## CHARLIE WYATT, Private 202170 2<sup>nd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> Somerset Light Infantry

Charlie was born on the 8 May 1895, the youngest of the four sons of Walter Wyatt, a tailor. His mother Candace had died in 1895 aged 37, possibly at Charlie's birth. He was baptised at Otterford on June 24 1896, and went to Otterford School. In 1911, aged 15, he was living at home, Keats Mill, with his father and older brother, but not working. Keats is in Buckland St Mary parish, bounded by the River Yarty, but in fact is on the edge of Bishopswood

He's on the Absent Voters' Roll, Private 202170 in the  $2^{nd}/4^{th}$  SLI. His Medal Roll Index Card suggests he didn't enter the Army till late 1915 or 1916 – there's no 1915 Star on it.

At the time Charlie joined, the 2<sup>nd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> was still serving in India, but on 25 September 1917 they landed in Egypt at Suez to continue the battle against the Turks. They were heavily involved in the invasion of Palestine, and were there at the capture of Jerusalem in December 1917. In April 1918 they were withdrawn, and sailed for Marseilles, landing on 1 June. The Battalion was then formed into Pioneers, moving to various locations in Northern France and Belgium, finally forming part of the Army of Occupation in Germany.

He was demobbed into the Z Reserve on September 25 1919, and was awarded a pension – he was suffering from malaria, a legacy of his time in the East. At this point he was still living at Keats, but by January 31 1921 had moved to Porth in South Wales.

He was married in 1926 in Pontypridd to Hilda Brooks. The 1939 Census of England & Wales records him as living in Glamorganshire in Llantrisant. He was working as a postman, and had two children, Phillip Walter and Elizabeth Candace – names giving a flavour of the past. We can find no record of when he died, but, recalling the past too, in a prominent position in Buckland St Mary churchyard, to the west of the Church, is a stone commemorating the Wyatt family, with particular reference to Charlie's parents.



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fractiful, thoughtful sharing. Thank you to, Hover by hele sar viller Olirch. Wonderfully ande - aid a unge vorwert My grandfamer, Sydney Wyatt, war bom in the village. His parts ware Walter and Candau Wyatt. My John Vivian, Sydney 1 son, came to Buckton several timer to Jud out nore evert his ancestors. This is my just visit, and an so pleased to Jud out about my ancestors. is My second visit to this lovely church where many of my ancestors served God Visited Huis lovely village. Staying at Buckland House, what a beautiful church & people. Wath the tike rike up steep hills. FEW PEOPLE DO BUSINESS WELL WHO DO NOTHING ELSE Lord Chesterfield and a construction of the construction of the

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