

EUSTACE

EMIL

HYDE



12th October 1916

1892-1916 age 24

**Lieutenant 4th Battalion (Extra Reserve)
Royal Irish Fusiliers, attached 1st Battalion.**

Eustace Hyde was the third and youngest son of Tom Dodsworth Hyde, a Church of England clergyman originally from Durham, and Mary Jane Croft, the daughter of a Bradford banker. The couple had five children, of whom Eustace was the fourth. He was born in Dudley Hill, Bradford on 27th April 1892, and he subsequently lived with his parents, brothers and sisters at Whitechapel Vicarage. All three brothers attended Bradford Grammar School. Edward, the eldest and academically most successful, went on to study Classics at Jesus College, Oxford, and would later follow his father into the Church of England. Charles spent only two years at the School before becoming a bank clerk. Eustace was there for five years. In his final year in Fourth Classical, he came first in Science, 7th in Divinity and 8th in History. Seven out of twenty-five in this form would die in the War. He left when he was sixteen to become apprenticed to the Hunsworth works of the Bradford Dyers Association, a cartel which controlled ninety percent of the district's dyeing business. By the time he was in his early twenties he had a managerial position.

When war broke out in 1914, Edward was a Territorial in the Royal Garrison Artillery and was sent to Egypt in 1915; Charles enlisted in the Leeds Pals in September; while on the 11th Eustace joined the 1st Bradford Pals. Charles was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the Bradford Pals at the end of April 1915. However, he was not to serve with Eustace who had already been commissioned into the 4th Royal Irish Fusiliers, a regiment known as the 'Faugh-A-Ballaghs'. The 4th Battalion was a training unit stationed at Carrickfergus in Ireland when Eustace arrived, and he was appointed Musketry Instructor with responsibility for training in handling the rifle. In March 1916 he was promoted to Lieutenant, shortly before his battalion was sent to Dublin to help suppress the republican Easter Rising. On 1st July his brother Charles was killed on the opening day of the Somme offensive, and a week later Eustace landed in France having been posted to the 1st Battalion. Although 1st Royal Irish Fusiliers had not suffered heavily on 1st July, other battalions in VIII Corps had so when Hyde joined them they occupied a quieter sector of the line at Ypres. In late September they returned to the



Somme to train for the attempt to take the Transloy Ridges in October.

On 9th October they moved into the heavily cratered area near Lesboeuifs where trenches were no more than ditches with no shelters, and heavy losses were inflicted by shell-fire. On the 11th orders were received to attack the next day and the night was spent moving into position. The battalion was down to 460 men, so the 10% normally left out of action were called up. The Battalion War Diary's detailed account reveals how both sides' tactics had evolved. The British guns opened up at 2.05 pm; the Irish Fusiliers 'left their trenches in great style' and pursued the now standard creeping barrage 'almost too close' so that some men were hit, which was preferable to hanging back and losing its protection. The Germans had learned to position machine guns further back and they fired through the creeping barrage, while a machine gun in a crater in front of the German line survived the barrage and opened up a deadly enfilade fire. The leading waves paused, allowing the Germans time to mount their machine guns in the front line and 'the Regiment had no chance at all.' Hyde was one of six officers killed, his body left on the German parapet as the survivors fell back. His C.O. wrote: 'Your son had only been with us a short time, but had already more than proved his worth as a magnificent officer and as a comrade.' Hyde's body was buried, then re-interred after the war in the A.I.F. Burial Ground, Flers. His grave reads: 'Also in loving memory of 2nd Lieutenant Charles Stewart Hyde, 16th West Yorkshire Regiment, fell in action near Serre on 1 July 1916, age 25.'



Acknowledgements:

This version of Hyde's photo is from the O.B.A. Roll of Honour, with thanks—there are other versions online. Charles Hyde's biography was posted on 1st July. In addition to the documents available on Ancestry.com, I have benefitted from reading Charlie Turpin's biography (<http://branches.britishlegion.org.uk/branches/spenborough/branch-information/spenborough-roll-of-honour/world-war-one-1914-18-officers> accessed 1-9-2014) and to the recent volume by Alexandra Churchill, *Somme. 141 Days, 141 Lives* (Stroud, 2016; <https://books.google.co.uk/books?id=Zov5CwAAQBAJ&pg=PT330&lpg=PT330&dq=Eustace+Emil+Hyde&source=bl&ots=q6QetHKdA6&sig=hRxlPUZ8cfYGV2VguvKCP3Uk-n8&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwiczam36M3PAhVTGsAKHcl-BesQ6AEIJDAC#v=onepage&q=Eustace%20Emil%20Hyde&f=false> accessed 9-10-2016), who selected Eustace for her 12th October life. My thanks go to Tricia Platts for sharing her work on Eustace's re-burial and on Edward Clarendon Hyde. Information about Eustace's school days is from B.G.S. Annual Reports 1904-1908. The Battalion War Diary is quoted from WO-95-1482-1_3 (downloaded from the National Archives). For German tactics, Peter Barton, *The Somme. A new panoramic perspective* (London, 2006), 267, and the map at 271. The War Diary describes the British firing a 'Chinese bombardment to make the enemy think we were going to attack them' on 11th October, however this provoked a retaliation in which the Irish Fusiliers suffered 'fairly heavy casualties'.

The CWGC cemetery register and website give Eustace's age as 23—it is clear from his birth date that he was 24 when he died. He was re-buried in Plot III.H.1 in the Australian Imperial Force Burial Ground Flers, having been exhumed (buried by the Germans?) from a 500x500 yard square north-east of Morval (British Army trench map 57c.T.11, available <http://maps.nls.uk/geo/explore/#zoom=14&lat=50.0464&lon=2.8707&layers=101465188>). Most of the RIF men who died on 12th October had no known graves and are on the Thiepval Memorial.

57c.T.11	No	E.E.HYDE 4/R.I.Fus.	Identification Disc.
"	Yes	259 I/Opl. R.A.C.HICKMAN 16/Middlesex GRU HC.	9
"	No	UNKNOWN BRITISH SOLDIER	

For the Royal Irish Fusiliers, <http://www.longlongtrail.co.uk/army/regiments-and-corps/the-british-infantry-regiments-of-1914-1918/princess-victorias-royal-irish-fusiliers/> accessed 9-10-2016. For Bradford Dyers Association, [http://www.thetelegraphandargus.co.uk/tahistory/featuresnostalgia/pasttimes/10074656.Prestige and power of a material world/?ref=arc](http://www.thetelegraphandargus.co.uk/tahistory/featuresnostalgia/pasttimes/10074656.Prestige%20and%20power%20of%20a%20material%20world/?ref=arc), accessed 9-10-2016.

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