

**Sergeant Alfred Garrett**  
**Regimental number: 42390**  
**18<sup>th</sup> Brigade, Royal Field Artillery**

**born: 1894 - died: 26 September 1918**

Sergeant Alfred Garrett was born in 1894<sup>1</sup> in Little Drayton, Shropshire,<sup>2</sup> the son of William and Emma Garrett. William and Emma were both born in Market Drayton, Shropshire – William in about 1859 and Emma in about 1865.<sup>3</sup> Emma was the former Emma Rutter and she married William in 1885 in Market Drayton. They had ten children, all of whom survived infancy:<sup>4</sup> Alice (born in about 1885), Elsie (born in about 1887), Annie E (born in about 1891), William (born in about 1893), Alfred, Emma (born in about 1896), Frank (born in about 1900), Ethel May (born in about 1902), Florrie (born in about 1908) and Gladys (born in about 1910).<sup>5</sup>

Alfred's father, William, was a general labourer.<sup>6</sup> In 1891, the family was living on Church Lane in Little Drayton (part of Market Drayton).<sup>7</sup> They were at the same place in 1901<sup>8</sup> but, in 1911, had moved to 30 Buntingsdale Road.<sup>9</sup>

When Alfred enlisted in the Royal Field Artillery on 9 November 1914 in Preston, Lancashire, he was 20 years old, 5' 6" tall and a farm labourer.<sup>10</sup> Prior to enlisting, he had worked at Royals Wood Farm, in Nantwich, Cheshire for a year.

He joined the Front in France on 10 March 1915. On 16 June 1916, he was promoted to A/Bombardier. About a year and a half later, he was promoted to Corporal and then to Sergeant on 25 August 1918.

He married Gertrude Smith in Nantwich, Cheshire, on 1 September 1918 when he was home on leave. Less than a month after his marriage, he was injured and sadly died at the 1<sup>st</sup> Canadian Casualty Clearing Station.<sup>11</sup> He was admitted to the 1<sup>st</sup> CCCS with shrapnel wounds and a fracture of his left leg on 26 September. He died the same day and was buried in Duisans British Military Cemetery (Grave 13, Plot 7, Row A) with the chaplain W. Fisher presiding.

Duisans British Military Cemetery is located in Etrun, near Arras, in France. The first burials took place in the cemetery in March 1917.<sup>12</sup> The 1<sup>st</sup> CCCS arrived at the beginning of September and was stationed near Duisans for two months in the autumn of 1918.<sup>13</sup> A total of 75 patients died at the 1<sup>st</sup> CCCS in September 1918.

His next-of-kin was identified as his mother, who was still living on Buntingsdale Road in Little Drayton<sup>14</sup> and the chaplain wrote to notify her of his death.<sup>15</sup> The records had not been updated to reflect his marriage in September 1918. In October, his wife, Gertrude, received the news of his death from his parents. She expressed concern to the army that, as his wife, albeit only for one month, she should have been the first to know of his death. She pointed out that he had made provisions for her, in the event of his death. In fact, she did receive the monies owing to him from the army after his death.<sup>16</sup> She also received the items of personal property that he had left: letters, photos, a religious book, a metal ring, a badge, titles, a mirror, a notebook, a photo case, stripes and some item connected to his Military Medal.<sup>17</sup>

Alfred was awarded the Military Medal on 5 September 1918. The Military Medal was given to Other Ranks for gallantry and devotion to duty when under fire in battle on land.<sup>18</sup> In addition, he

received the British War Medal (for service overseas between 1914 and 1918), the Victory Medal (for service in an operational theatre) and the 1914-15 Star (for service in the war against Germany between 5 August 1914 and 31 December 1915).<sup>19</sup> In the spring of 1920, his wife asked when the Military Medal would be sent to her.<sup>20</sup> She elected to have the medal sent by post, rather than presented to her personally – an option offered by the army.

Gertrude and Alfred did not have any children.<sup>21</sup> However, Gertrude probably remarried in 1922, marrying Samuel Gregory in Nantwich.<sup>22</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> "England & Wales, FreeBMD Birth Index, 1837-1915," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 30 January 2016), entry for Alfred Garratt, Registration district: Market Drayton, Inferred County: Shropshire, Volume: 6a, Page: 682

<sup>2</sup> "British Army WWI Service Records, 1914-1920," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 28 December 2016), entry for Alfred Garrett

<sup>3</sup> "1901 England Census," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 30 January 2016), entry for Alfred Garrett, Registration district: Market Drayton, Sub-registration district: Market Drayton, ED, institution, or vessel: 4, Piece: 2559, Folio: 66, Page Number: 19, Household schedule number: 119

<sup>4</sup> "1911 England Census," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 28 January 2016), entry for William Garrett, Registration district: Market Drayton, Registration District Number: 354, Sub-registration district: Market Drayton, ED, institution, or vessel: 4, Household schedule number: 189, Piece: 16254

<sup>5</sup> "1891 England Census," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 28 January 2016), entry for William Garratt, Registration district: Market Drayton, ED, institution, or vessel: 5, Piece: 2128, Folio: 71, Page Number: 26; "1911 England Census," entry for William Garrett

<sup>6</sup> "1891 England Census," entry for William Garratt

<sup>7</sup> Ibid.

<sup>8</sup> "1901 England Census," entry for Alfred Garrett

<sup>9</sup> "1911 England Census," entry for William Garrett

<sup>10</sup> "British Army Service Records 1914-1920," entry for Alfred Garrett. Unless otherwise sourced, all information about his military career comes from this source.

<sup>11</sup> "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 677

<sup>12</sup> "Duisans British Cemetery, Etrun," Commonwealth War Graves Commission ([www.cwgc.org](http://www.cwgc.org); accessed 7 October 2015)

<sup>13</sup> "War Diaries of the First World War: 1<sup>st</sup> 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](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)

<sup>14</sup> "Record of Deaths, 17 February 1916 - 10 February 1919, a record maintained at No. 1 CCCS," Record number 677

<sup>15</sup> "British Army Service Records 1914-1920," entry for Alfred Garrett

<sup>16</sup> "UK, Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects, 1901-1929," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk); accessed 28 January 2016), entry for Alfred Garrett

<sup>17</sup> "British Army Service Records 1914-1920," entry for Alfred Garrett

<sup>18</sup> "A Guide to British Awards for Gallantry or Meritorious Service in WW1," *the Great War* (<http://www.greatwar.co.uk/medals/ww1-gallantry-awards.htm#MM>; accessed 5 February 2016)

<sup>19</sup> "British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914-1920," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 28 January 2016), entry for Alfred Garrett

<sup>20</sup> "British Army Service Records 1914-1920," entry for Alfred Garrett

<sup>21</sup> Ibid.

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<sup>22</sup> "England & Wales, FreeBMD Marriage Index, 1837-1915," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk); accessed 7 February 2016), entry for William E B Jones, Registration district: Nantwich, Inferred County: Cheshire, Volume: 8a, Page: 563