

Private William Lumb[©]
Regimental number: 40563
16th Battalion, Northumberland Fusiliers

born: 1887 - died: 13 July 1917

Private William Lumb was born in 1887 in Halifax, Yorkshire,¹ the last child of George and Eliza Lumb, and baptized on 29 May 1887 in the parish of St Mary's in Sowerby, Yorkshire.² His father, George Stott Lumb, was born in about 1846 in Soyland, Yorkshire, the son of John and Hannah Lumb.³ His mother, the former Eliza Hanson, was born in about 1853 also in Soyland, the daughter of Joseph and Susey Hanson.⁴ George married Eliza in 1876 in Halifax⁵ and they had six children: John (born in 1877),⁶ Joseph (born in early 1878 but died at the age of 5½ months and was buried on 23 July 1878),⁷ Fred (born in 1883),⁸ twins Ernest and Walton (born in 1885)⁹ and William.

In 1881, his parents were farming eight acres of land at Little London Farm in Sowerby.¹⁰ Their farm was a bit smaller than some farms around them, which were 15, 14, and 10 acres; only one other was 8 acres. Sadly, William's father died just seven years later, when William was just a year old.¹¹ He was buried on 1 August 1888 at St Mary's in Sowerby.¹²

His wife and her six sons continued to farm at Little London Farm.¹³ By 1901, while she continued to farm, the four sons living at home were working in the cotton industry. William was a cotton spinner.¹⁴ In 1911, William was still a cotton spinner and still living with his mother and brothers.¹⁵

In June 1916,¹⁶ William enlisted in Halifax as a private in the 16th Battalion of the Northumberland Fusiliers.¹⁷ The battalion went to France on 22 November 1915¹⁸ but William did not go until sometime after the end of 1915.¹⁹

In July 1917, the battalion was near Nieuport in Belgium. The battalion's war diary records activities from 10 to 12 July:

Enemy bombardment started at 6 a.m. and increased gradually in intensity until 9 a.m. Early in the afternoon all wires were cut and no information came through, but from observation it was seen that the area bombarded extended from the coast of NIEUPOINT. To the right of NIEUPOINT the shelling was normal. . . . While moving up they came under heavy shell fire and had about 30 casualties. About 10 p.m. orders were received to man the NIEUPOINT defences. . . . At this time the enemy were sending over gas shells. . . . The relief was complete by 6 a.m. and patrols were pushed out to ascertain the exact position of the enemy who had captured the first and second lines of the Border's front. . . . The very heavy shelling of the previous day had slackened off at dusk, but NIEUPOINT and the trenches East of it were subjected to fairly heavy bombardment at intervals during the 11th. In the afternoon, orders having been received to recapture the lost trenches, "A" company formed up to attack but came under heavy and accurate fire and suffered severe casualties. The attack was postponed until dark. . . . 'C' company moved forward but came under heavy Machine Gun and Rifle fire from the left which inflicted severe losses and prevented further advance. As they did not reach the line held by 'D' Company the attack by the latter company could not be carried out. . . . In the early hours of the morning the Battalion was relieved by the 5/6th ROYAL SCOTS REG^t and move back into cellars in NIEUPOINT 'standing to' prepare to man the NIEUPOINT defenses. During the night of the 11th/12th NIEUPOINT

and the canal were heavily bombarded with lachrymatory and gas shells. . . . During the 12th the Battalion remained in Billets in NIEUPORT.²⁰

It had been an intense few days for the battalion and it is possible that William was injured in one of these operations. William died of his wounds at No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station on 13 July²¹ and was buried in the Adinkerke Churchyard Extension (Grave Reference: 812).²² There were 240 casualties among the Other Ranks (non-officers) of the battalion during the operations.²³

Adinkerke Churchyard Extension is in Adinkerke, near Veurne, Belgium. It is a Belgian military cemetery on the west side of the churchyard. 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.²⁴

His mother was his next-of-kin and was notified of his death.²⁵ She also received the monies owing to him from the army upon his death.²⁶

William was awarded the British War Medal (for service overseas between 1914 and 1918) and the Victory Medal (for service in an operational theatre).²⁷

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¹ "GRO online index–birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 22 April 2017) entry for Lumb, William, Registration district: Halifax, Volume 09A, Page 477

² "West Yorkshire, England, Births and Baptisms, 1813–1910," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 21 April 2017), entry for William Lumb

³ "1881 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 22 April 2017), entry for George Lumb, Registration district: Elham, Sub-registration district: Halifax, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 29, Piece: 4416, Folio: 143, Page: 2

⁴ "1871 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 22 April 2017), entry for Eliga [*sic*] Hanson, Registration district: Worthing, Sub-registration district: Halifax, Sub-registration district: Ripponden, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 2, Household schedule number: 53, Piece: 4408, Folio: 36, Page: 1

⁵ "England & Wales Marriages 1837–2008," *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 22 April 2017), entry for Eliza Hanson, District: Halifax, County: Yorkshire, Volume: 9A, Page: 662

⁶ "GRO online index–birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 22 April 2017) entry for Lumb, John, Registration district: Halifax, Volume 09A, Page 550

⁷ "GRO online index–birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 22 April 2017) entry for Lumb, Joseph, Registration district: Halifax, Volume 09A, Page 527; [GRO + bur]

⁸ "GRO online index–birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 22 April 2017) entry for Lumb, Fred, Registration district: Halifax, Volume 09A, Page 477

⁹ "GRO online index–birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 22 April 2017) entry for Lumb, Ernest, Registration district: Halifax, Volume 09A, Page 476; "GRO online index–birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 22 April 2017) entry for Lumb, Walton, Registration district: Halifax, Volume 09A, Page 476

¹⁰ "1881 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 22 April 2017), entry for George Lumb

¹¹ "England & Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 22 April 2017), entry for George Stott Lum [*sic*], Registration district: Halifax, Inferred county: Yorkshire, Volume: 9a, Page: 289

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- ¹² "West Yorkshire, England, Deaths and Burials, 1813–1985," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 22 April 2017), entry for George Stott Lumb
- ¹³ "1891 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 22 April 2017), entry for Eliza Lumb, Registration district: Halifax, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 27, Piece: 3601, Folio: 138, Page: 1
- ¹⁴ "1901 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 21 April 2017), entry for William Lumb, Registration district: Halifax, Sub-registration district: Sowerby, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 20, Piece: 4134, Folio: 101, Page: 12, Household schedule number: 71
- ¹⁵ "1911 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 21 April 2017), entry for William Lumb, Registration district: Halifax, Registration district number: 496, Sub-registration district: Sowerby, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 17, Piece: 26446
- ¹⁶ 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: accessed 20 April 2017), entry for William Lumb
- ¹⁷ "UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War, 1914–1919," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 20 April 2017), entry for William Lumb
- ¹⁸ "The Northumberland Fusiliers," *The Long, Long Trail* (<http://www.1914-1918.net/northfus.htm>: accessed 23 April 2017)
- ¹⁹ William must have joined the Front after 31 December 1915 because he did not qualify for the 1914–15 Star medal. ("British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914–1920," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 22 April 2017), entry for William Lumb)
- ²⁰ "UK, WWI War Diaries (France, Belgium and Germany), 1914–1920," (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 22 April 2017), Regiment or unit: Northumberland Fusiliers, Sub-unit: 16th Battalion, Division: 32nd Division, Diary dates: 1915 Nov–1918 Feb, Piece description: Piece 2398/1: 16 Battalion Northumberland Fusiliers (1915 Nov–1918 Feb), Piece number: 2398
- ²¹ "No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station," *British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa* (www.bifhsgo.ca: accessed 20 April 2017), entry for Lumb, W
- ²² *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* (www.cwgc.org: accessed 3 December 2017), entry for Lumb, W., Service No: 40563
- ²³ "UK, WWI War Diaries (France, Belgium and Germany), 1914–1920," (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 22 April 2017), Regiment or unit: Northumberland Fusiliers
- ²⁴ "Adinkerke Churchyard Extension," CWGC <http://www.cwgc.org/>: accessed 18 April 2017
- ²⁵ "No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station," *British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa* (www.bifhsgo.ca: accessed 20 April 2017), entry for Lumb, W
- ²⁶ "UK, Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects, 1901–1929," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 20 April 2017), entry for William Lumb
- ²⁷ "British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914–1920," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 20 April 2017), entry for William Lumb