

Charles Maurice Sewell PETERS

Born Dawlish Q4, 1888

Died France 22 April 1917, aged 28

Private 9403

Honourable Artillery Company, 1st Battalion (Infantry)

Charles James Phillip Peters was a Grocer in Dawlish and married to Margaret Sewell. They lived at Piermont Place in 1891 with five of their six children; Mabel Mary S, 14, Maggie Sewell, 12, Gertrude Bessie, 10, Hilda A, 7, and **Charles Maurice Sewell, 2**. The children had all been born in Dawlish.

They moved to Portland Terrace and in 1901 Charles J.P. Peters was a Lodging house keeper. They had one more child, Philip Claud (1894-1967).

By 1911 they had left Dawlish for Essex and the parents were living at 3 Natal Road, Ilford with **Charles Maurice Sewell Peters**, aged 22, a Stockbroker's Clerk, as was his younger brother Philip Claud Peters, 17. Also at home was Gertrude Bessie, 30, a warehousewoman (drapery). One of their children had died by this date.

A Short Service attestation survives which shows that **Charles** took the loyal oath before a magistrate on 6th December 1915. At that date he was living at 3 Hampton Road, Ilford.

In 1916 **Charles** married Ruth Mary Reed at Launceston Wesleyan Chapel on the 8th July 1916, following which event his 'next of Kin' is shown as Ruth Mary Peters of 3 Henley Road, Ilford. It appears that he was enlisted at the Warley Depot of the Essex Regiment on 14th November 1916.

He is entered on the Honourable Artillery Company (HAC) vellum membership books with attestation dated 15 November 1916, which is entered in his own hand and giving his address as 233 Henley Road, Ilford.

Two HAC infantry battalions and five artillery batteries were mobilised for active service overseas during the First World War. After the outbreak of war on 4 August 1914, the existing half Infantry Battalion was brought up to full strength and became the 1st Battalion, serving in France and Flanders from 18 September 1914.

All units formed by this regiment were of the Territorial Force

1/1st Battalion

August 1914 : in Finsbury, London. Attached as Army Troops to 1st London Division.

12 September 1914 : moved to Belhus Park.

20 September 1914 : landed at St. Nazaire and placed onto Lines of Communication.

10 November 1914 : transferred to 8th Brigade in 3rd Division.

9 December 1914 : transferred to 7th Brigade in same Division.

14 October 1915 : transferred to GHQ Troops.

9 July 1916 : transferred to 190th Brigade in 63rd (Royal Naval) Division*

* The 63rd (Royal Naval) Division was a United Kingdom infantry division of the First World War. It was originally formed as the Royal Naval Division at the outbreak of the war, from Royal Navy and Royal Marine reservists and volunteers, who were not needed for service at sea. The division fought at Antwerp in 1914 and at Gallipoli in 1915. In 1916, following many losses among the original naval volunteers, the division was transferred to the British Army as the 63rd (Royal Naval) Division, re-using the number

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from the disbanded second-line 63rd (2nd Northumbrian) Division Territorial Force. As an Army formation, it fought on the Western Front for the remainder of the war.

During fighting on the Somme, the Germans constructed a formidable new defensive system some miles in their rear. From February 1917 they began to withdraw into it, giving up ground but in carrying out *Operation Alberich* they made the ground as uninhabitable and difficult as possible. British detected the withdrawal and cautiously followed up and advanced, but were brought to a standstill at the outer defences of the system.

<http://ww1centenary.oucs.ox.ac.uk/battle-of-arras/the-battle-of-arras-an-overview/>

HAC records show that **Charles Maurice Sewell Peters** embarked for France on the 1 March 1917 and was in the 27th Draft which joined the 1st Battalion on 29 March. He was wounded at the Battle of Arras on the 16 April and sent to hospital where he died on the 22nd April. He was buried in the Etaples cemetery.

He was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

His widow, Ruth Mary Peters received a Death Grant of £2. 6s. 2D and a War Gratuity of £3 when she was living at 2 Berkeley Avenue, Reading, Berks.

He is shown on the Devon Roll of Honour but no date or place of death is shown (22/4/1917, France).

Commonwealth War Graves entry: PETERS, CHARLES MAURICE SEWELL Private 9403 22/04/1917 Age: 29 Honourable Artillery Company, 1st Bn.

Grave Ref: XIX. F. 13A. [Etaples Military Cemetery](#), Pas De Calais, France

Eldest son of Charles and Margaret Peters; husband of R. M. Peters, of "Hillside," 2, Berkeley Avenue, Reading, Berks. Native of Dawlish, Devon.

Dawlish War memorial inscription: PETERS M. GNR. H.A.C.

Devon Heritage site info:

9403 Private Charles "Maurice" Sewell Peters of the Honourable Artillery Company (Infantry). Son of Charles and Margaret Peters. Born in Dawlish in the December Quarter of 1888. Died 22 April 1917 aged 28.

Last known address: 233 Henley Road, Ilford, Essex

Next of kin: Widow, Ruth Mary Peters

References:

hac.org the website of the Honourable Artillery Company

wikipedia for 63rd Division

Birth Marriage Death refs

Refs via subscription websites, Ancestry and Find-my-past:

UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War

UK, Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects

Census records

HAC registers