

SAMUEL CHARLES DYE

Born: 6th July 1876, Wood Norton¹

Enlisted: 20th November 1915, Norwich – 9th and 2nd Battalions, Bedfordshire Regiment (Private 29216); transferred to the Labour Corps (Private 602583) in June 1918²



Medals: British War Medal; Victory Medal³



Demobilised: 17th February 1919⁴

Samuel was born *Charles Samuel Dye* on the 6th July 1876, and baptised on the 30th December 1877, in Wood Norton parish church, the son of Robert and Harriet Dye (see Figure 1), alongside his sister, Mary Jane Dye (born 1872).

The image shows a handwritten entry from a baptism register. The entry is as follows:

Morn July 6 1876 Copied 25.	1877 Decr. 30 No. 522.	Charles Samuel son of	Robert & Harriet	Dye	Wood Norton	Labourer & Shilsham
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Figure 1: Extract from the Wood Norton Baptisms, 1881

The British Army WW1 Service Records have survived for Samuel, and these show that he enlisted on the 20th November 1915 in Norwich. He gave his correct age at enlistment as 39 years 4 months, and he was 5' 2³/₄" tall, and his occupation was a gardener. He listed his

¹ *Transcript and Index to Wood Norton, Norfolk, Parish Registers*, compiled by Keith and Shirley Howell (February 2000), Baptisms, 1877 (p.38); Baptisms Register, Wood Norton, 1877 (www.ancestry.co.uk); FreeBMD, Quarter to September 1876, Aylsham, Vol.4b, p.77 (www.freebmd.org.uk).

² British Army WW1 Service Records 1914-1920 (www.ancestry.co.uk).

³ British Army WW1 Medal Roll Index Cards, 1914-1920 (www.ancestry.co.uk).

⁴ British Army WW1 Service Records 1914-1920 (www.ancestry.co.uk).

older brother, Robert Dew, as his next of kin (Robert's address is given as Mattishall). His army service papers refer to him variously as *Samuel Charles* and *Charles Samuel Dye* – it is most likely that he was known by his middle name, Samuel, and it is as *Samuel Dye* that he initially signs his service papers (*Charles* being added to the left of his signature).

After enlistment, Samuel was posted to the Army Reserve, but he was mobilized on 23rd March 1916 and posted to the 9th Battalion, Bedfordshire Regiment on the 24th March 1916. He was then posted to France on the 25th July 1916 with the 2nd Battalion, Bedfordshire Regiment, as part of the BEF.

On the 29th March 1918 he was reported as *Missing*; on the 12th April 1918 this was updated to *Cancel report of missing now rejoined Battalion*. The period that Samuel was reported missing was during operation *Michael*, the major German offensive that was launched on the 21st March 1918 from the Hindenburg Line, with the intention of breaking through the Allied lines and advancing north-westerly towards the Channel ports, driving the BEF out of France. The war diary of the 2nd Battalion, Bedfordshire Regiment⁵ for the 28th March 1918 (the date he most likely went missing) reports:

Our position heavily shelled during the morning. A number of casualties. Enemy again attacked on both flanks and got into Arvillers on our right and Foliers on our left. Enemy then got up to within 100 yards of our position when we received orders to withdraw. About 2.30pm we withdrew but had a number of casualties owing to hostile Machine Guns and Shell fire. We formed up at Mezieres just south of Amien - Roye Road and marched through Moreuil w[h]ere we halted to give the men some food, to Billets at Rouvel.

The diary then records that the following day, the 29th March, the battalion *remained in Billets all day resting*. The diary for the month of March 1918 ends with the note regarding the casualties: *Total Casualties from March 21st – 31st Officers 15, Other Ranks 554*.

By the time Samuel rejoined the regiment on the 12th April 1918, they had moved to Rousbrugge (now Roesbrugge, in Western Flanders).

In June 1918 he was transferred to the Labour Corps - 859 AE Company (Area Employment Company) – and issued with a new service number (602583). Area Employment Companies would not include any men who were medically classified as B2 or above; Samuel was listed as Medical Category B3.

Samuel served at Home from the 23rd March 1916 to the 24th July 1916 and in France from the 25th July 1916 to the 18th January 1919. He was then back at Home from the 19th January 1919 to the 17th February 1919; a total of 3 years 89 days army service. He was demobilised on the 17th February 1919 and was awarded the Victory Medal and British War Medal (see *Figure 2*).

⁵ UK, WW1 War Diaries (France, Belgium and Germany), 1914-1920 (www.ancestry.co.uk).

Name.	Corps.	Rank.	Regtl. No.
DYE Charles S.	Batt. R. Capt. C.	PTE	29216. 602583.
Medal.	Roll.	Page.	Remarks.
VICTORY	L.C./101. 8230	23415	
BARRIAN	do do		
STAR			
Theatre of War first served in			
Date of entry therein			

K. 1360

Figure 2: Medal Roll index card - Charles Samuel Dye

Samuel's service record indicates that in January 1921 he was granted a conditional award of 40 shillings a week in respect of a 100% disability in the form of Pulmonary TB (tuberculosis), aggravated by his war service (see Figure 3).

Ref. No. W/11/326029 Date 8 APR 1921 Rm. 33 Sd

FIRST AWARD - SOLDIER. A $\frac{19}{2}$

Name DYE Samuel Charles 326
 (Surname first)
 Regiment or Corps Luton late Bedford

Disch.
 Date of Demob. 17-2-19 Regtl. No. 29216
 Disemb.
 Address Wood Norton, Quist, S.G.
 Rank for Pension Class J Year of Birth 1877
 Nature of Disability Code No. P25
 Disability { 1. Pul TB 1. Aggrav. } Attrib.
 { 2. 2. } Aggrav.
 { 3. 3. } Non-attrib.
 Warrant and Article L. 419
 Nature of Award conditional

% of Disability.	Weekly Rate.		Date of Commencement.	Date of Expiry.
	Man.	Allowance for Wife and Children.		
100	40-0	-	6-1-21	date in mind

APPEAL
NOIDER REGION LONDON

Marital Status S
 Year of Birth of Wife
 No. of Children { Males } Yr. of Birth, eldest
 { Females } Yr. of Birth, youngest

Officer in Charge, MINISTRY OF PENSIONS.
 No. Record Office. 2R5/8/D
 No. District. w/c 24/21
Request

(51) Wt. 6290/4785 2,500 pads 6/20 S.O. Press, Harrow 5783/3449

Figure 3: First Award - Soldier form for Samuel Charles Dye

In the 1911 census, Samuel is living in Wood Norton with his 70-year-old widowed mother, Harriet Dye. He is aged 33, and a gardener. Recorded with Harriet and Samuel are a younger sister, Gertrude, a grandson Cyril, and a visitor Mabel Gilbert (a dressmaker). The census return records that Harriet had been married for 48 years, and had 9 children, 6 of whom were still living.⁶

Samuel's father, Robert Dack Dye, died in 1907 aged 81, and is buried in Wood Norton.⁷ Robert Dack Dye was baptised on the 12th June 1826 in Foulsham parish church, the son of Rebecca Dye.⁸ Rebecca recorded Robert Dack as her son's father, and she went on marry Robert Dack on the 5th May 1829, in Foulsham parish church.⁹ She died in 1831, aged 25, and was buried on the 23rd February 1831 in Foulsham.¹⁰

Robert Dye married Harriet Sharr on the 22nd October 1862 in Wood Norton parish church.¹¹ Harriet was baptised on the 7th June 1840, in Wood Norton parish church, the daughter of Samuel (a labourer) and Susan Sharr.¹² Harriet died in 1915, aged 74, and is buried in Wood Norton.¹³

The 1871, 1881, 1891 and 1901 census returns for Wood Norton¹⁴ record the six surviving children of Robert and Harriet Dye:

Anna Maria	Baptised 28 th December 1862 (Wood Norton) ¹⁵
Robert John	Baptised 20 th October 1867 (Wood Norton) ¹⁶
Mary Jane	Born 24 th July 1872, baptised 30 th December 1877 (Wood Norton) ¹⁷
Charles Samuel	Born 6 th July 1876 (Wood Norton)
Gertrude Elizabeth	Baptised 9 th June 1878 (Wood Norton) ¹⁸

⁶ 1911 census, Wood Norton (Schedule 176) (www.ancestry.co.uk).

⁷ *Transcript and Index to Wood Norton, Norfolk, Parish Registers*, compiled by Keith and Shirley Howell (February 2000), Burials, 1921 (p.130); FreeBMD, *Quarter to March 1907, Aylsham, Vol.4b, p.51* (www.freebmd.org.uk).

⁸ Baptism Register, 1826, Foulsham (www.ancestry.co.uk).

⁹ Marriage Register, 1829, Foulsham (www.ancestry.co.uk).

¹⁰ Burial Register, 1831, Foulsham (www.ancestry.co.uk).

¹¹ *Transcript and Index to Wood Norton, Norfolk, Parish Registers*, compiled by Keith and Shirley Howell (February 2000), Marriages, 1862 (p.92); FreeBMD, *Quarter to December 1862, Aylsham, Vol.4b, p.239* (www.freebmd.org.uk).

¹² *Transcript and Index to Wood Norton, Norfolk, Parish Registers*, compiled by Keith and Shirley Howell (February 2000), Baptisms, 1840 (p.30).

¹³ *Transcript and Index to Wood Norton, Norfolk, Parish Registers*, compiled by Keith and Shirley Howell (February 2000), Burials, 1921 (p.131); FreeBMD, *Quarter to September 1915, Aylsham, Vol.4b, p84* (www.freebmd.org.uk).

¹⁴ 1871 census, Wood Norton (pp. 38 and 39); 1881 census, Wood Norton (p.41); 1891 census, Wood Norton (p.25); 1901 census, Wood Norton (p.9) (www.ancestry.co.uk).

¹⁵ *Transcript and Index to Wood Norton, Norfolk, Parish Registers*, compiled by Keith and Shirley Howell (February 2000), Baptisms, 1862 (p.36); FreeBMD, *Quarter to September 1862, Aylsham, Vol.4b, p.76* (www.freebmd.org.uk). The birth is recorded under the name Anna Maria Sharr.

¹⁶ *Transcript and Index to Wood Norton, Norfolk, Parish Registers*, compiled by Keith and Shirley Howell (February 2000), Baptisms, 1867 (p.37); FreeBMD, *Quarter to September 1867, Aylsham, Vol.4b, p.67* (www.freebmd.org.uk).

¹⁷ *Transcript and Index to Wood Norton, Norfolk, Parish Registers*, compiled by Keith and Shirley Howell (February 2000), Baptisms, 1877 (p.38).

¹⁸ *Transcript and Index to Wood Norton, Norfolk, Parish Registers*, compiled by Keith and Shirley Howell (February 2000), Baptisms, 1878 (p.38); FreeBMD, *Quarter to June 1878, Aylsham, Vol.4b, p.72* (www.freebmd.org.uk).

Ernest William	Born 25 th June 1880, baptised 29 th January 1882 (Wood Norton) ¹⁹
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The three other children were:

Mary Jane	Baptised 5 th April 1860; died July 1864 aged 4 (Wood Norton) ²⁰
Sarah Elizabeth	Baptised 20 th June 1864; died October 1865 aged 21 months (Wood Norton) ²¹
Samuel John	Baptised 22 nd October 1865; died June 1866 aged 9 months (Wood Norton) ²²

Samuel did not marry, and he died on the 9th December 1921, aged 45, in Wood Norton. The cause of death was given as *Phthisis* (tuberculosis).²³ He was buried on the 14th December 1921 in Wood Norton, under his birth name of Charles Samuel Dye.²⁴

Cyril Raymond Dye, Samuel's nephew, the son of his older brother Robert John, is also recorded on the Wood Norton war memorial as he served in WW1 – he also survived the conflict.

¹⁹ *Transcript and Index to Wood Norton, Norfolk, Parish Registers*, compiled by Keith and Shirley Howell (February 2000), Baptisms, 1882 (p.38).

²⁰ *Transcript and Index to Wood Norton, Norfolk, Parish Registers*, compiled by Keith and Shirley Howell (February 2000), Baptisms, 1860 (p.36) and Burials, 1864 (p.127). The baptism and burial are recorded under the name Mary Jane Sharr.

²¹ *Transcript and Index to Wood Norton, Norfolk, Parish Registers*, compiled by Keith and Shirley Howell (February 2000), Baptisms, 1864 (p.36), and Burials, 1866 (p.127).

²² *Transcript and Index to Wood Norton, Norfolk, Parish Registers*, compiled by Keith and Shirley Howell (February 2000), Baptisms, 1865 (p.36), and Burials, 1866 (p.127).

²³ Copy of Death record (No.425, Aylsham, 9th December 1921).

²⁴ *Transcript and Index to Wood Norton, Norfolk, Parish Registers*, compiled by Keith and Shirley Howell (February 2000), Burials, 1921 (p.131); FreeBMD, *Quarter to December 1921, Aylsham, Vol.4b, p.77* (www.freebmd.org.uk).