

## HALL, Herbert Cecil Victor

Service Number 75359

Rank Lieutenant  
Durham Light Infantry, 12th Battalion

Born June 26, 1887, Tickhill, Yorkshire, UK  
Died June 13, 1917, Ypres, Belgium

Occupation Rancher  
Marital Status Married to Margaret Jane Hedley; two daughters

Seeking adventure and opportunities in Canada, Herbert “Bertie” Hall abandoned his childhood home on a Yorkshire estate called Whatton Manor and an education at Haileybury Imperial Service College. He attended two agricultural schools: one in England and one in High River, Alberta. In 1909, he made his way to Salmon Arm, where he married Margaret Jane Hedley. She had a three-year-old named Idris who later gained fame as the daring Aloha Wanderwell. They briefly settled in North Vancouver before buying land in Qualicum.

Hall and his family lived in a tent on their property while land was cleared and a cabin built, and there were grand plans to build a manor house. He was active in St. Anne’s Anglican Church and the community and employed a number of families.

He enlisted as a private in 1915 and was sent overseas with the 29<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the Canadian Infantry. Within a few months, he was discharged to accept a Second Lieutenant’s commission in the Imperial Service. In 1916, he was wounded by shrapnel to his thigh and sent to England to recuperate, where Margaret and his youngest daughter joined him. He then returned to the Western Front. The 12<sup>th</sup> Battalion was involved in the laying of explosives in tunnels that had been dug by Allied miners beneath the German trenches. Detonated on June 7, 1917, the resulting explosion was heard in London and Dublin and killed thousands of German soldiers. A few days later during German shelling, H C V Hall was killed in action. His body was never recovered. He is commemorated at the Railway Dugouts Burial Ground in Belgium.

A well-researched and detailed account of his life is described in “*Aloha Wanderwell*”, a book about the adventures of his stepdaughter by Christian Fink-Jensen and Randolph Eustace-Walden.

Sources: Photo: Margaret Lundahl-Hammel  
Personnel Records of the First World War, Library and Archives Canada  
Books of Remembrance, Veterans Affairs Canada  
Obituary Victoria Daily Times July 17, 1917  
“Aloha Wanderwell” by Christian Fink-Jensen and Randolph Eustace-Walden  
Durham at war.org

