

**Private Alexander James Pullin®**  
**Regimental number: 20246**  
**5th Battalion, Dorsetshire Regiment**

**born: about 1899 – died: 28 February 1918**

Private Alexander James Pullin was born in about 1899 in Bitton, near Bristol, Gloucestershire, and was probably the son of John and Emmaline Pullin.<sup>1</sup> Both his parents were born in Bitton—John in about 1868 and Emmaline in about 1866. John and Emmaline probably married in about 1888.<sup>2</sup> They had six children: John Wallace (born in about 1889), Emily Alice (born in about 1890), George Bruce (born in about 1893), Alexander, Rowland Stanley (born in about 1901) and Irene Maud (born in about 1906).<sup>3</sup>

The family lived in Bitton for several decades. In 1891, they were living at Mill Cottages<sup>4</sup> and at Mill Bank in 1901.<sup>5</sup> John Sr. was a beaterman, making paper. By 1911, several of Alexander's siblings were also working—John Wallace as a news agent, Emily Alice as a paper sorter and George Bruce as an apprentice engineer. Alexander was still in school.<sup>6</sup>

Alexander enlisted in the 5th Battalion of the Dorsetshire Regiment in Bristol, Gloucestershire.<sup>7</sup> The 5th Battalion served first in Gallipoli and then moved to France in July 1916.<sup>8</sup>

Alexander was admitted to No 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station on 25 February 1918 with wounds to his head and leg, caused accidentally, probably by a rifle grenade.<sup>9</sup> He died three days later. He was a member of the Wesleyan Church and was buried on 1 March in Barlin Military Cemetery (Plot 3, Row E., Grave No. 44) with the Canadian chaplain R. K. Lambert presiding.

Barlin is about 11 kilometres south-west of Bethune in northern France. The extension of the military cemetery was begun by French troops in October 1914 and, when the French moved south in March 1916, Commonwealth forces took over the cemetery. Under enemy shelling, the nearby hospital was moved back, but in the spring of 1918, the extension was used again during the German advance on this front. The extension contains 1,095 Commonwealth Great War burials.<sup>10</sup>

His mother, who was living at No. 1, Boyd Brook Cottage, Bitton, was his next of kin and was notified of his death.<sup>11</sup> She received the monies owing to him from the army upon his death.<sup>12</sup>

Alexander 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>

Alexander's older brother, John Wallace, also served in the Great War and lost his life.<sup>14</sup> He was a private in the 3/4th Battalion of the Queen's (Royal West Surrey) Regiment (Regimental number: 205789) when he died on 4 October 1917 near Ypres, Belgium. He is commemorated on the Tyne Cot Memorial.<sup>15</sup> He was the husband of Clara Gully—they had married in 1911.<sup>16</sup> Like his brother, he was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.<sup>17</sup>

Alexander's mother had lost two sons within five months. She lived only a few years longer, dying in 1920 in Bitton.<sup>18</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> "1911 England Census," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk); accessed 20 August 2016), entry for Alexander James Pullin, Registration district: Keynsham, Registration district number: 317, Sub-registration district: Bitton, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 2, Household schedule number: 97, Piece: 14741

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>3</sup> "1901 England Census," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk); accessed 20 August 2016), entry for Alexander Pullin, Registration district: Keynsham, Sub-registration district: Bitton, Enumeration district, institution, or

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vessel: 2, Piece: 2346, Folio: 19, Page: 8, Household schedule number: 48; <sup>3</sup> “1911 England Census,” *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 20 August 2016), entry for Alexander James Pullin

<sup>4</sup> “1891 England Census,” *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 20 August 2016), entry for John Pullin, Registration district: Keynsham, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 3, Piece: 1941, Folio: 32, Page: 11

<sup>5</sup> “1901 England Census,” *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 20 August 2016), entry for Alexander Pullin

<sup>6</sup> “1911 England Census,” *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 20 August 2016), entry for Alexander James Pullin

<sup>7</sup> “UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War, 1914–1919,” *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 20 August 2016), entry for Alexander James Pullin

<sup>8</sup> “The Dorsetshire Regiment,” *The Long, Long Trail* (<http://www.1914-1918.net/dorsets.htm>: accessed 31 August 2016)

<sup>9</sup> “No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station,” *British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa* ([www.bifhsgo.ca](http://www.bifhsgo.ca): accessed 20 August 2016), entry for Pullin, A. J.

<sup>10</sup> “Barlin Communal Cemetery Extension,” *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* (<http://www.cwgc.org/>: accessed 16 August 2016)

<sup>11</sup> “No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station,” *British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa* ([www.bifhsgo.ca](http://www.bifhsgo.ca): accessed 5 July 2016), entry for Pullin, A. J.

<sup>12</sup> “UK, Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects, 1901–1929,” *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 20 August 2016), entry for Alexander James Pullin

<sup>13</sup> “British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914–1920,” *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 31 August 2016), entry for Alexander J Pullin

<sup>14</sup> “UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War, 1914–1919,” *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 31 August 2016), entry for John Wallace Pullin

<sup>15</sup> “Web: International, Find A Grave Index,” *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 31 August 2016), entry for Private John Wallace Pullin

<sup>16</sup> “England & Wales, Civil Registration Marriage Index, 1837–1915,” *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 31 August 2016), entry for John W Pullin, Registration district: Keynsham, Inferred county: Somerset, Volume: 3a5c Page: 1206

<sup>17</sup> “British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914–1920,” *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 31 August 2016), entry for John W Pullin

<sup>18</sup> “England & Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1837–1915,” *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 20 August 2016), entry for Emeline [*sic*] Pullin, Registration district: Keynsham, Inferred county: Somerset, Volume: 5c, Page: 560