

PRIVATE CHARLES
REYNOLDS *1875 - 1917*

BY MARIA HENEHAN

EARLY LIFE AND FAMILY

- Charles was born in Tooman, Dromod, Co. Leitrim to Patrick and Helen Reynolds on the 6th July 1875, according to official records.

Baptism Records: Ireland, Select Births and Baptisms, 1620-1911

Superintendent Registrar's District Michell Registrar's District Reyn

BIRTHS Registered in the District of Reyn in the Union of Michell
in the County of Leitrim

No. (1.)	Date and Place of Birth (2.)	Name (if any) (3.)	Sex (4.)	Name and Surname and Dwelling-place of Father. (5.)	Name and Surname and Maiden Surname of Mother. (6.)	Rank or Profession of Father. (7.)	Signature, Qualification, and Residence of Informant. (8.)	When Registered. (9.)	Signature of Registrar. (10.)	Baptism: name, if added after the registration of Birth and Death. (11.)
387	July 1875 Tooman	Charles	Male	Patrick Reynolds Tooman	Helen Reynolds formerly Smith	Laborer	Patrick Reynolds Father Tooman	July 1875 Tooman	William Reynolds	

Charles Reynolds

Gender: Male

Birth Date: 6 Jul 1875

Birth Place: Leitrim, Ireland

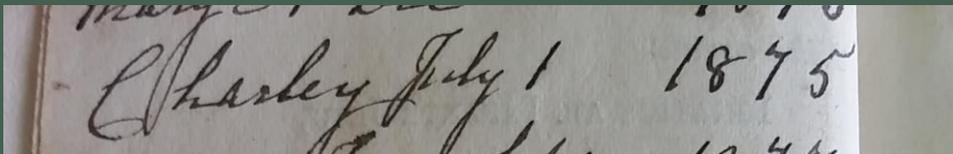
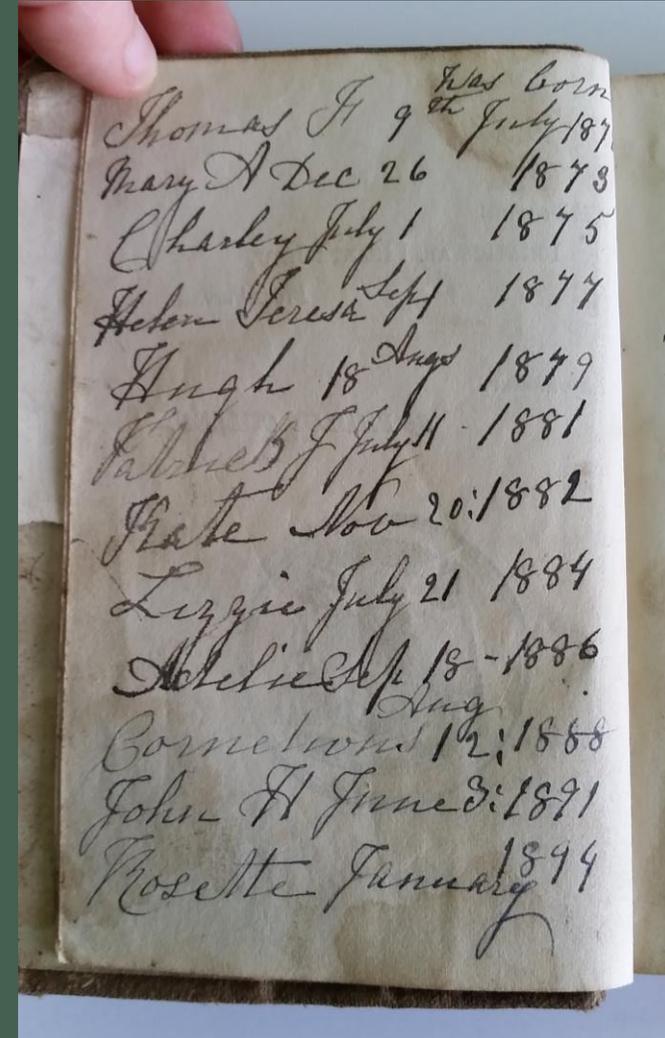
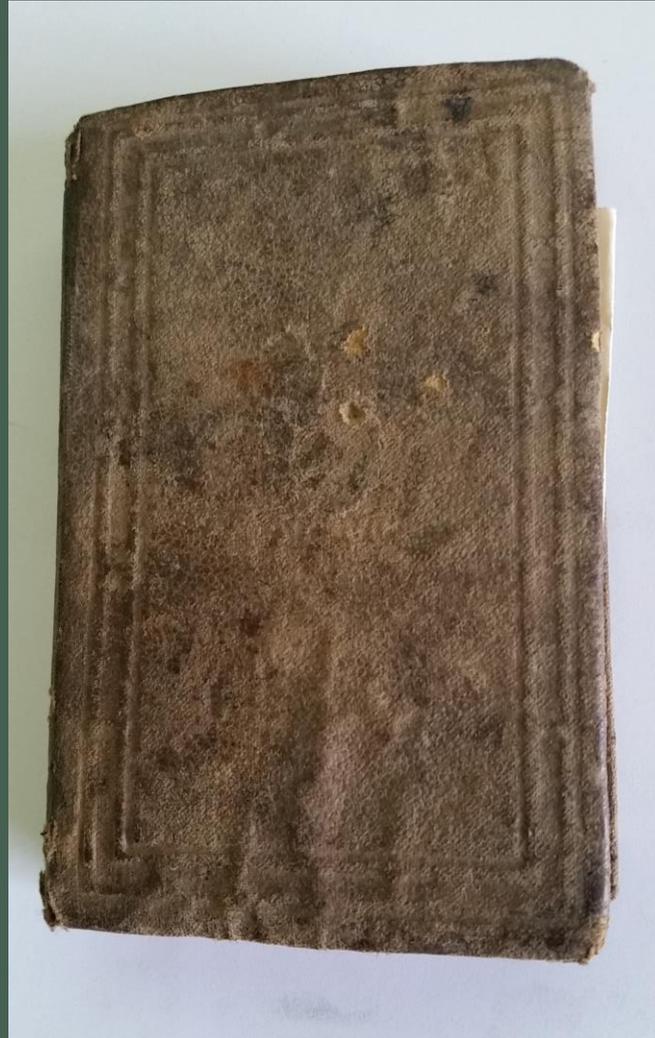
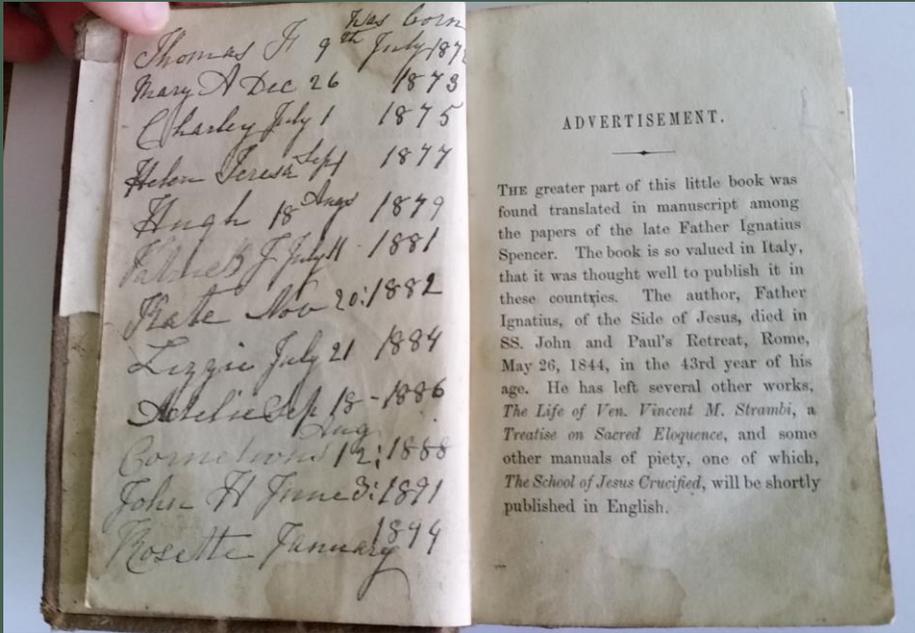
Father: Patrick Reynolds

Mother: Helen Smith

FHL Film Number: 255936

- Charles had 11 siblings, two sisters died as babies, and another sister died age 19.
- He emigrated to Australia some time during the 1890s, as he is not present on the 1901 census of the family home. His brother Thomas also emigrated to Australia, however I do not know if he did so at the same time, but he is also missing from the 1901 census. There were no immigration records available.
- In 1911 Charles was living in Carcoar, New South Wales, according to census records.
- Thomas became a sheep farmer in Australia. When he died he left what money he had to his family back in Ireland.
- Charles was a miner. By his enlistment on 13th March 1916 he was living in Cloncurry, Queensland. He may have worked in the local Hampden Cloncurry Limited mines, mining for copper.
- Charles' brother Patrick emigrated first to South Africa, and then to New Zealand. He married in New Zealand, and has descendants there. He is buried in Tauranga, Bay of Plenty.

Charles' mother Helen kept a prayer book, which she received in 1866 before her marriage. She wrote the names and dates of birth of all her 12 children inside. Charles is written third from the top, as 'Charley'. His date of birth here is July 1st, however on official records it is July 6th.



Charles' childhood home in the mid-1950s, before it was demolished. In Charles' time it had a thatched roof.



1911 Australian Census

Charles Tyrrells 10 6 4 ✓

CENSUS DISTRICT, No 16.

County Georgia

Borough or Municipal District

Name Carcoar

Ward

Sub-District T. (Suva)

Township or Village (not a Municipality)

Suva

Goldfield

Suva

LOCALITY. <small>Name of Street, Road, Trench, &c. or Block and No. of House.</small>	Name of Head of Family	No. of Inhabitants	Total Number of Persons in each Household.		Number of Children and Aliens included in the previous column.				Remarks
			M.	F.	Children		Aliens		
					M.	F.	M.	F.	
Bathurst St	William Livingston	1	1	4			✓		
							✓		
Berrie Flat	John Horne	2	1				✓		
Suva Creek	Thomas Charles John	3	4	3			✓		
Suva Creek	Hong Chan	4	1		1		✓		
Suva Creek	Andrew Williams	5	1				✓		
Suva Creek	Frank Jaffe	6	3				✓		
Suva	John Swamy	7	1				✓		
Suva Creek	Margaret Jaffe	8	1	2			✓		
Suva Creek	Luan Ham	9	1		1		✓		
Suva Creek	Charles Tyrrells	10	6	4			✓		
Suva Creek	Chh Ching	11	1		1		✓		
Suva Creek	Chh Ching	12	1		1		✓		
Back Creek	George Serpant	13	4	3			✓		
Berrie Flat	William H Maden	14	5	5			✓		
Bathurst Street	John G. Davis	15	3	3			✓		
Bathurst Street	Ray Morgan	16	2				✓		
Bathurst Street	Lydia Humphrey	17	2	4			✓		
Armstrong St	Edward Lohin	18	1				✓		
Suva	Helen Chacabete	19		1			✓		
Armstrong St	John Collins	20	1	2			✓		
Total of this page ...		20	40	31	4				

Number of Houses in this page 20 ✓

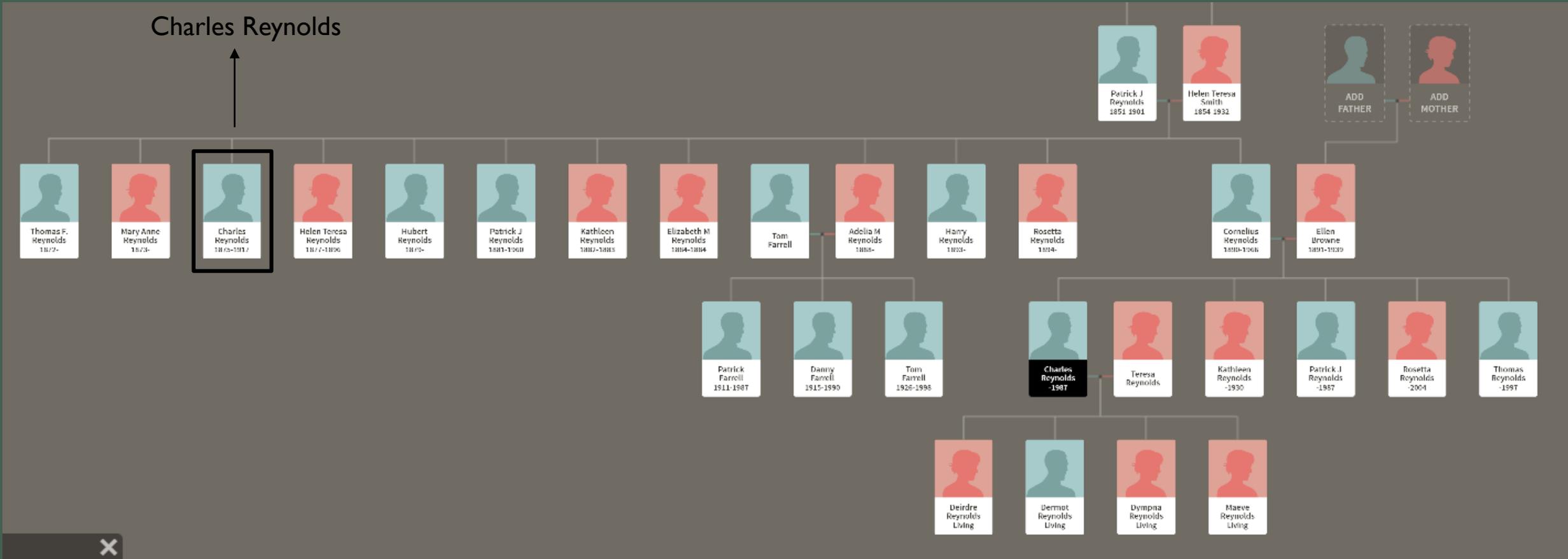
Number of Dwellings in this page, - Inhabited, 20 ; Uninhabited, ; Dwellings

✓

- Many of Charles' relatives are buried together in one plot in Farnagh Cemetery, Co. Leitrim. The headstone on the left was erected by a Thomas F. Reynolds, presumably the brother who emigrated to Australia with Charles. The family believe he sent home money which may have paid for the headstone.



This is a family tree I made of the Reynolds family. It includes some but not all of the spouses and children of Charles' siblings. At the bottom are the relatives I met.



ENLISTMENT

- Charles enlisted on 13th March 1916 at Charters Towers Queensland.
- He was described as 5 foot 10 ½ inches, 161 lbs, with fair skin, blue eyes and light brown hair.
- Charles was 41 when he enlisted, but claimed to be 38 years and 7 months. He possibly did so as the age limit for the army until June 1915 was 40 in Australia. He may not have known about the rule change.
- Charles wrote his father's name as next-of-kin, however by the 1911 census Patrick Reynolds was already dead. From this I assume that Charles had lost contact with his family.
- The military corrected this to his mother's name after Charles' death.
- As a miner, Charles would have been a great asset to the army, as many trenches had to be dug in World War One.

J. 372
7

J. 487-1882

Q 3763

AUSTRALIAN  MILITARY FORCES.

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

Attestation Paper of Persons Enlisted for Service Abroad.

No. 2235 Name REYNOLDS Charles
 Unit 4/47th Rein
 Joined on 12-3-16

Reynolds

Questions to be put to the Person Enlisting before Attestation.

1. What is your Name? ... 1. Charles Reynolds
2. In or near what Parish or Town were you born? ... 2. In the Parish of _____ in or near the Town of Coonau in the County of Leicham Ireland
3. Are you a natural born British Subject or a Naturalized British Subject? (N.B.—If the latter, papers to be shown.) ... 3. yes
4. What is your Age? ... 4. 38 years 7 months
5. What is your Trade or Calling? ... 5. Miner
6. Are you, or have you been, an Apprentice? If so, where, to whom, and for what period? ... 6. No
7. Are you married? ... 7. No
8. Who is your next of kin? (Address to be stated) ... 8. Martha Patrick Reynolds (Wife) Coonau Leicham Ireland
9. Have you ever been convicted by the Civil Power? ... 9. No
10. Have you ever been discharged from any part of His Majesty's Forces, with Ignominy, or as Incurable and Worthless, or on account of Conviction of Felony, or of a Sentence of Penal Servitude, or have you been dismissed with Disgrace from the Navy? ... 10. No
11. Do you now belong to, or have you ever served in, His Majesty's Army, the Marines, the Militia, the Militia Reserve, the Territorial Force, Royal Navy, or Colonial Forces? If so, state which, and if not now serving, state cause of discharge ... 11. No
12. Have you stated the whole, if any, of your previous service? ... 12. yes
13. Have you ever been rejected as unfit for His Majesty's Service? If so, on what grounds? ... 13. No
14. (For married men, widowers with children, and soldiers who are the sole support of widowed mother)— Do you understand that no separation allowance will be issued in respect of your service beyond an amount which together with pay would reach eight shillings per day? ... 14. ✓
15. Are you prepared to undergo inoculation against small pox and enteric fever? ... 15. yes

1624/901
Martha Patrick Reynolds (Wife) Coonau Leicham Ireland

Charles Reynolds do solemnly declare that the above answers made by me to the above questions are true, and I am willing and hereby voluntarily agree to serve in the Military Forces of the Commonwealth of Australia within or beyond the limits of the Commonwealth.

And I further agree to allot not less than two-fifths of the pay payable to me from time to time during my service for the support of my wife.* †

Date 13th March 1916

Charles Reynolds
Signature of person enlisted.

* This clause should be struck out in the case of unmarried men or widowers without children under 18 years of age.
 † Two-fifths must be allotted to the wife, and if there are children three-fifths must be allotted.

Enlistment Papers

THE WAR AND THE 47TH BATTALION

- Charles was in the 47th Battalion, 12th Brigade, 4th Division, Australian Imperial Force (AIF).
- The 47th was composed mostly of men recruited in Queensland and Tasmania along with experienced troops. About half of its new recruits were Gallipoli veterans from the 15th Battalion. The new battalion was incorporated into the 12th Brigade of the Australian Division.
- The 47th Battalion was created in Egypt before being shipped to France, in June 1916. The Battalion was involved in many battles, including the Battle of Pozières, the Battles of Bullecourt, Messines and Passchendaele.
- Charles' unit embarked from Brisbane, Queensland, on board HMAT A42 Boorara on 16 August 1916
- The Battalion was disbanded in May 1918 due to heavy casualties and a lack of reinforcements from Australia.
- During its service in the war, 661 soldiers from the battalion died and 1,564 were wounded.

This photograph was taken between December 1918 and March 1919 of the surviving members of the 47th Battalion AIF in Hastiere, Belgium. Only 73 men remained.

The picture was taken on the rear entrance steps of the former "Hôtel des Tilleuls".



CHARLES' DEATH

- During most of the early parts of the Third Battle of Ypres, the 47th Battalion were in reserve. However, they took part in a combined British, Australian and New Zealand force, with the First Battle of Passchendaele.
- During the nights of 10th and 11th October 1917, the Battalion made its way to their start line, along the Ypres-Roulers railway embankment.
- The men were wet, cold and tired. Their only cover was in water filled shell holes.
- In the dark and through heavy rain, the Battalion moved off at 5.38am on Friday, 12th October, towards the enemy lines.
- Almost immediately, the Battalion HQ was hit by shelling, killing 27 and wounding 60.

Wounded Australian infantrymen at the first battle of
Passchendaele, near Zonnebeke railway station



- Despite this, the Battalion advanced nearly 500 metres, before being held up by heavy enemy machine gun and sniper fire
- The 12th Brigade, including the 47th Battalion, reached their objective.
- Unfortunately, other Australian units on their left flank had not made the same progress and by mid afternoon, the 47th Battalion was in an extremely exposed position.
- By late afternoon, most other units had withdrawn to their starting lines and the Battalion had to abandon their position and also withdraw, along the railway line.
- Enemy fire at that stage hindered the recovery of wounded men and many had to be left behind, where they had fallen.
- By the end of the day, over 100 men of the Battalion had been killed, with a further 300 wounded.
- The death toll rose later, with the deaths of many of those who had been reported as wounded and missing. The total British Commonwealth casualties for the day amounted to almost 13,000.

- Charles Reynolds was one of thousands who died that day.
- He was killed on the 12th of October 1917, in the First Battle of Passchendaele.
- He was originally reported as wounded in action, then wounded and missing, and finally killed in action. Charles' body was identified by his disc which he wore around his neck.

20-10-17	C.O. 47th Bn.	WOUNDED IN ACTION.	DO	12-10-17	B213 D15/22 D.O. 59/6923. VL514 29-10-17.
5-1-18	C.O. 47th Bn (Query List.)	No later report other than Wounded 12-10-17.	France	12-10-17	55/536/122.
15-12-18	Adminis: H.Q. (Query List.)	do do	London	12-10-17	55/536/121.
10-1-18	A.A.G. 3rd ECHELON.	Previously reported WOUNDED in ACTION 12-10-17., now posted WOUNDED & MISSING 12-10-17.		12-10-17	55/536/122. D.O. 3/165. Corrig: VL587. 10-1-18.

(a) In the case of a man who has re-engaged for, or enlisted into Section D, Army Reserve, particulars of such re-engagement or enlistment will be entered.

(b) Signaller, Shewing Smith, & Co.

W 862a—M2733 25/000 9/17 (35011) C. P. & S. Ltd., Form B/103 K/1897.

P.T.O.

1-3-18	Adminis: Headqrs.	Last paid "In the Field"	London.		documents. 19/406/6.
22-3-18.	47th Battn C: of Enquiry.	Proceedings of Court of Enquiry held "In the Field" on 11-3-18. <u>FINDING</u> : -KILLED IN ACTION, 12-10-17.			19/536/52. D.O. 13/1156 Corrig: Eable VL662 dated 26-3-18.

- Charles' family were contacted, and at this point his next-of-kin was changed to his mother.

Entered on Index Card 14-11-17 ^{AG}
Notifications made _____

REGISTRATION ALTERATION OR CHANGE OF
ADDRESS OF NEXT OF KIN.

Reg. No. 2235 Rank _____ Unit 47th Batten
Name Reynolds. G.
N-O-K previously registered as (Relationship) Father
Name Patrick Reynolds
Address _____
To be now recorded as (Relationship) Mother
Name Mrs. Helen Reynolds
Full Postal Address Tooman, Drogheda, Co. Leitrim,
Remarks. Father deceased. Ireland.
Signature or Authority 2554/4/7

"Special notification of casualty" Cards are provided for notification purposes. Legal N-O-K only can be registered on Attestation Papers In cases where an alteration of N-O-K is involved the reason therefore should be stated in Remarks Column.
To be referred to "A" Records Section for recording on card and notification of all concerned.

- Charles is buried at Tyne Cot Cemetery (XXXVIII.A. 10), Passchendaele, Belgium.
- The inscription on his grave, as requested by his mother, reads 'O most compassionate Lord Jesus grant him eternal rest'

Tyne Cot Cemetery Records

REYNOLDS, Pte. C., 2235. 47th Bn. Australian Inf. 12th Oct., 1917. Age 42. Son of Patrick and Ellen Reynolds, of Tooman, Johnston's Bridge, Dromod, Co. Leitrim. XXXVIII. A. 10.

CHARLES' GRAVE



CHARLES' MEDALS

- According to Charles' official army documents, Charles would have been awarded the 1914/15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal posthumously.
- Unfortunately, the medals appear to have been lost at some point over the years.
- All that remains is his memorial plaque, which is still in the possession of the family, in the original packaging.



Charles' memorial plaque, also known as the death penny, given to his mother after his death.



Examples of Charles' lost medals:

1914/15 Star



The Victory Medal



British War Medal



PRIVATE HUBERT REYNOLDS 485148

- Hubert was Charles' younger brother, who also served in WWI, with the British army. He enlisted at the age of 32 on 19th February 1915 in Longford, and served with the Leinster Regiment.
- He was in France from July 1915 to November 1915.
- From then until after the end of the war he was in Greece. It was there that he was stationed at a prisoner of war camp for Turkish soldiers, at Salonika.
- His service records seem to indicate that he spent at least 2 separate periods in hospital, from 20th January to 13th February 1916 and from 23rd March to 1st May 1917. The reason may have been illness, rather than injury, and for that reason he was posted to the labour corps, rather than front line service.
- Hubert survived the war, and died in 1950. He was buried in Farnaght Cemetery alongside several of his relatives, including his parents.
- He never married or had children.
- Charles and Hubert do not appear to have been aware that the other was also fighting in the war.

- Out of the four sons who left Ireland for different reasons, Hubert was the only one who returned home.



Hubert Reynolds with his nieces and nephews, years after the war.

THE REYNOLDS FAMILY NOW

- On the 26th of March, I met with two of Charles' grandnieces, Maeve and Deirdre and Deirdre's husband Gerry.



- The house Charles grew up in was demolished in the 1950s, and a new one built.
- That house still stands. There are some sheds at the back of the house that date back to Charles' youth.

Writing on one of the shed walls which says 'Christmas Day 1945'



This is the original wall of one of the sheds which date back to the late 1800s



- Gerry has done a lot of research on World War One in general and in particular the battles at Passchendaele.
- He has collected many books on the subject and was a great source of information for my project.

Gerry and I in the family home, which was built to replace the one demolished in the 1950s.

