

Private Ernest Taylor©
Regimental number: 203054
1st/4th Battalion, King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry

born: about 1885 - died: 26 July 1917

Private Ernest Taylor was born in about 1885¹ and died at the age of 32 at No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station.² He was admitted to No. 1 CCCS on 22 July 1917, suffering from gas poisoning. He died four days later at 11 a.m.

According to the records maintained by the chaplains at the No. 1 CCCS, he was buried in the Adinkerke Military Cemetery on 28 July.³ However, the records of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission indicate that he is buried in the Adinkerke Churchyard Extension (Grave Reference: 798).⁴ 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.⁵

Mrs. A. Taylor, who may have been his mother or his wife and was living at 1 Castle Terrace, Longdem Coleham, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, requested that that the following inscription be included on his gravestone:

GREATER LOVE HATH NO MAN
THAN HE THAT LAYETH DOWN
HIS LIFE FOR HIS FRIENDS

Before the war, Ernest worked at Pearson's Oil Mill⁶ in Gainsborough, Lincolnshire. Messrs Pearson's Oil & Cake Mills had been built in 1866.⁷

Ernest enlisted in the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry in Doncaster⁸ in about August 1914.⁹ He joined the Front in France on 13 April 1915¹⁰ and survived for more than two years before succumbing to gas poisoning in July 1917.

The monies owing to him from the army upon his death were sent to Miss/Mrs Harriet Stocks.¹¹ It is not known what her relationship was to Ernest. Unfortunately, very little is known about Ernest's family.

Ernest was awarded the British War Medal (for service overseas between 1914 and 1918), the Victory Medal (for service in an operational theatre) and the 1914-15 Star (for service in the war against Germany between 5 August 1914 and 31 December 1915).¹²

Ernest's name was recorded in the Gainsborough Roll of Honour.¹³

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¹ *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* (www.cwgc.org: accessed 30 May 2017), entry for Taylor, E., Service No: 203054

² "No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station," *British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa* (www.bifhsgo.ca: accessed 30 May 2017), entry for Taylor, E.

³ Ibid.

⁴ *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* (www.cwgc.org: accessed 30 May 2017), entry for Taylor, E., Service No: 203054

⁵ "Adinkerke Churchyard Extension," CWGC <http://www.cwgc.org/>: accessed 18 April 2017

⁶ "Gainsborough WWI Roll of Honour," *Friends of the General Cemetery* (http://www.friendsofthegeneralcemetery.com/WEBSITE_ROLL_OF_HONOUR_MARCH_2015.pdf: accessed 30 June 2017)

⁷ "The Gainsborough timeline," *Gainsborough Lincolnshire* (<https://www.flickr.com/groups/689281@N23/discuss/72157615424375723/?ytcheck=1>: accessed 30 June 2017)

⁸ "UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War, 1914–1919," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 30 June 2017), entry for Ernest Taylor

⁹ 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 30 June 2017), entry for Ernest Taylor

¹⁰ "British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914–1920," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 30 June 2017), entry for Ernest Taylor

¹¹ "UK, Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects, 1901–1929," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 30 June 2017), entry for Ernest Taylor

¹² "British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914–1920," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 30 June 2017), entry for Ernest Taylor

¹³ "Gainsborough WWI Roll of Honour," *Friends of the General Cemetery* (http://www.friendsofthegeneralcemetery.com/WEBSITE_ROLL_OF_HONOUR_MARCH_2015.pdf: accessed 30 June 2017)