

**Private Leonard Puttock©**  
**Regimental number: 2134**  
**9th Battalion, East Surrey Regiment**

**born: 1884 - died: 25 April 1916**

Private Leonard Puttock was born in Betchworth, Surrey, England in 1884.<sup>1</sup> He was the son of Edward and Mary Puttock. Edward was born in Shere, Surrey, in about 1853, the son of William Puttock, blacksmith.<sup>2</sup> Mary (the former Mary Errett) was also born in Shere three years later, the daughter of John Errett, a labourer. She married Edward on 15 December 1877 in the district church of Wescott in the parish of Dorking.<sup>3</sup> At the time, Edward was a labourer and Mary, a domestic servant. Edward continued to be an agricultural labourer, gardener or farmer throughout his life.<sup>4</sup>

Edward and Mary had ten children—seven of whom survived until 1911.<sup>5</sup> The children include: Emma (born in 1879),<sup>6</sup> Mary Ann (born in 1880, but probably died within a few months),<sup>7</sup> Edward Charles (born in 1881),<sup>8</sup> William (born in 188, but died at the age of 26 in 1908),<sup>9</sup> Leonard, Albert (born in 1885, but probably died early the following year),<sup>10</sup> Mary (born in 1888),<sup>11</sup> Lucy (born in 1890),<sup>12</sup> Alice (born in 1893)<sup>13</sup> and Alfred (born in 1894).<sup>14</sup>

In 1901, the family was living at Petty's Farm in Buckland, Surrey.<sup>15</sup> By 1908, the family had moved to 13 South Albert Road in Reigate, Surrey and they continued to live at that address until at least 1915.<sup>16</sup> Leonard was listed in the electoral registers as living in one furnished room on the first floor of the house. Leonard was a domestic gardener.

Leonard enlisted as a private in the East Surrey Regiment in Reigate, Surrey,<sup>17</sup> and joined the British Expeditionary Force in France on 31 August 1915.<sup>18</sup> Eight months later, the 9th Battalion was stationed near Wulvergem, Belgium<sup>19</sup> and Leonard was ill. He died of heart failure on 25 April 1916.<sup>20</sup> He had probably been sent from a British Casualty Station to a British hospital<sup>21</sup> with a suspected case of diphtheria. He died as he was being admitted and before the chaplain from No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station reached the station. No. 1 CCCS was stationed near Bailleul, France at the time.<sup>22</sup>

Leonard was a member of the Church of England and was buried in Bailleul Communal Cemetery Extension, Nord (Plot II, Row D, Grave 161).<sup>23</sup> Bailleul is in France, 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.<sup>24</sup>

Initially no identity papers were found but, when they were later found, a letter was sent to Leonard's father notifying him of his son's death.<sup>25</sup> Later the monies owing to him by the army upon his death were also sent to his father.<sup>26</sup> His mother, Mary, may have died in December 1917.<sup>27</sup>

Leonard was awarded 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>28</sup>

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- <sup>1</sup> "1901 England Census," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 15 July 2015), entry for Leonard Puttock, Registration district: Reigate, Sub-registration district: Betchworth, ED, institution, or vessel: 36, Piece: 624, Folio: 48, Page Number: 6, Household schedule number: 34; BIRTH INDEX –
  - <sup>2</sup> "1901 England Census," entry for Leonard Puttock; "Surrey, England, Marriages, 1754–1937," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 15 July 2015), entry for Edward Puttock, Reference Number: WEST/2/1
  - <sup>3</sup> "Surrey, England, Marriages, 1754–1937," entry for Edward Puttock, Reference Number: WEST/2/1
  - <sup>4</sup> "1881 England Census," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 15 July 2015), entry for Edward Puttock, Registration district: Reigate, Sub-registration district: Reigate, ED, institution, or vessel: 21, Piece: 800, Folio: 11, Page Number: 15; "1901 England Census," entry for Leonard Puttock; "1911 England Census," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 15 July 2015), entry for Leonard Puttock, Registration district: Reigate, Registration District Number: 37, Sub-registration district: Reigate, ED, institution, or vessel: 5, Household schedule number: 93, Piece: 3212
  - <sup>5</sup> "1911 England Census," entry for Leonard Puttock
  - <sup>6</sup> "England & Wales, FreeBMD Birth Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 12 August 2015), entry for Emma Puttock, Registration district: Reigate, Inferred County: Surrey, Volume: 2a, Page: 148
  - <sup>7</sup> "GRO online index," General Register Office (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>; accessed 13 November 2016) entry for Puttock, Mary Ann, Volume 02A, Page 160; "England & Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 13 November 2016), entry for Mary Ann Puttock, Registration district: Reigate, Inferred county: Surry, Volume: 2a, Page: 103
  - <sup>8</sup> "England & Wales, FreeBMD Birth Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 12 August 2015), entry for Edward Charles Puttock, Registration district: Reigate, Inferred County: Surrey, Volume: 2a, Page: 165
  - <sup>9</sup> "England & Wales, FreeBMD Birth Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 12 August 2015), entry for William Puttock, Registration district: Reigate, Inferred County: Surrey, Volume: 2a, Page: 173; "England & Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 13 November 2016), entry for William Puttock, Registration district: Reigate, Inferred county: Surry, Volume: 2a, Page: 107
  - <sup>10</sup> "GRO online index," General Register Office (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>; accessed 13 November 2016) entry for Puttock, Albert, Volume 02A, Page 159; "England & Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 13 November 2016), entry for Albert Puttock, Registration district: Reigate, Inferred county: Surry, Volume: 2a, Page: 127
  - <sup>11</sup> "England & Wales, FreeBMD Birth Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 12 August 2015), entry for Mary Puttock, Registration district: Reigate, Inferred County: Surrey, Volume: 2a, Page: 169
  - <sup>12</sup> "England & Wales, FreeBMD Birth Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 12 August 2015), entry for Lucy Puttock, Registration district: Reigate, Inferred County: Surrey, Volume: 2a, Page: 175
  - <sup>13</sup> "England & Wales, FreeBMD Birth Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 12 August 2015), entry for Alice Puttock, Registration district: Reigate, Inferred County: Surrey, Volume: 2a, Page: 163
  - <sup>14</sup> "England & Wales, FreeBMD Birth Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 12 August 2015), entry for Alfred Puttock, Registration district: Reigate, Inferred County: Surrey, Volume: 2a, Page: 175
  - <sup>15</sup> "1901 England Census," entry for Leonard Puttock
  - <sup>16</sup> "Surrey, England, Electoral Registers, 1832–1945," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 15 July 2015), entry for Leonard Puttock, Reference number: CC802/19/5 and CC802/26/5
  - <sup>17</sup> "UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War, 1914–1919," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 15 July 2015), entry for Leonard Puttock
  - <sup>18</sup> "British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914–1920," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 15 July 2015), entry for Leonard Puttock
  - <sup>19</sup> "UK, WWI War Diaries (France, Belgium and Germany), 1914–1920," Regiment or unit: East Surrey Regiment, sub unit: 9th Battalion, Division: 24th Division, Diary Dates: 1915 Aug–1919 Mar, Piece description: Piece 2215/1: 9 Battalion East Surrey Regiment (1915 Aug–1919 Mar), Piece number: 2215

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<sup>20</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 2015), Record Group 9, series IIC10, volume 4556, Record number 59

<sup>21</sup> The 1st Canadian Casualty Clearing Station record notes that he was being sent to from "Brit Casualty to Brit Is Hospital." It is not clear whether this was a British Casualty Clearing Station and to which hospital he was sent. It is also not clear whether he was admitted to the 1st CCCS, or whether his death is simply recorded among those of the 1<sup>st</sup> CCCS. The chaplain's initials may have been C K M.

<sup>22</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/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>23</sup> "Commonwealth War Graves Commission," ([www.cwgc.org](http://www.cwgc.org); accessed 22 June 2015), entry for Puttock, Leonard, Service No: 2134

<sup>24</sup> "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)

<sup>25</sup> "Record of Deaths, 17 February 1916–10 February 1919, a record maintained at No. 1 CCCS," Record number 59

<sup>26</sup> "UK, Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects, 1901–1929," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk); accessed 15 July 2015), entry for Leonard Puttock

<sup>27</sup> "England & Wales Deaths 1837–2007," *Findmypast* ([www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk); accessed 13 November 2016), entry for Mary Puttock, District: Reigate, County: Surrey, Volume: 2A Page: 285

<sup>28</sup> "British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914–1920," entry for Leonard Puttock