



# Woodford Remembers



Pte. Charles Gordon Betts

18 April 1891 - 10 May 1915

## Family

At least three generations of the Betts family were in Woodford prior to the birth of Charles Gordon Betts. His great grandfather Noah was born in Woodford in 1801, and married Mary Broughton of Woodnewton in 1833. Their second child was John Betts, who was born in 1841 in the village and was Charles' grandfather. John Betts married Sarah Elstow of Rushden in 1862, and the couple had seven children. Their first born in 1865 were twins, William and George (Charles' father); the other siblings being Mary Ann, Annie, Harry, Charles and Katie. George married Bertha Abbott in 1886 and they continued to live in Woodford, where Charles (1891) and his elder brother Arthur (1890) were born. The family lived in Spring Gardens and father George worked as an ironstone labourer. By 1896 the family had moved to Byfield Road Northampton, and it was here that Charles' younger siblings Percy, Harold and Bertie were born. George (father) worked as a groom, and when Charles left school, until joining the Army he worked as a leather currier, (a specialist leather dresser).

Charles married Ada Challoner in the second quarter of 1912 and their first child Mabel was born in the latter part of 1912, passing away soon after. Their second child Florence was born in the fourth quarter of 1914.

Charles was 1<sup>st</sup> cousin, once removed, of Woodford casualty Herbert Betts (died 12 Dec 1914); i.e. Charles father, George and Herbert were cousins; and nephew to Charles Betts (1878-1918)

## Army Service

Charles enlisted in Northampton with the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion of the Northamptonshire Regiment (13871) on 3 September 1914 in Northampton giving his address as 19 St James Park Road Northampton. He was mobilised to LeHavre on 3 February 1915, moving to the front 3 days later. He suffered injuries to his thighs, back and chest on 9<sup>th</sup> May being admitted to the field hospital at Bethune before being transferred to the hospital at Chocques where he died of his wounds on the following day 10 May 1915.

His wife Ada received a Pension of 15/-per week from 6<sup>th</sup> December 1915.

## Burial / grave

Chocques Military Cemetery Grave IA90

## Dependants

Wife - Ada, and one child - Florence

## Commemoration

Gravestone

Not recorded on War Memorial



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