

## Private Thomas Bradley Widdowson<sup>©</sup>

Regimental number: 202995

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

born: 1897 - died: 23 July 1917

Private Thomas Bradley Widdowson, born in about 1897<sup>1</sup> in Nottingham, Nottinghamshire and baptized there on 1 March 1898, was the son of Thomas and Agnes Widdowson.<sup>2</sup> His parents were both born in Nottingham—his father in about 1862 and his mother, the former Agnes King, in about 1874.<sup>3</sup> Before his marriage, his father was a brickyard labourer and living in Nottingham.<sup>4</sup> He and Agnes married in 1895 and had nine children: Thomas Bradley, John Henry (born in 1898 but died three years later),<sup>5</sup> Florence Agnes (born in 1900, but died the following year),<sup>6</sup> Annie Elizabeth (born in 1901),<sup>7</sup> Edward William (born in 1903),<sup>8</sup> Ethel (born in 1907),<sup>9</sup> Dorothy (born in 1910)<sup>10</sup> and Marjorie (born in 1912).<sup>11</sup> The identity of the ninth child, who died in childhood, was not found.

In 1901, the family was living at 34 Albion Street in Nottingham, where Thomas' father was a general labourer at the gas works and his mother was a lace gasser.<sup>12</sup> In the late 1800s, lace making was Nottingham's biggest industry and a lace gasser bleached and treated the lace.<sup>13</sup>

In 1911, the family was still on Albion Street, but Thomas, age 14, was now in domestic service.<sup>14</sup> He enlisted in the army in Nottingham,<sup>15</sup> probably in April 1916<sup>16</sup> in the 7th Battalion of the West Riding (Duke of Wellington's) Regiment.<sup>17</sup> At some point he transferred to the 4th Battalion of the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry. It is not known when he joined the Western Front, but he was injured and admitted to No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station, where he died on 23 July 1917.<sup>18</sup> He was buried the following day and lies in the Adinkerke Churchyard Extension (Grave Reference: 842).<sup>19</sup>

The monies owing to Thomas from the army upon his death were sent to his father.<sup>20</sup>

Thomas was awarded the British War Medal (for service overseas between 1914 and 1918) and the Victory Medal (for service in an operational theatre).<sup>21</sup> He is honoured on the memorial plaque in St Peter's Church in Nottingham.<sup>22</sup>



**Memorial plaque, St Peter's Church, Nottingham**

Source: Nottinghamshire County Council

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<sup>1</sup> "GRO online index–birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>; accessed 12 May 2017) entry for Widdowson, Thomas Bradley, Registration district: Nottingham, Volume 07B, Page 210

<sup>2</sup> "England, Select Births and Christenings, 1538–1975," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk); accessed 7 March 2017), entry for Thomas Bradley Widdowson

<sup>3</sup> "1901 England Census," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk); accessed 12 May 2017), entry for Thomas B Widdowson, Registration district: Nottingham, Sub-registration district: Nottingham South West, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 25, Piece: 3167, Folio: 8, Page: 7, Household schedule number: 52

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- <sup>4</sup> “1891 England Census,” *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 12 May 2017), entry for Thomas Widdowson, Registration district: Nottingham, Sub-registration district: Nottingham South East, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 18, Piece: 2703, Folio: 78, Page: 28
- <sup>5</sup> “GRO online index–birth,” *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 12 May 2017) entry for Widdowson, John Henry, Registration district: Nottingham, Volume 07B, Page 318; “England & Wales Deaths 1837–2007,” *Findmypast* ([www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk): accessed 12 May 2017), entry for John Henry Widdowson, District: Nottingham, County: Nottinghamshire, Volume: 7B, Page: 143
- <sup>6</sup> “GRO online index–birth,” *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 12 May 2017) entry for Widdowson, Florence Agnes, Registration district: Nottingham, Volume 07B, Page 462; “England & Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1837–1915,” *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 12 May 2017), entry for Florence Agnes Widdowson, Registration district: Nottingham, Inferred county: Nottinghamshire, Volume: 7b, Page: 142
- <sup>7</sup> “GRO online index–birth,” *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 12 May 2017) entry for Widdowson, Annie Elizabeth, Registration district: Nottingham, Volume 07B, Page 291
- <sup>8</sup> “GRO online index–birth,” *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 12 May 2017) entry for Widdowson, Edward William, Registration district: Nottingham, Volume 07B, Page 302
- <sup>9</sup> “GRO online index–birth,” *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 12 May 2017) entry for Widdowson, Ethel, Registration district: Nottingham, Volume 07B, Page 302
- <sup>10</sup> “GRO online index–birth,” *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 12 May 2017) entry for Widdowson, Dorothy, Registration district: Nottingham, Volume 07B, Page 341
- <sup>11</sup> “GRO online index–birth,” *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 12 May 2017) entry for Widdowson, Marjorie, Registration district: Nottingham, Volume 07B, Page 626
- <sup>12</sup> “1901 England Census,” *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 12 May 2017), entry for Thomas B Widdowson
- <sup>13</sup> “When did Raleigh Begin?” Tony Hadland, *Grace’s Guide to British Industrial History* ([http://www.gracesguide.co.uk/When\\_did\\_Raleigh\\_Begin%3F\\_By\\_Tony\\_Hadland](http://www.gracesguide.co.uk/When_did_Raleigh_Begin%3F_By_Tony_Hadland): accessed 12 May 2017)
- <sup>14</sup> “1911 England Census,” *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 5 January 2017), entry for Thomas Bradley, Registration district: Nottingham, Registration district number: 461, Sub-registration district: Nottingham South West, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 19, Piece: 20508
- <sup>15</sup> “UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War, 1914–1919,” *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 17 May 2017), entry for Thomas Bradley Widdowson
- <sup>16</sup> Based on “War Gratuity Calculator” (<https://wargratiuity.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 19 January 2017), entry for Thomas Widdowson
- <sup>17</sup> “UK, WWI Service Medal and Award Rolls, 1914–1920,” *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 12 May 2017), entry for Thomas Bradley Widdowson
- <sup>18</sup> “No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station,” *British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa* ([www.bifhsgo.ca](http://www.bifhsgo.ca): accessed 12 May 2017), entry for Widison [sic], T
- <sup>19</sup> *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* ([www.cwgc.org](http://www.cwgc.org): accessed 12 May 2017), entry for Widdowson, T. B., Service No: 202995
- <sup>20</sup> “UK, Army Registers of Soldiers’ Effects, 1901–1929,” *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 19 January 2017), entry for Thomas Widdowson
- <sup>21</sup> “British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914–1920,” *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 12 May 2017), entry for Thomas B Widdowson
- <sup>22</sup> “Nottingham - St Peter’s Church,” Nottinghamshire County Council (<http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/rollofhonour/WarMemorials/Details/372>: accessed 12 May 2017)