

CYRIL RAYMOND DYE

Born: 9th March 1896, Beetley¹

Enlisted: 2nd October 1916, Cromer - 6th (Cyclist) Battalion, Norfolk Regiment (Private 3339); transferred to the 7th and 12th Battalions, York and Lancaster Regiment (Acting Sergeant 235687)²



Medals: British War Medal; Victory Medal;³ D.C.M.⁴



Demobilised: 18th December 1919⁵

Cyril Raymond Dye was born in Beetley on the 9th March 1896, and baptised on the 24th May 1896, in Wood Norton parish church, the son of Robert John (a farm bailiff) and Mary Elizabeth Dye (see Figure 1).⁶

1896. 24 th May. No. 661.	Cyril Raymond	Robert John & Mary Elizabeth	Dye.	Beetley.	Farm Bailif.	Henry. C. Rogers.
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Figure 1: Extract from the Wood Norton Baptisms, 1896

¹ FreeBMD, Birth, Quarter to June 1896, Mitford, Vol.4b, p.271 (www.freebmd.org.uk); 1911 census, Wood Norton (Schedule 176) (www.ancestry.co.uk); FreeBMD, Burial, Quarter to June 1977, Norwich, Vol.10, p.1701 (www.freebmd.org.uk). Burial record gives Cyril's date of birth.

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). The D.C.M. was the first official medal award to recognise an act of gallantry in the field by a member of the armed forces who was below the rank of officer.

⁵ British Army WW1 Service Records 1914-1920 (www.ancestry.co.uk).

⁶ *Transcript and Index to Wood Norton, Norfolk, Parish Registers*, compiled by Keith and Shirley Howell (February 2000), Baptisms, 1896 (p.40).

The British Army WW1 Service Records have survived for Cyril, and these show that he enlisted on the 2nd October 1916 in Cromer. He gave his correct age at enlistment as 20 years 7 months, and he was 5' 7¾" tall, and his occupation as 'Gardener'. He gave his mother, of Welbourne Road, Mattishall, East Dereham, as next of kin. His medical record (taken on 14th September 1916 at Norwich) indicates that he had an old injury to his right ankle, which had resulted in a slight deformity to the ankle. He was given 'C1' as a medical classification as to fitness for service. Classification C1 usually meant that the man was fit for 'Home' service only, but later on in the war the medical classification system was revised and category C1 was adjusted to include service abroad, which resulted in Cyril being posted to France in 1917.⁷

He was called up for service on the 16th October 1916, and posted to the 6th (Cyclist) Battalion, Norfolk Regiment on the 17th October 1916. Cyril served at Home from the 16th October 1916 to the 25th July 1917, and was then posted to France with the British Expeditionary Force (BEF) on the 26th July 1917. He was transferred to the 19th Battalion, York and Lancaster Regiment, on the 14th August 1917, and posted to the 12th Battalion on the same day. On the 14th December 1917 Cyril was appointed Lance Corporal. In January 1918 he was posted to the 7th Battalion, York and Lancaster Regiment, and in April 1919 was attached to the 154th PoW (Prisoner of War) Company where his rank reverted to Private, but he was appointed Acting Corporal later that month and then Acting Sergeant on the 19th June 1919.

Cyril finally returned from France in November 1919 and was demobilised a month later on the 18th December 1919. Cyril's service record shows the time he spent serving at Home and in France:⁸

Home	16 October 1916	to 25 July 1917
France	27 July 1917	to 27 August 1918
Leave from BEF	27 August 1918	to 11 September 1918
France	12 September 1918	to 15 March 1919
Leave from France	16 March 1919	to 31 March 1919
France	1 April 1919	to 24 July 1919
Leave to UK	25 July 1919	to 8 August 1919
France	9 September 1919	to 18 November 1919
Home	19 November 1919	

On the 3rd June 1919, whilst serving with the York and Lancaster Regiment, Cyril was awarded to Distinguished Conduct Medal (*see Figure 2*).⁹

⁷ See https://stoswaldbollington.org.uk/pages/WW1_terminology.php for an outline of medical categories.

⁸ Cyril Raymond Dye's *Record of Service* papers (www.ancestry.co.uk).

⁹ British Army World War I Medal Roll Index Cards, 1914-1920 (www.ancestry.co.uk).

Cyril's father, Robert John Dye, was born in Wood Norton and baptised on the 20th October 1867 in Wood Norton parish church.¹⁶ Robert married Mary Elizabeth Bell on the 21st October 1894 in Wood Norton parish church.¹⁷ The 1911 census for Mattishall records that Robert and Mary had nine children of which seven had survived, and six of whom were recorded at home:

Philip Robert	Aged 13, born in Beetley in 1897 ¹⁸
Gertrude Evelyn (Gertie)	Aged 12, born in Beetley in 1898 ¹
Audrey Lilian	Aged 9, born in Mattishall in 1901 ¹⁹
Olive Bell	Aged 6, born in Mattishall in 1904 ²⁰
Robert William	Aged 5, born in Mattishall in 1906 ²¹
Bessie	Aged 7 months, born in Mattishall in 1910 ²²

The two children who had not survived were:

Leslie Wilfred	Born in 1900 and died, aged 2, in 1902. ²³ He was buried in Mattishall on the 6 th October 1902. ²⁴
Henry Charles	Born in Mattishall and baptised the 30 th October 1902 but died 7 days later; he was buried in Mattishall in November 1902. ²⁵

In the 1911 census, Cyril (who was the eldest child) was recorded at his grandmother's (Harriet Dye) house in Wood Norton; he was aged 15 and a farm labourer.²⁶

Cyril's uncle was Samuel Charles Dye, the elder brother of Robert John Dye. Samuel Charles Dye is recorded on the Wood Norton war memorial as he served in WW1; he also survived the conflict.

Cyril died in Norwich on the 6th June 1977, aged 81.²⁷ He left an estate worth £16,600.²⁸

¹⁶ *Transcript and Index to Wood Norton, Norfolk, Parish Registers*, compiled by Keith and Shirley Howell (February 2000), Baptisms, 1867 (p.98); 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), Marriages, 1894 (p.37); FreeBMD, *Quarter to December 1894, Aylsham, Vol.4b*, p.255 (www.freebmd.org.uk).

¹⁸ FreeBMD, *Quarter to June 1897, Mitford, Vol.4b*, p.281 (www.freebmd.org.uk).

¹⁹ FreeBMD, *Quarter to September 1901, Mitford, Vol.4b*, p.261 (www.freebmd.org.uk).

²⁰ FreeBMD, *Quarter to December 1904, Mitford, Vol.4b*, p.248 (www.freebmd.org.uk).

²¹ FreeBMD, *Quarter to March 1906, Mitford, Vol.4b*, p.248 (www.freebmd.org.uk).

²² FreeBMD, *Quarter to September 1910, Mitford, Vol.4b*, p.220 (www.freebmd.org.uk).

²³ FreeBMD, Birth, *Quarter to March 1900, Mitford, Vol.4b*, p.280; Death, *Quarter to December 1902, Mitford, Vol.4b*, p.161; Norfolk, England, Church of England Deaths and Burials, 1813-1995 (www.ancestry.co.uk).

²⁴ Norfolk, England, Church of England Deaths and Burials, 1813-1995 (www.ancestry.co.uk).

²⁵ FreeBMD, Birth, *Quarter to December 1902, Mitford, Vol.4b*, p.248; Death, *Quarter to December 1902, Mitford, Vol.4b*, p.162 (www.freebmd.org.uk).

²⁶ 1911 census, Wood Norton (Schedule 176) (www.ancestry.co.uk).

²⁷ FreeBMD, *Quarter to June 1977, Norwich, Vol.10*, p.1701 (www.freebmd.org.uk).

²⁸ England and Wales, National Probate Calendar (Index of Wills and Administrations), 1848-1985 (www.ancestry.co.uk).