

Compton Chamberlayne

Roll of Honour



Lest we Forget

World War I



8591 RIFLEMAN

C. BROWNSEY

POST OFFICE RIFLES

18th FEBRUARY, 1917

Charles BROWNSEY

Charles Brownsey was born in Trent, Somerset around 1879.

The 1881 Census records Charles Brownsey as a 2 year old living with his parents – George Brownsey, a 35 year old Dairyman & Henrietta Brownsey, also aged 35. Charles was one of 5 children listed in Langport, Somersetshire. The children listed were Herbert (11 years), Flora (8 years), Henrietta (7 years), Charles & Eliza (1 year).

The 1891 Census records Charles Brownsey as 13 year old labourer, living with his parents – George Brownsey, a 41 year old Farm labourer & Henrietta Brownsey also aged 41. Charles was one of 6 children listed at Rimpleton, Sherborne, Dorsetshire. The children listed were Walter George (aged 22), Herbert (aged 21), Charles, Eliza (aged 11), Annie (aged 8) & Ethel (aged 5).

The 1901 census records Charles Brownsey as a 24 year old Bus driver living as a boarder at 14 Woodend Road, Winton with Tom (a plasterer) & Mary Hardiman & their 7 children.

Rifleman Charles Brownsey, service number 8591, was enlisted with the 1st/8th Bn of the London Regiment (Post Office Rifles). He enlisted at Devizes, Wiltshire.

He was killed in action on 18th February, 1917, aged 37 years. Rifleman Brownsey is buried in Enclosure No 4. I. E. 13. of the Bedford House Cemetery, Belgium and is acknowledged with a Commonwealth War Graves Headstone.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Rifleman Charles Brownsey as the son of George & Henrietta Brownsey of Compton Chamberlayne, Salisbury.

Rifleman Brownsey was entitled to the Victory & British War Medals. His Medal Index Card shows his Service number of 8591 was renumbered to 374535.

Bedford House Cemetery - Belgium

Bedford House, located 2.5 km south of Ieper town centre in Belgium, sometimes known as Woodcote House, were the names given by the Army to the Chateau Rosendal, a country house in a small wooded park with moats. The house never fell into German hands but the trees & house were gradually destroyed by shell fire.

In time, the property became largely covered by small cemeteries, with 5 enclosures existing at the time of the Armistice.

Enclosure No.4 was the largest & was used from June, 1916 until February, 1918, largely by the 47th (London) Division. After the Armistice, the area was enlarged further when 3,324 graves were brought in from other burial grounds & from the battlefields of the Ypres Salient. Almost two-thirds of the graves are unidentified.

Bedford House Cemetery is a Commonwealth War Graves Commission burial ground located in Belgium. The cemetery grounds were assigned to the United Kingdom in perpetuity by King Albert I of Belgium in recognition of the sacrifices made by the British Empire in the defence and liberation of Belgium during World War 1.

In total, 5,139 Commonwealth servicemen of World War 1 are buried or commemorated in the enclosures of Bedford House Cemetery.

Photo of Rifleman Charles Brownsey's headstone



(Photo kindly supplied by [British War Graves](#))

Bedford House Cemetery Photographs

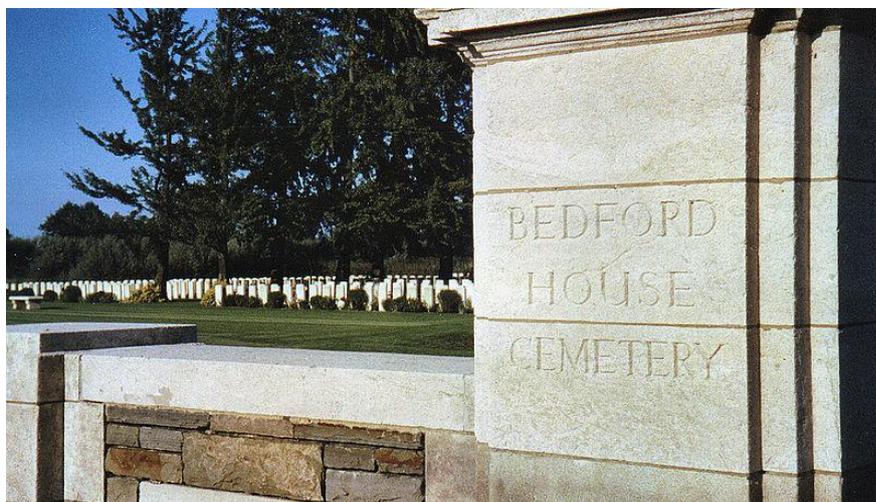


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Enclosure No 4 – Bedford House Cemetery Belgium

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