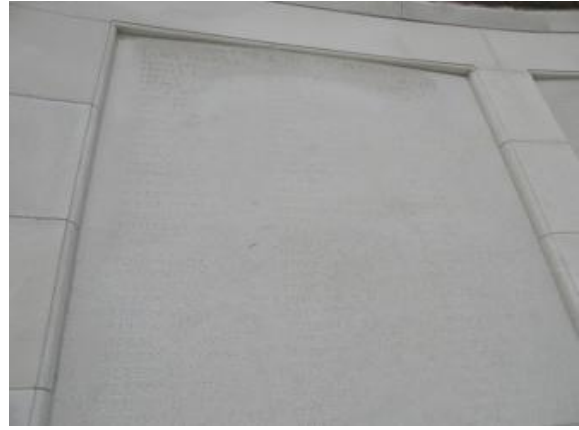


GEORGE WILLIAM BOWLEY

1885–26.9.1917 aged 32 years

Private 266954 2nd/7th Battalion (Robin Hood Rifles) Sherwood Foresters.



George was the son of Thomas and Elizabeth Bowley of Malt St. He was an agricultural labourer before enlistment. He was killed in action in the attack on Wieltje during the Passchendaele campaign. 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 2/7th will capture S area. The battalion will form up under cover of darkness the night before 'O' day'. The battalion diary records; 26th September 1917. Battalion attacked on a two Company frontage as per orders. All objectives gained and maintained in spite of heavy enemy counter attacks. 28th Sept 1917 Battalion relieved by 2/6th South Staffordshire Regiment and moved back to support at Schuller Galleries. 29th Sept ember 1917 back to billets at Vermertinghe. Casualties 1 officer killed, 7 wounded, 36 ORs killed, 238 wounded, 48 missing.

As with thousands of men killed in the Passchendaele campaign he has no know grave, having been blown to pieces or buried in the deep glutinous mud for which the campaign is infamous. He is recorded at the Tyne Cott CWGC cemetery on panel 99-102. See also Charles Edward Hale; same regiment, same battalion, killed in the same attack, same day. And also Herbert Hallam also killed at Wieltje 17th November 1917 also recorded at Tyne Cott.