

Name, Rank & Regiment of Soldier:

Bagley, Charles Henry

Private, Manchester Regiment (20th
Battalion)

No: 54635

Formerly: North Lancashire Loyal Reg
39404



Date of birth	Date KIA	Age
c.1893	October 23 rd 1918	25

Background: **Charles H. Bagley**

According to the Nottinghamshire County Council Roll of Honour website, Charles Bagley was: 'A resident of North Collingham and husband of Ethel May Bagley of 35 Tennyson Street, Gainsborough.'

Charles Henry Bagley was the son of labourer George Henry Bagley and wife Sarah who lived on Low St at the time of the 1911 census. Details on the census show them in a 4-roomed house, two doors up from the Gollands¹. George (born Norwell 1848 and an Ag lab since the age of 11) and Sarah (born Clifton 1858) had been married for '29 years and had 5 of their 9 children still living'. With them in 1911 were son James, a shop porter for a grocer, aged 27, born in Cromwell and **Charles, 17, a gardener (domestic)** born in Besthorpe. Sarah Bagley died in 1916 aged 58 and is buried in All Saints Churchyard. George does not appear on the East Trent Genealogy (ETG) database of Burials as buried here. However, a George H Bagley (spelled Baguley) is given as a farmer of 73 acres in Brough to at least 1941 in trade directories. He was also a special constable during the war. However, another George Henry Bagley appears on the 1925 Electoral Roll for North Collingham as residing in Crown Yard.

¹ See also Frank Golland's profile KIA July 28th 1915

Charles' wife, **Ethel May Bagley**, whom he married sometime after 1912, does not come up on searches (it is difficult to search without knowing her maiden name, date of birth or whether she re-married). The Gainsborough address dates from the 1920s.

There are several Bagleys in burials on the ETG database, including an Edward Roland Bagley (1888-1968) b. Cromwell who lived on Snowdon Road, Collingham. Edward's wife, Sarah, died in 1994 aged 104. Edward could possibly have been one of Charles' brothers. In 1901, aged 14, Edward was a domestic servant for the Armstrongs at Besthorpe. However, to confuse matters, there was another George Henry Bagley of similar age who lived in Besthorpe and Collingham at a similar time. He was married to Ellen and was a widow by 1899.

Charles' occupation is unknown.

Military History: Pte. Charles H Bagley

Pte Bagley served with the 20th (Service) Manchester Battalion (5th City)
However, his army record details on Ancestry.co.uk shows he served initially with the North Lancashire (Loyal) Regiment (no: 39404) and enlisted in Dublin (?). The Dublin connection seems odd.

20th (Service) Manchester Battalion (5th City)

- Formed in Manchester on 8 November 1914 by the Lord Mayor and City. Moved to Morecambe.
- April 1915: moved to Grantham and placed under command of 91st Brigade in 30th Division.
- Moved to Larkhill in September 1915.
- November 1915: landed at Boulogne.
- 20 December 1915: Brigade transferred to 7th Division and the battalion then transferred to 22nd Brigade in the same Division.
- November 1917: moved with Division to Italy.
- 13 September 1918: left Division and returned to France. On arrival joined 7th Brigade in 25th Division.²

On the 13th of September 1918 the 20th Manchesters left the 7th Division (in Italy) and returned to France, joining the 7th Brigade/25th Division. They were in action in the Battles of the Hindenburg Line and the Final Advance in Picardy.³ The 2nd/20th and 21st Manchesters were involved in the **Battle of the Selle**. Severe fighting took place in the village of Pommereuil on October 23rd, the day Bagley was killed. He was initially reported missing⁴ and then his death was confirmed (in December).

The Manchester Battalion became best known for having the poet **Wilfred Owen** among their ranks. He served with the 2nd Manchester Battalion and was killed in action on

² <http://www.1914-1918.net/mancs.htm>

³ <http://www.wartimememoriesproject.com/greatwar/allied/manchesterregiment20-gw.php#sthash.VQCsNUkU.dpuf>

⁴ T Frecknall p 137 Letter to Bagley's parents arrived Dec 3rd 1918

November 4th, 1918, not long after his battalion arrived on 31st October. He was awarded the MC.

Pte. C H Bagley is buried alongside 17 other comrades from his battalion in Pommereuil British Cemetery Nord, France B.9. His headstone inscription, chosen by his wife Ethel, reads: *'Faithful unto death A crown of life.'*

Form No. 100 (REVISED) FORM "A" 1/1/18

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT (A) OF HEADSTONE INSCRIPTIONS
to this report is attached
COMPREHENSIVE REPORT (B) HEADSTONE TEXTS
(these headstones to be inscribed with texts are underlined)
and
TWO STANDARD LAYOUTS (the layouts to be used
are quoted on the badge design).

NAME OF CEMETERY.
POMMEREUIL BRITISH CEMETERY.
To be stencilled on foot of
headstones below ground level.
abbreviated thus:-
FORM B. C.

Badge Design No. and Layout No.	1st line	2nd line	3rd line	4th line	Centre of Stone	To be stencilled on foot of Headstones below ground level.
Number and Rank	Initials, NAME and Honours.	Regiment	Date of Death	Age	Relig. Sub.	Plot No. of Grave
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
1039/1A 76529	PRIVATE P. BUCKY	MANCHESTER REGIMENT	23RD OCTOBER 1918	AGE 23	CROSS	1 B 9 21
1039/1A 54635	PRIVATE C.H. BAGLEY	MANCHESTER REGIMENT	23RD OCTOBER 1918	AGE 25	CROSS	1 B 9 22
1039/1A 51795	PRIVATE S.H. WATSON	MANCHESTER REGIMENT	23RD OCTOBER 1918	AGE 20	CROSS	1 B 10 23
1039/1A 245439	PRIVATE G.S. FELL	MANCHESTER REGIMENT	23RD OCTOBER 1918	AGE 20	CROSS	1 B 11 24
1014/2A SECOND LIEUTENANT	M.W. HIGGS	DEVONSHIRE REGIMENT	23RD OCTOBER 1918	NONE	CROSS	1 B 12 25
1039/1A 40002	PRIVATE J.W.H. ATKINSON	MANCHESTER REGIMENT	23RD OCTOBER 1918	NONE	CROSS	1 B 13 26
1014/2B SECOND LIEUTENANT	BERNARD J.P. YEATMAN	DEVONSHIRE REGIMENT	23RD OCTOBER 1918	AGE 34	CROSS	1 B 14 27
1068/1A 13625	PRIVATE A.L. JONES	WILTSHIRE REGIMENT	16TH/18TH OCTOBER 1918	AGE 28	CROSS	1 B 15 28
1064/1A 42899	PRIVATE R.E. INGLIS	ROYAL WARWICKSHIRE REGT.	25TH OCTOBER 1918	NONE	CROSS	1 B 16 29
1019/1A 241443	LANCE CPL. H.W. TAYLOR	GLoucestershire REGIMENT	23RD OCTOBER 1918	AGE 20	CROSS	1 B 17 30
1019/1A 39647	PRIVATE G.R. JONES	GLoucestershire REGIMENT	23RD OCTOBER 1918	AGE 31	CROSS	1 B 18 31
1068/2A 60012	PRIVATE R.H. MATTHEWS	GLoucestershire REGIMENT	23RD OCTOBER 1918	AGE 25	CROSS	1 B 19 32
1039/1A 51694	LANCE CPL. H.W. BRADSHAW	MANCHESTER REGIMENT	23RD OCTOBER 1918	AGE 31	CROSS	1 B 20 33
1039/1A 76381	PRIVATE W. BENTLEY	MANCHESTER REGIMENT	23RD OCTOBER 1918	AGE 24	CROSS	1 B 21 34
1019/1A	UNKNOWN	(FOR PARTICULARS OF LAYOUT INSC. ETC. SEE SCHED. G/H.)				1 B 22 35
LAYOUT 3H	UNKNOWN BRITISH SOLDIER	(FOR PARTICULARS OF LAYOUT INSC. ETC. SEE SCHED. G/H.)				1 B 23 36
1068/1A 6/2348	PRIVATE J.E.T. HAYWARD	ROYAL SUSSEX REGIMENT	23RD OCTOBER 1918	AGE 32	CROSS	1 B 24 37
1017/1A 70754	PRIVATE W. WALTON	INFANTRY LIGHT INFANTRY	23RD OCTOBER 1918	AGE 27	CROSS	1 B 25 38
1165/1A 139536	PRIVATE R.W. GODWIN	MACHINE GUN CORPS (INF.)	24TH OCTOBER 1918	AGE 19	CROSS	1 B 26 39
1019/1A 263029	PRIVATE W. FREEMAN	GLoucestershire REGIMENT	19TH OCTOBER 1918	NONE	CROSS	1 B 27 40

Proof Checked.....
Final Check No.1.....
Office Copy Prepared.....
Final Check No.2.....

The above form showing the Pommereuil British Cemetery burial plots shows how many men from the 20th Manchester battalion were killed on the same day as Bagley (2nd name down). Source: Courtesy of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC).

Pte. Bagley is also remembered on the All Saints War Memorial Cross and Parishioners' Plaque.

POMMEREUIL BRITISH CEMETERY

CEMETERY INDEX NUMBER Fr. 231.

POMMEREUIL is a village and commune in the Department of the Nord, two miles East of Le Câteau. The British Cemetery is on the South side of the road from Le Câteau.

Pommereuil was the scene of severe fighting on the 23rd-24th October, 1918; and after the capture of the village the British Cemetery was made by the 25th Division. It covers an area of 1,134 square yards; and it contains the graves of 171 soldiers from the United Kingdom and two from Australia who fell in October and November, 1918. The 20th Manchesters erected in it a wooden memorial to their officers and men who fell on the 23rd October. Seventy-five unknown German soldiers were buried in a plot adjoining the cemetery on the East.

The cemetery stands on a ~~high~~ bank above the road, and commands a wide view to the West. It is bounded partly by a wall and a ~~thorn hedge~~ *HORNSEAM HEDGE* and partly by a concrete curb, and it is ~~planted with limes and other trees.~~ *PLANTED WITH FASCICATE SILVER MAPLES TREES*

The Register records particulars of 173 British and Dominion burials.

THE REGISTER OF THE GRAVES

ADDYMAN, Pte. P. N., 266382. 9th Bn. Yorkshire Regt. 24th Oct., 1918. Age 25. Son of Margaret Addyman, of 2, Willow Grove, Ingrow, Keighley, Yorks. D. 48.

ALCOCK, Pte. Stanley Joseph, 52841. 20th Bn. Manchester Regt. 20th Oct., 1918. Age 20. Son of Mrs. Rosetta Alcock, of 31, Bowden St., Litherland, Liverpool. D. 52.

ALDERSON, Pte. G. P., 95208. 13th Bn. Durham Light Inf. 26th Oct., 1918. Age 20. Son of John William and Elizabeth Ann Alderson, of 6, Rough Lea Colliery, Hunwick, Willington, Co. Durham. B. 40.

ALFORD, Pte. Ernest, 307598. 1st/8th Bn. Royal Warwickshire Regt. 3rd Nov., 1918. Age 38. Son of the late Henry and Mary Alford. A. 2.

ATKINSON, Pte. J. W. H., 40002. 20th Bn. Manchester Regt. 23rd Oct., 1918. B. 13.

AUSTIN, Pte. L., 28719. 20th Bn. Manchester Regt. 23rd Oct., 1918. D. 56.

BAGLEY, Pte. C. H., 54635. 20th Bn. Manchester Regt. 23rd Oct., 1918. Age 25. Husband of Ethel May Bagley, of 35, Tennyson St., Gainsborough, Lincs. B. 9.

BAGSHAW, Serjt. Ralph, 7309. 11th Bn. Sherwood Foresters. 24th Oct., 1918. Age 34. Son of Samuel and Ann Bagshaw, of Whaley Bridge; husband of Florence Bagshaw, of "Rosy Bank," Buxton Rd., Whaley Bridge. E. 9.

BAKER, Pte. V., 18771. 7th Bn. Wiltshire Regt. 16th/18th Oct., 1918. D. 61.

BALDWIN, Pte. Percival Charles, 39768. 1st/5th Bn. Gloucestershire Regt. 18th Oct., 1918. Age 20. Son of J. W. and Hannah Baldwin, of 65, Vicarage Rd., Whitehall, Bristol. B. 34.

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POMMEREUIL
BRIT. CEM.

Above: Charles Bagley's war grave registration details from the CWGC website. Note the mention in the opening paragraph of the 20th Manchesters in particular.

Sources (websites):

East Trent Genealogy

Commonwealth War Graves Commission

Nottinghamshire County Council Roll of Honour

The Long, Long Trail

The Manchester Roll of Honour Forum

<http://themanchesters.org/forum/index.php?topic=8239.0>

With thanks to Dan Baker at British Military Badges for permission to use cap badge image of the Manchester Regiment

<http://www.britishmilitarybadges.co.uk/products/manchester-regiment-cap-badge---first-pattern-lugs-version.html>

Books

Trevor Frecknall 'Collingham and District in the Great War' published 2015

Kelly's Trade Directories 1912-1944 (available in Newark Library)



