

Gunner Stanley William Lisby
Regimental number: 152748
139th Siege Battery, Royal Garrison Artillery

born: 1886 - died: 8 September 1918

Gunner Stanley William Lisby was born in 1886 in Southampton, Hampshire,¹ the son of William and Matilda Jane Lisby.² William was born in about 1858 in Poole, Dorset and Matilda Jane (formerly Matilda Jane Mitchell) in 1861 in Southampton. William and Matilda Jane were married in 1885 in Southampton.³ They had two sons: Stanley and Leslie Norman (born in about 1894).⁴ They lost both sons in the Great War.

In 1891, Stanley was living with his parents at 15 Ordnance Road, Southampton, where his father was a grocer. In 1901, the family was living at 13 London Road, still in Southampton. In 1911, they were still at the same address. Stanley's father was still a grocer, but now Stanley (aged 25) was also a grocer. From at least 1891, probably until 1910 when she died at the age of 85, Stanley's grandmother, Matilda Mitchell, lived with the family.

In 1913, Stanley married Lilian Kate Vincent in Southampton.⁵ They do not appear to have had any children.

Stanley enlisted as a Private in the Royal Garrison Artillery – one element of the Royal Regiment of Artillery, which “...was armed with heavy, large calibre guns and howitzers that were positioned some way behind the front line and had immense destructive power.”⁶ “Siege Batteries RGA were equipped with heavy howitzers, sending large calibre high explosive shells in high trajectory, plunging fire. ... As British artillery tactics developed, the Siege Batteries were most often employed in destroying or neutralising the enemy artillery, as well as putting destructive fire down on strongpoints, dumps, store, roads and railways behind enemy lines.”⁷ Stanley served in the 139th Siege Battery,⁸ which first went overseas on 1 August 1916. It is not known when he joined the Front.

On 7 September 1918, Stanley was admitted to the 1st Canadian Casualty Clearing Station with gunshot wounds to his abdomen and right hand.⁹ He died there the following day – less than a year after his brother had died serving in Syria. Stanley was buried on 9 September in Duisans British Military Cemetery (Plot 5, Row H, Grave 41) with the chaplain W. Fisher presiding. Stanley was a member of the Church of England.

Duisans' British Military Cemetery is located in Etrun, near Arras, in France. The first burials took place in the cemetery in March 1917.¹⁰ The 1st CCCS arrived at the beginning of September and was stationed near Duisans for two months in the autumn of 1918.¹¹ A total of 75 patients died at the 1st CCCS in September.

His wife, Lilian, who was then living at 57 Arcne Road in Southampton, was notified of his death.¹² She also received the monies owing to him from the army after his death.¹³ He left a will covering effects of just over £223, with probate to his wife. She does not appear to have remarried, and probably died in 1976.¹⁴

Stanley's brother, Leslie, also served and died in the Great War. He was a 2nd Lieutenant in the 4th Battalion of the Royal Sussex Regiment and was serving in the Middle East when he died. He joined

the Egyptian Expeditionary Force on 12 January 1916.¹⁵ In 1917, the Battalion moved into Palestine, and took part in the Battle of Tel el Khuweilfe¹⁶ part of the Southern Palestine Offensive that began on 1 November 1917.¹⁷ Leslie was likely killed in this action. He died on 5 November 1917 and was buried in the Beersheba War Cemetery in the Southern District of Israel.¹⁸

Stanley's mother had lost both of her sons and, a few years after the war, she lost her husband. William died in 1924.¹⁹ Matilda probably continued to live in Southampton and died in 1940.²⁰

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¹ "England & Wales, FreeBMD Birth Index, 1837-1915," Ancestry (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 12 October 2015), entry for Stanley William Lisby, Registration district: Southampton, Inferred County: Hampshire, Volume: 2c, Page: 30. His birth record shows his first names as Stanley William, but other civil and his military records show the order reversed – William Stanley.

² "1891 England Census," Ancestry (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 12 October 2015), entry for Stanley W. Lisby, Registration district: Southampton, ED, institution, or vessel: 16, Piece: 915, Folio: 131, Page Number: 44

³ "England & Wales, FreeBMD Marriage Index, 1837-1915," Ancestry (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 12 October 2015), entry for William Lisby, Registration district: Southampton, Inferred County: Hampshire, Volume: 2c, Page: 61

⁴ "England & Wales, FreeBMD Birth Index, 1837-1915," Ancestry (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 12 October 2015), entry for Leslie Lisby, Registration district: Southampton, Inferred County: Hampshire, Volume: 2c, Page: 44

⁵ "England & Wales, FreeBMD Marriage Index, 1837-1915," Ancestry (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 12 October 2015), entry for Lilian K Vincent, Registration district: Southampton, Inferred County: Hampshire, Volume: 2c, Page: 91

⁶ "The Long, Long Trail: The British artillery of 1914-1918," <http://www.1914-1918.net/cra.htm>: accessed 2 December 2014

⁷ "The Long, Long Trail: The Siege Batteries of the Royal Garrison Artillery," <http://www.1914-1918.net/siege-battery-index.htm>: accessed 2 December 2014

⁸ "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 637

⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰ "Duisans British Cemetery, Etrun," Commonwealth War Graves Commission (www.cwgc.org; accessed 7 October 2015)

¹¹ "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)

¹² "Record of Deaths, 17 February 1916 - 10 February 1919, a record maintained at No. 1 CCCS," Record number 637

¹³ "UK, Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects, 1901-1929," Ancestry (www.ancestry.co.uk; accessed 12 October 2015), entry for Stanley William Lisby

¹⁴ Lilian death "England & Wales, FreeBMD Death Index, 1837-1915," Ancestry (www.ancestry.co.uk; accessed 12 October 2015), entry for Lilian Kate Lisby, Registration district: Southampton, Inferred County: Hampshire, Volume: 20, Page: 1435

¹⁵ "British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914-1920," Ancestry (www.ancestry.co.uk; accessed 12 October 2015), entry for Stanley W. Lisby

¹⁶ "1/4th Battalion Royal Sussex Regiment," (<http://battlefields1418.50megs.com/4sussex.htm>; accessed 11 October 2015)

¹⁷ "Battle of Tel el Khuweilfe," Wikipedia (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Tel_el_Khuweilfe; accessed 11 October 2015)

¹⁸ "Commonwealth War Graves Commission," (www.cwgc.org; accessed 12 October 2015), entry for Lisby, S. W., Service No: 152748

¹⁹ "England & Wales, National Probate Calendar (Index of Wills and Administrations), 1858-1966." *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk; accessed 12 October 2015), entry for Stanley William Lisby

²⁰ "England & Wales, National Probate Calendar (Index of Wills and Administrations), 1858-1966." *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk; accessed 12 October 2015), entry for Matilda Jane Lisby