



**PRIVATE CHARLES RICHARDSON**

16<sup>th</sup> Battalion Cheshire Regiment

Service number 57999

Killed in action on 22<sup>nd</sup> October 1917 during the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battle of Ypres near  
Marechal Farm south of Houlthurst Forest in the Ypres Salient

Commemorated on the walls of Tyne Cot Cemetery and on his parents  
gravestone in Great Brington Churchyard

Born in Little Brington in 1888 and baptised in Great Brington Church on  
23<sup>rd</sup> September 1888

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Parents: John Muscott and Emma Jane Richardson

No. 18 Cottage, Little Brington

An only child, Charles married Annie Forskitt in October 1914 and lived  
with Annie's married sister at 70 Perry Street, Northampton.  
A daughter, Gladys A. Richardson was born in October 1915.

Charles enlisted in the Territorial Army in early 1915 as a sapper, service  
no. 3019 with the Royal Engineers 1<sup>st</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> East Anglian Field Company –  
part of the 2<sup>nd</sup> East Anglian Division, which was reorganised and designated  
69<sup>th</sup> Division in November 1915 assigned for home defence and training.

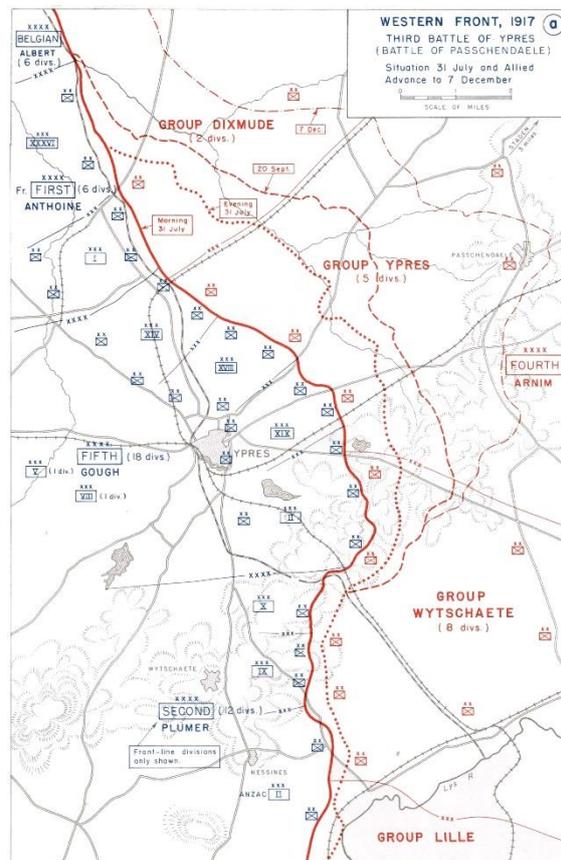
In 1916 Charles was transferred to the 16<sup>th</sup> (Service) Battalion of the Cheshire Regiment. This infantry battalion was raised in Birkenhead in December 1914 as a Bantam Battalion (small stature men under 5' 2") but there is no reason to believe Charles was a small man as he was moved to the battalion later. The 16<sup>th</sup> Cheshire's had been in France since January 1916. Six months later they fought on the Somme and suffered high losses and it was probably at this time or later that Charles was drafted over to France to join them.

By October 1917 the battalion as part of 35<sup>th</sup> Division had been moved to Belgium and took part in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battle of Ypres. At 5.35 a.m. on 22<sup>nd</sup> October 1917 the 16<sup>th</sup> Cheshire's were ordered to attack Marechal Farm, south of Houlthurst Forest in the Ypres Salient and gained their objective with few problems. But other units on their left were held up and they became isolated. Later in the afternoon the Germans launched a counter-attack against the left of the Cheshire's and broke through and they were forced to fall back to where they had started that morning. The battalion casualties were 9 officers and 327 other ranks, one of which was Charles Richardson.

Like so many of the soldiers killed in the Ypres Salient his body was never recovered or identified and his name is commemorated on the walls of Tyne Cot Cemetery. A War Gratuity of £9.10s.0d, together with his unused pay of £4.19s.3d was sent to his widow Annie and child in November 1919. His father died in 1935 and his mother in 1945 and they are buried in Great Brington Churchyard. On their gravestone is also a memorial to their son.



British War Medal and Victory Medal



Third Battle of Ypres

In Memory of

Private

# Charles Richardson

4509, 2nd Bn., Royal Warwickshire Regiment who died on 09 October 1917

Remembered with Honour

Tyne Cot Memorial



Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission