

Private William Henry Hyde
Regimental number: 99201
154th Labour Company

born: 1897 – died: 12 August 1917

Private William Henry Hyde was the son of John and Emma Hyde and was born in Sedgley, Staffordshire¹ in 1897.² Both his parents were also born in Sedgley: his father in about 1875 and his mother in about 1870. His mother was the former Emma Allen, and she and John married near Dudley, Staffordshire in 1894. They had five children: Mildred (born in 1896), William, John Christopher (born in 1901), George Clifford (born in 1905) and Clara (born in 1912).³

As William was growing up, the family lived in Upper Gornal, Staffordshire. In 1901, they lived at 40 Pale Street⁴ and, in 1911, at 5 Club Row.⁵ William's father was a stonemason and by 1911 William, at the age of 15, was a law clerk at the County Court. It appears that his father died in 1912, at the age of 37.⁶

Three years later William enlisted as a private in the 7th Battalion of the Worcestershire Regiment (Regimental number: 39881).⁷ He enlisted in Dudley, Staffordshire, on 13 November 1915, at the age of 18. The family was living at 3 Vale Street, Upper Gornal. William was 5' 3½" tall, still a clerk and a member of the Wesleyan Church.

William served in England for nearly a year. He was hospitalized at the Field Hospital in Andover for a week with scabies at the end of June 1916. On 4 October 1916, he left Southampton for Le Havre to join the Western Front. A few days after arriving, he was admitted to the 107th Field Ambulance with boils. He returned to his unit just two weeks later, on 27 October.

William may have also served with the Devonshire Regiment (Regimental number: 4545)⁸ but he certainly transferred to the Labour Company (Regimental number: 99201) in April 1917.⁹ It was only four months later that he was admitted to the 1st Canadian Casualty Clearing Station. He was admitted on 8 August 1917¹⁰ and died four days later of pneumonia.¹¹ He was buried the same day at Adinkerke Military Cemetery (Grave: C. 15).¹²

Source: "British Army WWI Service Records, 1914-1920," Ancestry (www.ancestry.co.uk; accessed 1 May 2016), entry for William Henry Hyde

The next year, the Officer in Charge of 1st CCCS reported on his death as follows:

... was admitted to the 1st Canadian C.C.S. 8/8/17 from 19th Fd [Field] Ambulance, diagnosis "P.U.O." [Pyrexia of Unknown Origin]. He died at 9.10 p.m. on 11/8/17. I

am of the opinion that death was due to disease contracted subsequent to 13/11/15. Certainly it was aggravated by Military Service.¹³

On the day that he was admitted, William was one of 120 soldiers to be admitted to the 1st CCCS.¹⁴ A total of 1,896 were admitted in the month of August.

Adinkerke Military Cemetery is 20 kilometres east of Dunkirk, just across the border into Belgium. From June to November 1917 the Commonwealth troops held the Front, from the Belgian coast down to St. Georges in France. There are 168 Commonwealth soldiers from the Great War buried in the cemetery.¹⁵

His mother, who was living at 3 Vale Street, Upper Gornal, was identified as William's next-of-kin and was notified of his death.¹⁶ She also received the monies owing to him by the army upon his death¹⁷ and his personal effects.¹⁸ In 1919, the family was living at 4 Vale Street.¹⁹

William was awarded the British War Medal (for service overseas between 1914 and 1918) and the Victory Medal (for service in an operational theatre).²⁰

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¹ "1901 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 1 May 2016), entry for Will H. Hyde, Registration district: Dudley, Sub-registration district: Sedgley, ED, institution, or vessel: 7a, Piece: 2738, Folio: 126, Page Number: 11, Household schedule number: 53

² "England & Wales, FreeBMD Birth Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 1 May 2016), entry for William Henry Hyde, Registration district: Dudley, Inferred County: Staffordshire, Volume: 6c, Page: 96

³ "British Army WWI Service Records, 1914–1920," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 1 May 2016), entry for William Henry Hyde

⁴ "1901 England Census," entry for Will H. Hyde

⁵ "1911 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 1 May 2016), entry for William Henry Hyde, Registration district: Dudley, Registration district number: 372, Sub-registration district: Sedgley, ED, institution, or vessel: 6, Household schedule number: 127, Piece: 17398

⁶ "England & Wales, FreeBMD Death Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 1 May 2016), entry for John Hyde, Registration district: Dudley, Inferred County: Staffordshire, Volume: 6c, Page: 57

⁷ "British Army WWI Service Records, 1914–1920," entry for William Henry Hyde. Unless otherwise noted, all information on his military career come from this source.

⁸ "UK, WWI Service Medal and Award Rolls, 1914–1920," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 1 May 2016), entry for Wm Henry Hyde

⁹ "British Army WWI Service Records, 1914–1920," entry for William Henry Hyde

¹⁰ *Ibid.*

¹¹ "Record of Deaths, 17 February 1916 - 10 February 1919, a record maintained at No. 1 CCCS," *Library and Archives Canada*, (records accessed 2013 and 2016), Record Group 9, series IIC10, volume 4556, Record number 332. The 1st CCCS chaplains' journal indicates that he died on 11 August 1917, but all other military document record the date of death as 12 August.

¹² "Commonwealth War Graves Commission," (www.cwgc.org: accessed 3 December 2016), entry for Hyde, William Henry, Service No: 99201

¹³ "British Army WWI Service Records, 1914–1920," entry for William Henry Hyde. Pyrexia of Unknown Origin was a medical term that usually applied to trench fever. ("Common British military abbreviations," *The Long, Long Trail* (<http://www.1914-1918.net/abbrev.htm>: accessed 2 May 2016)

¹⁴ "War Diaries of the First World War: 1st Canadian Casualty Clearing Station 1914/08/13-1919/03/31," *Library and Archives Canada* (<http://data4.collectionscanada.gc.ca/netacgi/nph-brs?s1=casualty-clearing&s13=&s12=&l=20&s9=RG9&s7=9-52&Sect1=IMAGE&Sect2=THESOFF&Sect4=AND&Sect5=WARDPEN>)

http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/archivianet/02016202_e.html&r=1&f=G

¹⁵ "Adinkerke Military Cemetery," *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* (<http://www.cwgc.org/>: accessed 30 April 2016)

¹⁶ "Record of Deaths, 17 February 1916 - 10 February 1919, a record maintained at No. 1 CCCS," Record number 332

¹⁷ "UK, Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects, 1901-1929," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 1 May 2016), entry for William Henry Hyde

¹⁸ "British Army WWI Service Records, 1914-1920," entry for William Henry Hyde

¹⁹ *Ibid.*

²⁰ "UK, WWI Service Medal and Award Rolls, 1914-1920," entry for Wm Henry Hyde