

Private Kirby Hawkins[©]
Regimental number: 36960
9th Battalion, West Yorkshire Regiment (Prince of Wales's Own)

born: 7 December 1898 - died: 29 May 1918

Private Kirby Hawkins was born on 7 December 1898 and baptized 29 January 1899 in St Thomas church in Leeds, Yorkshire. He was the son of Fred and Florence Hawkins.¹ Fred was born in about 1871 in Scarborough, Yorkshire² and Florence (nee Smith) was born on 10 June 1874 and baptized on 2 January 1884 at St Peter's church in Bradford, Yorkshire.³

They married in 1894 in Scarborough⁴ and had six children: Florence Blanche (born on 11 January 1895),⁵ Charles Frederick (born in 1897),⁶ Kirby, Hannah (born in 1900),⁷ Alfred (born on 15 September 1903)⁸ and Lilian Kingston (born in 1906).⁹

In 1901, the family was living at 9 Bayswater Row in Potternewton, Leeds, where Fred was a lithographer.¹⁰ Ten years later the family was living at the same address, but now Florence's father (a widower) and brother were living with them.¹¹ Florence herself was not living with the family, although Fred was still listed as being married.

Later the same year, Kirby, at the age of 13, entered the West York Reformatory School.¹² He was admitted on 2 December 1911 for "habitually wandering," having been convicted in Leeds the day before. He was to remain in the reformatory school until the age of 16. While his previous character was described as "honest," he continued to abscond from the reformatory, leaving twice in December 1911. In October 1914, he was placed with Mrs. Cross at Marncham Hall in Newark, where he was paid 3 shillings a week. A year later, he visited the school and it was noted that he "looked well." He had passed his 16th birthday, but shortly after his visit, he was placed with Matthew Verity at Union House Farm in Skeeby, Yorkshire, with a wage of £15.¹³

When he was admitted to the reformatory school, his father was still living at the family home at 9 Bayswater Row, but his mother was living at 12 Raby Place, Sheepscan Street in Leeds. This suggests that his parents had perhaps separated. His aunt Margaret Smith (his mother's sister) was also given as a contact.¹⁴ In 1911, she and her sister Lillian were working as domestic servants in the Hannah household at 3 Columbus Ravine in Scarborough, Yorkshire.¹⁵

In August 1916¹⁶ he enlisted in the British Expeditionary Force in York.¹⁷ Nearly two years later, he was admitted to No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station with shrapnel wounds to his chest and abdomen.¹⁸ He was admitted on 29 May 1918 and died there. He was buried the same day in Pernes British Cemetery (Grave Reference: Plot II, Row D, Grave 15) with the Canadian chaplain J. K. Tibbits presiding. His father was notified of his death¹⁹ and received the monies owing to him from the army upon his death.²⁰

In May, nearly 4,000 soldiers were admitted to No. 1 CCCS.²¹ There were 115 deaths that month—more than in any of the other three and a half months that No. 1 CCCS was in Pernes. The Pernes British Military Cemetery was only set up in April 1918 when No. 1 and No. 4 CCCS came to Pernes, driven back by the German advance.²²

Kirby was awarded posthumously the British War Medal (for service overseas between 1914 and 1918) and the Victory Medal (for service in an operational theatre).²³

Kirby's sister Lilian married Frank Eccles in 1933;²⁴ his brother Alfred (newsagent on his own account) also married²⁵ and possibly had several children, one of whom was named Kirby.²⁶

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¹ "West Yorkshire, England, Church of England Births and Baptisms, 1813–1910," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 19 July 2017), entry for Kirby Hawkins

² "1901 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 19 July 2017), entry for Kirby Hawkins, Registration district: Leeds, Sub-registration district: Chapeltown, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 15, Piece: 4249, Folio: 144, Page: 7, Household schedule number: 45

³ "West Yorkshire, England, Church of England Births and Baptisms, 1813–1910," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 19 July 2017), entry for Florence Smith

⁴ "England & Wales, Civil Registration Marriage Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 19 July 2017), entry for Florence Smith, Registration district: Scarborough, Inferred county: Yorkshire North Riding, Volume: 9d, Page: 497

⁵ "West Yorkshire, England, Church of England Births and Baptisms, 1813–1910," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 19 July 2017), entry for Florence Blanche Hawkins

⁶ "GRO online index–birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 19 July 2017) entry for Hawkins, Charles Frederick, Registration district: Hunslet, Volume 09B, Page 242

⁷ "GRO online index–birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 19 July 2017) entry for Hawkins, Hannah, Registration district: Hunslet, Volume 09B, Page 551

⁸ "West Yorkshire, England, Church of England Births and Baptisms, 1813–1910," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 19 July 2017), entry for Alfred

⁹ "GRO online index–birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 19 July 2017) entry for Hawkins, Lilian Kingston, Registration district: Hunslet, Volume 09B, Page 510

¹⁰ "1901 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 19 July 2017), entry for Kirby Hawkins

¹¹ "1911 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 19 July 2017), entry for Kirby Hawkins, Registration district: Leeds, Registration district number: 500, Sub-registration district: North Leeds, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 25, Piece: 26968

¹² "West Yorkshire, England, Reformatory School Records, 1856–1914," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 19 July 2017), entry for Kirby Hawkins, Volume date range: 1905–1914, Reference number: LC/SS2/1/6, Register numbers: 2046–2432

¹³ Presumably this was an annual wage.

¹⁴ "West Yorkshire, England, Reformatory School Records, 1856–1914," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 19 July 2017), entry for Kirby Hawkins

¹⁵ "1911 England, Wales & Scotland Census," *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 19 July 2017), entry for M. Smith, Registration district: Scarborough, Registration district number: 527, Sub-district: Scarborough, Sub-district number: 2, Enumeration district: 8, District number: 8, Census reference: RG14PN28932 RG78PN1666 RD527 SD2 ED8 SN71, RG78 code number: 1666, Piece: 28932

¹⁶ 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: accessed 19 July 2017), entry for Kirby Hawkins

¹⁷ "UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War, 1914–1919," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 19 July 2017), entry for Kirby Hawkins

¹⁸ "No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station," *British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa* (www.bifhsgo.ca: accessed 2 July 2017), entry for Hawkins, K.

¹⁹ Ibid.

²⁰ "UK, Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects, 1901–1929," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 19 July 2017), entry for Kirby Hawkins

²¹ "War Diaries of the First World War: 1st Canadian Casualty Clearing Station 1914/08/13-1919/03/31," *Library and Archives Canada* (http://data4.collectionscanada.gc.ca/netacgi/nph-brs?s1=casualty+clearing&s13=&s12=&l=20&s9=RG9&s7=9-52&Sect1=IMAGE&Sect2=THESOFF&Sect4=AND&Sect5=WARDPEN&Sect6=HITOFF&d=FINDD&p=1&u=http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/archivianet/02015202_e.html&r=1&f=G: accessed 15 December 2014)

²² "Pernes British Military Cemetery" *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* (<http://www.cwgc.org/find-a-cemetery/cemetery/11600/PERNES%20BRITISH%20CEMETERY>: accessed 13 January 2015)

²³ "British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914–1920," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 26 November 2017), entry for Kirby Hawkin [sic]

²⁴ "England & Wales, Civil Registration Marriage Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 19 July 2017), entry for Lilian K. Hawkins, Registration district: Leeds South, Inferred county: Yorkshire West Riding, Volume: 9b, Page: 1206

²⁵ He probably married Nellie Benn, who was Kirby's mother, in 1926 ("England & Wales Marriages 1837–2005," *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 25 August 2017), entry for George Edward Byrch, District: Leeds, County: Yorkshire, Volume: 9B, Page: 8990). He was living with Eva Fowler and his son Kirby in 1939 and married Eva in 1964 ("England & Wales, Civil Registration Marriage Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 25 August 2017), entry for Eva Fowler, Registration district: Leeds, Inferred county: Yorkshire West Riding, Volume: 2c, Page: 809).

²⁶ "England & Wales, Civil Registration Birth Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 25 August 2017), entry for Kirby Hawkins, Registration district: Leeds, Inferred county: Yorkshire, Volume: 9b, Page: 574; "1939 Register," *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 25 August 2017), entry Alfred Hawkins, Reference: RG101/3432K/021/19 Letter Code: KGCT