

Private William Weir

Regimental number: 123040

207th Divisional Employment Company, Labour Corps

born: about 1893 - died: 23 September 1918

Private William Weir was born in about 1893 in Glasgow, Lanarkshire, Scotland, the son of George and Elizabeth Weir.¹ His father, George, was born in about 1869 in Glasgow and his mother, Elizabeth, in about 1872 in Greenock, Renfrewshire. They had at least four children: three sons – James (born in about 1892), William and George (born in about 1900)² – and a daughter, Jeanie (born sometime after 1901).³ In 1901, the family was living at 31 Mansfield Street, Glasgow, where William's father was a cab driver.

William enlisted in Glasgow, probably in the Royal Scots Fusiliers.⁴ He later transferred to the Labour Corps. On 21 September 1918, he was admitted to the 1st Canadian Casualty Clearing Station with a head wound.⁵ He survived for two days, but died on 23 September and was buried the same day in Duisans British Military Cemetery (Grave 32, Plot 6, Row H) 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 1917.⁶ The 1st CCCS arrived at the beginning of September and was stationed near Duisans for two months in the autumn of 1918.⁷ A total of 75 patients died at the 1st CCCS in September 1918.

The chaplain notified his mother, who was living at 26 Burnside Street, Cowcaddens, Glasgow, of his death.⁸ His mother and sister, Elizabeth and Jeanie, received the monies owing to him from the army after this death.⁹

William was awarded the British War Medal (for service overseas between 1914 and 1918) and the Victory Medal (for service in an operational theatre).¹⁰

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¹ "1901 Scotland Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk; accessed 10 December 2015), entry for William Weir, ED: 17, Household schedule number: 140, LINE: 9, Roll: CSSCT1901_333

² Ibid.

³ "UK, Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects, 1901-1929," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk; accessed 4 December 2015), entry for Wm Weir

⁴ "UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War, 1914-1919," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk; accessed 4 December 2015), entry for William Weir

⁵ "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 665

⁶ "Duisans British Cemetery, Etrun," Commonwealth War Graves Commission (www.cwgc.org; accessed 7 October 2015)

⁷ "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)

⁸ "Record of Deaths, 17 February 1916 - 10 February 1919, a record maintained at No. 1 CCCS," Record number 665

⁹ "UK, Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects, 1901-1929," entry for Wm Weir

¹⁰ "British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914-1920," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 4 December 2015), entry for William Weir