

5: Charles John Baker

Basic Information [as recorded on local memorial or by CWGC]

Name as recorded on local memorial or by CWGC: Charles John Baker

Rank: Private

Battalion / Regiment: 2nd/10th Bn. The King's (Liverpool Regiment)

Service Number: 357347

Date of Death: 08 May 1917

Age at Death: ?

Buried / Commemorated at: Erquinghem-Lys Churchyard Extension, Nord-Pas-de-Calais, France

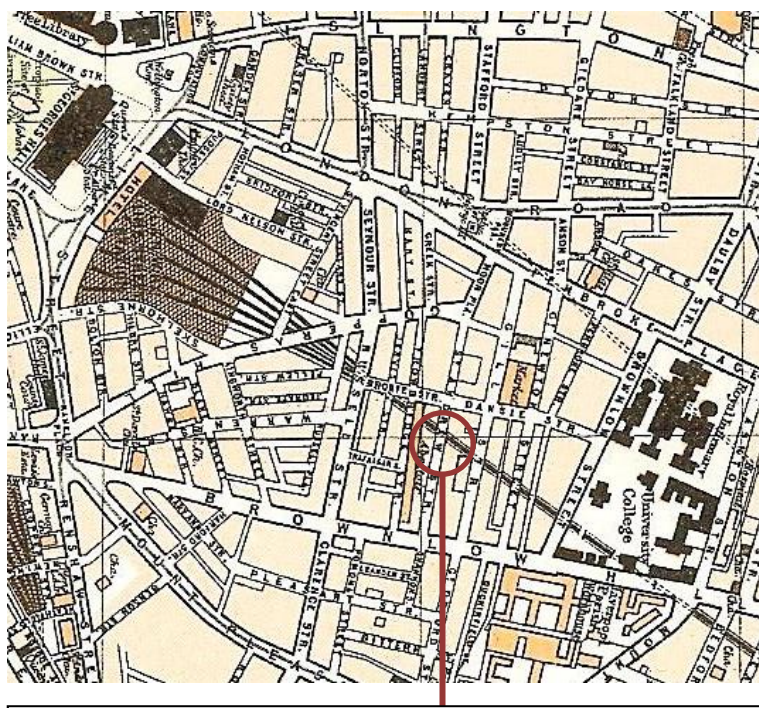
Additional information given by CWGC: None

Charles John Baker was the fourth child of publican Henry and Margaret Kathleen Baker and he was born in Liverpool on 23 March 1892.

Henry Baker had, previously, been married to Lilly Bird - they married in Liverpool in early 1872 - and Henry and Lilly had at least four children; Lilly (born 18 August 1873, baptised 2 November 1873 at St Paul, Liverpool) : Dorothy (born 20 October 1876, baptised 16 December 1876 at St John, Liverpool and died 8 March 1948) : Henry Barclay (born 25 November 1877, baptised 3 February 1878 at St John, Liverpool) : Ernest (born 14 June 1880, baptised 1 August 1880 at St John, Liverpool). Throughout this time the family was living at 42 St Andrew Street, Liverpool

Lilly, Henry's wife, died in West Derby on 25 January 1884 aged 30 and Henry married Maggie Kathleen McCall in Liverpool in the July-September quarter of 1886.

From then the family moved several times but always remained on the east side of Liverpool until, sometime between 1911 and 1917, they moved to Parkgate. Interestingly, the family was recorded back at 42 St Andrew Street, where Henry's first family lived, on two further occasions - 1889 and 1911. It is possible that this house (it was not a public house and it no longer exists) was owned by the brewery or public house where Henry worked.



40/42 St Andrew Street was located close to the abattoir and rail way bridge.

Plan of Liverpool – Royal Atlas of England and Wales (1898)

Henry and Maggie's first children were twins, William Archibald and Joseph Wood, born on 5 January 1888 and both baptised 28 February 1888 at St John, Liverpool. The family was then living at 4 Mill Lane, Old Swan. Joseph Wood Baker died, aged 13, on 13 June 1901.

Minnie, their third child, was born on 25 October 1889 and was baptised 27 November 1889 at St John, Liverpool when the family had moved back to 42 St Andrew Street. Charles John was born on 23 March 1892 and baptised at St John on 6 May when the family was at 68, Islington.

Grace, their fifth child, was born on 16 April 1894 and baptised at St John on 10 May when the family was still at 68, Islington.

No information has been found for the birth/baptism of their last child, Gertrude.

At the time of the 1891 census, a year before Charles was born, the enlarged family was living in West Derby, Liverpool:

Henry Baker	Head	m	42	Licensed Victualler (Pub)	x			Do ; Do
Margaret K. Do	Wife	m	38					Do ; Do
Lilly Do	Daughter	s	17					Do ; Do
Dorothy Do	Daughter		14	Scholar				Do ; Do
Henry B. Do	Son		13	Do				Do ; Do
Ernest Do	Son		10	Do				Do ; Do
William A. Baker	Son		3					Lane ; Liverpool
Joseph W. Do	Son		3					Do ; Do
Minnie Do	Daughter		1					Do ; Do

1891 census (extract) – 99 Saxony Road, West Derby, Liverpool

Henry Baker	42	licensed victualler (pub)	born Liverpool
Margaret K.	38		born Liverpool
Lilly	17		born Liverpool
Dorothy	14		born Liverpool
Henry B.	13		born Liverpool
Ernest	10		born Liverpool
William A.	3		born Liverpool
Joseph W.	3		born Liverpool
Minnie	1		born Liverpool



99 Saxony Road (between Edge Lane and Low Hill) [Google Street View]

By the time of the 1901 census the family had moved a short distance south to Edge Lane (the housing here has since been cleared) but, ten years later, at the time of the 1911 census, the family had moved back to the house they had previously occupied in St Andrew Street. This was the same address that Henry had shared with his first wife, Lilly. This is rather closer to the centre of Liverpool, just north of Brownlow Hill and the Metropolitan Cathedral. Here, too, the housing has been cleared.

At this time Charles was a barman, presumably assisting his father.

There appears to be an error in the recording of Margaret's age; in the 1891 census she was shown to be 38, in 1901 as 51 and as 42 in the 1911 census.

Henry Baskin	Head	M	52	Widened Victoria Rd	non account	at home	James & pool
Margaret K do	Wife	M	54	1			do do
Solothy do	Son	S	24	1	Baptist	worker	do do
William A do	Son		13	1			do do
Joseph W do	Son		13	1			do do
Minnie do	Son		11	1			do do
Charles J do	Son		9	1			do do
Grace do	Son		7	1			do do
Fertinda do	Son		5	1			do do
Annie Thompson	Son	S	22	General Ignant	Deputy		do do

1901 census (extract) – 382 Edge Lane, West Derby, Liverpool

Henry Baker	52	licenced victualler, pub, own account	born Liverpool
Margaret K.	51		born Liverpool
Dorothy	24	barmaid	born Liverpool
William A.	13		born Liverpool
Joseph W.	13		born Liverpool
Minnie	11		born Liverpool
Charles J.	9		born Liverpool
Grace	7		born Liverpool
Gertrude	5		born Liverpool
Annie Shannon	22	general servant, domestic	born Liverpool

	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	12.	13.	14.	15.	16.	17.	18.	19.	20.	21.	22.	23.	24.	25.	26.	27.	28.	29.	30.	31.	32.	33.	34.	35.	36.	37.	38.	39.	40.	41.	42.	43.	44.	45.	46.	47.	48.	49.	50.	51.	52.	53.	54.	55.	56.	57.	58.	59.	60.	61.	62.	63.	64.	65.	66.	67.	68.	69.	70.	71.	72.	73.	74.	75.	76.	77.	78.	79.	80.	81.	82.	83.	84.	85.	86.	87.	88.	89.	90.	91.	92.	93.	94.	95.	96.	97.	98.	99.	100.	101.	102.	103.	104.	105.	106.	107.	108.	109.	110.	111.	112.	113.	114.	115.	116.	117.	118.	119.	120.	121.	122.	123.	124.	125.	126.	127.	128.	129.	130.	131.	132.	133.	134.	135.	136.	137.	138.	139.	140.	141.	142.	143.	144.	145.	146.	147.	148.	149.	150.	151.	152.	153.	154.	155.	156.	157.	158.	159.	160.	161.	162.	163.	164.	165.	166.	167.	168.	169.	170.	171.	172.	173.	174.	175.	176.	177.	178.	179.	180.	181.	182.	183.	184.	185.	186.	187.	188.	189.	190.	191.	192.	193.	194.	195.	196.	197.	198.	199.	200.	201.	202.	203.	204.	205.	206.	207.	208.	209.	210.	211.	212.	213.	214.	215.	216.	217.	218.	219.	220.	221.	222.	223.	224.	225.	226.	227.	228.	229.	230.	231.	232.	233.	234.	235.	236.	237.	238.	239.	240.	241.	242.	243.	244.	245.	246.	247.	248.	249.	250.	251.	252.	253.	254.	255.	256.	257.	258.	259.	260.	261.	262.	263.	264.	265.	266.	267.	268.	269.	270.	271.	272.	273.	274.	275.	276.	277.	278.	279.	280.	281.	282.	283.	284.	285.	286.	287.	288.	289.	290.	291.	292.	293.	294.	295.	296.	297.	298.	299.	300.	301.	302.	303.	304.	305.	306.	307.	308.	309.	310.	311.	312.	313.	314.	315.	316.	317.	318.	319.	320.	321.	322.	323.	324.	325.	326.	327.	328.	329.	330.	331.	332.	333.	334.	335.	336.	337.	338.	339.	340.	341.	342.	343.	344.	345.	346.	347.	348.	349.	350.	351.	352.	353.	354.	355.	356.	357.	358.	359.	360.	361.	362.	363.	364.	365.	366.	367.	368.	369.	370.	371.	372.	373.	374.	375.	376.	377.	378.	379.	380.	381.	382.	383.	384.	385.	386.	387.	388.	389.	390.	391.	392.	393.	394.	395.	396.	397.	398.	399.	400.	401.	402.	403.	404.	405.	406.	407.	408.	409.	410.	411.	412.	413.	414.	415.	416.	417.	418.	419.	420.	421.	422.	423.	424.	425.	426.	427.	428.	429.	430.	431.	432.	433.	434.	435.	436.	437.	438.	439.	440.	441.	442.	443.	444.	445.	446.	447.	448.	449.	450.	451.	452.	453.	454.	455.	456.	457.	458.	459.	460.	461.	462.	463.	464.	465.	466.	467.	468.	469.	470.	471.	472.	473.	474.	475.	476.	477.	478.	479.	480.	481.	482.	483.	484.	485.	486.	487.	488.	489.	490.	491.	492.	493.	494.	495.	496.	497.	498.	499.	500.	501.	502.	503.	504.	505.	506.	507.	508.	509.	510.	511.	512.	513.	514.	515.	516.	517.	518.	519.	520.	521.	522.	523.	524.	525.	526.	527.	528.	529.	530.	531.	532.	533.	534.	535.	536.	537.	538.	539.	540.	541.	542.	543.	544.	545.	546.	547.	548.	549.	550.	551.	552.	553.	554.	555.	556.	557.	558.	559.	560.	561.	562.	563.	564.	565.	566.	567.	568.	569.	570.	571.	572.	573.	574.	575.	576.	577.	578.	579.	580.	581.	582.	583.	584.	585.	586.	587.	588.	589.	590.	591.	592.	593.	594.	595.	596.	597.	598.	599.	600.	601.	602.	603.	604.	605.	606.	607.	608.	609.	610.	611.	612.	613.	614.	615.	616.	617.	618.	619.	620.	621.	622.	623.	624.	625.	626.	627.	628.	629.	630.	631.	632.	633.	634.	635.	636.	637.	638.	639.	640.	641.	642.	643.	644.	645.	646.	647.	648.	649.	650.	651.	652.	653.	654.	655.	656.	657.	658.	659.	660.	661.	662.	663.	664.	665.	666.	667.	668.	669.	670.	671.	672.	673.	674.	675.	676.	677.	678.	679.	680.	681.	682.	683.	684.	685.	686.	687.	688.	689.	690.	691.	692.	693.	694.	695.	696.	697.	698.	699.	700.	701.	702.	703.	704.	705.	706.	707.	708.	709.	710.	711.	712.	713.	714.	715.	716.	717.	718.	719.	720.	721.	722.	723.	724.	725.	726.	727.	728.	729.	730.	731.	732.	733.	734.	735.	736.	737.	738.	739.	740.	741.	742.	743.	744.	745.	746.	747.	748.	749.	750.	751.	752.	753.	754.	755.	756.	757.	758.	759.	760.	761.	762.	763.	764.	765.	766.	767.	768.	769.	770.	771.	772.	773.	774.	775.	776.	777.	778.	779.	780.	781.	782.	783.	784.	785.	786.	787.	788.	789.	790.	791.	792.	793.	794.	795.	796.	797.	798.	799.	800.	801.	802.	803.	804.	805.	806.	807.	808.	809.	810.	811.	812.	813.	814.	815.	816.	817.	818.	819.	820.	821.	822.	823.	824.	825.	826.	827.	828.	829.	830.	831.	832.	833.	834.	835.	836.	837.	838.	839.	840.	841.	842.	843.	844.	845.	846.	847.	848.	849.	850.	851.	852.	853.	854.	855.	856.	857.	858.	859.	860.	861.	862.	863.	864.	865.	866.	867.	868.	869.	870.	871.	872.	873.	874.	875.	876.	877.	878.	879.	880.	881.	882.	883.	884.	885.	886.	887.	888.	889.	890.	891.	892.	893.	894.	895.	896.	897.	898.	899.	900.	901.	902.	903.	904.	905.	906.	907.	908.	909.	910.	911.	912.	913.	914.	915.	916.	917.	918.	919.	920.	921.	922.	923.	924.	925.	926.	927.	928.	929.	930.	931.	932.	933.	934.	935.	936.	937.	938.	939.	940.	941.	942.	943.	944.	945.	946.	947.	948.	949.	950.	951.	952.	953.	954.	955.	956.	957.	958.	959.	960.	961.	962.	963.	964.	965.	966.	967.	968.	969.	970.	971.	972.	973.	974.	975.	976.	977.	978.	979.	980.	981.	982.	983.	984.	985.	986.	987.	988.	989.	990.	991.	992.	993.	994.	995.	996.	997.	998.	999.	1000.
1	Henry Barker	Head	62		Married	25	6	6		Licensed Victualler	943	Employed	at home	Liverpool																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																		</																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																								

1911 census (condensed) – 40 / 42 St Andrew Street, Liverpool

Henry Baker	62	licenced victualler	born Liverpool
Margaret Kathleen	42	assistant in the business	born Liverpool
William Archibald	23	barman	born Liverpool
Minnie	21	milliner	born Liverpool
Charles	19	barman	born Liverpool
Grace	16		born Liverpool
Gertrude	15		born Liverpool
Ada Josephine	4		born Liverpool
Dorothy	34		born Liverpool

Henry and Margaret had been married for 25 years and six of their seven children had survived.

Charles enlisted with the Liverpool Scottish Battalion The King's (Liverpool Regiment) on 9 February 1915 and, although he enlisted in Liverpool, his address was given as Birkenhead when he was killed; his parents had moved to Parkgate by this time. His Service Record has not been found and, therefore, no details of Charles' military career or the precise circumstances of his death are known.

The King's (Liverpool Regiment) fielded 49 battalions and lost 13,795 officers and other ranks during the course of WW1.

Six Territorial Battalions existed before the outbreak of the First World War: the 5th, 6th Liverpool Rifles, 7th, 8th Liverpool Irish, 9th, and 10th Liverpool Scottish.

The service of the regiment in the First World War was extensive and the Liverpool Scottish was one of the first territorial battalions to arrive in France when it deployed in November 1914. Approximately 1,000 of more than 10,000 men who served with the Scottish died during the war. The regiment's most acclaimed soldier during the war was Noel Godfrey Chavasse, who was awarded two Victoria Crosses while attached from the Royal Army Medical Corps.

In 1914 these First Line battalions accepted new recruits to expand to war strength. In September and October 1914 they formed new Second Line battalions which were numbered 2/5th, 2/6th etc; the original First Line battalions became the 1/5th etc. The First Line battalions went to France in late 1914 and early 1915, while the Second Line battalions went to France in February 1917. Third Line battalions, 3/5th etc, were formed in May 1915 and these remained in the UK.

The Liverpool Scottish, known diminutively as "the Scottish", part of the Territorial Army, was raised in 1900 as an infantry battalion of the King's (Liverpool Regiment). The 2/10th (Scottish) Battalion The King's (Liverpool Regiment), the Second Line battalion, was formed in Liverpool in October 1914 and on 8 February 1915 came under the orders of the 172nd Brigade, 57th (2nd West Lancashire) Division.

Following two years of training in England the battalion (of the 172nd Brigade, under Lieutenant Colonel Adam Fairrie), with five other Second Line battalions, wasn't landed in France until February 1917 and so Charles, who died on 8 May 1917, must have seen little action.

The 172nd Brigade, within the 57th Division, concentrated in the Borre area on 18 February, within the 11 Anzac Corps. area of the Second Army, and they were due to relieve the 1st New Zealand Division before the end of the month. The troops settled down to trench warfare first in the Fleurbaix sector but later extending their line northwards as far as Armentières. The front line here, where the troops were holding front-line trenches, was about 14½km in length.

For much of 1917 the 2/10th Battalion served in the Bois Grenier Section near Armentières with their operating base in the small town of Erquinghem some few kilometres to the west. Although a relatively quiet sector of the front, there are 45

Liverpool Scottish graves in Erquinghem Churchyard Extension Cemetery, many casualties resulting from a trench raid ('Dicky's Dash') on 29 June – although this was some weeks after Charles' death.

The War Diary entries around the time of Charles' death are limited in detail but the entry for 7 – 14 May 1917 is reproduced below:

WAR DIARY of 2/10 Scottish Bn. K.L.R. INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY (Reverse heading not required)				Army Form C. 2118	
Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F. S. Regs., Part II. and the Staff Manual respectively. Title Pages will be prepared in manuscript.					
Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices	
STREAKY BACON FARM & LA ROLANDERIE FARMS. NEAR ERQUINGHEM	7	May	Owing to unusual activity in trenches, the usual night working parties provided by this Battn were cancelled - Normal training carried on -		
	8	May	Normal training during day. A night working party provided by A Co 2/10 KLR was about to commence work near I 31.3 when our artillery opened in answer to SOS put up by BATT ⁿ on the RIGHT - a heavy bombardment in form of Box Barrage was immediately opened by the BOSCH lasting for ½ hour our party were taken by surprise & suffered 17 casualties (five killed)		
	9	May	Usual training by day. Working parties provided for front line at night.		
	10	May	Considerable activity on back areas in this neighbourhood by enemy artillery. - One casualty suffered by Co in sub. line. 'C' Company relieved 'B' Coy (both 2/10 KLR) in subsidiary line - Major THIN temporarily attached to 2/10 KLR as 2nd in command.		
	11 12 13 14	May May May May	Usual training and night working parties continued. - 4 casualties (wounded) occurred during these days - one by dud A.A. Bosch shell - Sunday. The usual services were held - 2/10 KLR (less C. Co) relieved 2/9 KLR (less 1 Co remaining in sub. line) in relief completed without incident at 11.30 pm 1875 Wt. W 59/1520 1,055,055 2/15 J.B.C. & A. A.D.S.S./Forms/C. 2118 D Coy on left, A. Centre, B on Right and C in Sub. line -		

War Diary, 2nd/10th Bn. The King's (Liverpool Regiment), partial transcription (7 – 10 May 1917)

STREAKY BACON FARM & LA ROLANDERIE FARMS NEAR ERQUINGHEM

7 May Owing to unusual activity in trenches, the usual night working parties provided by this Battn. were cancelled – Normal training carried on.

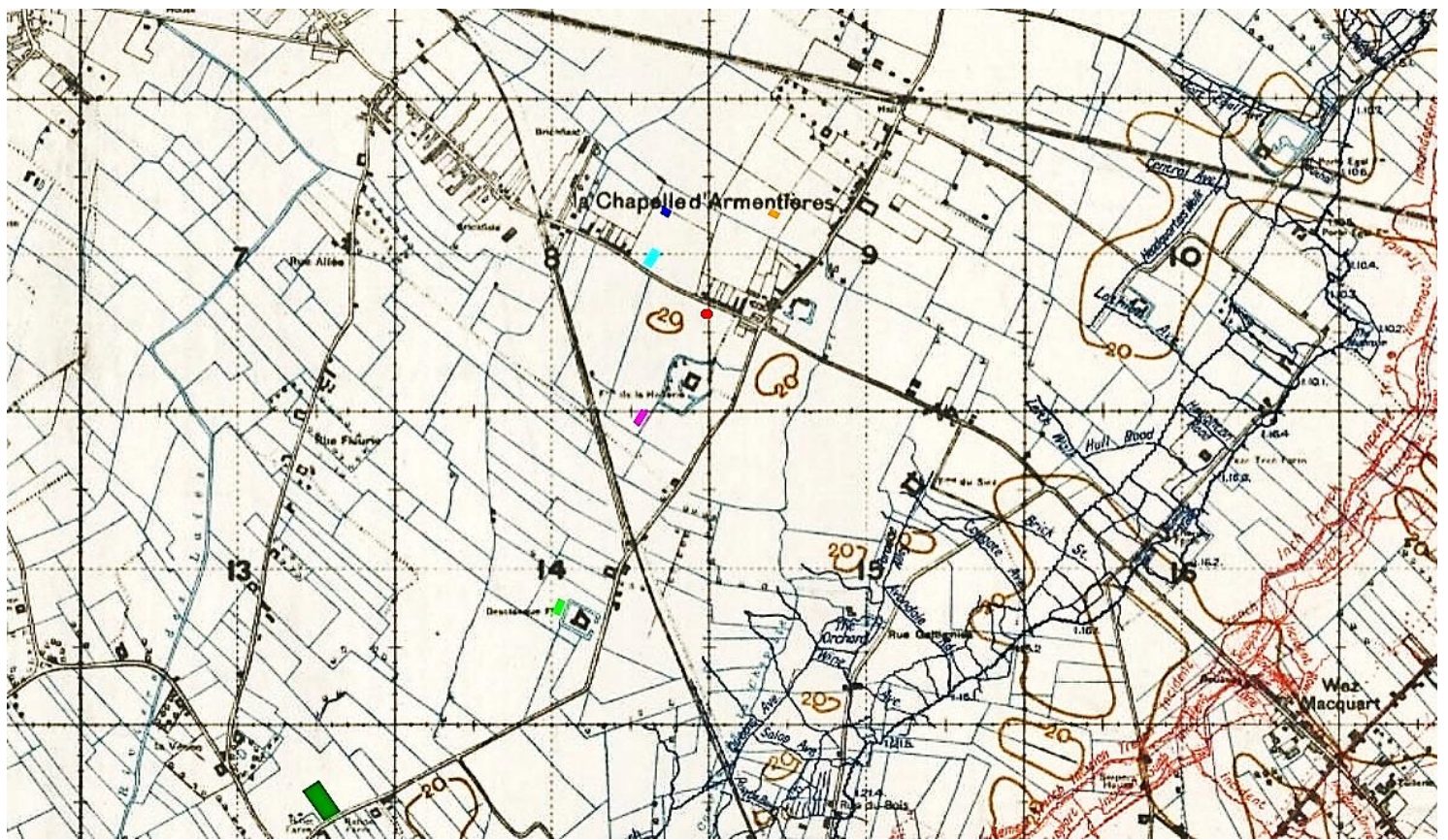
8 May Normal training during day. A night working party provided by 'A' Coy 2/10 KLR was about to commence work near I31.3 when our artillery opened in answer to SOS put up by BATTⁿ on the RIGHT – a heavy bombardment in form of Box Barrage was immediately opened by the BOSCH lasting for ½ hour. Our party were taken by surprise and suffered 17 casualties (five killed).

9/10 May Usual training by day. Working parties provided for front line at night.

10 May Considerable activity on back areas in this neighbourhood by Enemy artillery – one casualty suffered by Co. in sub-line. 'C' Company relieved 'B' Coy (both 2/10 KLR) in subsidiary line.


[Note: In a box barrage three or four barrages formed a box—or more often three sides of a box—around a position to isolate it. Standing or box barrages were often used for Defensive Fire tasks, in which the barrage was registered beforehand, on a position agreed with the defending infantry commander, to be called down in the event of an enemy attack on his positions. A box barrage could also be used to prevent the enemy from reinforcing a position to be attacked. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Barrage_\(artillery\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Barrage_(artillery))

Box Barrage: artillery fire aimed around a target area to prevent the enemy command from sending in reinforcements. <http://spartacus-educational.com/FWWbarrage.htm>]



The complex system of trenches south-east of Armentières in 1917. British and allied trenches are shown in dark blue, German in red; the more regular, lighter blue, lines are field boundaries and drainage ditches and contours are shown in brown. Several war cemeteries are shown on this map (the coloured symbols) but Erquinghem-Lys Churchyard Extension, where Charles Baker is buried, is outside this area.

KILLED IN ACTION.



Private C. J. Baker, twenty-five years of age, son of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Baker, of Parkgate, late of St. Andrew-street, Liverpool, was killed in action on May 8. He joined the King's (Liverpool) Regiment eighteen months ago. He was very popular, and an enthusiastic soldier. His death will be deeply regretted by all who know him.

PRIVATE C. J. BAKER.

Liverpool Echo - Wednesday 16 May 1917

Name.	Corps.	Rank.	Regd. No.
BAKER,	Lpool R	Pte	357347
Charles			
Medal.	Roll.	Page.	Remarks.
VICTORY	H/2/102-49	8167	
BATTLE			
STAR			
Theatre of War first served in			
Date of entry therein			

British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914-1920

On 29 September 1939 the 1939 Register recorded that William A Baker (unmarried, born 5 January 1888) was the licensed tenant of the Chester Hotel in Parkgate. Recorded with him at the hotel were his mother Margaret (widow, born 28 August 1870, unpaid domestic duties) and his unmarried sisters Gertrude (barmaid, born 7 October 1895) and Ada (barmaid, born 25 September [?] 1906). William Baker died, age 53, in the July / September quarter of 1941 and his mother, 'Maggie', died aged 91 in early 1962.

Transcription of family headstone Toxteth Park Cemetery

In Loving Memory of Lilly Baker who died
25th January 1884 aged 30 years.
Also Joseph Wood Baker, beloved twin
son of Margaret and Henry Baker, died
13 June 1901 in his 14th year.
Also Henry Baker, dearly beloved
husband of Margaret K. Baker, who died
20th August 1916, aged 68 years.
Also of dear Charlie, youngest son of
Margaret and Henry Baker,
killed in action in France
8 May 1917 aged 25 years.
Also Dorothy, beloved daughter of the
above Henry & Lilly Baker, who died
8th March 1948.

473130	4/3/1016	Baker, Charles	10th Batt	8-5-17	Preston	2	-	11	✓	2	11	2	m.o.i. 18/12/17	40: Margaret	2	11	2	
		"	Liverpool	France	5/17			10	3	✓			11.11.19	Mo. Margaret	4	10	-	
		"	Pte	"	5/17									K.				
			357347															
			6268															
				WAR GRATUITY.														
				Effects 19/20/28/8/19														
				Transfer 6/39														
				2/20/20														
				1/68/62-108														
				4 10 0														
A. F. W. 5070 SENT																		
DATE 4-7-19																		

Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects, 1901-1929

In Summer 1919 the army paid outstanding credits – mainly remaining wages – to soldiers or, in the case of those who had died, their family or nominated representatives. At the same time a War Gratuity was often paid.

Charles Baker had accrued a credit of £2 11s 2d, composed of a credit of £2 0s 11d and a credit of 10s 3d, and this was received by his mother Margaret. Margaret received also the £4 10s War Gratuity.

The total payment, £7 1s 2d, is approximately equivalent to a *labour value* (ie wages) of about £1100 in 2016.

The War Gratuity was introduced in December 1918 as a payment to be made to those men who had served in WW1 for a period of 6 months or more home service or for any length of service if a man had served overseas. The rules governing the gratuity were implemented under Army Order 17 of 1919 but the amount paid was related to the length of war service.

This record notes that Charles had previously had the Service Number 6268.

Dark clouds are smouldering into red
While down the craters morning burns.

The dying soldier shifts his head
To watch the glory that returns;
He lifts his fingers toward the skies
Where holy brightness breaks in flame;
Radiance reflected in his eyes,
And on his lips a whispered name.

You'd think, to hear some people talk,
That lads go West with sobs and curses,
And sullen faces white as chalk,
Hankering for wreaths and tombs and hearses.
But they've been taught the way to do it
Like Christian soldiers; not with haste
And shuddering groans; but passing through it
With due regard for decent taste.

"How To Die"
Siegfried Sassoon
(1886 – 1967)

