

Gunner William Henry Full

Regimental Number: 88708

#1 Section, 14th Division Ammunition Column, Royal Field Artillery

born: 1877 - died: 29 May 1918

William Henry Full was the son of John and Mary Jane Full of Barrow-in-Furness, Lancashire.¹ His father, John, was born in 1850, in Ashburton, Devon² and his wife, the former Mary Jane Woodward, was born in 1853 in Ulverston, Lancashire.³ At some point his father moved from Devon to Lancashire where he married Mary Jane in 1875.⁴ They had four children. William had two older sisters both born in Ulverston, Lancashire: Sarah A. (born about 1873)⁵ and Mary Edith (born in 1875).⁶ William Henry was born in 1877 in Barrow-in-Furness.⁷ A second son, Edward Woodward, was born in Barrow-in-Furness in 1886.⁸

William's mother, Mary Jane, died in 1910.⁹ In 1911, William and his father were living with his married daughter, Mary Edith Williamson and her husband, William. Also living with them were a nephew aged 13, also called William Henry, and a cousin, John William Woodward.¹⁰

William enlisted in Barrow-in-Furness¹¹ sometime before December 1915.¹² There is some evidence that he first served as a Private in the Royal Army Medical Corp,¹³ but when he died he was a Driver in the Division Ammunition Column of the Royal Field Artillery. An ammunition column carried artillery and small arms ammunition for the Division of which it was part. The column collected ammunition from the Army Service Corps Divisional Ammunition Park for onward transportation to a re-filling point where it could be collected by ammunition wagons belonging to the individual batteries.¹⁴

William was injured on 29 May 1918 and admitted to the 1st Canadian Casualty Clearing Station with shrapnel wounds to his abdomen and chest.¹⁵ He was likely unconscious when admitted because he died the same day and his next-of-kin was not known. He was also buried on 29 May in Pernes Military Cemetery (Plot 2, Row D, Grave 13) with the chaplain J. K. Tibbits presiding. William was identified as a member of the Church of England. Since his next-of-kin was not known, a letter was sent to his unit's adjutant to notify him of William's death. The monies owing to him by the army after his death were sent to his sister, Mary E. Williamson, who was identified as his sole legatee.

On 29 May, 95 soldiers were admitted to the 1st Canadian Casualty Clearing Station, bringing the total number of patients to 422.¹⁶ In the whole month of May, there were 115 deaths at this CCCS – more than in any of the other three and a half months that the 1st CCCS was in Pernes. The Pernes British Military Cemetery was only set up in April 1918 when the 1st and 4th Canadian Casualty Clearing Stations came to Pernes, driven back by the German advance.¹⁷

William was awarded the British War Medal (for service overseas between 1914 and 1918), the Victory Medal (for service in an operational theatre) and the 1914-15 Star (for service in the war against Germany between 5 August 1914 and 31 December 1915).¹⁸

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- ¹ "Commonwealth War Graves Commission," (www.cwgc.org; accessed 2 February 2015), entry for Full, W. H., Service No: 88708
- ² "England & Wales, FreeBMD Birth Index, 1837-1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk; accessed 2 February 2015), entry for John Full, Registration district: Newton Abbot, Inferred County: Devon, Volume: 10, Page: 130
- ³ "England & Wales, FreeBMD Birth Index, 1837-1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk; accessed 2 February 2015), entry for Mary Jane Woodward, Registration district: Ulverston, Inferred County: Lancashire, Volume: 8e, Page: 517
- ⁴ "England & Wales, FreeBMD Marriage Index, 1837-1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk; accessed 11 December 2015), entry for John Full, Registration district: Ulverston, Inferred County: Lancashire, Volume: 8e, Page: 941
- ⁵ "1901 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk; accessed 11 January 2015), entry for John Full, Registration district: Barrow-in-Furness, Sub-registration district: Barrow-in-Furness, ED, institution, or vessel: 17, Piece: 4012, Folio: 112, Page Number: 12, Household schedule number: 54
- ⁶ "England & Wales births 1837-2006," *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk; accessed 2 February 2015), entry for Mary Edith Full, District: Ulverston, County: Lancashire, Volume: 8E, Page: 805
- ⁷ "England & Wales, FreeBMD Birth Index, 1837-1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk; accessed 2 February 2015), entry for William Henry Full, Registration district: Barrow-in-Furness, Inferred County: Lancashire, Volume: 8c, Page: 848
- ⁸ "England & Wales, FreeBMD Birth Index, 1837-1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk; accessed 2 February 2015), entry for Edward Woodward Full, Registration district: Barrow-in-Furness, Inferred County: Lancashire, Volume: 8c, Page: 876
- ⁹ "England & Wales deaths 1837-2007," *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk; accessed 2 February 2015), entry for Mary J. Full, District: Barrow-in-Furness, County: Lancashire, Volume: 8E, Page: 471
- ¹⁰ "1911 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk; accessed 2 February 2015), entry for John Full, Registration district: Barrow-in-Furness, Registration District Number: 482, Sub-registration district: Barrow-in-Furness, ED, institution, or vessel: 2, Piece: 25652
- ¹¹ "UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War, 1914-1919," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk; accessed 2 February 2015), entry for William Henry Full
- ¹² He must have enlisted before that date because he was eligible for the 1914-15 Star for service in the war against Germany between 5 August 1914 and 31 December 1915.
- ¹³ "UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War, 1914-1919," entry for William Henry Full
- ¹⁴ "Division Ammunition Column 1916 - 1918" *Great War Forum* (<http://1914-1918.invisionzone.com/forums/index.php?showtopic=156438>; accessed 3 February 2015)
- ¹⁵ "Record of Deaths, 17 February 1916 - 10 February 1919, a record maintained at No. 1 CCCS," Library and Archives Canada, (records accessed 2013 & 2015), Record Group 9, series IIC10, volume 4556, Record number 529
- ¹⁶ "War Diaries of the First World War: 1st Canadian Casualty Clearing Station 1914/08/13-1919/03/31," *Library and Archives Canada* (http://data4.collectionscanada.gc.ca/netacgi/nph-brs?s1=casualty+clearing&s13=&s12=&l=20&s9=RG9&s7=9-52&Sect1=IMAGE&Sect2=THESOFF&Sect4=AND&Sect5=WARDPEN&Sect6=HITOFF&d=FINDD&p=1&u=http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/archivianet/02015202_e.html&r=1&f=G; accessed 15 December 2015)
- ¹⁷ "Pernes British Military Cemetery" *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* (<http://www.cwgc.org/find-a-cemetery/cemetery/11600/PERNES%20BRITISH%20CEMETERY>; accessed 13 January 2015)
- ¹⁸ "British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914-1920," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk; accessed 2 February 2015), entry for William H. Full