Gunner Fred Isherwood©
Regimental number: 700973
"A" Battery, 330th Brigade, Royal Field Artillery

born: 16 November 1895 – died: 15 August 1917

Gunner Fred Isherwood was born on 16 November 1895 in Blackburn, Lancashire, the son of William and Emily Isherwood.[1] He was baptized on 22 December at All Saints Church in Blackburn, when the family was living at 7 Highfield Road. His mother, the former Emily Standen, was born in about 1867 in Blackburn, the daughter of John Standen.[2] She married William Isherwood in 1892 in Blackburn[3] and had two children. Fred's sister Nellie was born on 6 March 1894 and baptized on 15 April 1894 at Christ Church, Blackburn.[4] Sadly, she died at the age of four.

Although Emily was still married, her husband William was not living with Emily or their children in 1901 or 1911. William worked for the railway[5] and was perhaps away from home when the censuses were taken. In 1901, Emily and Fred were living with Emily's father, John Standen, who was a widower and the publican of the Vulcan Inn at 19 Nab Lane in Blackburn.[6] Emily's sister Caroline, her husband George E. Harrison and their baby son John were also living with John Standen.

Ten years later, Emily and Fred, age 15, were living at 2 Blakey Street in Blackburn.[7] Both were working as cotton weavers. Another cotton weaver, Nancy Pickup, was boarding with the family.

Fred enlisted as a gunner in the army in Blackburn.[8] On 24 July 1917, he was admitted to No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station with shrapnel wounds to both his arms, legs, and thighs and to his abdomen.[9] He fought these wounds for nearly a month, but on 15 August he lost his battle and succumbed to them. He was buried in Adinkerke Military Cemetery (Grave Reference: A. 35).[10]

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.[11]

The day he was admitted to the 1st CCCS, he was one of 604 admissions to the station.[12]

Although no next of kin was identified by the No. 1 CCCS chaplain, the monies owing to Fred from the army upon his death were sent to his mother.[13]

Fred was awarded the British War Medal (for service overseas between 1914 and 1918) and the Victory Medal (for service in an operational theatre).[14]

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[1] "Lancashire, England, Births and Baptisms, 1813–1911," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 30 May 2016), entry for Fred Isherwood, Reference number: Pr 3088/1/2

[2] "1891 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 30 May 2016), entry for Emily Standen, Registration district: Blackburn, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 7, Piece: 3418, Folio: 26, Page: 46

[3] "England & Wales, FreeBMD Marriage Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 30 May 2016), entry for William Isherwood, Registration district: Blackburn, Inferred county: Lancashire, Volume: 8e, Page: 703

[4] "Lancashire, England, Births and Baptisms, 1813–1911," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 30 May 2016), entry for Nellie Isherwood, Reference number: Pr 3074/1/5

[5] "Lancashire, England, Births and Baptisms, 1813–1911," (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 30 May 2016), entry for Fred Isherwood; "Lancashire, England, Births and Baptisms, 1813–1911," entry for Nellie Isherwood

[6] "1901 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 30 May 2016), entry for Fred Isherwood, Registration district: Blackburn, Sub-registration district: Blackburn Northern, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 29, Piece: 3907, Folio: 74, Page: 36, Household schedule number: 198

[7] "1911 England, Wales & Scotland Census," *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 15 June 2016), entry for Fred Isherwood, District: Blackburn, Registration district number: 474, Enumeration district: 8, District number: -, Sub-district: Blackburn South Western, Sub-district number: 5, Census reference: RG14PN25068 RG78PN1436 RD474 SD5 ED8 SN200

[8] "UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War, 1914–1919," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 30 May 2016), entry for Fred Isherwood

[9] "Record of Deaths, 17 February 1916 - 10 February 1919, a record maintained at No. 1 CCCS," *Library and Archives Canada*, (records accessed 2013 & 2016), Record Group 9, series IIIC10, volume 4556, Record number 345

[10] *Commonwealth War Graves Commission*, (www.cwgc.org: accessed 25 May 2016), entry for Isherwood, F., Service No: 700973

[11] "Adinkerke Military Cemetery," *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* (http://www.cwgc.org/; accessed 30 April 2016)

[12] "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/02015202_e.html&r=1&f=G; accessed 16 June 2016)

[13] "UK, Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects, 1901–1929," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 30 May 2016), entry for Fred Isherwood

[14] "British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914–1920," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 16 June 2016), entry for Fred Isherwood