

**Charles Percy Phipps
(‘Uncle Charles’)**

The second son of the Rev. Canon Constantine Osborne and Mabel Phipps, of the Lee Vicarage



The Phipps family moved from Aylesbury to The Lee in 1914 when Canon Phipps became the vicar of The Lee. Front row: Mabel and Constantine Phipps. Back row: Charles, James (Jim), Joan and Evelyn



Canon Constantine Phipps in the uniform of an honorary chaplain to the 2/1st Bucks Battalion with his elder son Jim – a Regular soldier in the King’s (Liverpool) Regiment.

He was given a commission in 2nd Bucks Battalion in September 2014 and crossed to France with the Battalion as a Lieutenant.

Lt. Charles Percy Phipps. 12th December, 1895 – 19th July, 1916 – 2nd/1st Bucks (D Company)

Born 12th December, 1895 at The Vicarage, Aylesbury. He was educated at Cornwallis School, Maidenhead and at Winchester College. His father Canon Constantine Osborne Phipps was Vicar of Aylesbury and Rural Dean. He retired to be Vicar of the Lee in 1914.

Charles had left school, a boy of 18 years when he enlisted and then died aged 20 years old. in the Battle of Fromelles. 19th July, 1916. So tragic.

His father moved to The Lee in 1914. The parish where his daughter Evelyn lived whose husband Ivor Stewart-Liberty. His Great Uncle Sir Arthur Liberty lived in the Manor House and owned the estate., he died 13th May, 1917.

Ivor Stewart (Liberty) married Evelyn (nee Phipps) Charles' sister, on 2nd September, 1913. He added Liberty to his name as Sir Arthur Liberty had no children and Sir Arthur's sister Ada had married Donald Stewart, Ivor's father. They lived at Pipers Croft, The Lee, until Sir Arthur died in 1917 and then moved into The Manor. Inherited the Lee Manor Estate and the shop Libertys.

Uncle Charles was given a commission in the 2nd Battalion in September 1914 and crossed to France as a Lieutenant on the 25th May, 1916..

Grandfather (Ivor) wrote to Grandmother (Evelyn), Charles elder sister, "1 July: Charles was up last night – having a busy time. I hope he won't have to do anything violent – he's too young"

I think Uncle Charles' faith helped him. I have his miniature prayer book, and it opens at Psalm 16

"I will love thee, O Lord, my strength; the Lord is my stony rock and my defence: my Saviour, My God and my might, in whom I will trust, my buckler, the horn also of my salvation and my refuge.

I will call upon the Lord, which is worthy to be praised: so shall I be safe from mine enemies.

Also Psalm 56

Be merciful unto me, O God, for man goeth about to devour me: he is daily fighting, and troubling me.

Mine enemies are daily in hand to swallow me up: for they be many that fight against me, O thou most Highest.

Nevertheless, though I am sometime afraid: yet put I my trust in thee.

Uncle Charles it seems never adapted to army life, even in England. He had applied for a transfer to the Royal Flying Corps. Request turned down, but re-applied July 1916 the day before he was killed..

Uncle Charles moved to France 25th May, 1916, Landed at Le Havre 5 a.m.. Uncle Charles wrote "One man, talking about the crossing, said "Several were sick, but I managed to hold my own" I think that is ripping, don't you?

CHARLES PERCY PHIPPS. — The second son of the Rev. Constantine Osborne and Mabel Phipps of The-Lee Vicarage. He was given a commission in the 2nd Bucks Battalion in September 1914 and crossed to France with the Battalion as a Lieutenant. During an attack on the German lines near Laventie, on the evening of 19 July 1916, he was at the head of his platoon when a bullet broke his leg. His servant, Damant, of Marlow, lifted him up and tried to regain the British lines, when machine gun fire killed them both. He was educated at Cordwallis School, Maidenhead, and at Winchester College, and was in his 21st year when he died. *His name is in the house memorial on the wall, at High Wycombe*



Letter from Charlie Phipps to his brother Jim 12th June, 1916

My darling Jimmy,

Thanks so much for your letter.. You seem to have been having a hard time. I suppose you are still near the same place where you were when you went on leave?

Well here we are in three trenches and getting on fairly well, but these beastly shells seem to follow me about wherever I go.

I must try and meet you one day, I want to see you badl, but we are a good way from you.

The Russians are doing well aren't they? "What my Russians"! Some of these fellows writing home are damned funny – I like this kind of letter:

"My dear Mother, Just a line to say how we got over the duck pond safely and hope you are in the pink as this leaves me the same A.1. at present. Mother a lot of the boys were sick dear Mother and some were bloody sick!!" etc.

There is no news so I main stop and I reckon I ain't arf tired.

You must try and get over to see me one day soon.
Very best love old sport your loving brother Charles

"Bang" there goes another Lionel.

Janice

1. Charles could mean Lionel Crouch, "Lionel" a friend who also got killed at Fromelles.
2. This could have been the only lette he wrote to Jim?
3. Do you think Charles only got over to France in June as he wrote a letter from training in Salisbury in April, 1916? In that case he was only there for

4th March, 2010 Fenella

Letter from Charles to his Father 9th July, 1916

My darling Father,

Thank you very much for your letter and please thank Mother for the paper. I am glad Bunning is getting on "nicely".

We are in the trenches again but a few miles South of those which we were in last time., this part of the is fairly quiet so I don't mind them at present . But there is a horrible smell. I suppose it is dead bodies There are many graves all over the place. We were moved up here in a hurry while we were resting – rotten luck wasn't it.?

Atkinson and I applied for a transfer to the R. Flying Corps, we had a chance of applying today and our applicatio is bound to go through now.

I do hope you and Mother don't mind. There wasn't time to ask you whether I could apply the time because I had to apply now and not for sometime. It is much safer. in an aeroplane from down here!! I spend all in my time watching them. Good news again the Russians are doing splendidly and so are we down South and the French.

It is ripping of you to help our comfort food. We haven't had anything yet but we know summat will come soon. Thanks for Bunnings letter.

Very best love darling to you all. Your very loving son Charles.

Lt. Charles Percy Phipps miscellaneous memorabilia

He was the younger son of the Reverend Canon Constantine Phipps, The Lee Vicarage, Gt. Missenden, Buckinghamshire and brother to Major Constantine James Phipps. (Jim), who won the M.C., and D.S.O.

(H. 1907 – 1910) King's (Liverpool) Regiment, who died on active service with the 'flu' in February, 1919 – see individual entry. Both brothers came to Winchester College from Cornwallis School.

He was gazetted in October, 1914, to the Buckinghamshire battalion of the Oxford and Bucks Light Infantry and went to the Front in May, 1916.

At the same time with him was his brother-in-law Captain Ivor Stewart-Liberty, M.C. (G 1900-1905) who was married to Charles' Phipps sister Evelyn Catherine. Ivor would be wounded (lost his leg as a result) in same action in which Charles Phipps was killed.

On 10th June, Charles came under fire for the first time, and records in his diary "March to Laventie, Occupy trenches. Shelled directly we are in ... One shell exploded ten yards from me and made me slightly frightened for some hours."

A letter home dated 27th June describes how it "has been raining again and there us a horrible mess everywhere. It makes it very hard to walk about. Heaps of men are falling down in the mud all the time ... Cole was killed last week. Rotten luck but still there are bound to be some casualties. I had tea with Ivor the day before yesterday and I've never seen anyone so cheerful."

A diary entry the same day records how he took off his clothes for the first time in eighteen days.

On 1st July the British launched their great Somme offensive and Ivor wrote to his wife, Evelyn that "Charles was up (in the front line) last night having a busy time. I hope he won't have to do anything violent - he's too young ..."

On 17th July, 1916 the Oxford and Bucks L.I. were in position to attack a particularly strong German defence in an area known as 'The Sugar Loaf', near Fromelles on the Somme, which was full of machine guns and constructed in concrete. The attack was put off due to bad light and Charles platoon returned to their billets although their reprieve was short-lived and the following day they returned to the front line. Charles' diary records unfortunate incident that morning when A Company were gassed by their own shell landing on one of their gas cylinders, causing 78 casualties. At 11 a.m. the bombardment started and continued 7 hours. The German response wreaked havoc and by the evening nearly 100 men had been killed or wounded by shell-fire. His platoon had gone into battle with 20 officers, of which only 6 remained and 300 other ranks survived out of just 600.

Both Charles and his brother-in-law Ivor were casualties. Charles was head of his platoon when struck by a bullet, which broke his leg. His batman, 19 year old Private Damant, picked him up to try to carry him back to the British trenches but both were then struck by machine fire. Charles was killed instantly and Damant died later as is buried in grave XI.A.21 of the Merville Communal Cemetery. Ivor was severely wounded in the left leg, and Sergeant Joseph Petty spent the next 5 hours dragging him back to the British trenches. He survived the war.

Lt. Charles Phipps body was found at Fromelles in a field by a Lt. Kemp a year later. There were letters in his pocket to his sisters, Evelyn Stewart-Liberty and Joan Crouch. Lt. Kemp was going

back next day and mark where his body but he never got back as the regiment moved to different places the next day.

World War One:

Surname: Phipps

Forenames: Charles Percy

House: H

Years in School: 1909 -1912

Rank: Lieutenant

Date of Birth: 12th December, 1895

Date of Death: 19th July, 1916

How Died: Killed in action

Location in War Cloister: Pouter F2

Decoration: N/A

Burial Site: Unknown but commemorated on Panels 83-85 of the Loos Memorial.

Copy of letter from Lt. W. Gerard Kemp
Re. Lt. Charles Percy Phipps written to his father Canon Constantine Phipps

May 16. 1917

In the Field

Dear Sir,

I am writing to you with reference to several letters which I have found in "no mans' land" from which I gather they belonged to your son Lieut. Phipps (2/1st Bucks). I do not know what news you have had of him, fear you have never received anything official. I feel sure that you will like to know that these letters have been found. If you would like to have any further details of the circumstances under which they were found, the place, I shall be only too pleased to do anything I can.

I am, your sincerely, W. Gerard Kemp, 2Lt.
8th West Yorks Reg't

21st July, 1917

Dear Canon Phipps,

Many thanks for your letter of June 20th, which I found awaiting me on my return from leave. I am so sorry I did not get it before I left as I would have perhaps met you in London. I was in town on the 30th for the investiture at the Palace I got the M.C. in May last. We just managed to work in the investiture during my leave. When I wrote last we were expecting to take over a part of the Bosche line where I found your son's body. It was owing to the expected taking over that I said I hoped, in the near future, to be able to have a cross put up but the whole scheme fell through, and we were suddenly withdrawn from the sector. I find now we have quite lost touch with the spot.

However, if ever it does happen that the place becomes behind our line I can let you know the exact spot on the map. We have come to a new sector, not nearly so nice as it — and much more active. We have been very busy moving up, which progress took us some few days to complete. We billeted at some delightful spots on the way. Sea bathing was a great indulgence, but the jellyfish caused some little annoyance! Since our arrival here the Hun has caused us plenty of amusement and not a little discomfort!

We have very little time for much letter writing etc.

Kindest regards,
I am
sincerely your,
W Gerard Kemp
1/8th W. Yorks

**Constantine James Phipps, D.S.O., M.C.
(‘Uncle Jim’)**

The eldest son of The Rev. Canon Constantine Osborne and Mabel Phipps, of The Lee Vicarage



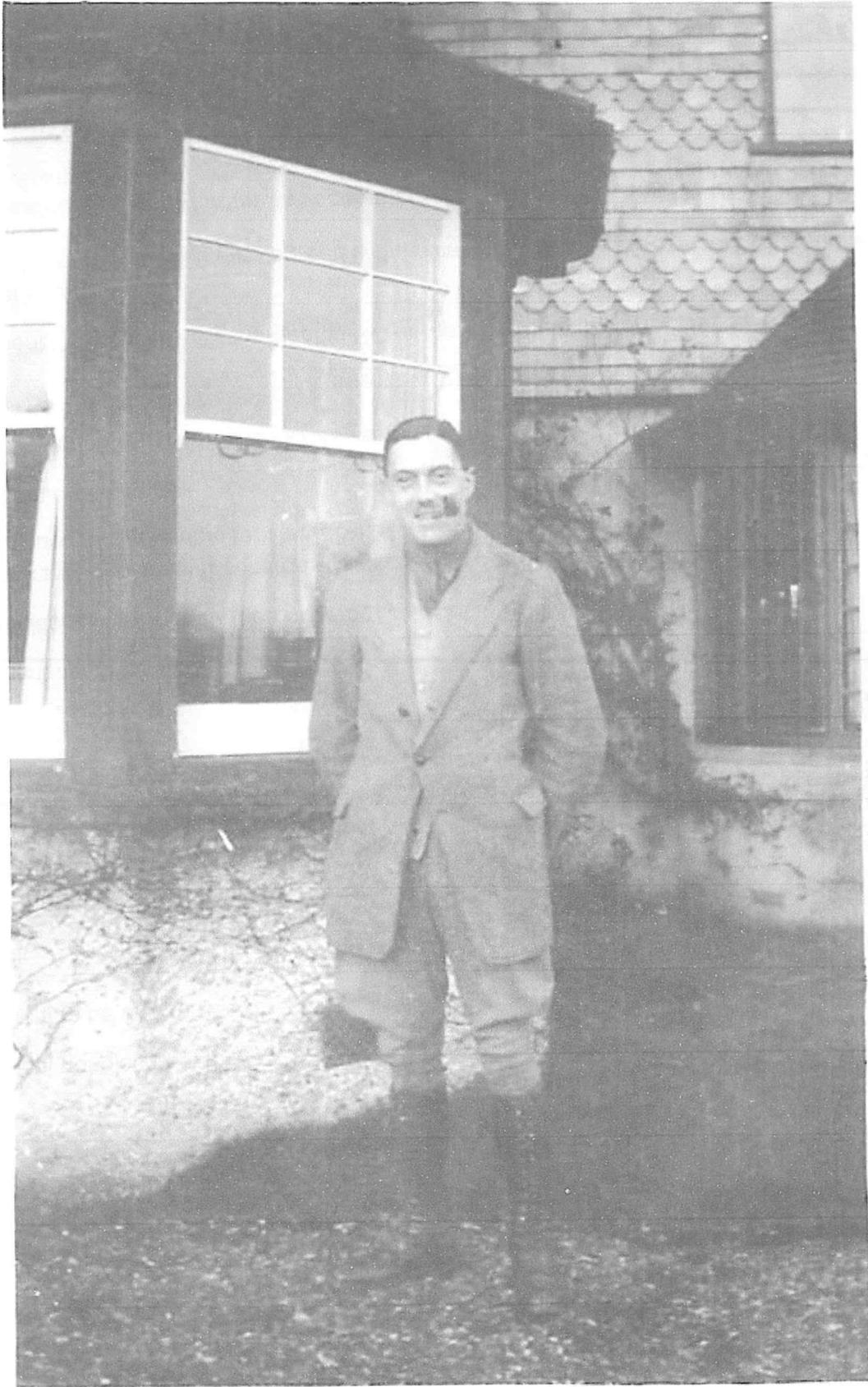
At the outbreak of the War, he was a 2nd Lieutenant in the 1st Battalion of The King’s (Liverpool) Regiment and crossed to France with that battalion on 12th August 1914.

He was wounded in the foot on the retreat from Mons. He soon rejoined his Regiment and was again wounded, this time in the chest, on 3rd March 1915 near Givenchy.

He gained a D.S.O. in January 1916, and the M.C. in January 1917 and was mentioned in dispatches three times, in 1915, 1917 and 1918.

During 1916 he was attached to the R.E. as a signalling officer and by 1918 he was a Major (one of the youngest in the British Army) and the Officer Commanding the 2nd Signal Company, R.E. with the 2nd Division.

Having served throughout the whole war with very exceptional brilliancy, he died of influenza and pneumonia at Duren, near Cologne, on 19th February 1919.



MAJOR C. J. PHIPPS, D.S.O. M.C.
(JIM)

Constantin James Phipps's
War Record.

1914. End of August. Wounded in the
foot.
1915. 3rd March. 6.0 a.m. Wounded in
the chest.
1916. 1 January. Mentioned in Despatches
" 13 " Military Cross
" 29 March. Decorated by King George V.
at Buckingham Palace.
" September. Captain.
1917. 15 March Major.
" 7 November. Mentioned in Despatches
1918. November. Mentioned in Despatches
1919. 1 January. D.S.O.
-

Regt 1300
CO 7

July 29th

darlings of Mother + Father

I was absolutely
at broken when I first
read your letters my darlings
I am a bit ashamed
now I know that my
whole darling Charlie is
affly with God in heaven
I cant bear to
think or talk about it
my darlings of course you
was only too well how
terrible I shall miss
em but I will be brave
my darlings. It was Gods
will & what God wishes
must be right & good.

Please thank dear Phyllis
& Mary for their very
comforting letters. Tell
them I simply cant write
about poor darling Charlie
I cant break my down
when I think of him
How I should
have loved to die for him
but it is Gods will.
I will come home
as soon as I can but it
is quite impossible just get
my darling for me too
busy. Dont worry about
me I am alright
With all my love to you
my own darlings & darling
Mum & paant. I am so sorry

July 29th

My darlingest Mother and Father,

I was absolutely heart broken when I first got your letters my darlings but I am a bit calmer now and I know that my darling darling Charlie is happy with God in heaven.

I cant bear to think or talk about it my darlings of course you know only too well how terribly I shall miss him but I will be brave my darlings. It was Gods will and what God wishes must be right and good.

Please thank dear Phyllis and Mary for their nice comforting letters, tell them I simply cant write about my darling Charlie.

I cant help breaking down when I think of him.

How I should have loved to die for him but it is God's will.

I will come home as soon as I can, but it is quite impossible just yet my darlings we are too busy. Don't worry about me I am alright.

with all my love to you my own darlings and darling Nin and Joanie. I am so sorry for Nin poor little darling but I am quite certain Ivor will soon be alright. They always put 'dangerous' in the telegram if the patient has to be carried on a stretcher as of course poor Ivor with a broken leg had to be carried on out.

Write soon my darlings and be brave and cheerful, darling Charlie is very very happy with God. I did so love him from your very own most loving son Jim

22/9/16.

darlingest Father

Thank you all so
 much for your letters. Well I've
 heard that I have been
 appointed a Captain now. Of course
 it is only a temporary Captain,
 which means that after the war
 may not necessarily remain
 Captain. I get the pay so I
 get to be fairly well off!!!
 It looks as if I
 may be able to get leave fairly
 soon now; I will give you as
 much warning as I can.

Simply lovely weather
 I have & I'm thoroughly enjoying
 I have work to look
 interesting like adjutant & officer
 Change of telephone wires needed.
 very interesting & plenty to do.

What is so nice is that I have
 a lovely office with all the
 necessary stationary etc. which
 had to get at a Bde HQ.
 I will be working in
 going to bed. Give lots of
 love to all at home from your
 devoted son,

[Signature]

May 2nd, 1917

Darlingest Mother & Father

So sorry again for writing for such a long time. Well of things have happened & I lost hold -

First of all I have given command of my equal

company. Seemingly this means it in a few days I shall be a major!! It does seem bound doesn't it.

I am very pleased about getting the company there are a great number of boys who I have passed over

Dont address me as major till I tell you but this is quite certain.

D. 189B

D. 1914

Myd

2445.

I dont think I like being major! I feel much too young.

I'm very very happy now enjoying lots of the work. I expect soon I shall be Captain to help me.

I must stop now - no time. Lots of my earnings I shall now about 500 a year!! So if want. Now now I can manage it very easily.

from your very lo
son.

Jim

P.S. Please show Mum & Pa very much for their letter

May 9th '17

My own Darlingest Mother & Father

Thank you both so much for your letters - Well we are now resting again after a fairly hard time. I'm so very sorry if you have been worried about me - but you know you must not as I've told you it is often difficult to find time to write. Anyway I'm very well, but very dirty!!! lots of bugs too!!!

This weather is perfectly lovely. I expect you are having it too. Everything is getting beautifully green again.

Just off to bed now. I have been made a major alright!! but I shall wait for the gazette before pulling up my crown. Lots of love my Darlinges from your very lovingest son. Jim

It was bilkley cold & we nearly
froze to death!!

If you hear of any body
(like Mrs Casper) wishing to give
me a Christmas present (1918)
I want an OTOTO fountain pen

I hope I am cold is
better. Give my best love to all
at home wishing Mother, some
love & all the wishes from your
very louvered son

Jim

Dec 20th 1918

My Darling est Father,

Thank you ever so much
for your Christmas present I feel a
awful brute taking it for as you so
im saving twice as much as you!
Did you notice in the Gazette that
I had been made a Temporary Capt
I did not but apparently I have
been with it from 17 Sept '18.
'Temporary' here really means
Permanent!! It means that although
we have got our full establishments
in the Regiment I'm made one
extra without waiting for a vacant
It shows my mind a bit better
I didn't buy much want to get
back as a result after being
a Major for 2 years!!

Jan 7th 1919

My darling
Mother & Father

Thank you both very

much darling for your very nice
congratulatory letters. Jim so glad
it has come through at last. Jim
very happy about it. Have had
all sorts of nice letters from
people at home. Jim enclosing
one from Tom Hannington
Deputy Chief of the Imperial
General Staff. He is a
General & was in the King's
ford before the war. My nice
of him to remember me
General) is awfully nice about

Jim very busy. Just at
the moment working in
shops on my office. My
difficult job on the whole

idea of having me at home
to sleep to say as at home
from your very loving
son

1
per

1919

It. He sent for me yesterday & congratulated me & then he showed me my Confidential report. I couldn't repeat the nice things he said!! Anyway he recommended me for a Colours job in the Signal Service. I don't want that job though as it is nothing like the interesting work we get in Dimeron. Well that's just enough about myself!!

I'm so glad you all had a good Christmas & New Year. We had a splendid

time out here.

We had a tremendous dinner the night before last in Commemoration of the DSO! The day after I played football. The Commemoration was in fact not very well timed because I didn't give it. I'm very much better than I was last night. I shall be up this afternoon. I hope to get on leave about the end of the month if everything goes well.

well. we are having a great time
in Dopen it is a very nice little
town.

we have got the most
wonderful mess, hot chili in
jerd as our bedroom. Our Anti-
room, which adjoins the mess
is very nice. It is heated by
Central heating & there is a very
pretty little fountain in the
middle! All lights there are 35
lights (electric) in the room
with really beautiful colored
shades & they are in silver
conceivable corner. The curtain
& hangings are a blue & grey
brown & all the furniture is
oak!!

It is on the whole, we
are extremely comfortable.

Hot balls every day & very
comfortable you can think of
just having our area here
we have struck the really rich
part of the town.

The people are just #
aligned & there are no signs of
any trouble whatsoever. we
walk about with whoppers - in case
we are doing very well in
business action. To us the

buy money worth 7d but to the
mark is worth 12. we are
Bosch it is worth 100 marks (for us) & we
would with 100 marks & we spend
it so it is worth £2.18.7. Not a
very good explanation in a word but
anyway we score on it!!

we had some yesterday
afternoon for about 1/2 hour just
then we were playing football

Feb: 15th '19

My darliquest Mother + Father.

Very much stronger
today & hope to get up for a
bit tomorrow. Thank you
both very much for your
letters. I saw Woodbyne again
this morning. He comes every
day to see me & tell me
all the news! So glad Joanie
is better again I expect we
both had the same sort of
flu. It's left me rather weak
about the knees but otherwise
no damage.

Well darlings lots of
love to all at home from your very
lovingest son.

Jim

Copy of letter from Lt. W. Gerard Kemp
Re. Lt. Charles Percy Phipps written to his father Canon Constantine Phipps

May 16. 1917

In the Field

Dear Sir,

I am writing to you with reference to several letters which I have found in "no mans' land" from which I gather they belonged to your son Lieut. Phipps (2/1st Bucks). I do not know what news you have had of him, fear you have never received anything official. I feel sure that you will like to know that these letters have been found. If you would like to have any further details of the circumstances under which they were found, the place, I shall be only too pleased to do anything I can.

I am, your sincerely, W. Gerard Kemp, 2Lt.
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21st July, 1917

Dear Canon Phipps,

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We have very little time for much letter writing etc.

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1/8th W. Yorks

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broken leg had to be
carried on one.

Write soon my
darlings & be brave &
cheerful, darling Charlie
is very very happy with
God. I did so love him
from your very own
most loving son
Jimmy

PETER

Major Constantine James Phipps, M.C., D.S.O., 2nd. Signal Coy, 2nd Division |Kings
Liverpool Regiment. Born November, 1893 and died 19th February, 1919

In this garden city of the German dead, where ever-greens, thick-set hedges and cypresses give a certain privacy to each lantern-guarded grave or bourgeois mausoleum, a little alley between two high hedges has been set aside for our English dead who have died in hospital in a German town. There are nearly two score of them, aligned on each side of the narrow muddy path, as close as the beds in a crowded hospital where they died. Most of the graves are mounded and tidy with rough headstones; but the newer ones at the further end are hidden by wreaths – bedraggled or artificial – which make a coverlet for the sodden earth. On no grave are there so many wreaths as on Peter's, the last of all, where loving hands has arranged them so that some are hang on trees behind to brood, like a reredos, above the profusion of lilies of the valley, Christmas roses, tulips and Roman hyacinths, framed in dusky foliage.

Below them, in this 'corner of a foreign field that is for ever England' lies Peter's slim body. 'Quis desiderio sit pudor aut modus tam car capitis?'

It seems so pitiful after all these strenuous years of fighting to die of pneumonia in a hospital, to die, as it were, of a chill emerging radiant from the Refiner's fire. Straight and true, gentle and unspoiled, he came out to France at the very beginning. He was wounded twice, on the **Aisne** and the **Givenchy**; and all the rest of the time he was working hard, methodically and cheerfully – diffusing the spirit that we regard and ideal but that has been very real in some precious lives all through the war – until at last he was given command of a Signal Company, a great responsibility for a boy of 22. And for two years he kept command, in fair times and in foul, in retreat and in advance, while older men marvelled how this unobtrusive, gentle-mannered boy, managed to imbue all his officers and men with such a glow of contentment and efficiency. They were a happy family, and now they are desolate. When he was very ill and suffering, his men arranged a service in the Church which they all attended to pray for his recovery; and when he was dead they gave him a funeral which in its reverent and loving detail was worthy of him.

For his was a single and devout heart. There was something of Hippolytus in him. He never forgot his prayers and was faithful and loyal in all his actions. The dinginess and pitifulness of his grave, and of those others, in the stillness of the German cemetery, are tempered by the pride of friendship and challenge of memory. Peter, with his dark eyes and loose-knit figure –graceful, charming, athletic – finished the war as he began it, steadfast and unflinching with the mind of a man and the heart of a boy – 'with hand made sure, clear eye and sharpen'd power' – and having reached the end of the course has gone to join the Great Company and has left us a fair and fragrant privilege – to speak of him among ourselves with honour and frankness, and to think of him in silence with love.

By Major Christopher Stone, A.D.C.

Major Ivor Stewart-Liberty, M.C.

Born in Nottingham, 15th March, 1887. Died 13th April, 1952 at The Lee.

7

Educated Winchester College and Christchurch, Oxford. Was a Barrister of The Lee, Inner Temple.

Moved to The Prebendal, Aylesbury, married Evelyn Phipps 2nd September, 1913. His uncle Sir Arthur Lasenby Liberty, built a house at The Lee, built a house for them at The Lee and called it Pipers Croft (now known as Pipers). They had 5 children: Susan, b. 1914; Arthur born 1916 ; Charles b. 1917; Jane b. 1919; and Faith b 1922

Enlisted October, 1914. Into 2nd/1st Bucks (D Company, in July, 1916, he was at the Battle of Fromelle, where his brother-in-law Charles Phipps was killed. Ivor was awarded the M.C. citation reads "He displayed complete disregard of born in 1861 at Chalvey, personal danger and by his fine example under heavy fire gave great encouragement to his men. He kept them together in the assault under heavy machine gun fire and led them to the enemy's trenches."

Ivor was severely wounded, and lost a leg. Sgt. Joseph Petty, who rescued Ivor was awarded the M.M.

After the War, when his Uncle, Sir Arthur Lasenby Liberty who died in May, 1917. Ivor took over running both The Lee Manor Estate and the shop Libertys in London. He used to play tennis, and go shooting on a pony.

Major Constantine James Phipps, D.S.O, M.C. (known as Jim) Eldest son of Canon Constantine Osborne and Mabel Phipps of The Lee Vicarage. Born 20th November, 1893, died 19th February, 1919, of influenza and pneumonia at Duren. Near Cologne. He was born at Cookham Dene where his father was Vicar. Was one of the youngest Majors in the army at the age of 25 years.

Canon Constantine Osborne Phipps, born 28th March, 1861 at Shepperton, died 1903 Married Jessie Mabel Challoner (Mabel) Had four children: Evelyn (married Ivor Stewart-Liberty) Joan (married Colonel Guy Crouch), James (C.J.) and Charles (C.O.) both his sons died in 1st World War.

Rowed for Oxford. Vicar of Aylesbury 1895 -1914 then moved to The Lee where Sir Arthur Lasenby Liberty built a Vicarage for him. (his Uncle-in-law).

His father was Rev. Pownoll William Phipps and Elizabeth (Bessie)



Wm. Stewart
1918.

Stewart

SWINE

Man Cowdy
by ~~Ph...~~

EXERPTS FROM "THE 2nd BUCKS BATTALION" by

Major-General J.C. SWANN, C.B.

Capt. V.W.H. RANGER Awarded the Military Cross 1 Jan 17
Crossed to France with the Battalion in May 1916; was
wounded whilst serving ~~in~~ with the Battalion.

Capt. I. STEWART-LIBERTY Awarded the military Cross on
23rd August 1916

Crossed to France with the Battalion in May 1916; was
wounded whilst serving with the Battalion.

"He displayed complete disregard of personal danger and by
his fine example under heavy fire gave great encouragement to
his men. He kept them together in the assault under heavy
machine-gun fire and led them to the enemy's trenches. He
was severely wounded."

Killed in action, or died of wounds, or were reported
"missing" whilst serving with the Battalion and dates of
the casualties:

Lt. C. P. Phipps 19 July 1916 (Crossed to France with
the Battalion in May 1916)

(Page 10) "After some two weeks in this sub-section the
Battalion was withdrawn on 15th July and marched back to
Laventie, where preparations were begun for the attack which
eventually took place on the 19th July, 1916, after being
postponed from the 17th.

The object in view by the Division was to render assist-
ance to the operations on the Somme by preventing the
withdrawal of German troops from this sector as reinforce-
ments.

"The Division was closed up on less than a brigade
frontage from opposite the Wick to Sugar Loaf salients, two
battalions from each Brigade were detailed for this attack,
the remaining two being in support.

"Of the 184th Brigade the R. Berks were detailed for
the right, the Bucks for the left of the attack. The 183rd
Brigade were on the right of the R. Berks, the Australians
on the left of the Bucks, but owing to the salient unable to
keep in touch.

"Battalion Headquarters were at a farm in front of
Picantin Post between that post and Jocks Lodge.

"The Oxfords and Gloucesters were in support and PTO

reserve near Sailly and at Estaires, and moved up during attack to positions in front of Bacquerot Street and to some strong posts in the vicinity.

"The formation of dumps of SAA rations, water, engineer stores, etc., necessitated heavy fatigue work for days beforehand, and even the troops detailed for the attack were not exempt up to the last moment.

"The preliminary bombardment which lasted for three days was carried out by some 350 guns of all calibres, RFA and RHA Batteries being pushed up to within a short distance of Tilleloy Street, many of them in exposed positions, where they suffered heavy casualties. On the afternoon of the 19th "lifts to barrage lines" were ordered for the artillery for certain periods, varying from four to ten minutes during which the infantry in the trenches were to show their bayonets, and steel helmets, over the parapets, and officers were to whistle and shout orders with the view of inducing the enemy to man his parapet and thereby incur heavy casualties, when the artillery shortened the range on to the front parapet and continued the intense bombardment of the front and support lines.

"During the last phase of the bombardment the attacking infantry was to issue through the sally ports and gaps cut in their wire and deploy in No Man's Land in four waves, the leading wave within 80 yards of the enemy's parapet, if possible, and 50 yards between waves. The assault was timed for 6 p.m.

"In the Battalion A Company, commanded by Captain H. Church, and D, commanded by Captain I. Stewart-Liberty, were detailed for the attack. On the 18th, A Company had lost 78 men owing to a short shell from one of our own guns falling on a gas cylinder and bursting it in the trench. This had necessitated filling up the ranks of the Company with men from the reserve and from a newly-arrived draft, but it was still much under strength. On the 19th, owing to the restricted front and consequent crowding in the trenches, the casualties were very heavy amounting to nearly 100 killed and wounded before the companies moved out to deploy for the assault. Luckily, it was not necessary to use the sally ports, which in the case of other units caused heavy losses at the start, as they had been located by the enemy, and were effectively covered by machine gun fire. A better way had been found, and at 5-40 p.m. the assaulting companies filed out into No Man's Land by way of Rhondda Sap and lay down in four waves. In order to complete the waves C Company, commanded by H.S.G. Buckmaster, had followed A and D, and B, commanded by Captain R. F. Symonds, moved in to hold and garrison the line.

Cont'd

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"At 6 p.m., with a cheer the four waves leaped up and assaulted the enemy's trenches. The advance was described by an officer of the RAF, observing for the Artillery, as magnificent. Not a man was seen to waver, but the fire brought to bear was annihilating. Even before 5.40 p.m. the enemy machine guns had begun to get busy, and at 6 p.m. they literally mowed down the advancing ~~wag~~ waves; only a few men actually reached the German parapet, some were seen actually on the parapet, and may have got in, but none got back.

"By 6.30 p.m. it was evident that the attack had failed, but it has been asserted that success could have been secured had it been possible to bring two fresh companies to the assault. No reserves, however, were available; B Company was fairly intact, but definitely marked for garrison duty in the line - a few orderlies, telephone operators, etc., were with Headquarters, and the small remnant of the assaulting companies, who survived, were in No man's Land awaiting darkness to get back. All the officers of the three companies that had gone out were either killed or wounded except one. The position was reported to the Brigade Headquarters and orders received to re-organize and attack again at 8.30 p.m. Re-organization was effected so far as possible by taking 40 men from B Company and collecting about 80 more from the other companies. As soon as this had been carried out, orders were received first, postponing, and finally cancelling the fresh attack.

"In hardly any other portion of the attack of the two Divisions was any greater success obtained. A party of the Worcesters on the right, opposite Fauquissart, gained a footing in the enemy's line, but could not be supported, and few were able to get back. The same thing happened to an Australian Battalion on the left. On no other part of the line was any impression made. The attack, therefore, though successful in preventing the withdrawal of infantry or guns to reinforce in withstanding the offensive on the Somme, failed to gain the local objective, "the capture and occupation of the German front and support line on this side of the River Hayes."

"Incidentally the enemy incurred heavy casualties though not nearly so heavy as was calculated during the progress of the bombardment. Their line was lightly held by infantry, great reliance being placed on their numerous and well-trained machine gun teams, their bomb-proof shelters were efficient, and they persistently declined to be misled by the appearances of imminent attack stage-managed for their benefit. Yet at the moment of the real attack they were all there; and from the action of their machine gun teams it would seem that their Intelligence Officers had "inferred"

zero with considerable accuracy.

"The casualties in the Battalion, which had gone into action with 20 officers and 622 other ranks, were 322 of all ranks during the 18th and 19th July.

killed.

Capt. H. Church
— Lieut. C.P. Phipps
2nd Lt. H.R.N. Brewin
2nd Lt. F.R. Parker
and 62 other ranks

Died of Wounds:
Lieut. D. G. Chadwick

Wounded:

Capt. I. Stewart-Liberty. 2nd Lt. B.H. Drakes
Capt. V.W.G. Ranger 2nd Lt. G.D.W. Oliver
2nd Lt. H.G. Baddeley 2nd Lt. J.S. Rutherford
and 180 other ranks

Missing (all believed killed).

Lieut. G.W. Atkinson 2nd Lt. R.B. Hudson
and 65 other ranks.

"For conspicuous services rendered during this action the military Cross was awarded to Captain I. Stewart-Liberty, Capt. J.E.S. Wilson (RAMC), 2nd Lieut. B.H. Drakes, 2nd Lieut. A.H. Phillips; the Distinguished Conduct Medal to RSM E. Jones and Corporal F. Gurney; and the Military Medal to Sergeant J. Petty, Corporal T. Oldroyd, Corporal SR Hayers, Lance-Corporal R. Francklowe, Private W. Sanders.

"At 1 a.m. on the 20th, the Battalion, on relief by the 2/4th Oxforde, withdrew to its billets near Laventie, and at 10 a.m. was conveyed by motor bus to Estaires.

"In a Division Order of that date the GOC expressed his appreciation of the conduct of all arms on the previous days, "The Division has not only fought gallantly, but all ranks in every arm and service have carried out in the most exemplary and devoted manner, working day and night, an amount of work which has highly tested their endurance and discipline and merits my unqualified praise."

"On the following date GHQ wired to the Division, "Please convey to the troops engaged on night of 19th, 20th, my appreciation of the gallant effort and the thorough preparation made for it. I wish them to realize that their enterprise has not been by any means in vain, and the gallantry, with which they carried out the attack, is fully recognised. -- Chief." "



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In Memoriam

Thy Life light flickers, falls the eventide
Thus the Death Angel, speaking tenderly –
Fear not the River, on the other side
With hands outstretched, stands one to welcome thee

CONSTANTINE OSBORNE PHIPPS was born at Brighton in March, 1861, where his father was Curate at St. John's Church, Hove. He was educated at Marlborough and at Exeter College, Oxford, where he was a well-known cricketer. Ordained in 1885, he was for three years curate of All Saints, Fulham, where he came under the influence of the Great Archbishop Temple, whose piety and rugged simplicity made a life long impression on the young curate. Whilst a curate he married Miss Mabel Challinor and began their happy married life, which death alone terminated. In 1888 he became Vicar of Cookham-Dean, remaining there until 1895, when he became Vicar of Aylesbury. Here he spent the happiest days of his life, full of enthusiasm for his work, surrounded by friends and helpers, his children growing up. He worked hard and enjoyed it all; if he had one more interest than another it was in the children of the schools to whom he was always devoted; and they to him.

After 19 years of such strenuous life he thought it would be for the advantage of the town to have a change, and so accepted the offer of the Living of The Lee, made by his old friend Sir Arthur Liberty, coming here just after War had broken out. Here he realised his parochial duties would be less, so accepted the post of Rural Dean for Wendover Deanery, and at once threw himself into the life of the Parish and became the friend of all. His intense love of children led him to start a service for them, which was always well attended not only by the children who loved it and him, but also many parents. Everything pointed to quiet happiness and good work, but it was not to be.

In July, 1916, his younger son Charles was killed at The Battle of Laventie, a terrible blow to his parents; but this was not all, for, early in 1919 his elder son Jim, who had gone to France with original Expeditionary Force and fought all through with great distinction died at Cologne from influenza. This was in truth the Canon's death blow; he was never the same man again. He tried to rally and to seek an anodyne in harder work, but it was useless, and the effort only brought on the attack of heart trouble, which proved fatal. For months past he had been failing and I feel confident, knew that the end was not very far off. Perhaps I may claim to have been intimate with him as anyone, but even to me he never mentioned his sons till quite lately, but then talked freely about them both, as if it did not matter now. I can never be too thankful that I had the opportunity of presenting him to the Prince of Wales, who, I know spoke to him in a most charming way about them both.

He has left us, and none of those who we know what a life of suffering his was for the last year or more, could wish him to be anywhere at rest. We who are left shall miss him, not only now, but always...

His life, however, is there for us to follow and if we can in some small way, live the life of open-handed generosity, sincerity of belief, humble-mindedness and consideration of feelings and religious beliefs of others, our lives, like his, will not have been lived in vain..

W.A.

(written by W.A./Cummins – Ivor's brother in-law, my Uncle Budgie)