

Gunner Herman Laycock
Regimental number: 785863
293rd Army Brigade, Royal Field Artillery

born: about 1895 - died: 19 September 1918

Gunner Herman Laycock, born in about 1895¹ in Clayton, Yorkshire,² was the son of John Booth and Elizabeth Ann Laycock.³ His father, John, was born on 21 October 1860 in Great Horton, Yorkshire⁴ and his mother, Elizabeth Ann (formerly Mitchell), was born in about 1861, the daughter John Mitchell.⁵ John and Elizabeth were married on 9 June 1886 at St Peter's Cathedral in Bradford, Yorkshire.

John and Elizabeth had four children, three of whom had died before 1911. Herman was their only child who survived childhood. Two children died at the age of five. Their first child, a daughter, Clara, was born late in 1886 and died in 1891.⁶ Their first son, Harry, was born in about 1889, but died in 1894.⁷ Then Herman was born in about 1895. The Laycock's fourth children was probably born in the early 1890s, but died shortly after.

In 1891, the family was living at 101 Beldon Road, Bradford and John was working as a worsted spinning "overlooker."⁸ For the at least the next twenty-five years, the family was living at 12 Crestville Terrace, Clayton in Bradford, where John was a time keeper at a wool combing mill.⁹

Herman enlisted in the army in Bradford, Yorkshire and served in the Royal Field Artillery.¹⁰ On 18 September 1918, Herman was admitted to the 1st Canadian Casualty Clearing Station with shrapnel wounds to his head.¹¹ He died the following day and was buried in Duisans British Military Cemetery (Grave 15, Plot 6, Row H), with the chaplain W. Fisher presiding. John and Elizabeth had lost their only surviving child, at the age of 24.

Duisans British Military Cemetery is located in Etrun, near Arras, in France. The first burials took place in the cemetery in March 1917.¹² The 1st CCCS arrived at the beginning of September and was stationed near Duisans for two months in the autumn of 1918.¹³ A total of 75 patients died at the 1st CCCS in September 1918.

Herman's father was identified as his next-of-kin. His father and mother received the monies owing to him from the army after his death. Herman was awarded the British War Medal (for service overseas between 1914 and 1918) and the Victory Medal (for service in an operational theatre).¹⁴

Herman's parents both died in Yorkshire – his father, John, in April 1934¹⁵ and his mother, Elizabeth Ann, three years later, in April 1937.¹⁶

© BIFHSGO, 2015

¹ "England & Wales, FreeBMD Birth Index, 1837-1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 26 November 2015), entry for Herman Laycock, Registration district: North Bierley, Inferred County: Yorkshire West Riding, Volume: 9b, Page: 197

² "UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War, 1914-1919," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 26 November 2015), entry for Herman Laycock

-
- ³ "1911 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 26 November 2015), entry for Herrian Laycock, Registration district: North Bierley, Registration District Number: 497, Sub-registration district: Thornton, ED, institution, or vessel: 10, Piece: 26616
- ⁴ "West Yorkshire, England, Births and Baptisms, 1813-1910," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 26 November 2015), entry for John Brook Laycock
- ⁵ "West Yorkshire, England, Marriages and Banns, 1813-1935," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 26 November 2015), entry for John Booth Laycock
- ⁶ "England & Wales, FreeBMD Birth Index, 1837-1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 27 November 2015), entry for Clara Laycock, Registration district: Bradford, Inferred County: Yorkshire West Riding, Volume: 9b, Page: 176; "England & Wales, FreeBMD Death Index, 1837-1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 27 November 2015), entry for Clara Laycock, Registration district: Bradford, Inferred County: Yorkshire West Riding, Volume: 9b, Page: 110
- ⁷ "England & Wales, FreeBMD Birth Index, 1837-1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 27 November 2015), entry for Harry Laycock, Registration district: Bradford, Inferred County: Yorkshire West Riding, Volume: 9b, Page: 182; ; "England & Wales, FreeBMD Death Index, 1837-1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 27 November 2015), entry for Harry Laycock, Registration district: Bradford, Inferred County: Yorkshire West Riding, Volume: 9b, Page: 119
- ⁸ "1891 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 26 November 2015), entry for John B. Laycock, Registration district: Bradford, Sub registration district: Horton,ED, institution, or vessel: 17, Piece: 3639, Folio: 39, Page Number: 28
- ⁹ "1901 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 11 January 2015), entry for Herman Laycock, Registration district: North Bierley, Sub-registration district: Thornton, ED, institution, or vessel: 16, Piece: 4179, Folio: 11, Page Number: 16, Household schedule number: 108; "1911 England Census," entry for Herrian Laycock; "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 660
- ¹⁰ "UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War, 1914-1919," entry for Herman Laycock
- ¹¹ "Record of Deaths, 17 February 1916 - 10 February 1919, a record maintained at No. 1 CCCS," Record number 660
- ¹² "Duisans British Cemetery, Etrun," Commonwealth War Graves Commission (www.cwgc.org; accessed 7 October 2015)
- ¹³ "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 17 June 2015)
- ¹⁴ "British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914-1920," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 26 November 2015), entry for Harry Reuben Knight
- ¹⁵ "Record of Deaths, 17 February 1916 - 10 February 1919, a record maintained at No. 1 CCCS," Record number 660
- ¹⁵ "West Yorkshire, England, Deaths and Burials, 1813-1985," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 26 November 2015), entry for John Booth Laycock
- ¹⁶ "England & Wales, National Probate Calendar (Index of Wills and Administrations), 1858-1966." *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 26 November 2015), entry for Elizabeth Ann Laycock