

## **Private William Cyril Lancaster<sup>©</sup>**

**Regimental number: 202930**

**1st/4th Battalion, King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry**

**born: 1897 - died: 24 July 1917**

Private William Cyril Lancaster was born in 1897 in Bradford, Yorkshire,<sup>1</sup> the eldest child of Joseph Wilkinson and Emily Maud Lancaster.<sup>2</sup> Both his parents were born in Bradford—Joseph in about 1870, the son of James Alfred and Mary Lancaster,<sup>3</sup> and Emily (née Newell) on 28 January 1872, the daughter of William and Alice Newell.<sup>4</sup> They married on 22 June 1896 at St Andrew's Church in Bradford<sup>5</sup> and had three children: William, Elise Irene (born in 1906)<sup>6</sup> and Joseph Laurence (born in 1912).<sup>7</sup>

In 1901, the family was living at 4 Royd Mount in Bradford, where William's father was a boot factor's manager.<sup>8</sup> His mother's parents, William and Alice Newell, were living next door. Ten years later, both families had moved to Legrams Lane in Bradford. Joseph and Emily were living at 249 Legrams Lane<sup>9</sup> and William and Alice at 247.<sup>10</sup> Sadly, William's mother died just two years later. She died on 21 November 1914, when her youngest child was just 2 years old.<sup>11</sup> Joseph remarried, marrying Emily Arnett on 16 February 1916 at the Lister Hills Chapel in Bradford. Emily, the daughter of John and Sarah Arnett, was born on 5 March 1885.<sup>12</sup> Before her marriage, she was a worsted weaver. The couple subsequently had four children: Jessie (born in 1917, probably just months before William died),<sup>13</sup> Dorothy (born in 1918),<sup>14</sup> Jack (born in 1920)<sup>15</sup> and Winifred M. (born in 1924).<sup>16</sup>

Sometime after July 1916,<sup>17</sup> William enlisted in the 1st/4th Battalion of the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry in Bradford.<sup>18</sup> The battalion landed at Boulogne, France, on 12 April 1915;<sup>19</sup> however, it is not known when Sam joined the battalion on the Western Front. In the summer of 1917, he was admitted to No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station, where he died of gas poisoning on 24 July 1917, at the age of 20.<sup>20</sup> His father was his next of kin and was notified of his death.

He is buried in the Adinkerke Churchyard Extension (Grave Reference: 805).<sup>21</sup> Adinkerke Churchyard Extension is in Adinkerke, near Veurne, Belgium. It is a Belgian Military Cemetery on the west side of the churchyard less than a kilometre from the Adinkerke Military Cemetery. Commonwealth troops held the Front from the Belgian coast inland for about 70 kilometres from June to November 1917. No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station was at Adinkerke for a short time in June. There are 67 Commonwealth graves from the Great War in the cemetery.<sup>22</sup>

The monies owing to William from the army upon his death were given to his father and Miss Marjory Swift, described as a co-legatee.<sup>23</sup> Perhaps Marjory was William's fiancé. In 1911, she was probably living, with her parents Charles and Lucy Swift, on Ellercroft Terrace in Bradford, just a two-minute walk from 249 Legrams Lane.<sup>24</sup> Marjory later married Arthur Tinsley in 1924 in Bradford.<sup>25</sup>

William was awarded the British War Medal (for service overseas between 1914 and 1918) and the Victory Medal (for service in an operational theatre).<sup>26</sup>

William's father, who was then living at 22 Merton Road in Bradford, died on 28 February 1948 at St Luke's Hospital. William's step-mother Emily died on 28 January 1963. His sister Elsie never married and died in 1991<sup>27</sup> and his brother Joseph died in 1979.<sup>28</sup>

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- <sup>1</sup> "GRO online index–birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 26 April 2017) entry for Lancaster, William Cyril, Registration district: Bradford, Volume 09B, Page 119
- <sup>2</sup> *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* ([www.cwgc.org](http://www.cwgc.org): accessed 26 April 2017), entry for Lancaster, William Cyril, Service No: 38194
- <sup>3</sup> "1891 England Census," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 26 April 2017), entry for Joseph Wilkinson Lancaster, Registration district: Bradford, Sub-registration district: Horton, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 27, Piece: 3640, Folio: 87, Page: 9
- <sup>4</sup> "West Yorkshire, England, Births and Baptisms, 1813–1910," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 26 April 2017), entry for Emily Mauth [*sic*] Newell
- <sup>5</sup> "West Yorkshire, England, Marriages and Banns, 1813–1935," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 26 April 2017), entry for Joseph Wilkinson Lancaster
- <sup>6</sup> "GRO online index–birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 26 April 2017) entry for Lancaster, Elsie Irene, Registration district: Bradford, Volume 09B, Page 117
- <sup>7</sup> "GRO online index–birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 26 April 2017) entry for Lancaster, Joseph Laurence, Registration district: Bradford, Volume 09B, Page 321
- <sup>8</sup> "1901 England Census," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 11 January 2017), entry for William C. Lancaster, Registration district: Bradford, Sub-registration district: Horton, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 06, Piece: 3600, Folio: 137, Page number: 4, Household schedule number: 26
- <sup>9</sup> "1911 England Census," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 26 April 2017), entry for William Cyril Lancaster, Registration district: Bradford, Registration district number: 498, Sub-registration district: Horton, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 16, Piece: 4165
- <sup>10</sup> "1911 England Census," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 23 May 2017), entry for William Newell, Registration district: Bradford, Registration district number: 498, Sub-registration district: Horton, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 8, Piece: 26818
- <sup>11</sup> "West Yorkshire, England, Marriages and Banns, 1813–1935," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 26 April 2017), entry for Joseph Wilkinson Lancaster
- <sup>12</sup> "West Yorkshire, Non-Conformist Records, 1646–1985," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 13 May 2017), entry for Joseph Wilkinson Lancaster
- <sup>13</sup> "England & Wales, Civil Registration Birth Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 23 May 2017), entry for Jessie Lancaster, Registration district: Yorkshire West Riding, Inferred county: Leicestershire, Volume: 9b, Page: 266
- <sup>14</sup> "England & Wales, Civil Registration Birth Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 23 May 2017), entry for Dorothy Lancaster, Registration district: Yorkshire West Riding, Inferred county: Leicestershire, Volume: 9b, Page: 274
- <sup>15</sup> "England & Wales, Civil Registration Birth Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 23 May 2017), entry for Jack Lancaster, Registration district: Yorkshire West Riding, Inferred county: Leicestershire, Volume: 9b, Page: 364
- <sup>16</sup> "England & Wales, Civil Registration Birth Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 23 May 2017), entry for Winifred Lancaster, Registration district: Yorkshire West Riding, Inferred county: Leicestershire, Volume: 9b, Page: 304
- <sup>17</sup> Based on "War Gratuity Calculator" (<https://wargratitude.wordpress.com/2015/08/16/gratuity-calculator/>: accessed 18 May 2017); "UK, Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects, 1901–1929," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 26 April 2017), entry for William Cyril Lancaster
- <sup>18</sup> "UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War, 1914–1919," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 26 April 2017), entry for William Cyril Lancaster
- <sup>19</sup> "Unit History: King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry," *Forces War Records* (<https://www.forces-war-records.co.uk/units/445/kings-own-yorkshire-light-infantry>: accessed 7 April 2017)
- <sup>20</sup> "No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station," *British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa* ([www.bifhsgo.ca](http://www.bifhsgo.ca): accessed 26 April 2017), entry for Lancaster, W. C.
- <sup>21</sup> *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* ([www.cwgc.org](http://www.cwgc.org): accessed 26 April 2017), entry for Lancaster, William Cyril

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- <sup>22</sup> "Adinkerke Churchyard Extension," CWGC, <http://www.cwgc.org/>: accessed 18 April 2017
- <sup>23</sup> "UK, Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects, 1901–1929," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 26 April 2017), entry for William Cyril Lancaster
- <sup>24</sup> "1911 England Census," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 26 April 2017), entry for William Cyril Lancaster, Registration district: Bradford, Registration district number: 498, Sub-registration district: Horton, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 4, Piece: 26814
- <sup>25</sup> "West Yorkshire, England, Marriages and Banns, 1813–1935," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 26 April 2017), entry for Marjory Swift
- <sup>26</sup> "British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914–1920," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 26 April 2017), entry for William C. Lancaster
- <sup>27</sup> "England & Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1916–2007," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 26 April 2017), entry for Elsie Irene Lancaster, Registration district: Ryedale, Inferred county: North Yorkshire, Volume: 27, Page: 2231; "Lancasters of Pateley Bridge - Family Card" ([http://lancasterwright.com/Lancasters%20of%20Pateley%20Bridge/wc\\_toc.htm](http://lancasterwright.com/Lancasters%20of%20Pateley%20Bridge/wc_toc.htm): accessed 23 Mary 2017)
- <sup>28</sup> "England & Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1916–2007," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 26 April 2017), entry for Joseph Laurence Lancaster, Registration district: Hull, Inferred county: Humberside, Volume: 7, Page: 0904; "Lancasters of Pateley Bridge - Family Card" ([http://lancasterwright.com/Lancasters%20of%20Pateley%20Bridge/wc\\_toc.htm](http://lancasterwright.com/Lancasters%20of%20Pateley%20Bridge/wc_toc.htm): accessed 23 Mary 2017)