

Charles Herbert LEE

Private 41688

17th Battalion Manchester Regiment

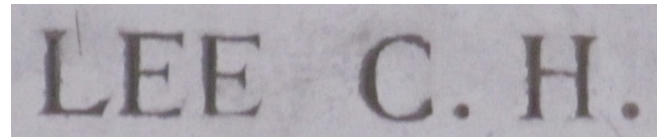
Charles Herbert Lee was born in Redbourn in 1882. The 1901 census shows him living in Church End with James and Sophie Millard and he is recorded as their son, together with brothers William and Henry.

In the 1911 census, Charles is living with his wife Lizzie and 8 month old son, Herbert Charles, at East Common, Redbourn. His occupation is Farm Labourer.

Charles enlisted in the Army, originally as G/16505 with the Royal West Kent Regt, and later transferred to the Manchesters.

He was killed in action by a shell on 31st July 1917, initially reported missing but subsequently confirmed to have died.

He has no known grave and is commemorated on the Menin Gate, Ieper



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REDBOURN SOLDIER BROTHERS

News of Pte. Charles H. Lee, Manchester Regt., of Redbourn, reported wounded and missing since July 31st 1917, has been received from Corpl. Mann, Manchester Regt., who writes that he saw Pte. Lee buried by a shell. A photograph of the deceased soldier, together with a photograph of his brother, Corpl. Harry Lee, Beds Regt., who after three and a half years service was killed in action on September 27th, appear in this paper. Another brother, Pte. W.H. Lee, Beds Regt., is also serving in the Army, but is at present in England

The 31st July 1917 was the first day of the the Third Battle of Ypres, better known as Passchendaele. 17th Manchesters were to attack Sanctuary and Glencourse Woods. After initial successes, the attack faltered and the Manchesters dug in. Heavy rain started, turning the shell churned ground into a quagmire. The attack faltered and when the Battalion was relieved, they had lost 21 dead and 154 wounded or missing.