

## CHARLES EDWARD HALE

19.11.1895–26.9.17 aged 22 years

Lance-Corporal 266936 2<sup>nd</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> (Robin Hood Rifles) Sherwood Foresters



Charles was born in Gotham one of twins born to Alice and Cornelius Hale of Nottingham Road, but in 1906 the family moved to Birkin Avenue, Hyson Green. Charles' eldest brother remained in Gotham.

Charles and his twin, Ernest, both volunteered, but served in different regiments. Charles was killed in action in the attack on Wieltje in the Passchendaele offensive. The battalion war diary is quite detailed and has the operational order for the attack which states 'The brigade will attack the system of enemy trenches, strong points and shell holes between D14 and D90 (map references) 177 infantry brigade will attack right and 175 attack left in two waves. On the left the 2/7<sup>th</sup> will capture S area. The battalion will form up under cover of darkness the night before 'O' day'. The battalion diary records; 26<sup>th</sup> Sept 1917. Battalion attacked on a two Company frontage as per orders. All objectives gained and maintained in spite of heavy enemy counter attacks. 28<sup>th</sup> Sept 1917 Battalion relieved by 2/6<sup>th</sup> South Staffs Rgt and moved back to support at Schuller Galleries. 29<sup>th</sup> Sept 1917 back to billets at Vermertinghe. Casualties 1 officer killed, 7 wounded, 36 ORs killed, 238 wounded, 48 missing.

Charles was fortunate to have received a burial. Thousands of men killed in the Passchendaele campaign have no know grave, having been blown to pieces or buried in the deep glutinous mud for which the campaign is infamous. George is buried in Tyne Cott CWGC cemetery row VI D 13. See also George Bowley; same Regiment, same Bttm, killed same day in the same attack and Herbert Hallam also killed at Wieltje and recorded at Tyne Cott.

Although serving in a different part of France, Ernest had an overwhelming sense of loss on the 26<sup>th</sup> of September and knew that his brother had been killed.