*, compiled by Keith and Shirley Howell (February 2000), Marriages, 1925 (p.104).

³⁷ FreeBMD, *Quarter to March 1960, Newcastle upon Tyne, Vol.1b, p.69* (www.freebmd.org.uk).

³⁸ Baptisms Register, Framingham Pigot, 1902 (www.ancestry.co.uk); 1911 census, Wood Norton (Schedule 158) (www.ancestry.co.uk).

³⁹ 1911 census, Wood Norton (Schedule 153) (www.ancestry.co.uk).

⁴⁰ FreeBMD, *Quarter to June 1969, Norwich Outer, Vol.4b, p.1999* (www.freebmd.org.uk).

⁴¹ Baptisms Register, Wood Norton, 1910 (www.familysearch.org); 1911 census, Wood Norton (Schedule 158) (www.ancestry.co.uk).

⁴² 1911 census, Wood Norton (Schedule 153) (www.ancestry.co.uk).

⁴³ FreeBMD, *Quarter to December 1936, Norwich Vol.4b, p.448* (www.freebmd.org.uk).

⁴⁴ FreeBMD, *Quarter to September 1982, Trafford, Vol.39, p.1700* (www.freebmd.org.uk).