Rifleman Charles Oliver Bates, 1894 -25th April 1917 (Aged 23)

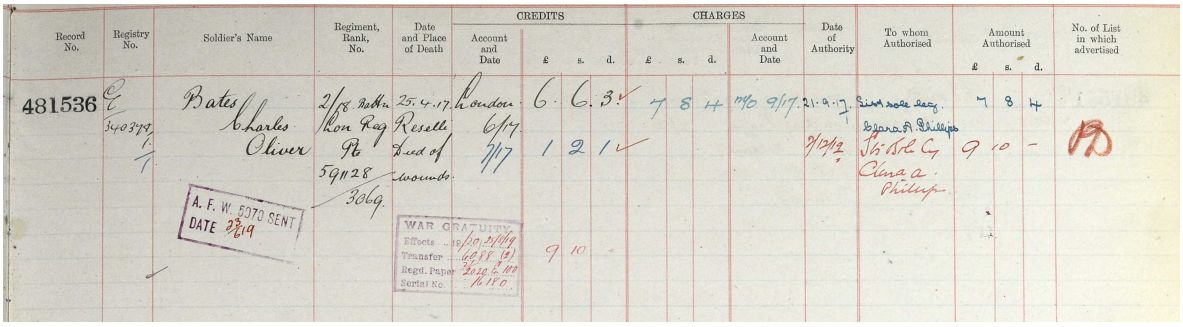
Early life

Charles Oliver Bates was born in Bromley, in the Poplar Borough of London, to Charles and Mary Bates. His father worked as a General Labourer at a gas works. He was the youngest of four children, and his elder siblings were Henry, Amy and Tom. In 1911, aged 17, Bates was working as a Clerk at a local coal office.

Photograph of the 2nd Battalion, London Irish Rifles during the First World War. Found at LondonIrishRifles.com

University of London

Bates worked as an Attendant at the University. He was able to take up his work for a short time before enlisting. He left his duties at the University, joining the 2/18th Battalion, London Regiment (London Irish Rifles) in October 1914, enlisting in Chelsea. His name is mentioned in the University's *Pro Patria* list, documeting his regimental details as of February 1915.



Record No.	Registry No.	Soldier's Name	Regiment, Rank, No.	Date and Place of Death	CREDITS Account and Date	£	s.	d.	CHARGES £	s.	d.	Account and Date	Date of Authority	To whom Authorised	Amount Authorised £	s.	d.	No. of List in which advertised
481536	E 340379	Bates Charles Oliver	2/8 Bn Lon Reg Pte 59128 3069	25.4.17 Salonika Died of wounds	London 6/17 7/17	6 1	6 2	3 1	7	8	4	M/O 9/17	21.9.17	Sister Rose Reg. Sgt Ernest A. Phillips 2/18 Bn L.R. Cy Elna A. Phillips	7 9/12	8 10	4 -	13

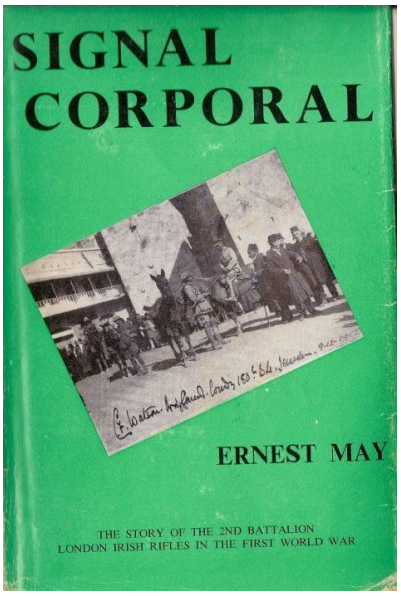
A. F. W. 5070 SENT DATE 2/3/19

WAR GRATUITY Effects 10/0 21/10/19 Transfer 60/18 (2) Regd. Paper 3020 £100 Serial No. 76140

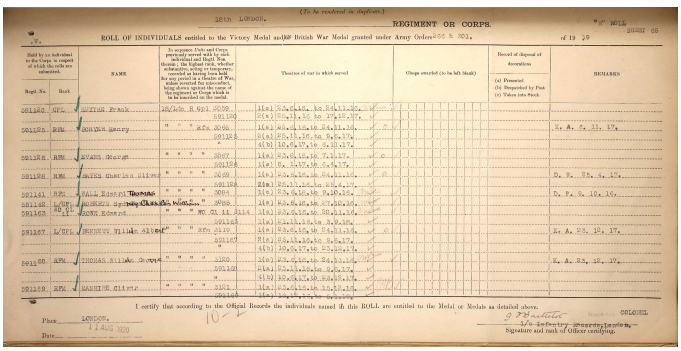
Bates' Register of Effects, found in Ancestry.co.uk Military Records

The Great War

The London Irish Rifles were given orders to be raised in London on 31st August 1914. Whilst still located in England, the battalion were stationed around London, moving to St. Albans in March 1915, to Bishop's Stortford in May, and on to Sutton Veny in January 1916. On 23rd June 1916, the London Irish landed at Le Havre, France. The unit was taken to the front almost immediately, and saw their first front line action near Vimy Ridge at the beginning of July. The London Irish remained in France until November. Travelling aboard the s.s. Caledonia and landing at Salonika in Greek Macedonia, the battalion spent six difficult months there until June 1917. Although Turkish forces were entrenched far enough away to create a 'no-man's-land' in-between, the battalion had to endure a very severe winter, and the cold and strong winds could cause a chill, particularly when men were exposed to the open. Spending cold nights in tents, several men were lost through exposure and exhaustion. Bates died of wounds in Salonika, on 25th April 1917. He was buried in the Karasouli Military Cemetery in Greece, and is commemorated at Senate House. In August 1920, Bates was among the names of the 18th London Regiment that were posthumously awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.



Signal Corporal by Ernest May tells the story of the 2nd Battalion, London Irish Rifles in the First World War.



(To be rendered in duplicate.)

2/8th LONDON. REGIMENT OR CORPS.

ROLL OF INDIVIDUALS entitled to the Victory Medal and British War Medal granted under Army Orders 205 & 301.

Regd. No.	Rank	NAME	Theatres of war in which served	Clasps awarded (to be left blank)	Record of disposal of decorations (a) Presented (b) Despatched by Post (c) Taken into Stock	REMARKS
681160	Cpl.	ARTHUR Frank	16/Lon. R 921 8509 681160	1(a) 25.6.16 to 22.11.16. 2(a) 23.11.16 to 17.12.17.		
681161	Rfm.	ASHTON Harry	" " " 4/Lon. 2096 681161	1(a) 25.4.16 to 3.11.16. 2(a) 25.11.16 to 5.6.17. 3(a) 12.6.17 to 3.12.17.		H. A. R. 25. 12. 17.
681162	Rfm.	AYANG George	" " " " 2807 681162	1(a) 25.6.16 to 3.12.17. 1(a) 6. 12.17 to 3.4.17.		
681163	Rfm.	BATES Charles Oliver	" " " " 2459 681163	1(a) 25.4.16 to 24.11.16. 2(a) 25.11.16 to 3.4.17.		D. W. 25. 4. 17.
681164	Rfm.	BALL Joseph Thomas	" " " " 2064 681164	1(a) 25.4.16 to 9.10.16. 2(a) 10.10.16 to 3.4.17.		D. P. R. 10. 10.
681165	L/Cpl.	BARKER Sydney Charles Wilkinson	" " " " 2869 681165	1(a) 25.4.16 to 27.10.16. 2(a) 28.10.16 to 3.4.17.		
681166	Rfm.	BOND Robert	" " " " 2C R 11 2114 681166	1(a) 25.4.16 to 3.0.16. 2(a) 4.11.16 to 3.4.17.		
681167	L/Cpl.	BRIGGS William Albert	" " " Rfm 2119 681167	1(a) 25.4.16 to 3.4.17. 2(a) 25.4.16 to 3.4.17.		H. A. R. 25. 12. 17.
681168	Rfm.	THOMAS William Joseph	" " " " 1182 681168	1(a) 25.4.16 to 3.4.17. 2(a) 25.4.16 to 3.4.17.		H. A. R. 25. 12. 17.
681169	Rfm.	BARNIER Oliver	" " " " 2121 681169	1(a) 25.4.16 to 15.9.16. 2(a) [illegible]		

I certify that according to the Official Records the individuals named in this ROLL are entitled to the Medal or Medals as detailed above.

Place LONDON. Date 12 AUG 1920

Lt-Colonel Commanding 2/8th Infantry Regiment, London R.

Signature and rank of Officer certifying.

COLONEL

Service Medal and Award Roll, 1920. Found in Ancestry.co.uk Military Records