

## Private George Clement Sutcliffe©

Regimental number: 203255

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

born: 18 March 1884 - died: 23 July 1917



**Grave of G. C. Sutcliffe**

Source : FindaGrave

Private George Clement Sutcliffe was born on 18 March 1884, the son of James William and Mary Elizabeth (nee Norminton) Sutcliffe. He was baptized on 30 April in the parish of Mirfield (St Mary's) in Yorkshire<sup>1</sup>—the same parish in which his parents were married on 30 August 1883.<sup>2</sup> His parents were also both born in Yorkshire—his father in about 1859 in Hebden Bridge and his mother in about 1863 in Mirfield.<sup>3</sup> James was a waterman, like his father and Mary Elizabeth's father.<sup>4</sup> George was their first child, followed two years later by a daughter, Mabel Alice, who sadly died at the age of 1, in 1886.<sup>5</sup> A second son, James Owen, was born in 1887.<sup>6</sup>

When George was only 7, he was staying with his paternal grandparents at 15 Cambridge Street in Erringden, Yorkshire.<sup>7</sup> His parents and his younger brother James were living just over 20 miles away in Shepley Bridge, Mirfield.<sup>8</sup> Ten years later, George was with his parents on Huddersfield Road, Ravensthorpe in Dewsbury, Yorkshire. His father was the captain of a barge and George was probably a seaman.<sup>9</sup>

On 6 November 1905, George married Amy Goodall (born in about 1885 in Liversedge, Yorkshire)<sup>10</sup> in the parish church in Ravensthorpe.<sup>11</sup> They had three children: Jack (born on 23 October 1906 and baptized on 7 December of the same year in the parish church in Ravensthorpe),<sup>12</sup> Harry (born on 3 November 1908 and baptized on 17 December 1908)<sup>13</sup> and Moira (born in 1912).<sup>14</sup>

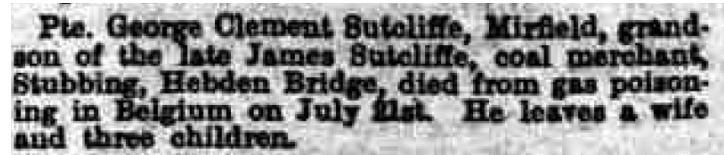
In 1911, George, his wife and two sons were living on Walker Street in Ravensthorpe, where George was a boatman on a canal, working for a coal merchant.<sup>15</sup> His mother-in-law, Ann Goodall, was living with the family.

Three years later, George enlisted in the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry.<sup>16</sup> He was serving with the 1st/4th Battalion when he was admitted to No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station on 22 July 1917 with shell gas poisoning. He died the next day and was buried on 24 July<sup>17</sup> in Adinkerke Churchyard Extension (Grave Reference: 841).<sup>18</sup> His wife had the following inscribed on his gravestone:

WORTHY OF EVERLASTING LOVE  
BELOVED HUSBAND  
OF AMY SUTCLIFFE<sup>19</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 CCCS was at Adinkerke for a short time in June. There are 67 Commonwealth graves from the Great War in the extension cemetery.<sup>20</sup>

George's death was announced in the *Todmorden & District News* on 3 August 1917<sup>21</sup> and was commemorated on the Ravensthorpe Parish Church War Memorial.<sup>22</sup>



**Announcement of Private Sutcliffe's death**

Source: *Todmorden & District News* 03 August 1917

The monies owing to him from the army upon his death were sent to his wife.<sup>23</sup>

George was awarded the British War Medal (for service overseas between 1914 and 1918), the Victory Medal (for service in an operational theatre) and the Territorial Force Medal.<sup>24</sup> The Territorial Force War Medal was awarded to members of the British Territorial Force who served overseas in the Great War and had volunteered for service overseas before the end of September 1914, had been serving with the force on or before the day war was declared and did not qualify for the 1914 Star or the 1914–15 Star.<sup>25</sup>

© 2017 BIFHSGO

---

<sup>1</sup> "West Yorkshire, England, Church of England Births and Baptisms, 1813–1910," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 19 May 2017), entry for George Clement Sutcliffe

<sup>2</sup> "West Yorkshire, England, Marriages and Banns, 1813–1935," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 19 May 2017), entry for James William Sutcliffe

<sup>3</sup> "1911 England Census," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 19 May 2017), entry for James William Sutcliffe, Registration district: Dewsbury, Registration district number: 503, Sub-registration district: Thornhill, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 4, Piece: 27345

<sup>4</sup> "West Yorkshire, England, Marriages and Banns, 1813–1935," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 19 May 2017), entry for James William Sutcliffe

<sup>5</sup> "West Yorkshire, England, Church of England Births and Baptisms, 1813–1910," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 27 June 2017), entry for Mabel Alice Sutcliffe; "England & Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 27 June 2017), entry for Mabel Alice Sutcliffe, Registration district: Todmorden, Inferred county: Yorkshire West Riding, Volume: 9a, Page: 158

<sup>6</sup> "West Yorkshire, England, Church of England Births and Baptisms, 1813–1910," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 27 June 2017), entry for James Owen Sutcliffe

<sup>7</sup> "1891 England Census," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 19 May 2017), entry for George C Sutcliffe, Registration district: Todmorden, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 11, Piece: 3543, Folio: 143, Page: 27

<sup>8</sup> "1891 England Census," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 19 May 2017), entry for James Sutcliffe, Registration district: Dewsbury, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 11, Piece: 3729, Folio: 49, Page: 19

<sup>9</sup> "1901 England Census," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 27 June 2017), entry for George C Sutcliffe, Registration district: Dewsbury, Sub-registration district: Mirfield, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 17, Piece: 4265, Folio: 109, Page: 37, Household schedule number: 263

- 
- <sup>10</sup> "1911 England Census," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 19 May 2017), entry for George Clement Sutcliffe
- <sup>11</sup> "West Yorkshire, England, Marriages and Banns, 1813–1935," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 19 May 2017), entry for George Clement Sutcliffe
- <sup>12</sup> "England, Select Births and Christenings, 1538–1975," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 27 June 2017), entry for Jack Sutcliffe, FHL film number: 1542262
- <sup>13</sup> "Should be Harry?" "England, Select Births and Christenings, 1538–1975," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 27 June 2017), entry for Jack Sutcliffe, FHL film number: 1542262
- <sup>14</sup> "GRO online index–birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 10 November 2017) entry for Sutcliffe, Moira, Registration district: Dewsbury, Volume 09B, Page 1065
- <sup>15</sup> "1911 England Census," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 19 May 2017), entry for James William Sutcliffe
- <sup>16</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 19 May 2017), entry for George Sutcliffe
- <sup>17</sup> "No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station," *British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa* ([www.bifhsgo.ca](http://www.bifhsgo.ca): accessed 11 May 2017), entry for Sutcliffe, G.C.
- <sup>18</sup> *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* ([www.cwgc.org](http://www.cwgc.org): accessed 12 May 2017), entry for Sutcliffe, George Clement, Service No: 203255; *Find a Grave* (<https://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GRid=11852802&ref=acom>: accessed 19 May 2017), entry for Pvt George Clement Sutcliffe
- <sup>19</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>20</sup> "Adinkerke Churchyard Extension," CWGC <http://www.cwgc.org/>: accessed 18 April 2017
- <sup>21</sup> *Todmorden & District News*, 3 August 1917, *Findmypast* ([www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk): accessed 19 May 2017)
- <sup>22</sup> "Ravensthorpe Parish Church War Memorial," *Kirkless Council* ([http://www.kirklees.gov.uk/leisure/museumsGalleries/warMemorial/memorial\\_details.aspx?mid=46#anchor5](http://www.kirklees.gov.uk/leisure/museumsGalleries/warMemorial/memorial_details.aspx?mid=46#anchor5): accessed 18 May 2017)
- <sup>23</sup> "UK, Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects, 1901–1929," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 19 May 2017), entry for George Sutcliffe
- <sup>24</sup> "British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914–1920," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 19 May 2017), entry for George C Sutcliffe
- <sup>25</sup> "Territorial War Medal," *Wikipedia* ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Territorial\\_War\\_Medal](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Territorial_War_Medal): accessed 10 May 2017)