

Private David Horden©
Regimental number: 8659
27th Company (Infantry), Machine Gun Corps

born: about 1877 - died: 9 April 1916

Private David Horden, born in about 1877¹ in Walsall, Staffordshire,² was the son of David and Mary Horden of Darlaston, Staffordshire.³ His father, David senior, was born in about 1850 in Staffordshire and his mother, was born in 1853 in Shropshire. David probably married Mary Richus on 26 January 1873 at All Saints' Church in Moxley, Staffordshire.⁴ At the time, David's father was a boatman, like his father before him. David and Mary probably had at least nine children:⁵ Elizabeth (born about 1876), David, Harriet (born about 1879), Mary Jane (born about 1881),⁶ John Richard (born about 1883), Florrie (born about 1885),⁷ Rebecca (born about 1888) and Rose (born about 1890).⁸

In 1881, the family was living at 7 Castle Street in Darlaston, Walsall, where David senior was a labourer.⁹ In 1891, they were living at Deepmoor, Bentley in Walsall. David senior was now a boating contractor.¹⁰ By 1901, David was the only child still living with his parents at 4 Queen Street, Wednesbury in West Bromwich.¹¹

In 1899, David married Mary Ann King in Walsall.¹² In 1911, David and Mary Ann were living at 56 Hanley Street in Birmingham and David was a boatman, like his father and grandfather.¹³ He and Mary Ann had four sons—David (born in 1900),¹⁴ John (born in 1903),¹⁵ Harold (born in 1908)¹⁶ and Sidney (born in 1910)¹⁷—and two daughters, Elsie (born in 1902, but died a few months later)¹⁸ and Mary Ann (born in May 1912).¹⁹

David enlisted in Birmingham in the Royal Warwickshire Regiment (Regimental number 14521).²⁰ At some point he transferred to the 27th Battalion of the Machine Gun Corps (Regimental number 8659).²¹ At the beginning of the Great War, each infantry battalion and cavalry regiment had a machine gun section of just two guns each.²² After a year on the Western Front, it was proved that, to be fully effective, machine guns must be used in larger units and crewed by specially trained men. A separate Machine Gun Corps was formed in October 1915 with Infantry, Cavalry and Motor branches. David was in the Infantry Branch, which was the largest and was grouped into Brigade Machine Gun Companies.

He died on 9 April 1916 at No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station as a result of wounds to his thigh and abdomen.²³ He was buried in the Bailleul Communal Cemetery Extension, Nord (Plot II, Row D, Grave 207).²⁴ The day that he died, one soldier was reported to have died at the 1st CCCS²⁵ – perhaps it was David. He was a member of the Church of England.

Bailleul is located close to the Belgian border. It was occupied on 14 October 1914 and became an important railhead, air depot and hospital centre. Several Casualty Clearing Stations, including the 1st Canadian, were quartered there for considerable periods. The earliest Commonwealth burials at Bailleul were made in April 1915. An extension was built and burials continued until April 1918, and occurred again in September and after the Armistice, when graves were brought in from the neighbouring battlefields.²⁶

The presiding chaplain sent a letter to his wife, who was still living at 56 Hanley Street to notify her of his death.²⁷ She also received the monies owing to him from the army upon his death.²⁸ David

was awarded the British War Medal (for service overseas between 1914 and 1918) and the Victory Medal (for service in an operational theatre).²⁹

David's only brother, John, also served in, but survived, the Great War. In 1905, John married Florence Askew near West Bromwich in Staffordshire³⁰ and they had five children: John Richard (born in 1906),³¹ Samuel (born in 1908, but died a few months later),³² Florence May (born in 1909),³³ Horace David (born in 1915)³⁴ and Ida R. (born in 1917).³⁵ In July 1916, the family was living at 345 Station Road in Winsford, Cheshire³⁶ when John, 34 years old and a telephone linesman, enlisted as a Private in the Royal Engineers Signals. He was discharged on 14 December 1918 as being surplus to military needs.

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¹ "1881 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 18 June 2015), entry for David Horden, Registration district: Walsall, Sub-registration district: Darlaston, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 12, Piece: 2819, Folio: 16, Page Number: 28

² "UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War, 1914–1919," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 18 June 2015), entry for David Horden

³ "1881 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 18 June 2015), entry for David Horden

⁴ "Staffordshire marriages," *findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 15 June 2015), entry for David Horden, Archive Reference: D3426/7; Page: 100, Register Type: Marriage, Record set: Staffordshire marriages

⁵ It was not possible to confirm the births of these children beyond what is included in the census records.

⁶ "1881 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 18 June 2015), entry for David Horden

⁷ "1891 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 18 June 2015), entry for David Horden, Registration district: Walsall, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 17, Piece: 2246, Folio: 148, Page: 1

⁸ "1901 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 18 June 2015), entry for David Horden, Registration district: West Bromwich, Sub-registration district: Wednesday, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 14, Piece: 2728, Folio: 71, Page: 25, Household schedule number: 140

⁹ 1881

¹⁰ 1891

¹¹ 1901

¹² "England & Wales, Marriage Index, 1916–2005," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 18 June 2015), entry for David Horden, Registration district: Walsall, Inferred County: Staffordshire, Volume Number: 6b, Page Number: 1177

¹³ "1911 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 18 June 2015), entry for David Horden, Registration district: Birmingham, Registration District Number: 384, Sub-registration district: St. George, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 37, Piece: 18097

¹⁴ "England & Wales, FreeBMD Birth Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 18 June 2015), entry for David Horden, Registration district: Walsall, Inferred County: Staffordshire, Volume: 6b, Page: 780

¹⁵ "England & Wales, FreeBMD Birth Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 18 June 2015), entry for John Arthur Horden, Registration district: West Bromwich, Inferred County: Staffordshire, Volume: 6b, Page: 953

¹⁶ "England & Wales, FreeBMD Birth Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 18 June 2015), entry for Harold Horden, Registration district: Birmingham, Inferred County: Warwickshire, Volume: 6d, Page: 112

¹⁷ "England & Wales, FreeBMD Birth Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 18 June 2015), entry for Sidney Horden, Registration district: Birmingham, Inferred County: Warwickshire, Volume: 6d, Page: 110

¹⁸ GRO + death

¹⁹ "Birmingham, England, Baptisms, 1813–1912," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 18 June 2015), entry for Mary Ann Horden, Reference Number: DRO 6, Archive Roll: 623

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- ²⁰ "UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War, 1914–1919," entry for David Horden
- ²¹ The 1st CCCS chaplains' journal suggests he served in the 72th Company but other army records indicate the 27th. "Record of Deaths, 17 February 1916–10 February 1919, a record maintained at No. 1 CCCS," *Library and Archives Canada*, (records accessed 2013 and 2015), Record Group 9, series IIC10, volume 4556, Record number 52
- ²² "Machine Gun Corps," *Wikipedia* (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Machine_Gun_Corps; accessed 19 June 2015)
- ²³ "Record of Deaths, 17 February 1916–10 February 1919, a record maintained at No. 1 CCCS," Record number 52
- ²⁴ "Commonwealth War Graves Commission," (www.cwgc.org; accessed 18 June 2015), entry for Horden, David
- ²⁵ "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)
- ²⁶ "Bailleul Communal Cemetery, Nord," Commonwealth War Graves Commission (<http://www.cwgc.org/find-a-cemetery/cemetery/2000047/Bailleul%20Communal%20Cemetery.%20Nord>; accessed 17 June 2015)
- ²⁷ "Record of Deaths, 17 February 1916–10 February 1919, a record maintained at No. 1 CCCS," Record number 52
- ²⁸ "UK, Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects, 1901–1929," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk; accessed 18 June 2015), entry for David Sorden
- ²⁹ "British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914–1920," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk; accessed 18 June 2015), entry for David Horden
- ³⁰ "England & Wales, Marriage Index, 1916-2005," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk; accessed 19 June 2015), entry for John Richard Horden, Registration district: West Bromwich, Inferred County: Staffordshire, Volume Number: 6b, Page Number: 1339
- ³¹ "England & Wales, FreeBMD Birth Index, 1837-1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk; accessed 18 June 2015), entry for John Richard Horden, Registration district: West Bromwich, Inferred County: Staffordshire, Volume: 6b, Page: 888
- ³² Samuel GRO online + death
- ³³ "England & Wales, FreeBMD Birth Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk; accessed 18 June 2015), entry for Florence May Horden, Registration district: Northwich, Inferred County: Cheshire, Volume: 8a, Page: 242
- ³⁴ "England & Wales, FreeBMD Birth Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk; accessed 18 June 2015), entry for Horace D. Horden, Registration district: Northwich, Inferred County: Cheshire, Volume: 8a, Page: 409
- ³⁵ "England & Wales, FreeBMD Birth Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk; accessed 18 June 2015), entry for Ida R. Horden, Registration district: Northwich, Inferred County: Cheshire, Volume: 8a, Page: 377
- ³⁶ "British Army WWI Service Records, 1914–1920," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk; accessed 18 June 2015), entry for John Richard Horden