

**Gunner John Owen**  
**Regimental number: 77026**  
**133th Siege Battery, Royal Garrison Artillery**

**born: about 1897 – died: 9 August 1917**

Gunner John Owen was born about 1897, probably near Barmouth, Wales, the son of Owen David and Mary Owen.<sup>1</sup> They had three children—John and two daughters, Ellen (born in about 1892) and Dilys (born in about 1903). In 1911, the family was living at Arianfryn, Barmouth, where John's father was a private coachman.<sup>2</sup>

Four years later, John enlisted in the army.<sup>3</sup> When he signed his attestation on 11 December 1915, he was 6' tall and a gardener. He joined the Royal Garrison Artillery as a gunner on 29 April 1916 and joined the British Expeditionary Force on 6 August 1916, when he sailed from Folkestone to Boulogne.

In the spring of the following year, he was hospitalized for two weeks with an unspecified illness. Four months later he was injured and admitted to the 1st Canadian Casualty Clearing Station<sup>4</sup> where he died at 4:20 p.m.<sup>5</sup> on 9 August 1917.<sup>6</sup> He was buried the same day<sup>7</sup> in in the Adinkerke Military Cemetery (Grave Reference: C. 5).<sup>8</sup>

On the day that he was admitted, John was one of 26 soldiers to be admitted to the 1st CCCS.<sup>9</sup> A total of 1,896 were admitted in the month of August.

Adinkerke Military Cemetery is 20 kilometres east of Dunkirk, in the community of De Panne, just across the border into Belgium. There are 168 Commonwealth soldiers from the Great War buried in the cemetery.<sup>10</sup>

The 1st CCCS chaplains' journal indicates that his next-of-kin was his wife, who was living at Arianfryn in Dolgelly. However, no evidence has been found to substantiate that he was married.<sup>11</sup> His father received the monies owing to him from the army upon his death.<sup>12</sup> He also received John's personal effects, which included two discs, a letter, photos, a pocket book, three religious books, a razor strap and razor, a shaving brush, a leather case, a writing pad, recruiting cards, cards, a purse, a diary and a key. He also had 12 francs, which were credited to his account.

John was awarded the British War Medal (for service overseas between 1914 and 1918) and the Victory Medal (for service in an operational theatre).<sup>13</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> "British Army WWI Service Records, 1914–1920," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 4 May 2016), entry for John Owen

<sup>2</sup> "1911 England Census," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 4 May 2016), entry for John Owen, Registration district: Dolgelly, Registration district number: 627, Sub-registration district: Barmouth, ED, institution, or vessel: 11, Household schedule number: 2, Piece: 34301

<sup>3</sup> "British Army WWI Service Records, 1914–1920," entry for John Owen. Unless otherwise indicated, all information about his military service comes from this source.

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<sup>4</sup> "Record of Deaths, 17 February 1916 - 10 February 1919, a record maintained at No. 1 CCCS," *Library and Archives Canada*, (records accessed 2013 and 2016), Record Group 9, series IIC10, volume 4556, Record number 331

<sup>5</sup> "British Army WWI Service Records, 1914–1920," entry for John Owen

<sup>6</sup> "Record of Deaths, 17 February 1916 - 10 February 1919, a record maintained at No. 1 CCCS," Record number 331

<sup>7</sup> Ibid.

<sup>8</sup> "Commonwealth War Graves Commission," ([www.cwgc.org](http://www.cwgc.org): accessed 27 April 2016), entry for Owen, John, Service No: 77026

<sup>9</sup> "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/02016202\\_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/02016202_e.html&r=1&f=G))

<sup>10</sup> "Adinkerke Military Cemetery," *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* (<http://www.cwgc.org/>: accessed 30 April 2016)

<sup>11</sup> He was not married when he attested in December 1915. ("British Army WWI Service Records, 1914–1920," entry for John Owen)

<sup>12</sup> "UK, Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects, 1901–1929," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 4 May 2016), entry for John Owen

<sup>13</sup> "British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914–1920," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 4 May 2016), entry for John Owen