

My Family's Story

Name of contributor: John Boxall, with his brother Dave Boxall and son Adam Boxall

Family member and relationship to contributor: Charles George Boxall, Grandfather

My Family's Story:

My grandfather Charles George Boxall was born in 1890, the oldest son of George Boxall, a railway inspector. Family records show that he was a member of the St James Hatcham Company of The Church Lads Brigade, in New Cross, London, where he took two First Aid courses.

I don't know exactly when he joined up, but by 1915 he was a Corporal in the 23rd Battalion of The London Regiment. A newspaper cutting, possibly dated 25th June 1915, states that he and his brother, Private Arthur Ernest Boxall, were both wounded in an attack on German trenches on May 25th 1915. Presumably they fought side by side. My grandfather was stated to have a bullet wound through the left forearm and a shrapnel wound in the abdomen.

On 31st December 1915 he was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the 20th Battalion. My father told me that when my grandfather was commissioned, his officers' pay would be insufficient to cover his mess bills, so his father had to guarantee him an income.

Between 31st January and 10th March 1916 he attended a course on the Administrative & Field Duties of a Platoon Commander at St Albans. On the 6th June 1916 he married my grandmother at St Lawrence Roman Catholic Church in Sidcup. The Marriage Certificate gives his address as Larkhill Camp (Salisbury Plain). On the 5th March 1918 he was invalided from military service.

After the war he resumed his business career and became the Company Secretary of Joseph Nathan Ltd, one of the constituents of what is now GlaxoSmithKline.

Image: 2nd Lieutenant Charles Boxall, 20th Battalion London Regiment

