

Private Bertie George Kahler[©]
Regimental number: 43350
7th Battalion, Northamptonshire Regiment

born: 1894 - died: 1 June 1918

Private Bertie George Kahler was born in 1894 in Norwich, Norfolk,¹ the son of Frederic Andrew and Edna Kahler.² Bertie's parents were both born in about 1857 in Norfolk—Frederic in Norwich and Edna (nee Watson) in Aslacton.³ They married in 1877 in Norwich and had ten children, six of whom survived childhood:⁴ Frederick Andrew (born in 1879),⁵ Rose Edna (born in 1880),⁶ Richard Thomas (born in 1882, but died in 1887),⁷ Margaret Kate (born in 1883, but died within a few months),⁸ John Martin (born on 18 January 1885),⁹ Richard Thomas (born in October 1887)¹⁰ (who was given the name of his older brother who had died at the age of 4), Russell Leonard (born in 1893),¹¹ Bertie and Ethel Hilda (born in 1898 and died soon after birth).¹²

Frederic was a baker and, in 1891, was living at 93 Ber Street in Norwich.¹³ Ten years later, the family had moved to 10 Cowgate Street, still in Norwich.¹⁴ In 1911, they were at the same address and Frederic was now a baker's confectioner.¹⁵

Bertie, age 16, had become a litho printer. His sister Rose was a shop assistant, working for a baker confectioner; his brothers Richard and Russell were a barman and a baker, respectively. By 1911, his brother Frederick had married¹⁶ and moved away and his brother John had immigrated to the United States.¹⁷

Bertie enlisted in the British Expeditionary Force in Norwich¹⁸ in about December 1915.¹⁹ He probably served first with the Norfolk Yeomanry (Regimental number: 2713),²⁰ but transferred at some point to the 7th Battalion of the Northamptonshire Regiment.²¹

At the end of May and in early June 1918, the 7th Battalion was located in the Hill 70 sector, near Lens in northern France.²² There had been fairly persistent attacks of enemy artillery. The battalion's war diary notes for 1 June that "Enemy artillery slightly active during the day. 3 O.R.s (Other Ranks) reported suffering from gas." Bertie was possibly one of these, because he had died of gas poisoning when he was admitted to No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station on 1 June.²³ He was buried the same day in Pernes Military Cemetery (Plot 2, Row E, Grave 9) with the Canadian chaplain J. K. Tibbits presiding. His father, who was living 11 Aylsham Road, Norwich, was his next of kin and was notified of his death²⁴ and received the monies owing to him from the army upon his death.²⁵

Bertie's father asked to have the following inscription engraved on his headstone:

REST IN PEACE²⁶

No. 1 CCCS was stationed in Pernes in June 1918 and Bertie was one of 4040 patients admitted in June and one of the 82 who died there that month.²⁷ The Pernes British Military Cemetery was only set up in April 1918 when No. 1 and No. 4 CCCSs came to Pernes, driven back by the German advance.²⁸

Bertie was awarded posthumously the British War Medal (for service overseas between 1914 and 1918) and the Victory Medal (for service in an operational theatre).²⁹

Bertie's father died on 22 November 1921³⁰ and his mother on 13 November 1935.³¹ Both were still living at 11 Aylsham Road when they died.

Bertie's eldest brother Frederick became a baker, like his father. He married Harriett Althea Plummer in 1904³² and was living in the family home at 11 Aylsham Road when he died on 28 June 1949.³³

His sister Rose married Herbert Darby in 1913 and appears to have had one son, also Herbert, born in 1919. Herbert Sr died before Rose because, in 1939, Rose was a widow.³⁴ Rose died in 1948.³⁵

Bertie's brother John, a carpenter, left England on the SS *Pomeranian* in 1906, arriving in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada on 10 April.³⁶ He was heading to Winnipeg, Manitoba, but he did not stay in Canada long because on in July 1906 he applied to leave Canada to go to the United States, headed for Chicago, Illinois.³⁷ He was naturalized as an American citizen in 1917³⁸ and, on 20 December 1919, he married Ida Louise Larson in Indianapolis, Indiana.³⁹ They appear to have had one daughter—Edna, born in about 1925 and probably named after John's mother.⁴⁰ John worked as a body maker in a factory⁴¹ and then as a carpenter in a construction company. He died in Oakland, Michigan, in 1968.⁴²

It is not known if all Bertie's other brothers served in the Great War, but it appears that his brother Richard did so. Richard attended the Bull Close Boys School in Norwich from 1896 to early 1900.⁴³ In 1918 he is listed as an absentee voter, serving in the Machine Gun Corps (regimental number: 55485).⁴⁴ Before the war he had married Edith M Mackley.⁴⁵ Edith died in 1938⁴⁶ but Richard remarried, marrying Millicent Prentice in 1941.⁴⁷ Sadly, they only had a few years together, as Richard died on 4 November 1950.⁴⁸

His last brother Russell died as a young man. He was 31 years old and living at home when he died on 11 October 1925.⁴⁹

© 2017 BIFHSGO

¹ "GRO online index–birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 20 September 2017) entry for Kahler, Bertie George, Registration district: Norwich, Volume 04B, Page 146

² *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* (www.cwgc.org: accessed 3 December 2017), entry for Kahler, Bertie George, Service No: 43350

³ "1891 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 18 September 2017), entry for Fredk [sic] A Kahler, Registration district: Norwich, Sub-registration district: Conisford, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 15, Piece: 1524, Folio: 87

⁴ "1911 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 18 September 2017), entry for Bertie G Kahlen [sic], Registration district: Norwich, Registration district number: 225, Sub-registration district: East Wymer, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 6, Household schedule number: 75, Piece: 11260. One child, who presumably died in childhood, could not be identified This isn't Ethel Hilda?

⁵ "GRO online index–birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 20 September 2017) entry for Kahler, Frederick Andrew, Registration district: Norwich, Volume 04B, Page 151

⁶ "GRO online index–birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 20 September 2017) entry for Kahler, Rose Edna, Registration district: Norwich, Volume 04B, Page 170

⁷ "GRO online index–birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 20 September 2017) entry for Kahler, Richard Thomas, Registration district: Norwich, Volume 04B, Page 131;

"England & Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 20 September 2017), entry for Richard Thomas Kahler, Registration district: Norfolk, Inferred county: Norwich, Volume: 4b, Page: 85

⁸ "GRO online index–birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 20 September 2017) entry for Kahler, Margaret Kate, Registration district: Norwich, Volume 04B, Page 132; "England & Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 20 September 2017), entry for Margaret Kate Kahler, Registration district: Norfolk, Inferred county: Norwich, Volume: 4b, Page: 84

⁹ "Indiana, Select Marriages Index, 1748–1993," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 20 September 2017), entry for John Martin Kahler, FHL Film number: 413548, Reference ID: P 233

¹⁰ "GRO online index–birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 20 September 2017) entry for Kahler, Richard Thomas, Registration district: Norwich, Volume 04B, Page 141; school adm

¹¹ "GRO online index–birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 20 September 2017) entry for Kahler, Russell Leonard, Registration district: Norwich, Volume 04B, Page 130

¹² "GRO online index–birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 20 September 2017) entry for Kahler, Ethel Hilda, Registration district: Norwich, Volume 04B, Page 120; "England & Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 20 September 2017), entry for Ethel Hilda Kahler, Registration district: Norfolk, Inferred county: Norwich, Volume: 4b, Page: 76

¹³ "1891 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 18 September 2017), entry for Fredk [sic] A Kahler

¹⁴ "1901 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 11 January 2017), entry for Bertie G Kahler, Registration district: Norwich, Sub-registration district: East Wymer, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 11, Piece: 1835, Folio: 90, Page: 27, Household schedule number: 165

¹⁵ "1911 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 18 September 2017), entry for Bertie G Kahlen [sic]

¹⁶ "England & Wales, Civil Registration Marriage Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 20 September 2017), entry for Frederick Andrew Kahler, Registration district: Norwich, Inferred county: Norfolk, Volume: 4b, Page: 262

¹⁷ "U.S., Border Crossings from Canada to U.S., 1895–1956," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 20 September 2017), entry for John Kahler, Record Type: Manifests, Line Number: 9

¹⁸ "UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War, 1914–1919," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 18 September 2017), entry for Bertie George Kahler

¹⁹ 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 18 September 2017), entry for Bertie George Kahler

²⁰ "UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War, 1914–1919," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 18 September 2017), entry for Bertie George Kahler

²¹ "British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914–1920," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 21 September 2017), entry for Bertie George Kahler

²² "UK, WWI War Diaries (France, Belgium and Germany), 1914–1920," Regiment or unit: Northamptonshire Regiment, Sub-unit: 7th Battalion, Division: 24th Division, Diary entry start date: 1915; Diary dates: 1915 Aug - 1919 Jun, Piece description: Piece 2218/2: 7 Battalion Northamptonshire Regiment (1915 Aug - 1919 Jun), Piece number: 2218

²³ "No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station," *British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa* (www.bifhsgo.ca: accessed 21 September 2017), entry for Kahler, B.G.

²⁴ Ibid.

-
- ²⁵ "UK, Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects, 1901–1929," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 18 September 2017), entry for Bertie George Kahler
- ²⁶ *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* (www.cwgc.org: accessed 3 December 2017), entry for Kahler, Bertie George, Service No: 43350
- ²⁷ "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=FIN&p=1&u=http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/archivianet/02015202_e.html&r=1&f=G: accessed 15 December 2014)
- ²⁸ "Pernes British Military Cemetery" *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* (<http://www.cwgc.org/find-a-cemetery/cemetery/11600/PERNES%20BRITISH%20CEMETERY>: accessed 13 January 2015)
- ²⁹ "British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914–1920," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 21 September 2017), entry for Bertie George Kahler
- ³⁰ "England & Wales, National Probate Calendar (Index of Wills and Administrations), 1858–1966," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 18 September 2017), entry for Frederic Andrew Kahler
- ³¹ "England & Wales, National Probate Calendar (Index of Wills and Administrations), 1858–1966," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 18 September 2017), entry for Edna Kahler
- ³² "England & Wales, Civil Registration Marriage Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 20 September 2017), entry for Frederick Andrew Kahler
- ³³ "England & Wales, National Probate Calendar (Index of Wills and Administrations), 1858–1966," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 18 September 2017), entry for Frederick A Kahler
- ³⁴ "1939 Register," *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 22 February 2017), entry for Rose E Darby, Ref: RG101/6512H/002/36 Letter Code: TPNB
- ³⁵ "England & Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 21 September 2017), entry for Rose E Darby, Registration district: Norfolk, Inferred county: Norwich, Volume: 4b, Page: 454
- ³⁶ "Canadian Passenger Lists, 1865–1935," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 8 April 2017), entry for J Martin Kahler
- ³⁷ "U.S., Border Crossings from Canada to U.S., 1895–1956," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 20 September 2017), entry for John Kahler
- ³⁸ "1920 United States Federal Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 20 September 2017), entry for John M Kahler
- ³⁹ "Indiana, Select Marriages Index, 1748–1993," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 20 September 2017), entry for John Martin Kahler
- ⁴⁰ "1930 United States Federal Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 20 September 2017), entry for John Kahler
- ⁴¹ "1920 United States Federal Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 20 September 2017), entry for John M Kahler
- ⁴² "U.S., Social Security Death Index, 1935–2014," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 20 September 2017), entry for John Kahler
- ⁴³ "National School Admission Registers & Log-books 1870–1914," *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 20 September 2017), entry for Edward Key, Book type: Admissions, Archive reference: N_ED_8_80, Folio / page no.: -
- ⁴⁴ "Britain, Absent Voters Lists 1918–1921," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 20 September 2017), entry for Richard Thomas Kahler, Year: 1918, County: Norfolk, Polling district or place: Norfolk East, Image number: 95, Archive reference: SPR.Mic.P.18/BL.N.15/2
- ⁴⁵ "England & Wales, Civil Registration Marriage Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 21 September 2017), entry for Richard T Kahler, Registration district: Norwich, Inferred county: Norfolk, Volume: 4b, Page: 288

⁴⁶ "England & Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 21 September 2017), entry for Edith M Kahler, Registration district: Norfolk, Inferred county: Norwich, Volume: 4b, Page: 108

⁴⁷ "England & Wales, Civil Registration Marriage Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 21 September 2017), entry for Richard T Kahler, Registration district: Norwich, Inferred county: Norfolk, Volume: 4b, Page: 472

⁴⁸ "England & Wales Deaths 1837–2007," *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 20 September 2017), entry for Richard T Kahler, District: Norwich, County: Norfolk, Volume: 4B, Page: 552

⁴⁹ "England & Wales, National Probate Calendar (Index of Wills and Administrations), 1858–1966," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 20 September 2017), entry for Russell L Kahler