

Private Charles Hiscox
Regimental Number: 204605
1st Hampshire Regiment

born: 1897 - died: 19 May 1918

Charles was born in the last quarter of 1897 into a large extended family of Hiscoxs who had lived in Shepton Mallet, Somerset for generations. He was the son of Edward and Annie Hiscox and the second eldest in a large family¹ – he had six siblings: an older sister, Ethel Louisa (born 1893),² an older brother, Edward James (born 1895),³ two younger sisters, Dorothy May (born 1900)⁴ and Edith Emily (born 1906),⁵ and two younger brothers, Walter Henry (born 1903)⁶ and Arthur John (born 1909).⁷

His father was a quarryman in a basalt stone quarry, as was his older brother, Edward.⁸ In 1901, the family was living at East End, Shepton Mallet, Somerset⁹ but, by 1911, they had moved to Downhead, just to the east of Shepton Mallet and Charles was a mason's labourer, working for a building contractor.¹⁰ His grandmother, Caroline Hiscox, was living with the family in both 1901¹¹ and 1911.¹² She died in early 1918, just months before the death of her grandson.¹³



Charles Hiscox in Pernes cemetery
(Source: Author, July 2015)

Charles enlisted in Frome, Somerset, initially in the West Somersetshire Yeomanry (Regimental Number: 2458). He later joined the 1st Battalion of the Hampshire Regiment (Regimental Number 204605). He was injured on 16 May 1918. The shrapnel wounds to his head and right shoulder were treated at the 1st Canadian Casualty Clearing Station, but he succumbed to his wounds on 19 May. He was buried on 20 May in Pernes British Military Cemetery (Plot 1. Row F. Grave 4) near the small town of Pernes-en-Artois in France, under the care of chaplain, J. K. Tibbits. Notification of his death was sent to his mother in Downhead, Shepton Mallet.¹⁴

On 16 May, 198 soldiers were admitted to the 1st Canadian Casualty Clearing Station, bringing the total number of patients to 388.¹⁵ In the whole month of May, there were 115 deaths at this CCCS – more than in any of the other three and a half months that the 1st CCCS was in Pernes. The Pernes British Military Cemetery was only set up in April 1918 when the 1st and 4th Canadian Casualty Clearing Stations came to Pernes, driven back by the German advance.¹⁶

Charles was awarded the British War Medal (for service overseas between 1914 and 1918) and the Victory Medal (for service in an operational theatre).¹⁷

There is no record that his older brother, Edward, served in the war and his other brothers were too young to serve. Although Charles died at the young age of 20, his brothers went on to live long lives – Edward to the age of 83,¹⁸ Walter to 85¹⁹ and his youngest brother, Arthur, to the age of 91.²⁰

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- ¹ "1911 Census for England and Wales," *findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 21 November 2014), entry for Charles Hiscox, Registration district: Shepton Mallet, Registration District Number: 312, ED, institution, or vessel: 5, Household schedule number: 17C, Piece: 14493
- ² "England & Wales, FreeBMD Birth Index, 1837-1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 21 November 2014), entry for Ethel Louisa Hiscox, District: Shepton Mallet, Inferred County: Somerset, Volume: 5c, Page: 460
- ³ "England & Wales, FreeBMD Birth Index, 1837-1915," entry for Edward Hiscox, District: Shepton Mallet, Inferred County: Somerset, Volume: 5c, Page: 477
- ⁴ "England & Wales, FreeBMD Birth Index, 1837-1915," entry for Dorothy Hiscox, District: Shepton Mallet, Inferred County: Somerset, Volume: 5c, Page: 413
- ⁵ "England & Wales, FreeBMD Birth Index, 1837-1915," entry for Edith Hiscox, District: Shepton Mallet, Inferred County: Somerset, Volume: 5c, Page: 374
- ⁶ "England & Wales, FreeBMD Birth Index, 1837-1915," entry for Walter Hiscox, District: Shepton Mallet, Inferred County: Somerset, Volume: 5c, Page: 413
- ⁷ "England & Wales, FreeBMD Birth Index, 1837-1915," entry for Arthur Hiscox, District: Shepton Mallet, Inferred County: Somerset, Volume: 5c, Page: 383
- ⁸ "1911 Census for England and Wales," entry for Charles Hiscox
- ⁹ "1901 Census for England and Wales," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 21 November 2014), entry for Charles Hiscox, Registration district: Shepton Mallet, Piece: 2312, Folio: 137, Page Number: 7, Household schedule number: 39
- ¹⁰ "1911 Census for England and Wales," entry for Charles Hiscox
- ¹¹ "1901 Census for England and Wales," entry for Charles Hiscox
- ¹² "1911 Census for England and Wales," entry for Charles Hiscox
- ¹³ "England & Wales deaths 1837-2007," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 21 November 2014) entry for Caroline Hiscox, District: Shepton Mallet, County: Somerset, Volume: 5C, Page: 598
- ¹⁴ "Record of Deaths, 17 February 1916 - 10 February 1919," a record maintained at No. 1 CCCS, Library and Archives Canada, (records accessed 2013 & 2014), reference: Record Group 9, series IIC10, volume 4556, Record number: 500
- ¹⁵ "War Diaries of the First World War: 1st Canadian Casualty Clearing Station 1914/08/13-1919/03/31," *Library and Archives Canada* (http://data4.collectionscanada.gc.ca/netacgi/nph-brs?s1=casualty+clearing&s13=&s12=&l=20&s9=RG9&s7=9-52&Sect1=IMAGE&Sect2=THESOFF&Sect4=AND&Sect5=WARDPEN&Sect6=HITOFF&d=FINDD&p=1&u=http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/archivianet/02015202_e.html&r=1&f=G: accessed 15 December 2014)
- ¹⁶ "Pernes British Military Cemetery" *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* (<http://www.cwgc.org/find-a-cemetery/cemetery/11600/PERNES%20BRITISH%20CEMETERY>: accessed 13 January 2015)
- ¹⁷ "British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914-1920," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 26 November 2014), entry for Charles Hiscocks
- ¹⁸ "England & Wales deaths 1837-2007," *findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 22 November 2014), entry for Edward James Hiscox, District: Mendip, County: Somerset, Volume: 23, Page: 1079
- ¹⁹ "England & Wales deaths 1837-2007," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 22 November 2014), entry for Walter Henry Hiscox, District: Mendip, District number: 7211, Register number: 23, Entry number: 1080
- ²⁰ "England & Wales deaths 1837-2007," *findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 22 November 2014), entry for Arthur John Hiscox, District: Mendip, District number: 7211, Register number: F21D, Entry number: 259