

CHARLES SAMUEL DYE (*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), June 1918²



Medals: British War Medal; Victory Medal³



Demobilised: 17th February 1919⁴

Whilst the name recorded on the War Memorial in Wood Norton church is *Samuel Charles Dye*, his birth and baptism records show that he was born *Charles Samuel Dye*. Charles was born 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). Charles was baptised alongside his sister, Mary Jane Dye (born 1872). It is most likely that Charles went by his middle name, *Samuel*, throughout his life, hence the inscription on the War Memorial.

<i>Wood Norton</i>	<i>1877</i>	<i>Mary Jane</i>	<i>Robert & Harriet</i>	<i>Dye</i>	<i>Wood Norton</i>	<i>Labourer & Skidderman</i>
<i>Sub 46</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>Dec</i>				
	No. 541.					
<i>Wood Norton</i>	<i>1877</i>	<i>Charles Samuel</i>	<i>Robert & Harriet</i>	<i>Dye</i>	<i>Wood Norton</i>	<i>Labourer & Skidderman</i>
<i>Sub 46</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>Dec</i>				
	No. 542.					

Figure 1: Extract from the Wood Norton Baptisms, 1877

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).

The British Army WW1 Service Records have survived for Charles, 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' 2¾" tall, and his occupation was a gardener. He listed his older brother, Robert Dye, as his next of kin (Robert's address is given as Mattishall), both parents having died by the date of his enlistment. His army service papers refer to him variously as *Samuel Charles* and *Charles Samuel Dye*, and it is as *Samuel Dye* that he initially signs his service papers (*Charles* being added to the left of his signature).

After enlistment, Charles was posted to the Army Reserve and was mobilised on 23rd March 1916 and joined the 9th Battalion, Bedfordshire Regiment on the 24th March 1916. He was then sent to France on the 25th July 1916 with the 2nd Battalion, Bedfordshire Regiment, as part of the British Expeditionary Force (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*. Charles was reported missing during *Operation Michael*, the major German offensive 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 Charles 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 did not include any men who were medically classified as B2 or above; Charles was listed as Medical Category B3.

Charles's service with the Army amounted to 3 years, 89 days, as follows:

At Home	23 rd March 1916	24 th July 1916	247 days
BEF, France	25 th July 1916	18 th January 1919	2 years, 178 days
At Home	19 th January 1919	17 th February 1919	29 days

⁵ UK, WW1 War Diaries (France, Belgium and Germany), 1914-1920 (www.ancestry.co.uk).
Joanne Burd / 16 November 2022

He was demobilised on the 17th February 1919 and was awarded the Victory Medal and British War Medal (see Figure 2).

Name.	Corps.	Rank.	Regtl. No.
DYE. Charles S.	Bedf. R. Lab. C.	PTE	29216. 602583.
Medal.	Roll.	Page.	Remarks.
Victory	L.C./101. 8230	28415	
British	do do		
Star			
Theatre of War first served in			
Date of entry therein			

K. 1880

Figure 2: Medal Roll index card - Charles Samuel Dye

On the 6th January 1921 Charles 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. The award finished on the date that he entered a sanatorium (presumably for the treatment of TB) (see Figure 3).

Ref. No. 11/11/326029 Date 6 APR 1921 Rm 33 Sd

FIRST AWARD-SOLDIER. A ³²⁶

Name DYE, Charles S.
(Surname first)
Regiment or Corps. Bedf. R. Lab. C.
Disch. 17-2-19
Date of Demob. 17-2-19 Regtl. No. 29216
Address 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 511, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 549, 550, 551, 552, 553, 554, 555, 556, 557, 558, 559, 560, 561, 562, 563, 564, 565, 566, 567, 568, 569, 570, 571, 572, 573, 574, 575, 576, 577, 578, 579, 580, 581, 582, 583, 584, 585, 586, 587, 588, 589, 590, 591, 592, 593, 594, 595, 596, 597, 598, 599, 600, 601, 602, 603, 604, 605, 606, 607, 608, 609, 610, 611, 612, 613, 614, 615, 616, 617, 618, 619, 620, 621, 622, 623, 624, 625, 626, 627, 628, 629, 630, 631, 632, 633, 634, 635, 636, 637, 638, 639, 640, 641, 642, 643, 644, 645, 646, 647, 648, 649, 650, 651, 652, 653, 654, 655, 656, 657, 658, 659, 660, 661, 662, 663, 664, 665, 666, 667, 668, 669, 670, 671, 672, 673, 674, 675, 676, 677, 678, 679, 680, 681, 682, 683, 684, 685, 686, 687, 688, 689, 690, 691, 692, 693, 694, 695, 696, 697, 698, 699, 700, 701, 702, 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 708, 709, 710, 711, 712, 713, 714, 715, 716, 717, 718, 719, 720, 721, 722, 723, 724, 725, 726, 727, 728, 729, 730, 731, 732, 733, 734, 735, 736, 737, 738, 739, 740, 741, 742, 743, 744, 745, 746, 747, 748, 749, 750, 751, 752, 753, 754, 755, 756, 757, 758, 759, 760, 761, 762, 763, 764, 765, 766, 767, 768, 769, 770, 771, 772, 773, 774, 775, 776, 777, 778, 779, 780, 781, 782, 783, 784, 785, 786, 787, 788, 789, 790, 791, 792, 793, 794, 795, 796, 797, 798, 799, 800, 801, 802, 803, 804, 805, 806, 807, 808, 809, 810, 811, 812, 813, 814, 815, 816, 817, 818, 819, 820, 821, 822, 823, 824, 825, 826, 827, 828, 829, 830, 831, 832, 833, 834, 835, 836, 837, 838, 839, 840, 841, 842, 843, 844, 845, 846, 847, 848, 849, 850, 851, 852, 853, 854, 855, 856, 857, 858, 859, 860, 861, 862, 863, 864, 865, 866, 867, 868, 869, 870, 871, 872, 873, 874, 875, 876, 877, 878, 879, 880, 881, 882, 883, 884, 885, 886, 887, 888, 889, 890, 891, 892, 893, 894, 895, 896, 897, 898, 899, 900, 901, 902, 903, 904, 905, 906, 907, 908, 909, 910, 911, 912, 913, 914, 915, 916, 917, 918, 919, 920, 921, 922, 923, 924, 925, 926, 927, 928, 929, 930, 931, 932, 933, 934, 935, 936, 937, 938, 939, 940, 941, 942, 943, 944, 945, 946, 947, 948, 949, 950, 951, 952, 953, 954, 955, 956, 957, 958, 959, 960, 961, 962, 963, 964, 965, 966, 967, 968, 969, 970, 971, 972, 973, 974, 975, 976, 977, 978, 979, 980, 981, 982, 983, 984, 985, 986, 987, 988, 989, 990, 991, 992, 993, 994, 995, 996, 997, 998, 999, 1000

Rank for Pension 1827
Nature of Disability Code No. P25
Disability 1. 100% 2. 100% 3. 100% 4. 100% 5. 100% 6. 100% 7. 100% 8. 100% 9. 100% 10. 100% 11. 100% 12. 100% 13. 100% 14. 100% 15. 100% 16. 100% 17. 100% 18. 100% 19. 100% 20. 100% 21. 100% 22. 100% 23. 100% 24. 100% 25. 100% 26. 100% 27. 100% 28. 100% 29. 100% 30. 100% 31. 100% 32. 100% 33. 100% 34. 100% 35. 100% 36. 100% 37. 100% 38. 100% 39. 100% 40. 100% 41. 100% 42. 100% 43. 100% 44. 100% 45. 100% 46. 100% 47. 100% 48. 100% 49. 100% 50. 100% 51. 100% 52. 100% 53. 100% 54. 100% 55. 100% 56. 100% 57. 100% 58. 100% 59. 100% 60. 100% 61. 100% 62. 100% 63. 100% 64. 100% 65. 100% 66. 100% 67. 100% 68. 100% 69. 100% 70. 100% 71. 100% 72. 100% 73. 100% 74. 100% 75. 100% 76. 100% 77. 100% 78. 100% 79. 100% 80. 100% 81. 100% 82. 100% 83. 100% 84. 100% 85. 100% 86. 100% 87. 100% 88. 100% 89. 100% 90. 100% 91. 100% 92. 100% 93. 100% 94. 100% 95. 100% 96. 100% 97. 100% 98. 100% 99. 100% 100. 100% 101. 100% 102. 100% 103. 100% 104. 100% 105. 100% 106. 100% 107. 100% 108. 100% 109. 100% 110. 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100% 711. 100% 712. 100% 713. 100% 714. 100% 715. 100% 716. 100% 717. 100% 718. 100% 719

to treat TB patients, the treatment of which was based on the principles of hygiene: isolation, fresh air, exercise, and good nutrition.

In the 1911 census, Charles 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 Charles 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.⁷

Charles's father, Robert Dack Dye, died in 1907 aged 81, and is buried in Wood Norton.⁸ Robert Dack Dye was baptised on the 12th June 1826 in Foulsham parish church, the son of Rebecca Dye.⁹ 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.¹⁰ She died in 1831, aged 25, and was buried on the 23rd February 1831 in Foulsham.¹¹

Robert Dack Dye married Harriet Sharr on the 22nd October 1862 in Wood Norton parish church.¹² Harriet was baptised on the 7th June 1840, in Wood Norton parish church, the daughter of Samuel (a labourer) and Susan Sharr.¹³ Harriet died in 1915, aged 74, and is buried in Wood Norton.¹⁴

Robert and Harriet's nine children were:

Mary Jane	Baptised 5 th April 1860; died July 1864 aged 4 (Wood Norton) ¹⁵
Anna Maria	Baptised 28 th December 1862 (Wood Norton) ¹⁶
Sarah Elizabeth	Baptised 20 th June 1864; died October 1865 aged 21 months (Wood Norton) ¹⁷
Samuel John	Baptised 22 nd October 1865; died June 1866 aged 9 months (Wood Norton) ¹⁸

⁷ 1911 census, Wood Norton (Schedule 176) (www.ancestry.co.uk).

⁸ *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).

⁹ Baptism Register, 1826, Foulsham (www.ancestry.co.uk).

¹⁰ Marriage Register, 1829, Foulsham (www.ancestry.co.uk).

¹¹ Burial Register, 1831, Foulsham (www.ancestry.co.uk).

¹² *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).

¹³ *Transcript and Index to Wood Norton, Norfolk, Parish Registers*, compiled by Keith and Shirley Howell (February 2000), Baptisms, 1840 (p.30).

¹⁴ *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).

¹⁵ *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.

¹⁶ *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.

¹⁷ *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).

¹⁸ *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).

Robert John	Baptised 20 th October 1867 (Wood Norton) ¹⁹
Mary Jane	Born 24 th July 1872, baptised 30 th December 1877 (Wood Norton) ²⁰
<i>Charles Samuel</i>	<i>Born 6th July 1876 (Wood Norton)</i>
Gertrude Elizabeth	Baptised 9 th June 1878 (Wood Norton) ²¹
Ernest William	Born 25 th June 1880, baptised 29 th January 1882 (Wood Norton) ²²

In the 1921 census Charles is single (aged 45) and living with his sister Gertrude (aged 42), indicating that he had returned home to Wood Norton from the sanatorium by the time the census was taken in June. Under 'occupation' he has recorded that he is an 'ex-soldier sick'.²³

Charles 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), and was registered by his sister, Gertrude.²⁴ He was buried on the 14th December 1921 in Wood Norton, under his birth name of Charles Samuel Dye.²⁵

Cyril Raymond Dye, Charles'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, 1867 (p.37); FreeBMD, *Quarter to September 1867, Aylsham, Vol.4b*, p.67 (www.freebmd.org.uk).

²⁰ *Transcript and Index to Wood Norton, Norfolk, Parish Registers*, compiled by Keith and Shirley Howell (February 2000), Baptisms, 1877 (p.38).

²¹ *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).

²² *Transcript and Index to Wood Norton, Norfolk, Parish Registers*, compiled by Keith and Shirley Howell (February 2000), Baptisms, 1882 (p.38).

²³ 1921 census, Wood Norton (Schedule 177) (www.findmypast.co.uk).

²⁴ Copy of Death record (No.425, Aylsham, 9th December 1921).

²⁵ *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).