

Private Robert William Price
Regimental number: 21768
1st Battalion, Gloucestershire Regiment

born: 1891 - died: 30 June 1918

Private Robert William Price, born in 1891 in Marylebone, London,¹ was the son of Robert William and Louisa Price.² His father was born in about 1870 in Bristol, Gloucestershire, and his mother, the former Louisa Summerell, was also born in about 1870 in Bristol. Robert and Louisa were married in 1889 in Barton Hill, St Luke, Somersetshire, England.³ In 1891, they were living with Robert's parents, Andrew and Elizabeth Price, where Robert was a boot maker.⁴ Their first child, Robert William, was born later that year.⁵ There followed eight more children: Charles E. (born in about 1894), Frederick T. (born in about 1897), Arthur S. (born in about 1899), Albert (born in about 1900), Alfred (born in about 1902), Louisa S. (born in about 1904), Archibald (born in about 1907) and Elizabeth (born in about 1909).⁶



R. W. Price in Pernes cemetery
(Source: Author, July 2015)

Robert followed in his father's footsteps and, in 1911, he too was a boot maker. In 1914, he married Maud L. M. Harris in Bristol⁷ and they had at least one child – son, Robert W., born in 1915.⁸

Robert enlisted as a Private in the 1st Battalion, Gloucestershire Regiment. The Battalion went to France, landing at Le Havre on the 13 August 1914, and fought on the Western Front throughout the war, taking part in most major engagements.⁹ It is not known when Robert went to the Western Front, but on 23 June 1918, he was admitted to the 1st Canadian Casualty Clearing Station.¹⁰ That day had been a quiet one for his unit, but two Other Ranks were wounded – perhaps Robert was one of them.¹¹ Robert died at the 1st CCCS seven days later of nephritis, pneumonia and a heart condition. He was buried the following day in Pernes British Military Cemetery (Plot 5. Row D. Grave No. 5) with the chaplain J. K. Tibbitts presiding. Robert was listed as a member of the Church of England.

Robert was one of 200 admitted to the 1st CCCS that on 23 June and one of 82 who died there in the month of June.¹² 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.¹³ This 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.

His wife, Maud, was notified of his death at Glendare Street, Barton Hill, Bristol and she received the monies owing to him by the army after his death.¹⁴ Robert was awarded the British War Medal (for service overseas between 1914 and 1918) and the Victory Medal (for service in an operational theatre).¹⁵

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- ¹ "England & Wales, FreeBMD Birth Index, 1837-1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 16 April 2015), entry for Robert William Price, Registration district: Marylebone, Inferred County: London, Volume: 1a, Page: 567
- ² "1901 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 16 April 2015), entry for Robert W. Price, Registration district: Bristol, Sub-registration district: St, George, ED, institution, or vessel: 39, Piece: 151, Folio: 2, Household schedule number: 7
- ³ "Gloucestershire, Bristol Marriage Index 1644-1939," *findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk, accessed 5 January 2015), entry for Robert William Price, County: Gloucestershire, Record set: Gloucestershire, Bristol Marriage Index 1644-1939
- ⁴ "1891 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 16 April 2015), entry for Robert Price, Registration district: Marylebone, Sub-registration district: St Mary, ED, institution, or vessel: 8, Piece: 97, Folio: 17, Page Number: 30
- ⁵ "1901 England Census," entry for Robert W. Price; "1911 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 15 April 2015), entry for Robert W. Price, Registration district: Bristol, Registration District Number: 319, Sub-registration district: St Philip and St Jacob, ED, institution, or vessel: 28, Household schedule number: 188, Piece: 15025
- ⁶ *Ibid.*
- ⁷ "England & Wales, FreeBMD Marriage Index, 1837-1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 16 April 2015), entry for Robert W. Price, Registration district: Bristol, Inferred County: Gloucestershire, Volume: 6a, Page: 14
- ⁸ "England & Wales, FreeBMD Birth Index, 1837-1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 16 April 2015), entry for Robert W. Price, Registration district: Bristol, Inferred County: Gloucestershire, Volume: 6a, Page: 218
- ⁹ "Gloucestershire Regiment 1st Btn. during the Great War," The Wartime Memories Project (<http://www.wartimememoriesproject.com/greatwar/allied/alliedarmy-view.php?pid=6172>; accessed 17 April 2015)
- ¹⁰ "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 606
- ¹¹ "UK, WWI War Diaries (France, Belgium and Germany), 1914-1920," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk; accessed 20 May 2015), entry for Gloucestershire Regiment, Sub Unit: 1st Battalion, Piece Description: Piece 1278/1-5: 3 Infantry Brigade: 1 Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment (1914 Aug - 1919 Apr), Piece Number: 1278
- ¹² "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=FIN&p=1&u=http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/archivianet/02015202_e.html&r=1&f=G)
- ¹³ "Pernes British Military Cemetery" *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* (<http://www.cwgc.org/find-a-cemetery/cemetery/11600/PERNES%20BRITISH%20CEMETERY>: accessed 13 January 2015)
- ¹⁴ "UK, Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects, 1901-1929," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk; accessed 16 April 2015), entry for Robert William Price
- ¹⁵ "British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914-1920," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 16 April 2015), entry for Price, Robert W.