

HALL, William Charles

Service Number 75523

Rank Sergeant
Canadian Infantry, British Columbia Regiment, 29th Battalion

Born September 21, 1880, Wednesbury, Staffordshire, England
Died August 25, 1917, No. 7 Casualty Clearing Station, St. Omer, France

Occupation Chemist
Marital Status Single

William Charles Hall was born in a market town in central England. As a young man, he served seven years with the volunteer South Staffordshire regiment prior to emigrating to Canada. He is listed in the 1914 Henderson's BC Directory as a farmer in Errington.

He knew something about explosives, as on his attestation papers he gave his occupation as chemist. His next of kin was his brother of Canadian Explosives, Nanaimo.

On September 15, 1915, he qualified as a bomb thrower. That meant he had a good pitch, because a soldier was considered trained when he could land 75% of his throws thirty yards further along in the trench. As a thrower had to expose himself to throw, this was considered a dangerous job. There were a few different types of WWI hand bombs (grenades) including bombs called 'jam pots' because they were homemade.

<https://www.warmuseum.ca/firstworldwar/history/battles-and-fighting/weapons-on-land/grenades/>

William fell ill twice but was able to rejoin his unit both times. On August 23, 1917, during operations near Estree-Cauchy, France, William was dangerously wounded in the neck, back and thigh by shrapnel. He was removed by stretcher to a dressing station and then taken to No. 7 Casualty Clearing Hospital where he died two days later.

William Charles Hall is buried at the Longuenesse (St Omer) Souvenir Cemetery at St Omer, France and commemorated at Wednesbury, Staffordshire.

Sources: Personnel Records of the First World War, Library and Archives Canada
Books of Remembrance, Veterans Affairs Canada
Circumstances of Death Registers, Library and Archives Canada
British Columbia City Directories / Vancouver Public Library
Historywebsite.co.uk, articles, Wednesbury, war
Canada.ca – military history – official – book-1928-great war 1
Thehistorypress.co.uk – evacuation of the wounded in world war 1

