

## **William Charles Dumbarton**

**M/295867 Private, 66<sup>th</sup> Aux. Petrol Company, Army Service Corps**

The birth of **William Charles Dumbarton** was registered in the July-Sept quarter of 1890 in Amersham. His parents were Charles William and Emily Dumbarton and he was baptised on 31 August 1890 at St Mary's Church. In the 1891 Census, the Dumbartons were recorded as residing at Number 4 Turpin's Row, Amersham. Turpin's Row was a terrace of cottages adjacent to the Town Mill in the High Street. It still exists. Charles W., a gardener (domestic servant), and Emily had two children: Minnie (2) and William Charles (8 months).



Turpin's Row is the terrace of 17<sup>th</sup>-Century cottages in the centre of the photograph of the High Street. The Dumbartons lived in the fourth cottage numbered from the left. The cottage was owned by the Shardeloes Estate and came up for auction on 31 May 1928. It was lot 4, 114 High Street and C.W. Dumbarton was still the tenant paying an annual rent of £4 and two shillings. The cottage had two bedrooms, a WC, water supply, kitchen and scullery.

*The photograph is from one of George Ward's originals (1910) and is printed here by permission of Amersham Museum.*

By the time of the 1901 Census, Charles and Emily had added to their family. Lily was baptised on 5 March 1893, Jenny on 28 July 1895 and Frederick on 30 January 1898 (all at St. Mary's). There was also a daughter, Gertrude, born in 1890, and the 1911 Census reveals another son, Charles, born in 1904. The family was living at the same address, but Charles had changed his employment and was a miller's labourer in 1901 and 1911. The Town Mill was close by.

William Charles Dumbarton does not appear anywhere in the 1911 Census, but at some time before 1914 he moved from Amersham to the village of Edwinstowe (in Sherwood Forest) near Newark, Nottinghamshire; the reason for his move is not known. On 19 January 1914 William Charles Dumbarton (23) married Agnes Barker, the 19-year-old daughter of Thomas Barker, a farm labourer. They married in the Parish Church of Edwinstowe, in the Southwell District. Both gave their place of residence as Edwinstowe. They had a daughter, Edna Mae (or May), born on 13 June 1915 in Edwinstowe. William Charles Dumbarton, as a married man, did not enlist at the beginning of the war, but was conscripted later (24 June 1916). William enlisted on 22 January 1917 in Retford,<sup>1</sup> Notts.

William gave his address on enlistment as Portland Row, Edwinstowe, and confirmed that he was married. He was employed as a gardener.

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<sup>1</sup> Record of Service of William Dumbarton, Ancestry.co.uk British Army WW1 Service Records

RECORD OF SERVICE PAPER

For men deemed to be enlisted in H.M. Regular Forces for General Service with the Colours in the Reserve for the period of the War, or Ex-Soldiers recalled for Service with the Colours under the provisions of the Military Service Acts, 1916.

No. 711-95867 Christian Name William Charles Surname Dumbarton  
Corps ARMY SERVICING CORPS (M.T.)

Questions to be put to the Reservist on Joining.

1. What is your Name! ... .. {	1. Christian Name <u>William Charles</u>
	Surname <u>Dumbarton</u>
2. What is your full Address! ... .. {	2. <u>Portland Row</u>
	<u>Edinburgh</u>
3. Are you a British Subject! ... .. {	3. <u>Yes</u>
	<u>None</u>
4. What is your Age! ... .. {	4. <u>26</u> Years <u>1</u> Months
5. What is your Trade or Calling! ... .. {	5. <u>Sardener</u>
	6. <u>Yes</u>
6. Are you Married! ... .. {	7. <u>No</u>
7. Have you ever served in any branch of His Majesty's Force, naval or military? If so, which!	8. _____
8. Have you any preference for any particular branch of the service, if so, which!	9. _____
9. Are you desirous of serving in the Royal Navy, if so, state your qualifications.	_____

I, William Charles Dumbarton do solemnly declare that the above answers made by me to the above questions are true.

Christian Name William Charles Surname Dumbarton SIGNATURE OF RECRUIT.  
Date 22 January 1917  
Place Kilgobbin William Christy Signature of Witness.

EXEMPTION FROM COMBATANT SERVICE ON CONSCIENTIOUS GROUNDS.

If the Recruit has been exempted by a Tribunal on conscientious grounds from serving, as a combatant it should be so stated here.

MEDICAL CLASSIFICATION AS TO FITNESS FOR SERVICE ON JOINING.

Classification " C-1-one "

"To be filled in by the Recruiting Officer after Classification by the Medical Board."

Dr James Smith Certificate of Approving Officer.  
I approve the acceptance of the above-named man, and appoint him to the ARMY SERVICING CORPS (M.T.)  
Date 18-2-17  
Place GROVE PARK Wm Thompson Chas. I M.T. Regt. Depot Cdr Asst  
Approving Officer.

The signature of the Approving Officer is to be affixed in the presence of the Recruit. Here insert the "Corps" to which the Recruit has been appointed.

\*If, on the Receipt is to be added the particulars of his former service, and to produce, if possible, his Certificate of Discharge and Certificate of Character certified in the (Enclosure).

A. Smith 5/3/17

and 23/3/17

**Record of Service Paper,** known as an Attestation Form: This version was brought into use for conscripts from 1916 when conscription was introduced. It makes provision for conscientious objectors and is authorised by an Approving, rather than a Recruiting, Officer.

**The Service Record of William Charles Dumbarton** is one of the few to survive the fires of WW2 (known as the burnt records) and it looks as though the top edge has been charred.

The record shows the date and place of enlistment, his address at the time and confirmation that he was married.

According to his medical record on enlistment, William C. Dumbarton was short in stature, 5ft 4 ins, and weighed 117 lbs .

William was initially posted in the Army Reserve, mobilized on the 14 February 1917 and posted on 16 February to the Mechanical Transport Depot, Army Service Corps, Grove Park, Lee, London S.E., then to Isleworth. He passed his training as a lorry driver on 25 April 1917. Pte William Charles Dumbarton was assigned to **933 Company and the 66<sup>th</sup> Auxiliary Petrol Company of the Army Service Corps** (N.B. Not Patrol Company as stated on his details with the CWGC or Bucks Remembers.) The 66<sup>th</sup> Aux. Petrol Coy then went to Bulford Camp, Salisbury Plain, to await orders for embarkation for France.



*Photograph of Bulford Camp  
from an old postcard printed  
in WW1.*



SUBSTITUTE FOR ...F... 3068.  
TRANSFER STATEMENT CLOTHING AND NECESSARIES IN POSSESSION OF -

No. 295867 Pte Dumbarton W.C. proceeding from  
Mobilization Company, A.T., S.C., to the A.T. Depot, A.S.C., BULFORD.

Boots, ankle, pairs	1	Brush, Tooth	1
Cap, S.D.	1	Cap Comforter	1
Drawers, pairs	2	Comb, hair	1
Great Coat, D.M.	1	Disc, Identity	2
Jackets, S.D.	1	Fork	1
Puttees, pairs	1	Foldall	1
Trousers, S.D. Pairs	1	Housewife	1
Cardigan	1	Clasp Knife & lanyard	1
Gloves, leather	1	Knife, Table	1
Goggles, pairs	1	Shirts	2
Handkerchieves	1	Socks, pairs	3
Badge, Cap	1	Spoon	1
Bag, Kit	1	Titles, pairs	1
Braces, pairs	1	Towels	1
Brush, shaving	1	Razor	1

DATE OF TRANSFER - 2 MAY 1917 Signature of Soldier W.C. Dumbarton

CERTIFIED THAT THIS STATEMENT IS CORRECT

M. Silverdale,  
SYDNEY, S.E.

P. A. Holden Lt. A.S.C.  
For C/o Mobilization Co., SYDNEY.

The list of kit which was issued to Pte William C Dumbarton, at Bulford, prior to embarkation. The small amount of clothing is notable, with only one pair of trousers and three pairs of socks.

As a lorry driver he received a pair of leather gloves.

**The War Diaries of the 66<sup>th</sup> Aux Petrol Company<sup>2</sup>** give detailed accounts of the movements of the company in late spring and summer of 1917. On 16 May the company went to **Bulford Camp** with Lt Kirkland in charge. They stayed at Bulford until the end of May. On 30 May they were under orders for mobilization and proceeded to **Portsmouth** by road. They arrived at 5.00 pm and reported to the embarkation officer. Vehicles were parked in Victoria Barracks Square. On 31 May the Coy went by rail to Southampton and embarked on SS *Mona's Queen*. One officer and 18 other ranks were left behind at Portsmouth to load lorries on board ship. On 1 June the first party arrived in **Le Havre**. On 2 June the second party (including Pte Dumbarton) arrived on SS *Queen Alexandra*. On 3 June orders were read out. The whole company then left Le Havre on SS *St Tudno* to proceed along the River Seine to **Rouen** where they went to a rest camp. They remained in Rouen until 9 June. The Coy had lectures on gas shells and had helmets fitted and tested. The lorries arrived from Le Havre. Three days' rations were drawn and petrol and oil sufficient for a 300-mile run for 18 lorries. Petrol was transported in cans on lorries, not in tankers. (Supplies of petrol were delivered to divisional refilling points by corps transport, where it was held on wheels until collected by transport as required. The Army Service Corps unit within the Army Corps held sufficient reserves to move the division 25 miles). On 10 June instructions were received to go to **Bailleul**. The Coy arrived in **Foucarmont**, parked the lorries in the square and found accommodation in the school. They left on 11 June, went to St. Omer, then to Bailleul and were accommodated at **La Creche**, their base, parking the fleet of lorries in the town square. Hostile shelling began on 19 June when the church was hit. On subsequent days, German aircraft attacked observation balloons, eventually destroying them and bombing the vicinity of the lorry park. Lorries were also hit by shells on the roads while working.

**LA CRECHE, 11 July 1917 8.45 am** "Lorry number 36419 was subjected to enemy shell fire at DE SEULE and was damaged but to no great extent. The first driver was slightly wounded and the second driver was killed". The latter must have been Private William Charles Dumbarton, who was the only casualty on 11 July 1917 (aged 27).

<sup>2</sup> The War Diaries of 933 Company, Royal Army Service Corps, 66<sup>th</sup> Aux Petrol Company, TNA ref. WO426.

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Lus

Army Form B. 103. **Casualty Form - Active Service.** <sup>no</sup> 295864

Regiment or Corps Army Service Coy. M. T. Grove Park

Rank Pte Surname Dumbarton Christian Name William Charles

Religion C Age on Enlistment 27 years 7 months

Enlisted (a) 22/1/17 no 1/1/17 1/1/17 Service reckons from (a) 22/1/17

Deemed to have enlisted 24/6/16 Date of promotion to present rank 1/1/17 Date of appointment to lance rank 1/1/17

Extended { } Re-engaged { } Qualification (b) Army Service Coy.

Occupation Gardener Corps Trade and Rate 1st Signature of Officer [Signature]

Report		Record of promotions, reductions, transfers, casualties, &c. during active service, as reported on Army Form B.213, Army Form A.36, or in other official documents. The authority to be quoted in each case.	Place of Casualty	Date of Casualty	Remarks Taken from Army Form B.213, Army Form A.36, or other official documents
Date	From whom received				
		Embarked ...			
		Disembarked...			
		JOINED GROVE PARK			
		Placed on 4th Rate of Corps Pay.			
		Embarked S. Hampton			
		Disembarked Havre			
		Killed in action 8am. 11/4/17 - Shrapnel			

(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, Shoeing-Smith, &c.

(6228) W. 13663/M1477 2.400.000 1/17 MeA & W Ltd Forms B.103/4 (E. 886) [P.T.O.]

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W.C. Dumbarton (wife)  
Portland Road  
Edwinstowe, North

Casualty Form - Active Service (Army Form B.103) of Pte William Charles Dumbarton confirming the time and date of death. The cause of death was given as "Shrapnel".

William Charles Dumbarton is remembered with Honour and buried in the Bailleul Communal Cemetery Extension, Nord, France.  
(Grave III. D. 258)

William was awarded The Allied Victory Medal and the British War Medal, 1914-18. William Charles Dumbarton is also remembered in the Rolls of Honour in St Mary's Church, the Methodist Church, High Street Amersham, and the Baptist Church (subsequently the King's Church, Amersham, and now part of the King's Arms Hotel).

#### AMERSHAM Death of Pte Dumbarton

"The relatives of Pte W.C. Dumbarton, jnr, living in Turpin's Row, Amersham, have just received notice of his death in action in France on July 11<sup>th</sup> 1917. Pte Dumbarton was greatly respected in civil life here, and much sympathy is felt for his Amersham relatives and for his young wife who lives in Edwinstowe, Newark."

Bucks Examiner, 27 July 1917