

**Private Stanley Pratt**<sup>©</sup>  
**Regimental number: 28783**  
**11th Battalion, Border Regiment**

**born: about 1898 – died: 5 September 1917**

Private Stanley Pratt was born in about 1898 in Urmston, Lancashire, the son of John and Marth Ann Pratt.<sup>1</sup> Both his parents were born in Manchester, Lancashire—John in about 1864 and Martha Ann (nee Nuttall) a year earlier. John and Martha Ann married near Chorlton, Lancashire, in 1882<sup>2</sup> and probably had eight children.<sup>3</sup> Seven of the children were still living in 1911: Emily (born in about 1886), Ada (born in about 1888), John (born in about 1889), Walter (born in about 1892), Elsie (born in about 1895), Martha Ann (born in about 1897) and Stanley.<sup>4</sup>

In 1901, Stanley and his family were living very near Urmston on Flixton Road (Davyhulme View) in Flixton, Lancashire.<sup>5</sup> His father was a “pattern card maker, boot and shoe heal,” working at home. By 1911, they had moved the few miles back to Manchester and were living at 39 Grosvenor Road, in Whalley Range.<sup>6</sup> Stanley’s father was now a warehouseman “passer” of goods, working for Eastern Shippers, and Stanley was at school.

Stanley enlisted in Manchester in the Manchester Regiment (Regimental number: 39842).<sup>7</sup> At some later point, he transferred to the 11th Battalion of the Border Regiment (the Borderers).<sup>8</sup> At the beginning of September 1917, his battalion was stationed near Oost Dunkerque in Belgium.<sup>9</sup> The village was shelled with long-distance, high-velocity guns. On 3 September, his battalion relieved the 17th Battalion of the Highland Light Infantry. The following day was quiet, but the trenches, which consisted only of breastwork (temporary fortifications) were not in good repair. During the day seven men were wounded. One of them may have been Stanley.

Stanley was wounded and admitted to No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station on 4 September.<sup>10</sup> He died the following day and was buried the same day in Adinkerke Military Cemetery (Grave Reference: E. 2).<sup>11</sup> He was a Baptist.<sup>12</sup>

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.<sup>13</sup>

His mother was his next of kin and was notified of his death. She also received the monies owing to him from the army upon his death.

Stanley was awarded the British War Medal (for service overseas between 1914 and 1918) and the Victory Medal (for service in an operational theatre).<sup>14</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> “1911 England Census,” *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 23 July 2016), entry for Stanley Pratt, Registration district: Chorlton, Registration district number: 464, Sub-registration district: Didsbury, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 928, Piece: 23685

<sup>2</sup> “England & Wales, FreeBMD Marriage Index, 1837–1915,” *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 23 July 2016), entry for John Pratt, Registration district: Chorlton, Inferred county: Lancashire, Volume: 8c, Page: 994

<sup>3</sup> 1911 England Census,” *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 23 July 2016), entry for Stanley Pratt

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<sup>4</sup> Ibid.

<sup>5</sup> "1901 England Census," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 23 July 2016), entry for Hanley [sic] Pratt, Registration district: Barton upon Irwell, Sub-registration district: Stretford, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 32, Piece: 3668, Folio: 51, Page: 2, Household schedule number: 14

<sup>6</sup> 1911 England Census," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 23 July 2016), entry for Stanley Pratt

<sup>7</sup> "UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War, 1914–1919," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 23 July 2016), entry for Stanley Pratt

<sup>8</sup> "British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914–1920," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 25 July 2016), entry for Stanley Pratt

<sup>9</sup> "UK, WWI War Diaries (France, Belgium and Germany), 1914–1920," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 23 July 2016), Regiment or unit: Border Regiment, Sub-unit: 11th Battalion, Division: 32nd Division, Diary entry start date: 1915, Diary dates: 1915 Nov - 1918 Jul, Piece description: Piece 2403/1: 11 Battalion Border Regiment (1915 Nov - 1918 Jul), Piece number: 2403

<sup>10</sup> "No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station," *British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa* ([www.bifhsgo.ca](http://www.bifhsgo.ca): accessed 1 July 2016), entry for Pratt, S.

<sup>11</sup> *Commonwealth War Graves Commission*, ([www.cwgc.org](http://www.cwgc.org): accessed 1 July 2016), entry for Pratt, Stanley, Service No: 28783. The chaplains' journal from the No. 1 CCCS indicates that he died on 4 September. However, all other military records indicate 5 September 1917.

<sup>12</sup> "No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station," *British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa* ([www.bifhsgo.ca](http://www.bifhsgo.ca): accessed 1 July 2016), entry for Pratt, S.

<sup>13</sup> "Adinkerke Military Cemetery," *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* (<http://www.cwgc.org/>: accessed 30 April 2016)

<sup>14</sup> "British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914–1920," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 25 July 2016), entry for Stanley Pratt