

**Private George Ring**  
**Regimental number: 242637**  
**9<sup>th</sup> Battalion, East Surrey Regiment**

**born: 1891/2 - died: 9 July 1918**

Private George Ring, born in 1891 or 1892,<sup>1</sup> was the husband of Sarah E. Ring.<sup>2</sup> George married Sarah E. Whittingham near Medway, Kent in about 1915.<sup>3</sup> It is likely that they did not have any children.

When he was living in Barham, Kent, he enlisted in Maidstone in the East Surrey Regiment. Over the course of the war, he served in the 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and finally the 9<sup>th</sup> Battalion. This meant that George served in both Regular and Service Battalions during his service.<sup>4</sup>

On 25 June 1918, George was admitted to the 1<sup>st</sup> Canadian Casualty Clearing Station with gunshot wounds to his left leg.<sup>5</sup> On the nights preceding 25 June, patrols from the 9<sup>th</sup> Battalion had been out at night exploring enemy trenches.<sup>6</sup> On the night of 24/25 June "a patrol was out & got into enemy trenches in the same place, but withdrew again on sighting on enemy fighting patrol of three times their size coming along the communication trench. This enemy patrol later on approached our post at the top of COUNTER trench ... & threw two bombs slightly wounding two of our men, but our men replied with Lewis gun & rifle fire & bombs, driving them off."<sup>7</sup>

Perhaps George was one of these two men who has been wounded. Although he may only have been slightly wounded with gunshot wounds, his condition worsen at the CCCS and his leg had to be amputated because gas gangrene had set in.<sup>8</sup> He survived for two weeks, but succumbed to his wounds and died on 9 July. He was buried the same day in the Pernes British Military Cemetery (Plot 5, Row E., Grave 5) with the chaplain J. K. Tibbits presiding. George was a member of the Church of England.

When he was admitted on 25 June, George was one of 25 admissions to the 1<sup>st</sup> CCCS that day. When he died, he was one of 39 to die at that CCCS in July. Most of the over 1,000 First World War soldiers buried in the Pernes British Military Cemetery died at one of the nearby clearing stations.<sup>9</sup> This cemetery was only set up in April 1918 when the 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Canadian Casualty Clearing Stations came to Pernes, driven back by the German advance.

His wife, who was living at 17 Cavendish Road, Rochester, Kent at the time, was notified of his death. She also received the monies owing to him by the army after his death.<sup>10</sup>

George was probably the son of John and Emma Ring.<sup>11</sup> George's father, John William, was born in about 1855 in Aylesford, Kent. His mother, the former Emma Jane Fry, was born in about 1862 in St Faith, Maidstone. John and Emma were married in the district of Maidstone in 1882<sup>12</sup> and had nine children – five of whom survived to 1911.<sup>13</sup> The surviving children were John Walter (born in 1880),<sup>14</sup> Thomas Alfred (born in about 1885),<sup>15</sup> Charles (born in about 1887), George, and Lizzie E. (born about 1895).<sup>16</sup> George's father was a town carter.<sup>17</sup> In 1911, George was a paper maker's labourer, as were two of his older brothers, Thomas and Charles.<sup>18</sup>

George was awarded the British War Medal (for service overseas between 1914 and 1918) and the Victory Medal (for service in an operational theatre).<sup>19</sup>

- 
- <sup>1</sup> "Commonwealth War Graves Commission," ([www.cwgc.org](http://www.cwgc.org); accessed 16 May 2015), entry for Ring, George, Service No: 242637; "England & Wales, FreeBMD Birth Index, 1837-1915," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk); accessed 16 May 2015), entry for George Ring, Registration district: Maidstone, Inferred County: Kent, Volume: 2a, Page: 761
- <sup>2</sup> "Commonwealth War Graves Commission," entry for Ring, George, Service No: 242637;
- <sup>3</sup> "England & Wales marriages 1837-2008," *findmypast* ([www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk), accessed 16 May 2015), entry for George Ring, District: Medway, County: Kent, Volume: 2A, Page: 2141
- <sup>4</sup> "The First World War 1914 - 1918, East Surrey Regiment," (<http://www.queensroyalsurreys.org.uk/1661to1966/ww1east/ww1east.html>; accessed 7 June 2015)
- <sup>5</sup> "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 624
- <sup>6</sup> "UK, WWI War Diaries (France, Belgium and Germany), 1914-1920," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk); accessed 22 May 2015), Regiment or Unit: East Surrey Regiment, Sub Unit: 9th Battalion, Division: 24th Division, Diary Dates: 1915 Aug - 1919 Mar, Piece Description: Piece 2215/1: 9 Battalion East Surrey Regiment (1915 Aug - 1919 Mar), Piece Number: 2215
- <sup>7</sup> *Ibid.*
- <sup>8</sup> Gas gangrene is a bacterial infection that produces gas in gangrenous tissue. ("Gas gangrene," Wikipedia, [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gas\\_gangrene](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gas_gangrene); accessed 9 June 2018)
- <sup>9</sup> "Pernes British Military Cemetery" *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* (<http://www.cwgc.org/find-a-cemetery/cemetery/11600/PERNES%20BRITISH%20CEMETERY>; accessed 13 January 2015)
- <sup>10</sup> "UK, Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects, 1901-1929," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk); accessed 16 May 2015), entry for George Ring
- <sup>11</sup> "1891 England Census," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk); accessed 16 May 2015), entry for George King, Registration district: Maidstone, Sub-district registration: West Maidstone, ED, institution, or vessel: 8, Piece: 687, Folio: 132, Page Number: 26
- <sup>12</sup> "England & Wales marriages 1837-2008," *findmypast* ([www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk); accessed 16 May 2015), entry for John Ring, District: Medway, County: Kent, Volume: 2A, Page: 1102
- <sup>13</sup> "1911 England, Wales & Scotland Census," *Findmypast* ([www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk); accessed 16 May 2015), entry for George Ring, Registration district: Maidstone, Registration district number: 51, Subdistrict: Maidstone, Subdistrict number: 3, Enumeration district: 30, Piece number 4157, Schedule number: 186, Census reference: RG14PN4157 RG78PN161 RD51 SD3 ED30 SN186
- <sup>14</sup> "England & Wales, FreeBMD Birth Index, 1837-1915," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk); accessed 16 May 2015), entry for John Walter King, Registration district: Maidstone, Inferred County: Kent, Volume: 2a, Page: 691
- <sup>15</sup> "England & Wales, FreeBMD Birth Index, 1837-1915," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk); accessed 16 May 2015), entry for Thomas Alfred King, Registration district: Maidstone, Inferred County: Kent, Volume: 2a, Page: 718
- <sup>16</sup> "England & Wales, FreeBMD Birth Index, 1837-1915," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk); accessed 16 May 2015), entry for Lizzie King, Registration district: Maidstone, Inferred County: Kent, Volume: 2a, Page: 770
- <sup>17</sup> "1901 England Census," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk); accessed 11 January 2015), entry for George Ring, Registration district: Maidstone, Sub-registration district: Maidstone, ED, institution, or vessel: 23, Piece: 767, Folio: 141, Page Number: 16, Household schedule number: 91; "1911 England, Wales & Scotland Census," entry for George Ring
- <sup>18</sup> "1911 England, Wales & Scotland Census," entry for George Ring
- <sup>19</sup> "British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914-1920," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk); accessed 15 May 2015), entry for George Ring