

## **Private Charles Douglas Hamilton ©**

**Regimental number: 17832**

**32nd (Service) Battalion, Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment)**

**born: 27 July 1884–died: 25 August 1916**

“Rest in Peace” is engraved on Private Charles Douglas Hamilton’s gravestone at Bailleul Communal Cemetery.<sup>1</sup> He was one of 704,803 soldiers from the British Isles who died in or because of the First World War.<sup>2</sup>

Charles was born on 27 July 1884 at 77 Galleywall Road, Rotherhithe, part of the London Borough of Southwark, England.<sup>3</sup> His father, Matthew Martindale Hamilton (1843–1918)<sup>4</sup> and his mother, the former Susannah Poague (1845–1920),<sup>5</sup> were both born in the area; Matthew in Bermondsey and Susannah in Southwark. Matthew and Susannah married on 25 December 1864 in a double wedding at Saint Mary Newington, Church of England, Southwark. Susannah’s brother, Henry James Poague, married Emma McFarlane at the same time.<sup>6</sup>

For more than 50 years, Matthew and Susannah resided at various addresses in the London Borough of Southwark.<sup>7</sup> Matthew was an engine driver (stationary), operating a steam-driven engine in a factory.<sup>8</sup> He and Susannah had 11 children, 5 of whom died in childhood.<sup>9</sup> Matthew Edward (1866–1940)<sup>10</sup> was the eldest, followed by Henry James (1867–1960),<sup>11</sup> Emma Elizabeth (1871–1949),<sup>12</sup> Susannah Elizabeth (1874–1875),<sup>13</sup> William Charles (1875–1877),<sup>14</sup> Edward James (1876–1883),<sup>15</sup> Albert (1879–1883),<sup>16</sup> Emily (1881–1883),<sup>17</sup> then Charles Douglas, Amelia (1886–1975),<sup>18</sup> and finally Ernest Frederick (1890–1966).<sup>19</sup>

The third quarter of 1883 must have been an extremely sorrowful time for the family. Six-year-old Edward, four-year-old Albert and one-year-old Emily died from illnesses.<sup>20</sup> That year, 497 children who were 1 year old or younger and 894 children between the ages of 1 and 5 died in Bermondsey parish from such diseases as measles, whooping cough and scarlet fever. Their deaths accounted for 81% of the parish’s total deaths.<sup>21</sup>

Charles was born the following year. Not long afterward, his older siblings began to leave home to form families of their own. He was 2 years old when his brother Henry James married Amelia Mexstead on 28 September 1886 at Saint Mary Magdalene, Church of England, Southwark.<sup>22</sup> His parents and remaining siblings had moved to 36 Ambrose Street, Bermondsey, when Matthew Edward married Maria Symonds on 19 April 1888 at Saint Anne’s, Church of England, Bermondsey.<sup>23</sup> Later that year, on 3 December, four-year-old Charles was enrolled at the Galleywall Road School.<sup>24</sup>

In 1891, the family was still living at 36 Ambrose Street: his father’s occupation remained the same, his mother was busy with domestic chores and caring for Amelia and Ernest, Charles attended school and 19-year-old Emma was employed as a machinist.<sup>25</sup> She married Ernest Leonard Highwood, a typesetter in the printing industry, at St. Anne’s Church on 26 December 1897.<sup>26</sup>

In 1901, Charles was 16 years old and working in the leather industry, a major employer in Bermondsey since the 17th century.<sup>27</sup> He was still living with his parents at 36 Ambrose Street; 14-year-old Amelia was an errand girl and Ernest attended school.<sup>28</sup> At some point around 1907, there was a change in the family’s fortunes. Charles, his mother, and siblings Amelia and Ernest moved to Emma and Leonard Highwood’s home at 322 Lyndon Road. This was the address that Charles

provided when he married Annie Philpott (1888–1975)<sup>29</sup> on 22 September 1907<sup>30</sup> and Amelia gave when she wed Alfred John Bray, a leather dresser, on 28 August 1909.<sup>31</sup> Both weddings were held at Saint Anne's Church.

Two years later, Charles' mother Susannah and his brother Ernest were still sharing five rooms with Emma and her family at 322 Lynton Road. His brother-in-law and his brother were employed in the printing trade.<sup>32</sup> His father, Matthew, was an inmate at Saint Olave's Union Workhouse on Ladywell Road, Lewisham. Why he was there was not mentioned. Of the 883 inmates, 771 (88%) were listed as infirm.<sup>33</sup>

Charles and Annie had three children. When their daughter Maud Annie (1908–1998)<sup>34</sup> was born on 26 September 1908, the couple was living at 8 Aspinden Road, Rotherhithe, and Charles was working as a leather dresser. The couple had moved to a three-room residence at 308 Lynton Road, Bermondsey, when son Charles James (1910–1983)<sup>35</sup> was born on 2 August 1910.<sup>36</sup> When daughter Florence May (1913–2005)<sup>37</sup> was born on 16 September 1913, Charles and Annie were living at 324 Lynton Road, next door to his sister Emma Highwood's home.

They were still residing at this address when war was declared on 4 August 1914. Although he had a wife and three small children to support, 31-year-old Charles enlisted in the 32nd (Service) Battalion, Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment) also known as 32nd (Service) Battalion (East Ham), at the Southwark recruiting office, most likely in October 1915.<sup>38</sup>

The Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment) was a line infantry regiment of the British Army dating back to 1685. At the outbreak of the First World War, it had 4 regular battalions but raised 43 more reserve, service, labour and garrison battalions for the conflict. The 32nd (Service) Battalion was one of these, formed in London on 18 October 1915 by R. Banks-Martin, the Mayor of the Borough of East Ham.<sup>39</sup> In December, it became part of the 124th Brigade, 41st Division, and was training at Aldershot, Hampshire, when it received orders to mobilize on 1 May 1916.<sup>40</sup>

The 32nd (Service) Battalion's 34 officers and 985 soldiers of other ranks (ORs), including Private Charles Hamilton, arrived at Southampton on 4 May. There they boarded three ships, the HMS [His Majesty's Ship] *Bellerophon*, the SS [Steam Ship] *Lydia* and the SS *Mona's Queen (II)*, arriving in Le Havre, France, at 1:30 a.m. on 5 May 1916 to join the British Expeditionary Force (BEF). From there, it travelled 321 km by train to Steenbecque and marched 7 km to billets at Wallon-Cappel, France.

During the month, the battalion underwent training there and at Meteren in gas defence, bayonet fighting, musketry, bombing and physical drills. There was a friendly sporting competition against the 26th Battalion, Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment), on 25 May. The next day all the men had baths. On 30 May, the battalion marched to La Crèche and then to Papot, France, about 13 km from Meteren.

During June, July, and most of August 1916, the battalion was billeted in Papot and assigned to trenches near Ploegsteert, Belgium, about 2 km north of the French border. During this time, Charles experienced day-to-day shelling, sniper fire, endless noise, horrid stench, and skirmishes, followed by rest periods behind the lines. One such skirmish occurred on 9/10 July when 2nd Lieutenant Wills led 30 men from the 32nd Battalion on "a minor enterprise to capture prisoners and do as much damage as possible to the enemy."<sup>41</sup> On 15 August, a similar raid was carried out by "D" Company during the battalion's last assignment in the trenches at Ploegsteert (9 to 17 August). During this period, one OR was killed and six ORs were wounded.<sup>42</sup>

On 18 August, the 32nd Battalion, ordered to relocate to the department of the Somme, Hauts-de-France, marched to La Crèche and then to Bailleul, France. On 20 August, the men had baths before boarding a train for Bellancourt, France, about 119 km from Bailleul. On 25 August, it was engaged in training at Eaucourt-sur-Somme. From 18 to 25 August, the battalion had no casualties.<sup>43</sup>

When, where or how Charles was critically wounded was not recorded. Most likely he was one of the six ORs injured during the battalion's last assignment at Ploegsteert. He was taken to No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station (CCCS) at Bailleul, France. A casualty clearing station was a medical unit behind the front lines, usually located near transportation. Casualties who could not be adequately treated were stabilized before being transported to a military hospital.<sup>44</sup>

Charles was one of 33 patients at No. 1 CCCS on Thursday, 24 August 1916, and the only one who died on Friday, 25 August.<sup>45</sup> His death was recorded by the No. 1 CCCS chaplain.<sup>46</sup>

Private Charles Douglas Hamilton was buried at Bailleul Communal Cemetery Extension, Nord (Grave/Memorial Reference Plot II. Row F. Grave 179).<sup>47</sup> Bailleul is in France, close to the Belgian border. It was occupied on 14 October 1914 and became an important railhead, air depot and hospital centre. Several casualty clearing stations, including No. 1 CCCS, were quartered there. The earliest Commonwealth burials at Bailleul were made in April 1915. An extension was built and burials continued until April 1918; they occurred again in September and after the Armistice, when soldiers' remains were brought in from the neighbouring battlefields.

Charles's wife, Annie, informed of his death on 31 August, applied for a pension on 15 September 1916. She was granted one for herself, eight-year-old Maud, six-year-old Charles and three-year-old Florence, which started on 5 March 1917.<sup>48</sup> On 30 November 1916, she received Charles' savings, £3 7s 6d, and on 16 September 1919, a war gratuity of £4 10s.<sup>49</sup>

Private Charles Douglas Hamilton was posthumously awarded the Victory Medal (for service in an operational theatre) and the British War Medal (for service overseas between 1914 and 1918).<sup>50</sup> As his next of kin, Annie received a memorial scroll and memorial plaque.

The war continued to impact the Hamilton family. Charles' brother **Ernest** enlisted in the Royal Navy on 10 October 1916.<sup>51</sup> His brothers-in-law also served: Ernest Leonard Highwood in the 22nd Battalion, London Regiment (The Queen's),<sup>52</sup> and Alfred John Bray in the Royal Fusiliers.<sup>53</sup> All survived the war.

Their world continued without Charles. His parents survived him by a few years, his father dying in 1918 and his mother in 1920.<sup>54</sup> On a more positive note, his brother **Ernest** married Ethel Louise Finken at Saint James' Church, Walthamstow, Essex, on 10 November 1920.<sup>55</sup>

In 1921, family members were clustered on Lynton Road in Bermondsey. **Ernest** and Ethel lived at 319; he was a copper plate printer for Baddeley Brothers, Moor Lane.<sup>56</sup> **Emma** and husband Ernest Highwood were still at 322; Ernest was a printer overseer at Baddeley Brothers.<sup>57</sup> **Amelia** and husband Alfred Bray were at 316; Alfred was a leather finisher at Hymans, Dockley Road, Bermondsey.<sup>58</sup> Charles's eldest brother, **Matthew Edward**, and wife Maria were living nearby at 33 Ambrose Street; Matthew was an out-of-work leather bag maker.<sup>59</sup> Farthest away were **Henry James** and Amelia at 34 Boundary Road, West Tottenham. Henry was a commercial traveller for biscuit maker Peek, Frean & Company Ltd.<sup>60</sup>

That year, Charles' wife **Annie** was living with the three children: **Maud**, **Charles** and **Florence** at 25 Anchor Street, Bermondsey. She was listed as a homemaker; the children attended school.<sup>61</sup> On 21 October 1923 at Saint Augustine, Church of England, Bermondsey, she married widower and neighbour Frederick Joseph Baxter (1895–1935),<sup>62</sup> a dock worker.<sup>63</sup> Frederick had a four-year-old son, Frederick Robert (1919–1942).<sup>64</sup>

On the eve of another world war, in 1939, Annie was still living on Anchor Street. Her parents, James and Caroline Philpott, her three children and stepson were residing with her. Daughter **Maud** was a paper-bag maker, **Charles** constructed cases for the pharmaceutical industry, **Florence** was a biscuit wrapper and stepson **Frederick** was a dock labourer.<sup>65</sup> Nuptials followed. **Charles** married Lucy Hollingsworth and **Florence** married John Higgins in 1941;<sup>66</sup> **Maud** wed Arthur George Sacre in 1942.<sup>67</sup> **Annie** continued to live on Anchor Street for many years with daughter **Florence** and John Higgins.<sup>68</sup>

In 1940, Annie's stepson Frederick Baxter enlisted in the Royal Engineers and was killed in action in Egypt on 15 September 1942.<sup>69</sup> He was survived by his wife Florence May (née Butler) Baxter, whom he had married in 1941.<sup>70</sup>

Private Charles Douglas Hamilton's sacrifice was remembered. His name is inscribed on the East Ham War Memorial, which commemorates the sacrifice of the men of East Ham and in particular those who served in the 32nd (Service) Battalion, (East Ham), Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment).<sup>71</sup> In 1921, the Bermondsey War Memorial was erected to honour the men of Bermondsey and Rotherhithe who fell in the Great War 1914–1918.<sup>72</sup> More recently, he has been commemorated on the *London WW1 Memorial 1914–1918* website.<sup>73</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> "Headstone Documents," *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* (<httphttps://www.cwgc.org/find-records/find-war-dead/casualty-details/199725/c-d-hamilton/#&gid=2&pid=2s>: accessed 10 January 2024), entry for C. D. Douglas, Service number: 17832

<sup>2</sup> "Some British Army Statistics of the Great War," *The Long, Long Trail; Researching Soldiers of the British Army in the Great War 1914–1919* (<https://www.longlongtrail.co.uk/army/some-british-army-statistics-of-the-great-war>: accessed 26 March 2024)

<sup>3</sup> "Copy of an Entry of Birth," *General Register Office* ([https://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/indexes\\_search.asp](https://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/indexes_search.asp): accessed 17 January 2024), entry for Charles Douglas Hamilton, GRO Reference: 1884, S Quarter in St. Olave Southwark London, Volume: 01D, Page: 311, When and where born: 27 July 1884, 77 Galleywall Road, Name and surname of father: Matthew Martindale Hamilton, Name and maiden surname of mother: Susannah Poagne [*sic*], Rank or profession of father: engine driver

<sup>4</sup> "England, Select Births and Christenings, 1538–1975," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com): accessed 15 January 2024), entry for Matthew Martindale Hamilton, Baptism date: 20 August 1843, Baptism place: Bermondsey, Surrey, England, Father: Matthew Hamilton, Mother: Margaret, FHL Film number: 2214412, Reference ID: item 2 p 176; "England & Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1816–2007," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com): accessed 2 January 2024), entry for Matthew M Hamilton, Death age: 73, Birth date: abt 1845, Registration date: April 1918, Registration quarter: Apr-May-June, Registration district: St. Olave, Inferred county: London, Volume: 1d, Page: 218

<sup>5</sup> "England & Wales, Civil Registration Birth Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com): accessed 17 January 2024), entry for Susannah Poague, Registration date: 1845, Quarter of the year: Apr-May-Jun,

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Registration place: St. George Southwark, London, England, Volume: 4, Page: 432; "England & Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1916–2007," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com): accessed 17 January 2024), entry for Susannah Hamilton, Death age: 74, Birth date: abt 1846, Registration date: January 1920, Registration quarter: Jan-Feb-Mar, Registration district: St. Olave, Inferred county: London, Volume: 1d, Page: 169. **Note:** Susannah's maiden name is transcribed differently on a number of documents.

<sup>6</sup> "London, England, Church of England Marriages and Banns, 1754–1938," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com): accessed 17 January 2024), entry for Susannah Poague, Marriage date: 25 December 1864, Marriage place: Saint Mary, Newington: Kennington Park Road, Southwark, England, Father: William Poague, Spouse: Matthew Martindale Hamilton

<sup>7</sup> "1871 England Census," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com): accessed 22 January 2024), entry for Matthew L. Camillon [*sic*], Registration district: St Olave Southwark, Sub-registration district: St. James, Bermondsey, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 29, Household schedule number: 31, Piece: 640, Folio: 45, Page: 6; "1881 England Census," entry for Matthew Hamilton, Registration district: St Olave Southwark, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel, 19a, Piece: 580, Folio: 8, Page: 9; "1891 England Census," entry for Matthew Hamilton, Registration district: St. Olave Southwark, Sub-registration district: St James, Bermondsey, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 30, Piece: 379, Folio: 111, Page: 44

<sup>8</sup> "Dictionary of Old Occupations," *Family Researcher* (<https://www.familyresearcher.co.uk/glossary/Dictionary-of-Old-Occupations-jobs-beginning-S8.html>: accessed 24 January 2024), entry for stationary engine driver

<sup>9</sup> "1911 England Census," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com): accessed 3 January 2024), entry for Susannah Hamilton, Registration district number: 24, Sub-registration district: Bermondsey, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 25, Piece: 1893

<sup>10</sup> "GRO Indexes, Births," *General Register Office* ([https://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/indexes\\_search.asp](https://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/indexes_search.asp): accessed 4 January 2024), entry for Matthew Edward Hamilton, GRO Reference: 1866, M Quarter in Saint Mary Magdalen, Bermondsey, Surrey, Volume: 01D, Page: 67, Mother's maiden surname: Poague; "England & Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1916–2007," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com): accessed 29 January 2024), entry for Matthew E Hamilton, Age: 73, Birth date: abt 1867, Registration date: Jan 1940, Registration quarter: Jan-Feb-Mar, Registration district: Bermondsey, Inferred county: London, Volume: 1d, Page: 162

<sup>11</sup> "GRO Indexes, Births," *General Register Office* ([https://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/indexes\\_search.asp](https://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/indexes_search.asp): accessed 4 January 2024), entry for Henry James Hamilton, GRO Reference: 1867, S Quarter in Saint Mary Magdalen, Bermondsey, Surrey, Volume: 01D, Page: 46, Mother's maiden surname: Poague; "England & Wales National Probate Calendar (Index of Wills and Administrations, 1858–1995," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com): accessed 29 January 2024), entry for Henry James Hamilton, Death date: 23 November 1960, Death place: Kent, England, Probate date: 22 December 1960, Probate registry: London, England

<sup>12</sup> "GRO Indexes, Births," *General Register Office* ([https://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/indexes\\_search.asp](https://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/indexes_search.asp): accessed 4 January 2024), entry for Emma Elizabeth Hamilton, GRO Reference: 1871, D Quarter in Saint Olave Southwark, Volume: 01D, Page: 269, Mother's maiden surname: Poague; "England & Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1916–2007," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com): accessed 29 January 2024), entry for Emma E. Highwood, Death age: 77, Birth date: abt 1872, Registration date: April 1949, Registration quarter: Apr-May-Jun, Registration district: Dartford, Inferred county: Kent, Volume: 5b, Page: 464

<sup>13</sup> "GRO Indexes, Births," *General Register Office* ([https://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/indexes\\_search.asp](https://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/indexes_search.asp): accessed 4 January 2024), entry for Susannah Elizabeth Hamilton, GRO Reference: 1874, M Quarter in Saint Olave Southwark, Volume: 01D, Page: 548, Mother's maiden surname: Poague; "England & Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com): accessed 29 January 2024), entry for Susannah Elizabeth Hamilton, Age: 1, Estimated birth year: abt 1874, Registration quarter: Oct-Nov-Dec, Death registration place: Saint Olave Southwark, Death date: Dec 1875, Inferred death place: London, United Kingdom, Volume: 1d, Page: 173

<sup>14</sup> "GRO Indexes, Births," *General Register Office* ([https://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/indexes\\_search.asp](https://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/indexes_search.asp): accessed 4 January 2024), entry for

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William Charles Hamilton, GRO Reference: 1875, J Quarter in Saint Olave Southwark, Volume: 01D, Page: 283, Mother's maiden surname: Poague; "England & Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com): accessed 29 January 2024), entry for William Hamilton, Age: 1, Estimated birth year: abt 1876, Registration quarter: Jan-Feb-Mar, Death registration place: Saint Olave Southwark, Death date: Mar 1877, Inferred death place: London, United Kingdom, Volume: 1d, Page: 174

<sup>15</sup> "GRO Indexes, Births," *General Register Office*

([https://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/indexes\\_search.asp](https://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/indexes_search.asp): accessed 15 January 2024), entry for Edward James Hamilton, GRO Reference: 1876, D Quarter in Saint Olave Southwark, Volume: 01D, Page: 296, Mother's maiden surname: Poagne [sic]; "GRO Indexes, Death," *General Register Office*, entry for Edward James Hamilton, GRO Reference: 1883, S Quarter in Saint Olave Southwark, Volume: 01D, Page: 175, Age: 6

<sup>16</sup> "GRO Indexes, Births," *General Register Office*

([https://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/indexes\\_search.asp](https://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/indexes_search.asp): accessed 15 January 2024), entry for Albert Hamilton, GRO Reference: 1879, J Quarter in Saint Olave Southwark, Volume: 01D, Page: 245, Mother's maiden surname: Poagne [sic]; "Copy of a Certificate of Death," *General Register Office*, entry for Albert Hamilton, GRO Reference: 1883, S Quarter in Saint Olave Southwark, Volume: 01D, Page: 173, Age: 4, When and where died: 10 July 1883 Galleywall Road, Rank or profession: son of Matthew Hamilton, engine driver, Cause of death: bronchitis, Signature, description and residence of informant: S. Poague, grandmother, 288 Southwark Park Road

<sup>17</sup> "GRO Indexes, Births," *General Register Office*

([https://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/indexes\\_search.asp](https://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/indexes_search.asp): accessed 15 January 2024), entry for Emily Hamilton, GRO Reference: 1881, S Quarter in Saint Olave Southwark, Volume: 01D, Page: 245, Mother's maiden surname: Poague; "England & Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com): accessed 17 January 2024), entry for Emily Hamilton, Age: 1, Estimated birth year: abt 1882, Registration quarter: Jul-Aug-Sep, Death registration place: Saint Olave Southwark, Death date: Sep, 1883, Inferred death place: London, United Kingdom, Volume: 01D, Page: 17

<sup>18</sup> "GRO Indexes, Births," *General Register Office*

([https://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/indexes\\_search.asp](https://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/indexes_search.asp): accessed 15 January 2024), entry for Amelia Hamilton, GRO Reference: 1886, J Quarter in Saint Olave Southwark, Volume: 01D, Page: 307, Mother's maiden surname: Poague; "England & Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1916–2007," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com): accessed 17 January 2024), entry for Amelia May Bray, Death age: 87, Birth date: 13 May 1887, Registration date: April 1975, Registration quarter: Apr-May-Jun, Registration district: Croydon, Inferred county: Greater London, Volume: 11, Page: 1807

<sup>19</sup> "GRO Indexes, Births," *General Register Office*

([https://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/indexes\\_search.asp](https://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/indexes_search.asp): accessed 4 January 2024), entry for Ernest Frederick Hamilton, GRO Reference: 1890, D Quarter in Saint Olave Southwark, Volume: 01D, Page: 220, Mother's maiden surname: Poague; "England & Wales Deaths 1837–2007," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com): accessed 5 January 2024), entry for Ernest F Hamilton, Death age: 75, Birth date: abt 1891, Registration date: Jan 1966, Registration quarter: Jan-Feb-Mar, Registration district: Redbridge, Inferred county: Greater London, Volume: 5d, Page: 751

<sup>20</sup> "GRO Indexes, Deaths," *General Register Office*, entries for Edward James Hamilton, Albert Hamilton, Emily Hamilton

<sup>21</sup> John Dixon, *Report on Sanitary Conditions for the Parish of Bermondsey for the year 1883*, p. 6, *Wellcome Library* (<https://wellcomelibrary.org/moh/browse/?place=Bermondsey&startYear=1883&endYear=1892>: accessed 22 January 2024). **Note:** Childhood mortality rates for Rotherhithe 1883 were not available.

<sup>22</sup> "London, England, Church of England Marriages and Banns, 1754–1938," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com): accessed 17 January 2024), entry for Henry James Hamilton, Marriage date: 26 September 1886, Marriage place: Saint Mary Magdalene, Southwark: Massinger Street, Southwark, England, Father: Matthew Martindale Hamilton, Spouse: Amilia [sic] Messtead [sic]

<sup>23</sup> "London, England, Church of England Marriages and Banns, 1754–1938," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com): accessed 17 January 2024), entry for Matthew Edward Hamilton, Marriage date: 29 April 1888, Marriage place: Saint Anne, Bermondsey: Thorburn Square, Southwark, England, Father: Matthew Martindale Hamilton, Spouse: Maria Symonds

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- <sup>24</sup> “London, England, School Admissions and Discharges 1840–1911,” *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com): accessed 4 January 2024), entry for Charles Hamilton, Birth date: 19 July 1884, Admission date: 3 December 1888, School: Galleywall Road School
- <sup>25</sup> “1891 England Census,” *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com): accessed 30 January 2024), entry for Susannah Hamilton, Registration district: St Olave Southwark, Sub-registration district: St James, Bermondsey, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 30, Piece: 379, Folio: 119, Page: 44. **Note:** Charles was listed as Edward.
- <sup>26</sup> “London, England, Church of England Marriages and Banns, 1754–1938,” *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com): accessed 30 January 2024), entry for Emma Elizabeth Hamilton, Marriage date: 26 December 1897, Marriage place: Saint Anne, Bermondsey: Thorburn Square, Southwark, England, Father: Matthew Martindale Hamilton, Spouse: Ernest Leonard Highwood; “Dictionary of Old Occupations,” *Family Researcher* (<https://www.familyresearcher.co.uk/glossary/Dictionary-of-Old-Occupations-jobs-beginning-C8.html#Compositor>: accessed 30 January 2024), entry for compositor—a typesetter in the printing industry
- <sup>27</sup> “Parishes: Bermondsey,” in *A History of the County of Surrey: Volume 4*, pp. 17–24, *British History Online* (<http://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/surrey/vol4/pp17-24>: accessed 30 January 2024]
- <sup>28</sup> “1901 England Census,” *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com): accessed 18 January 2024), entry for Charles Hamilton, Registration district: St Olave Southwark, Sub-registration district: Bermondsey, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 53, Household schedule number: 162, Piece: 395, Folio: 141, Page: 21
- <sup>29</sup> “London, England, Church of England Births and Baptisms, 1813–1923,” *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com): accessed 31 January 2023), entry for Annie Philpott, Record type: Baptism, Baptism date: 16 August 1887, Baptism place: Saint Katharine, Rotherhithe, Southwark, England, Father: James Philpott, Mother: Annie Philpott; “England & Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1916–2007,” *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com): accessed 29 January 2024), entry for Annie Baxter, Death age: 87, Birth date: 2 August 1887, Registration date: Jan 1975, Registration quarter: Jan-Feb-Mar, Registration district: Southwark, Inferred county: Greater London, Volume: 15, Page: 0147
- <sup>30</sup> “London, England, Church of England Marriages and Banns, 1754–1938,” *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com): accessed 30 January 2024), entry for Charles Douglas Hamilton, Marriage date: 22 September 1907, Marriage place: Saint Anne, Bermondsey: Thorburn Square, Southwark, England, Father: Matthew Edward [sic] Hamilton, Spouse: Annie Philpott. **Note:** Charles’s father’s name is incorrect.
- <sup>31</sup> “London, England, Church of England Marriages and Banns, 1754–1938,” *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com): accessed 30 January 2024), entry for Millie May Hamilton, Marriage date: 29 August 1909, Marriage place: Saint Anne, Bermondsey: Thorburn Square, Southwark, England, Father: Matthew Martindale Hamilton, Spouse: Alfred John Bray
- <sup>32</sup> “1911 England Census,” *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com): accessed 19 February 2024), entry for Emma Hightower, Registration district number: 24, Sub-registration district: Bermondsey, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 25, Piece: 1893
- <sup>33</sup> “1911 England Census,” *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com): accessed 19 February 2024), entry for Matthew Hamilton, Registration district number: 29, Sub-registration district: Lewisham, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 57–61, Piece: 2806
- <sup>34</sup> “London, England, Church of England Births and Baptisms, 1813–1923,” *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com): accessed 31 January 2024), entry for Maud Annie Hamilton, Record type: Baptism, Birth date: 26 Sept 1908, Baptism date: 18 Oct 1908, Baptism place: St Anne, Bermondsey, Southwark, England, Father: Charles Douglas Hamilton, Mother: Annie Hamilton; “England & Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1916–2007,” *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com): accessed 29 January 2024), entry for Maud Annie Sacre, Death age: 89, Birth date: 26 September 1908, Registration date: Aug 1988, Registration district: Greenwich, Inferred county: Greater London, Register number: C61, District and subdistrict: 2291C, Entry number: 28
- <sup>35</sup> London, England, Church of England Births and Baptisms, 1813–1923,” *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com): accessed 1 February 2024), entry for Charles James Hamilton, Record type: Baptism, Birth date: 2 Aug 1910, Baptism date: 17 Aug 1910, Baptism place: St Crispin, Bermondsey, Southwark, England, Father: Charles Dudley [sic] Hamilton, Mother: Annie Hamilton; “England & Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1916–2007,” *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com): accessed 1 February 2024), entry for Charles James Hamilton, Death

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age: 72, Birth date: 2 Aug 1910, Registration date: Apr 1983, Registration quarter: Apr-May-Jun, Registration district: Hendon, Inferred county: Greater London, Volume: 13, Page: 0504

<sup>36</sup> “1911 England Census,” *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com): accessed 19 February 2024), entry for Charles Hamilton, Registration district number: 24, Sub-registration district: Bermondsey, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 25, Piece: 1893

<sup>37</sup> “London, England, Church of England Births and Baptisms, 1813–1923,” *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com): accessed 1 February 2024), entry for Florence May Hamilton, Record type: Baptism, Birth date: 16 Sep 1913, Baptism date: 1 Oct 1913, Baptism place: St Crispin, Bermondsey, Southwark, England, Father: Charles Douglas Hamilton, Mother: Annie Hamilton; “England & Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1916–2007,” *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com): accessed 1 February 2024), entry for Florence May Higgins, Death age: 91, Birth date: 16 Sep 1913, Registration date: Mar 2005, Registration district: Lambeth, Inferred county: London, Register number: C73, District and subdistrict: 241/1C, Entry number: 279

<sup>38</sup> “Soldiers Died in the Great War 1914–1919,” *Findmypast* ([www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk): accessed 10 February 2024), entry for Charles Douglas Hamilton, Service number: GS/17832; “War Gratuity Calculator,” (<https://wargratitude.wordpress.com/2015/08/16/gratuity-calculator>: accessed February 2024); “The Recorder Roll of Honour Bermondsey,” *The Southwark & Bermondsey Recorder*, 12 November 1915, p. 6, *Findmypast* ([www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk): accessed 18 February 2024). **Note:** Charles was listed as one of the men from Lynton Road enlisted in the military in the 12 November 1915 edition. Because Charles’s service record did not survive the 1940 fire at the Army Records Office in Walworth, London, his military career was pieced together using a number of sources.

<sup>39</sup> “Royal Fusiliers,” *Wikipedia* ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Royal\\_Fusiliers](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Royal_Fusiliers): accessed 10 February 2024); “Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment),” *The Long, Long Trail, Researching soldiers of the British Army in the Great War of 1914–1918* (<https://www.longlongtrail.co.uk/army/regiments-and-corps/the-british-infantry-regiments-of-1914-1918/royal-fusiliers-city-of-london-regiment>: accessed 10 February 2024); “Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment),” *National Army Museum* (<https://www.nam.ac.uk/explore/royal-fusiliers-city-london-regiment>: accessed 7 February 2024); “East Ham’s Patriotism,” *The People*, 7 November 1915, p. 10, *Findmypast* ([www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk): accessed 14 February 2024)

<sup>40</sup> “32 Battalion Royal Fusiliers, War Diaries, 1916 May – 1917 Oct,” *National Archives, Kew* (<https://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/details/r/C7354409>: accessed 19 February 2024), Reference: WO95/2644/3. Note: Unless otherwise identified, all information about the 32nd Battalion, Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment’s) movements during this time period comes from this source.

<sup>41</sup> 32 Battalion Royal Fusiliers, War Diaries, 1916 May – 1917 Oct,” *National Archives, Kew*, entry after 31 July 1916, entitled “C/338 Trench Raid; 124 Brigade, War Diaries, 1916 July 1–1916 Aug 31,” *National Archives, Kew* (<https://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/details/r/C14055211>: accessed 15 February 2024), Reference: W095/2640/2, entry after 31 July 1916 entitled “124th Infantry Brigade Order No. 22,” item 249

<sup>42</sup> 32 Battalion Royal Fusiliers, War Diaries, 1916 May – 1917 Oct,” *National Archives, Kew*, entry for 17 August 1916

<sup>43</sup> “124 Brigade, War Diaries, 1916 July 1–1916 Aug 31,” *National Archives, Kew*, entries for 18–25 August 1916

<sup>44</sup> “Casualty Clearing Station,” *Wikipedia* ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Casualty\\_Clearing\\_Station](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Casualty_Clearing_Station): accessed 2 February 2024)

<sup>45</sup> “No.1 Canadian Casualty Clear Station War Diaries of the First World War: 1st Canadian Casualty Clearing Station 1914/08/13–1919/03/31,” *Library and Archives Canada* (<https://recherche-collection-search.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/home/record?app=fonandcol&IdNumber=200508>: accessed 12 February 2024), entries for 24 and 25 August 1916

<sup>46</sup> “Search Name Index,” *British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa* (<https://www.bifhsgo.ca/search-name-index>: accessed 6 November 2023), entry for Charles D Hamilton, Service number: 17832

<sup>47</sup> *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* (<https://www.cwgc.org/find-records/find-war-dead/casualty-details/199725/c-d-hamilton>: accessed 6 February 2024), entry for C. D. Hamilton, Service number: 17832

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- <sup>48</sup> "UK, World War 1 Pension Ledgers and Index Cards 1914–1923," *Fold3* (<https://www.fold3.com>: accessed 10 February 2024), entry for Hamilton, Charles Douglas, Service number: 17832
- <sup>49</sup> "UK, Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects, 1901–1929," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com): accessed 8 January 2024), entry for Charles D. Hamilton, Regimental number: 17832
- <sup>50</sup> "British Army WW1 Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914–1920," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com): accessed 8 January 2024), entry for Charles D. Hamilton, Regimental number: GS/17832
- <sup>51</sup> "UK, Royal Navy Registers of Seamen's Services, 1848–1938," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com): accessed 14 February 2024), entry for Ernest Frederick Hamilton, Birth date: 11 September 1890, Birth place: Bermondsey, London, First service date: 10 October 1916, First ship served on: *Pembroke II*, Last service date: 13 February 1919, Last ship served on: *Gibraltar*, Service number: 37031
- <sup>52</sup> "UK, British Army World War 1 Pension Records 1914–1920," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com): accessed 14 February 2024), entry for Ernest Leonard Highwood, Regimental number: 1012
- <sup>53</sup> "England, The National Roll of the Great War, 1918–1918," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com): accessed 14 February 2024), entry for A. J. Bray, Military date: Mar 1916, Residence place: 316 Lynton Road, Bermondsey, England, Rank: Private, Regiment: Royal Fusiliers, Section: Section III, London
- <sup>54</sup> "Copy of a Certificate of Death," *General Register Office*, entry for Matthew Martindale Hamilton, GRO Reference: 1918, J Quarter in St Olave, Bermondsey, Volume: 01D, Page: 218, Age: 73, When and where died: 7 June 1918, Bermondsey Infirmary, Rank or profession: formerly a stationary engine driver, Cause of death: senile decay, myocardial degeneration, Signature, description and residence of informant: E. E. Highwood, daughter, 322 Lynton Road, Bermondsey; "England & Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1916–2007," *Ancestry*, entry for Susannah Hamilton
- <sup>55</sup> "Essex, England, Church of England Marriages, 1754–1937," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com): accessed 15 February 2024), entry for Ernest Frederick Hamilton, Birth date: abt 1890, Marriage date: 10 Nov 1920, Walthamstow, St James, Essex, England, Father: Matthew Martindale Hamilton, Spouse: Ethel Louise Finken
- <sup>56</sup> "1921 Census of England & Wales," *Findmypast* ([www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk): accessed 15 February 2024), entry for Ernest Frederick Hamilton, Registration district: St Olave, Bermondsey, Registration district number: 24, Sub-district: Bermondsey, Sub-district number: 1, Enumeration district: 32, County: London, Surrey, Piece: 01919, Schedule number: 154
- <sup>57</sup> "1921 Census of England & Wales," *Findmypast* ([www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk): accessed 15 February 2024), entry for Emma and Ernest Frederick Highwood, Registration district: St Olave, Bermondsey, Registration district number: 24, Sub-district: Bermondsey, Sub-district number: 1, Enumeration district: 32, County: London, Surrey, Piece: 01919, Schedule number: 159
- <sup>58</sup> "1921 Census of England & Wales," *Findmypast* ([www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk): accessed 15 February 2024), entry for Alfred Bray and Amelia Bray, Registration district: St Olave, Bermondsey, Registration district number: 24, Sub-district: Bermondsey, Sub-district number: 1, Enumeration district: 32, County: London, Surrey, Piece: 01919, Schedule number: 148
- <sup>59</sup> "1921 Census of England & Wales," *Findmypast* ([www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk): accessed 15 February 2024), entry for Matthew Edward Hamilton, Registration district: St Olave, Bermondsey, Registration district number: 24, Sub-district: Bermondsey, Sub-district number: 1, Enumeration district: 32, County: London, Surrey, Piece: 01919, Schedule number: 318
- <sup>60</sup> "1921 Census of England & Wales," *Findmypast* ([www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk): accessed 15 February 2024), entry for Henry James Hamilton, Registration district: Edmonton, Registration district number: 132, Sub-district: West Tottenham, Sub-district number: 3, Enumeration district: 31, County: Middlesex, Piece: 6806, Schedule number: 282
- <sup>61</sup> "1921 Census of England & Wales," *Findmypast* ([www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk): accessed 15 February 2024), entry for Annie Hamilton, Registration district: St Olave, Bermondsey, Registration district number: 24, Sub-district: Bermondsey, Sub-district number: 1, Enumeration district: 32, County: London, Surrey, Piece: 01919, Schedule number: 230
- <sup>62</sup> "England & Wales Births 1837–2006," *Findmypast* ([www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk): accessed 20 February 2024), entry for Frederick Joseph Baxter, Birth quarter: 1, Birth year: 1895, District: St. Olave, Bermondsey, County: London, Country: England, Volume: 1D, Page: 324; "England & Wales Deaths 1837–2007," *Findmypast*

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([www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk): accessed 20 February 2024), entry for Frederick Joseph Baxter, Birth year: 1895, Age: 40, Death quarter: 1, Death year: 1935, District: Bermondsey, County: London, Volume: 1D, Page: 80

<sup>63</sup> “London, England, Church of England Marriages and Banns, 1754–1938,” *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com): accessed 20 February 2024), entry for Annie Hamilton, Marriage date: 21 October 1923, Marriage place: Saint Augustine, South Bermondsey, Lynton Road, Southwark, England, Father: James Philpott, Spouse: Frederick Joseph Baxter; “1921 Census of England & Wales,” *Findmypast* ([www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk): accessed 19 February 2024), entry for Frederick Joseph Baxter, Registration district: St Olave, Bermondsey, Registration district number: 24, Sub-district: Rotherhithe, Sub-district number: 2, Enumeration district: 17, County: London, Surrey, Piece: 01965, Schedule number: 291

<sup>64</sup> “England & Wales Births 1837–2006,” *Findmypast* ([www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk): accessed 20 February 2024), entry for Frederick Robert Baxter, Birth quarter: 4, Birth year: 1919, District: St. Olave, Bermondsey, County: London, Country: England, Volume: 1D, Page: 427; “Commonwealth War Graves Commission Debt of Honour,” *Findmypast* ([www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk): accessed 20 February 2024), entry for Frederick Robert Baxter, Death date: 15 September 1942, Number: 2001063, Rank: Sapper, Unit: 4th Field Sgn, Regiment: Royal Engineers, Grave Reference: XXVII .G.21, Cemetery or Memorial: El Alamein War Cemetery, Burial country: Egypt, Additional information: Son of Frederick Joseph and Mary Emily Baxter, husband of Mary Florence Baxter

<sup>65</sup> “1939 England and Wales Register,” *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com): accessed 17 February 2024), entry for Annie Baxter, Schedule number: 136, Sub-schedule number: 3, Enumeration district: Acbz, Borough: Bermondsey, Registration district: 21-1

<sup>66</sup> “England & Wales, Civil Registration Marriage Index, 1837–1915,” *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com): accessed 18 February 2024), entry for Charles James Hamilton, Registration year: 1941, Registration quarter: Jan-Feb-Mar, Registration district: Pancras, Inferred county: Middlesex, Volume: 1b, Page: 106, Spouse: Lucy Hollingsworth; “England & Wales, Civil Registration Marriage Index, 1837–1915,” *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com): accessed 18 February 2024), entry for Florence May Hamilton, Registration year: 1941, Registration quarter: Oct-Nov-Dec, Registration district: St. Olave (Bermondsey), Inferred county: London, Volume: 1d, Page: 259, Spouse: John Higgins

<sup>67</sup> “England & Wales, Civil Registration Marriage Index, 1837–1915,” *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com): accessed 18 February 2024), entry for Maud A Hamilton, Registration year: 1942, Registration quarter: Jan-Feb-Mar, Registration district: St. Olave (Bermondsey), Inferred county: London, Volume: 1d, Page: 238, Spouse: Arthur G Sacre

<sup>68</sup> “London, England, Electoral Registers 1832–1965,” *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com): accessed 21 February 2024), entry for Annie Baxter and Florence M Higgins, Electoral date: 1965, Street Address: 23 Anchor Street, Ward or Division/Constituency: Rotherhithe, County or Borough: Bermondsey, England, Reference number: LCC/PER/B/2991

<sup>69</sup> British Army, Royal Engineers Other Ranks: Casualty Cards,” *Findmypast* ([www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk): accessed 20 February 2024), entry for Frederick Robert Baxter, Regimental number: 2001063

<sup>70</sup> “England & Wales, Civil Registration Marriage Index, 1837–1915,” *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com): accessed 18 February 2024), entry for Frederick R. Baxter, Registration year: 1941, Registration quarter: Apr-May-Jun, Registration district: St. Olave (Bermondsey), Inferred county: London, Volume: 1d, Page: 259, Spouse: Florence M Butler

<sup>71</sup> “East Ham,” *War Memorials Online* (<https://www.warmemorialsonline.org.uk/memorial/111374>: accessed 21 February 2024). **Note:** Charles Hamilton’s name is listed on the “Sacrifice” panel.

<sup>72</sup> “Bermondsey War Memorial,” *London Remembers* (<https://www.londonremembers.com/memorials/bermondsey-war-memorial>: accessed 21 February 2024)

<sup>73</sup> *The London WW1 Memorial 1914–1918* ([https://londonwarmemorial.co.uk/view\\_profile.php?id=26223&limit=20&offset=0&sort=&a=Lived/Born%20In&f=Charles&s=Hamilton&r=Rank&u=Unit&b=&d=Date%20f%20Death](https://londonwarmemorial.co.uk/view_profile.php?id=26223&limit=20&offset=0&sort=&a=Lived/Born%20In&f=Charles&s=Hamilton&r=Rank&u=Unit&b=&d=Date%20f%20Death): accessed 17 January 2024), entry for Charles Douglas Hamilton