

Gunner Idwal David Isaac

Regimental number: 199188

195th Siege Battery, Royal Garrison Artillery

born: about 1897 - died: 28 September 1918

Gunner Idwal David Isaac was born in about 1897 near Bridgend, Glamorgan, Wales,¹ the eldest child of Morris and Ann Isaac.² Thomas Morris Isaac was born in about 1874 in Maesteg, Glamorgan³ and his wife, the former Ann Peregrine, was born in about 1874, in Trewyddel, Pembrokeshire.⁴ Morris and Ann were married near Bridgend in 1896.⁵ They had four children: Idwal, Emlyn Peregrine (born in about 1900),⁶ Edgar Henry (born in about 1904)⁷ and Dilys Annie (born in about 1908).⁸

In 1901, the family was living at 54 Station Street in Maesteg, where Morris was a colliery fireman, working underground. His father-in-law, Simon Peregrine, also a colliery labourer was living with them. Ten years later, Morris was a colliery examiner below ground and his son, Idwal, was a butcher's apprentice. The family was living at 20 Golden Terrace, Bridgend.

By the time Idwal enlisted at the age of 21, he had joined his father at the colliery.⁹ He enlisted in Cardiff on 21 March 1918, when the family was living at 10 Bridge Street, Maesteg. He was 5' 4½" tall and had brown hair, a bright complexion and brown eyes. He disembarked in France on 4 June and joined the 195th Siege Battery in July. Only a few months later, he was injured and admitted to the 1st Canadian Casualty Clearing Station.¹⁰ He had shrapnel wounds to his arm, back and legs and had injured his right kidney. He survived for three days, dying on 27 September. He was buried the next day in Duisans British Military Cemetery (Grave 22, Plot 7, Row A) with the chaplain A. D. Reid presiding.

Duisans British Military Cemetery is located in Etrun, near Arras, in France. The first burials took place in the cemetery in March 1917.¹¹ The 1st CCCS arrived at the beginning of September and was stationed near Duisans for two months in the autumn of 1918.¹² A total of 75 patients died at the 1st CCCS in September 1918.

Idwal was awarded the British War Medal (for service overseas between 1914 and 1918) and the Victory Medal (for service in an operational theatre).¹³

Idwal's mother was identified as his next-of-kin and received the monies owing to him from the army after his death. Both Idwal's parents died in Bridgend – his mother in 1935¹⁴ and his father in 1951.¹⁵

© BIFHSGO, 2016

¹ "England & Wales, FreeBMD Birth Index, 1837-1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 10 January 2016), entry for Idwal David Isaac, Registration district: Bridgend, Inferred County: Glamorgan, Volume: 11a, Page: 819

² "1901 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 10 January 2016), entry for Ideval B. Isaac, Registration district: Bridgend, Sub-registration district: Maesteg, ED, institution, or vessel: 9, Piece: 5041, Folio: 92, Page Number: 28

-
- ³ "England & Wales, FreeBMD Birth Index, 1837-1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk; accessed 10 January 2016), entry for Thomas Morris Isaac, Registration district: Bridgend, Inferred County: Glamorgan, Volume: 11a, Page: 560
- ⁴ "1901 England Census," entry for Ideval B. Isaac
- ⁵ "England & Wales, FreeBMD Marriage Index, 1837-1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk; accessed 10 January 2016), entry for Thomas Morris Isaac, Registration district: Bridgend, Inferred County: Glamorgan, Volume: 11a, Page: 1129
- ⁶ "England & Wales, FreeBMD Birth Index, 1837-1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk; accessed 10 January 2016), entry for Emlyn Peregrine Isaac, Registration district: Bridgend, Inferred County: Glamorgan, Volume: 11a, Page: 798
- ⁷ "England & Wales, FreeBMD Birth Index, 1837-1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk; accessed 10 January 2016), entry for Edgar Henry Isaac, Registration district: Bridgend, Inferred County: Glamorgan, Volume: 11a, Page: 900
- ⁸ "England & Wales, FreeBMD Birth Index, 1837-1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk; accessed 10 January 2016), entry for Dilys Annie Isaac, Registration district: Bridgend, Inferred County: Glamorgan, Volume: 11a, Page: 950
- ⁹ "UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War, 1914-1919," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk; accessed 10 January 2016), entry for Idwal David Isaac
- ¹⁰ "Record of Deaths, 17 February 1916 - 10 February 1919, a record maintained at No. 1 CCCS," *Library and Archives Canada*, (records accessed 2013 & 2016), Record Group 9, series IIC10, volume 4556, Record number 671
- ¹¹ "Duisans British Cemetery, Etrun," Commonwealth War Graves Commission (www.cwgc.org; accessed 7 October 2015)
- 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=FINDD&p=1&u=http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/archivianet/02015202_e.html&r=1&f=G; accessed 17 June 2015)
- ¹³ "British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914-1920," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk; accessed 10 January 2016), entry for Idwal D. Isaac
- ¹⁴ "England & Wales, FreeBMD Death Index, 1837-1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk; accessed 10 January 2016), entry for Anne Isaac, Registration district: Bridgend, Inferred County: Glamorganshire, Volume: 11a, Page: 648
- ¹⁵ "England & Wales, FreeBMD Death Index, 1837-1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk; accessed 10 January 2016), entry for Thomas M. Isaac, Registration district: Bridgend, Inferred County: Glamorganshire, Volume: 8b, Page: 7