

# Charles Henry Perry (1890–1964)

Charles Henry Perry had an interesting military career. Born in September 1890, he attested at Matlock in August 1914, an unmarried miner at Wingfield Colliery living at Crich. He was one of the first volunteers once war had been declared. Serving with the Sherwood Foresters, he entered France in June 1915 and in the September, was admitted to the Canadian General Hospital at Etaples suffering with Otitis Media. After treatment he returned to his battalion, but in November he was diagnosed as having defective vision and was returned to the base depot at Rouen before being transferred to England and the Provisional Battalion of the Sherwood Foresters, where he remained until February 1917.



He was sent as a reserve to work at Wingfield Manor Colliery, but in April 1917 he wrote to the Army stating he was unable to work underground and asked what he should do. *"I was sent home from France (on or about 18<sup>th</sup> January 1916) owing to the vision of the right eye failing, suffering from rheumatism and bad discharge from the left ear. Eyesight was alright when I enlisted but cannot say what was the cause of failure, I never suffered from rheumatism prior to enlistment, but suffered from ear trouble about 12 years"*

In May 1917 he was discharged on the grounds of his disability. The Army wrote to Wingfield Manor Colliery querying whether he was still working there and received the following *"In reply to your enquiry this man started work underground but was unable to do it and we were not in a position to find him work on the surface so at present he is not employed by us. Yours truly for the company, William Curzon."*

August 6<sup>th</sup> 1917 Crich policeman, Sergeant Wyles, reported to the Army what had happened to Charles *"I have seen the above mentioned man today. He states he only worked one day in the pit after being transferred to Army Reserve but could not stand it. He wrote to Lichfield asking what he was to do but got no reply. He is now working at the Wire Works at Ambergate where he has been since last March."*

Officer Commanding, TF Depot, Derby received the following communiqué *"Please note that instructions have been issued to No 331238 Pte C.H. Perry to report to the Depot under your command for clothing on 6/9/17. He should be posted forthwith to 21st Notts & Derby Regt. Frinton-on-Sea. This man is rejoining from Class W (T) T.F. Reserve"* At the same time Charles received orders. To No 331238 Pte. C.H. Perry 21<sup>st</sup> Notts & Derby Regt, Market Place, Crich. *"I again forward A.F. D463b for the purpose of joining the T.F. Depot Drill Hall, Derby on 6/9/17; I have been informed that the return of your protection certificate has been applied. The consequences if you do not present yourself on the date stated are fully given on the attached Form."*

September 1917 he was at Frinton-on-Sea with Sherwood Foresters; November 1917 transferred to London Regiment; March 1918 transferred to Suffolk Regiment Cycling Battalion and promoted to unpaid acting Corporal; July 1918 transferred to Gloucester Regiment has paid Lance Corporal; August 1918 transferred to Labour Corp before being demobbed March 1919. Charles married Martha A Berrisford in 1920

## **Derbyshire Courier, 23 November 1915**

Official confirmations been received by Mr and Mrs Charles Perry of Crich their second son Private Charles Perry of the 1/6th Sherwood Foresters has been wounded in action. News was forwarded from the Lichfield Record Office, the weekend casualty list contained private Perry's name under the heading of wounded. No details to the nature of the injuries are given. The report stating he was wounded on 11 October. Private Perry, who is in hospital in France has two brothers at the front. His determination to serve the colours is shown by the fact he tried three times to enlist before he was accepted. In addition to this he walked to Nottingham and back in a fruitless attempt to join the Navy. He has been at the front since April.

## **Medal Roll Index Card**

He was awarded the Victory, British War and 15 Star Medals