

Private Bernard Oscar Wastenage
Regimental number: 204495
1st/5th Battalion, York and Lancaster Regiment

born: 1886 – died: 14 August 1917

Private Bernard Oscar Wastenage was born in 1886 in Ecclesall Bierlow, West Yorkshire Riding,¹ the son of Leonard and Clara Wastenage,² and baptized on 3 October 1886 in Sheffield, Yorkshire.³ Both his parents were born in Sheffield—his father, Joseph Leonard Wastenage, in about 1860⁴ and his mother, Clara Lavinia Matilda Rudd, in 1863.⁵ Leonard and Clara married near Ecclesall Bierlow in 1884.⁶ They had four children: Constance Grace (born in 1885),⁷ Bernard, Harry Leonard (born in 1889)⁸ and Edward Stanley (born in 1904).⁹

Bernard's father was the manager of a dyer's cleaner. In 1891, the family was living at 12 Hale Street in Ecclesall.¹⁰ Ten years later, it had moved to 713 Abbeydale Road and now Bernard was a cash boy at a draper's.¹¹ By 1911, Bernard was a dairy farmer and the family was living at 16 Button Hill, which was Lands End Farm.¹²

On 11 December 1915, Bernard enlisted as a private in the York and Lancaster Regiment in Sheffield.¹³ He was 29 years old, 5' 4½" tall and a farmer and cowkeeper, at Lane Ends Farm. He was in the Army Reserve until March 1917 when he was mobilized.

Bernard served in England until 29 June 1917 when he sailed from Folkestone, arriving in Boulogne the next day to join the Western Front. He only survived six weeks on the Front. He was admitted to the 1st Canadian Casualty Clearing Station on 14 August with multiple gunshot wounds to his leg, hand, buttock and knee and a fractured leg.¹⁴ On the day that he was admitted, Bernard was one of 193 soldiers to be admitted to the 1st CCCS.¹⁵ He died that day and was buried the following day¹⁶ in Adinkerke Military Cemetery (Grave Reference: A. 33).¹⁷

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.¹⁸

The monies owing to Bernard from the army upon his death were sent to his father.¹⁹ He also received Bernard's personal effects, including letters, a photo, pipe, wallet, razor, knife, pouch, scissors, mirror in case, souvenir and a Belgian five franc note.²⁰ Probate of Bernard's will was also given to his father.²¹

Bernard was awarded the British War Medal (for service overseas between 1914 and 1918) and the Victory Medal (for service in an operational theatre).²²

It had been a difficult few years for the Wastenage family. Bernard's sister, Gertrude, died in 1916.²³ Bernard died in 1917. Then his mother Clara died in 1920.²⁴ All the while, Bernard's brother Harry was also serving in the Great War.

Harry, age 25, enlisted in the Royal Field Artillery (Regimental number: 98814) on 1 September 1914.²⁵ Like his brother, he was a farmer at Lands End Farm. On 31 January 1915, Harry married Doris Rhodes, at Christ Church in Ecclesall. He left for the Western Front just over three months later; on 11 May 1915, he sailed from Southampton, headed for Le Havre. He was promoted to

corporal on 4 October 1915. Unlike his brother, Harry survived the war and, on 14 April 1919, he was sent to the Ripon Disposal Centre for demobilization. He was awarded the British War Medal, the Victory Medal and the 1914–15 Star (for service in the war against Germany between 5 August 1914 and 31 December 1915).²⁶ He was also awarded the Croix de Guerre by the French government.²⁷

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¹ "England & Wales, FreeBMD Birth Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 11 May 2016), entry for Bernard Oscar Wastnage, Registration district: Ecclesall Bierlow, Inferred county: Yorkshire West Riding, Volume: 9c, Page: 343

² "1911 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 11 May 2016), entry for Bernard Oscar Wastnage, Registration district: Ecclesall Bierlow, Registration district number: 509 Ecclesall Bierlow, Sub-registration district: 509 Ecclesall Bierlow, ED, institution, or vessel: 15, Piece: 27793

³ "England, Select Births and Christenings, 1538–1975," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 11 May 2016), entry for Bernard Oscar Wastnage, FHL Film Number: 6343978, Reference ID: yr 1838-1893 p 146

⁴ "1911 England Census," entry for Bernard Oscar Wastnage

⁵ "England & Wales, FreeBMD Birth Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 11 May 2016), entry for Clara Lavinia Matilda Rudd, Registration district: Ecclesall Bierlow, Inferred county: Yorkshire West Riding, Volume: 9c, Page: 278

⁶ "England & Wales, FreeBMD Marriage Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 11 May 2016), entry for Joseph Leonard Wastnage, Registration district: Ecclesall Bierlow, Inferred county: Yorkshire West Riding, Volume: 9c, Page: 350

⁷ "England, Select Births and Christenings, 1538–1975," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 11 May 2016), entry for Constance Grace Wastnage, FHL Film Number: 1938088, Reference ID: 91

⁸ "England & Wales, FreeBMD Birth Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 11 May 2016), entry for Harry Leonard Wastnage, Registration district: Ecclesall Bierlow, Inferred county: Yorkshire West Riding, Volume: 9c, Page: 375

⁹ "England & Wales, FreeBMD Birth Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 11 May 2016), entry for Edward S Wastnage, Registration district: Ecclesall Bierlow, Inferred county: Yorkshire West Riding, Volume: 9c, Page: 518

¹⁰ "1891 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 11 May 2016), entry for Bernard H Wastnage, Registration district: Ecclesall Bierlow, ED, institution, or vessel: 48, Piece: 3809, Folio: 90, Page: 22

¹¹ "1901 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 11 May 2016), entry for Bernard Oscar Wastnage, Registration district: Ecclesall Bierlow, Sub-registration district: Ecclesall Bierlow, ED, institution, or vessel: 53, Piece: 4356, Folio: 134, Page: 15, Household schedule number: 84

¹² "1911 England Census," entry for Bernard Oscar Wastnage

¹³ "British Army WWI Service Records, 1914–1920," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 11 May 2016), entry for Bernard Wastnage. Unless otherwise indicated, all information about Bernard's army service comes from this source.

¹⁴ "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 342

¹⁵ "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=FIND&p=1&u=http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/archivianet/02016202_e.html&r=1&f=G)

¹⁶ *Ibid.*

¹⁷ "Commonwealth War Graves Commission," (www.cwgc.org: accessed 3 December 2016), entry for Wastnage, Bernard O., Service No: 204495

¹⁸ "Adinkerke Military Cemetery," *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* (<http://www.cwgc.org/>: accessed 30 April 2016)

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- ¹⁹ "UK, Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects, 1901–1929," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 11 May 2016), entry for Bernard Wastenance
- ²⁰ "British Army WWI Service Records, 1914–1920," entry for Bernard Wastenance
- ²¹ "England & Wales, National Probate Calendar (Index of Wills and Administrations), 1858–1966." *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 11 May 2016), entry for Bernard Oscar Wastenance
- ²² "British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914–1920," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 11 May 2016), entry for Bernard Wastenance
- ²³ "England & Wales, FreeBMD Death Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 11 May 2016), entry for Constance G Wastenance, Registration district: Huddersfield, Inferred county: Yorkshire West Riding, Volume: 9a, Page: 307
- ²⁴ "England & Wales, FreeBMD Death Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 11 May 2016), entry for Clara L M Wastenance, Registration district: Ecclesall Bierlow, Inferred county: Derbyshire, Volume: 9c, Page: 346
- ²⁵ "British Army WWI Service Records, 1914–1920," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 11 May 2016), entry for Harry Leonard Wastenance
- ²⁶ "British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914–1920," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 11 May 2016), entry for Harry L Wastenance
- ²⁷ "Third Supplement to the London Gazette Supplement 31409, Page 7814," published 17 June 1919 (<https://www.thegazette.co.uk/London/issue/31409/supplement/7814>: accessed 11 May 2016)