

Certificate of attestation on enlistment of Private Herbert Charles Bills, RAMC. With messages to his mother, Mrs. M. Huggins of Gillingham, Kent, re his death from wounds on 3 September 1917, and a letter, 1922, enclosing the British War and Victory Medals awarded to him posthumously

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Record Office,
Woking
May 1922.

Madam,

I am directed to transmit to you the accompanying
British War & Victory medals
which would have been conferred upon N^o 79109
Pte Herbert Charles Bills R.A.M.C.
had he lived, in memory of his services with the
British Forces during the Great War.

In forwarding the Decoration I am commanded
by the King to assure you of His Majesty's high
appreciation of the services rendered.

I am to request that you will be so good as to
acknowledge the receipt of the Decoration on the
attached form.

I am, Madam,

Your obedient Servant,

M^{rs} M. Huggins
15 Dane Hill
Gillingham

C. R. Evans Colonel
Officer i/c Records.

17 9. 17

RAME
1736

My Dear Mrs Huggins

I received
your letter a few days ago
for which very many thanks.
We were all so very sorry
for the death of your son.
& we deeply sympathize with
you in your loss. He was
such a bright man & most
attentive to his duties. & we
trust that your & our loss will
be his gain. This is a terrible
war & we shall rejoice when
we see the dawn of peace.
Re the property of your son

you want to be done if it is
within my power it shall be so
Trusting you are bearing it
bravely

I Remain yours

Sincerely J J George

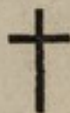
Sgt

no doubt you have received
it ere this, as far as I know
he had his ring on his finger,
when I left him. He did not
consent for me to write to
anyone for him until the
last minute, then he gave
me your address & his young
lady. The latter I have so
far not heard from.

I sincerely hope that you
have received his property
ere this, any further information
you want if I can give it
I will but I am afraid there
is not any more that I know
of. Still if there is anything

RAME 1736

H: 17:17-



My dear Mr. Higgins

It is with profound regret that I, the
Church of England Chaplain attached to No. 4
Casualty Clearing Station, write to tell you of
the death of your gallant son Pte. H. C. Bills.

79109. R.A.M.C. 150th Amb. at 1 p.m. yesterday.

I officiated at his Funeral this morning.
The place of Burial and particulars of Grave may
be obtained from the Graves Commissioners,
The Base, B.E.F.

I am indeed sorry that I can give you no
particulars as to how he met his death, for I
possess no further information that I can give you.

A man cannot do a nobler, or a more
heroic, deed than to die fighting for his King and
Country, and in the Cause of Honour, Freedom,
and all that Christianity stands for.

*He was admitted here on 2nd Sept. suffering
from Gunshot wound ^{in chest} & fractured humerus Right
The doctors ascertained that he was too ill to
feel much pain.*

*All that skill, care & attention could do was done for
him by our ^{most} Doctors & Nurses.*

Yours truly,

GERARD M. DAVIDSON, C.F.

4 C.C.S. B.E.F.

He sent no message but then these very
scarcely wounded. I never hardly ever do.

I prayed with him before his death
he prayed for you & all he loved.

He died quite peacefully with his
thoughts full of love for you & all
he loved right up to the end.

May God in His Divine Love
& Compassion help & strengthen the
comfort you.

Edward Davidson

GERARD M. DAVIDSON, C.E.

1002
R.F.F.

In the Field
4/9/17

Dear Mr. Huggins

Your Dear Son - The H.C. Bills
was seriously wounded yesterday
morning, - while helping to dress
& comfort others, at this
Advanced Dressing Station -
by a wound in the Chest.
He was very brave & we sent
him to the nearest hospital -
after dressing ^{his wound} ~~him~~ - I went
over to see him last night - &
found that every thing was
being done for him. That was
possible - This morning, I
learned, that he had been
'Called away' during the night

we all feel his Death very much,
he was such a Splendid man, so
brave & plucky, & was so
kind & gentle. When dressing
others - & set such a high
standard to others -
I shall miss his dear &
lovely face very much -
& we all very sadly feel
his loss - I wish I could
say something to help you
in this cruel trouble -
He could not have lost his life
in nobler work, & no man
has served his fellows & his
Country more nobly than he
has - I send you the very deepest
sympathy. & that of my Officers
& N.C. Officers & men who all loved
your dear boy. Yours sincerely
John D. Dore



BUCKINGHAM PALACE.

I join with my grateful people
in sending you this memorial
of a brave life given for others
in the Great War.

George R.I.



The King commands me to assure you
of the true sympathy of His Majesty and
The Queen in your sorrow.

Herby.

Secretary of State for War.

R.A.M.C. 1736

No. R.O. 338/6/1542
(If replying, please
quote above No.)

ARMY FORM B. 104-82.

R. A. M. C. Record Office,
Woking
10th September 1914

Madam,

It is my painful duty to inform you that a report has been received from the War Office notifying the death of:—

(No.) 49109 (Rank) Private
(Name) Herbert Charles Bills,
(Regiment) R.A.M. Corps, 130 Field Ambulance,
which occurred in a casualty clearing station, France,
on the 3rd September 1914

The report is to the effect that he died of wounds
received in action.

By His Majesty's command I am to forward the enclosed message of sympathy from Their Gracious Majesties the King and Queen. I am at the same time to express the regret of the Army Council at the soldier's death in his Country's service.

I am to add that any information that may be received as to the soldier's burial will be communicated to you in due course. A separate leaflet dealing more fully with this subject is enclosed.

I am,

Madam,

Your obedient Servant,

J. Thomson Colonel,
Officer in charge of Records.

Mrs M. Huggins,
15 Dances Hill,
Gillingham,
Kent.

NOTE.

If any articles of private property left by the deceased are found, they will be forwarded to this Office, but some time will probably elapse before their receipt, and when received they cannot be disposed of until authority is received from the War Office. Some delay is therefore inevitable.

Any application regarding the disposal of any such personal effects, or of any amount that may eventually be found to be due to the late soldier's estate, should be addressed to "The Secretary, War Office, ^{*The Imperial Institute,*} ~~Park Buildings,~~
^{*South Kensington,*}
London, S.W. ^{*7.*}

Rm C 1736

SHORT SERVICE.

(For the Duration of the War.)

NOTICE to be given to a MAN at the time of his offering to
join the Army.

Date

Nov 15 1915

You (name)

are required to attend* forthwith, or

at _____ o'clock _____ on the _____ day of _____

at _____ [here name some place]

for the purpose of appearing before a Justice to be attested for His Majesty's Army
in which you have expressed your willingness to serve.

The General Conditions of the Contract of Enlistment that you are about
enter into with the Crown are as follows:—

1. You will engage to serve His Majesty as a Soldier in the Regular Forces for the duration of the war, at the end of which you will be discharged with all convenient speed. If employed with Hospitals, Depots or Mounted Units, and as Clerks, etc., you may be retained after the termination of hostilities until your services can be spared, but in no case can this retention exceed six months.
2. Your term of Service will be reckoned thus:—
 1. The Service shall begin to reckon from the date of Attestation, but
 2. If guilty of any of the following offences:—
 - (a) Desertion from His Majesty's Service, or
 - (b) Fraudulent Enlistment,
 the whole period of Service prior thereto shall be forfeited.
3. You will be enlisted for General Service.**
4. If serving beyond the seas at the time you are entitled to your discharge, you will be sent to the United Kingdom free of expense.
5. When attested by the Justice you will be liable to all the provisions of the Army Acts for the time being in force.
6. You will be required by the Justice to answer the questions printed on the back hereof, and you are warned that if you make at the time of your attestation any false answer to him you will thereby render yourself liable to punishment.

Signature of the Non-Commissioned }
Officer serving the Notice }

* The Recruit is to have the option of being attested either forthwith, or at a future time. If he wishes to be attested forthwith, the words "or at _____ o'clock on the _____ day of _____" (in line 3) will be erased. If he does not wish to be attested forthwith, the hour (with the letters a.m. or p.m. as the case may be), the day, and the month will be inserted, and the words "forthwith, or" (in line 2) will be erased.

** Under the provisions of the Army (Transfers) Act, 1915, a soldier during the present War may be transferred without his consent to any Corps notwithstanding that that Corps is not of the same arm or branch of the Service as the Corps in which he was previously serving.

[TURN OVER.]

Stoke Kent

CERTIFIED COPY OF ATTESTATION.

No. _____

Name _____

Corps *Ramc*

Questions to be put to the Recruit before enlistment.

1. What is your Name? ... *Herbert Charles Bills*
2. What is your full Address? ... *15 Daniel Hall
Gillingham Road*
3. Are you a British Subject? ... *yes*
4. What is your Age? ... *23* Years ... *July 22* Months
5. What is your Trade or Calling? ... *Hospital Attendant*
6. Are you Married? ... *no*
7. Have you ever served in any branch of His Majesty's Forces, naval or military, if so, *which? ... *no*
8. Are you willing to be vaccinated or re-vaccinated? ... *yes*
9. Are you willing to be enlisted for General Service? ... *yes*
10. Did you receive a Notice and do you understand its meaning, and who gave it to you? ... *yes* { Name *Sp. Clerk*
Corps *Reg. Buff*

you willing to serve upon the following conditions provided His Majesty so long require your services?

the duration of the War, at the end of which you will be discharged with all ...
ent speed. If employed with Hospitals, depots of Mounted Units, and as Clerks, etc., you
retained after the termination of hostilities until your services can be spared, but such
shall in no case exceed six months.

Herbert Charles Bills do solemnly declare that the above
de by me to the above questions are true, and that I am, willing to fulfil the engagements made.

Herbert Charles Bills SIGNATURE OF RECRUIT.
Wm. Harry Seabrook Signature of Witness.

OATH TO BE TAKEN BY RECRUIT ON ATTESTATION.

I, _____ swear by Almighty God, that I will be
faithful and bear true Allegiance to His Majesty King George the Fifth, His Heirs and Successors, and that I will, as
in duty bound, honestly and faithfully defend His Majesty, His Heirs and Successors, in Person, Crown, and dignity
against all enemies, and will observe and obey all orders of His Majesty, His Heirs and Successors, and of the Generals
and Officers set over me. So help me God.

CERTIFICATE OF MAGISTRATE OR ATTESTING OFFICER.

The Recruit above named was cautioned by me that if he made any false answer to any of the above questions he
would be liable to be punished as provided in the Army Act.

The above questions were then read to the Recruit in my presence.

I have taken care that he understands each question, and that his answer to each question has been duly
entered as replied to, and the said Recruit has made and signed the declaration and taken the oath before me at

on this _____ day of _____ 191 .

Signature of the Justice _____

I certify that the above is a true copy of the Attestation of the above named Recruit

Approving Officer.

* If so, the Recruit is to be asked the particulars of his former service, and to produce, if possible, his Certificate of Discharge, and Certificate
of Character, which should be returned to him conspicuously endorsed in red ink, as follows, viz. :—(Name) _____
re-enlisted in the (Regiment) _____ on the (Date) _____