

Private Harold Shaw[©]

Regimental number: 358706

1st/10th Battalion, The King's (Liverpool Regiment)

born: 26 December 1899 - died: 1 June 1918

Private Harold Shaw, the son of John and Mary Alice Shaw, was born on 26 December 1899 and baptized just a couple of weeks later at All Souls Church in Ancoats, Lancashire.¹ John was born in Warrington, Lancashire, in about 1865 and his wife, the former Mary Alice Kitchingman, in 1868, about 20 miles away in Manchester.² They married in St. Mary's Chapel in Great Sankey, 40 miles west of Manchester, in 1888.³ Three years after their marriage, John and Mary Alice were probably living at 21 Heath Lane in Warrington, where John was a blacksmith and Mary Alice a cotton winder. The first of their children was born the following year. They had a total of seven children: Frank Kitchingman (born on 6 February 1892),⁴ Alice Warburton Robinson (born in June 1894),⁵ Mary Elizabeth (born on 22 April 1896),⁶ John William (born on 19 February 1898),⁷ Harold, Frederick (born in 1901, but died the following year)⁸ and Albert (born in 1903).⁹

When Harold's sister Mary Elizabeth was admitted to school in November 1896, the family had moved to Manchester and was living at 269 Bradford Road;¹⁰ John was a publican.¹¹ He managed the Prince Albert Inn, registered at 269 & 271 Bradford Road.¹² Harold's father ran it until possibly sometime in the 1920s and then Harold's brother John took over. When John was the licensee in 1939, his barmaid was Florence Walker¹³—she became his wife in 1946.¹⁴

Harold enlisted in The King's (Liverpool Regiment) in about October 1916,¹⁵ just months before his 17th birthday. The army's record of his death less than three years later suggests that he was 21 when he died in 1918. But, given his baptismal record, he was probably not yet 19. Did he exaggerate his age to enlist?

At the end of May 1918, the 10th Battalion was stationed in northern France, near the Belgian border.¹⁶ Leading up to the end of the month, there was a lot of enemy activity in the area—artillery fire and enemy aircraft activity. On 1 June, “[t]he early hours of the morning were marked by hostile artillery activity—gas shells being freely used. [A captain] was wounded whilst inspecting his frontline posts; and died of wounds a few hours later. Four other casualties were sustained.” Harold was probably one of these, because he was admitted to No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station on 1 June.¹⁷ He had been gassed and had a gunshot wound to his back and a fracture of his head. He died of these wounds the same day. He was unconscious all day and, as a result, the No. 1 CCCS chaplain could not identify his next of kin. A letter was sent to the adjutant of his battalion to notify them of his death.

Harold was buried on 2 June in Pernes Military Cemetery (Plot 2, Row E, Grave 29) with the Canadian chaplain J. K. Tibbits presiding. In June 1918, over 4,000 soldiers were admitted to No. 1 CCCS.¹⁸ There were 82 deaths that month. 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.¹⁹

His father requested the following inscription for his headstone:

HOME AT LAST
THY LABOUR DONE
SAFE AND BLEST
THE VICTORY WON²⁰

His father received the monies owing to Arthur from the army upon his death.²¹

Harold was awarded posthumously the British War Medal (for service overseas between 1914 and 1918) and the Victory Medal (for service in an operational theatre).²²

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¹ "Manchester, England, Church of England Births and Baptisms, 1813–1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 4 October 2017), entry for Harold Shaw

² "1891 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 4 October 2017), entry for John Shaw, Registration district: Warrington, Sub-registration district: Warrington, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 19, Piece: 3076, Folio: 132

³ "England, Select Marriages, 1538–1973," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 5 October 2017), entry for John Shaw, FHL film number: 1952267, Reference ID: pg 26 cn 51

⁴ "GRO online index–birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 6 October 2017) entry for Shaw, Frank Kitchingman, Registration district: Warrington, Volume 08C, Page 251
"Manchester School Admissions Registers," *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 4 October 2017), entry for, Frank Shaw, Film: M 66 / 36, Folio —, Record set: National School Admission Registers & Log-books 1870–1914

⁵ "GRO online index–birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 6 October 2017) entry for Shaw, Alice Warburton Robinson, Registration district: Warrington, Volume 08C, Page 188
"Manchester School Admissions Registers," *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 4 October 2017), entry for, Alice Shaw, Film: M 66 / 36, Folio —, Record set: National School Admission Registers & Log-books 1870–1914

⁶ "GRO online index–birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 6 October 2017) entry for Shaw, Mary Elizabeth, Registration district: Warrington, Volume 08C, Page 247 ; "Manchester School Admissions Registers," *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 4 October 2017), entry for Mary E Shaw, Film: M 66/36, Folio —, Record set: National School Admission Registers & Log-books 1870–1914

⁷ "GRO online index–birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 6 October 2017) entry for Shaw, John William, Registration district: Warrington, Volume 08C, Page 267 ; "1939 Register," *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 6 October 2017), entry for John W Shaw, Ref: RG101/4528J/009/15, Letter code: NKOC

⁸ "GRO online index–birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 6 October 2017) entry for Shaw, Frederick, Registration district: Manchester, Volume 08D, Page 211; "England & Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 6 October 2017), entry for Frederick Shaw, Registration district: Manchester, Inferred county: Lancashire, Volume: 8d, Page: 132

⁹ "GRO online index–birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 6 October 2017) entry for Shaw, Albert, Registration district: Manchester, Volume 08D, Page 226; "Manchester School Admissions Registers," *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 4 October 2017), entry for Albert Shaw, Film: M 66 / 11, Folio —

¹⁰ "Manchester School Admissions Registers," *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 4 October 2017), entry for Mary E Shaw

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- ¹¹ "Manchester, England, Church of England Births and Baptisms, 1813–1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 4 October 2017), entry for Harold Shaw
- ¹² *Pubshistory* (<https://pubshistory.com/Lancashire/ManchesterP/PrinceAlbertInnBradford.shtml>: accessed 11 October 2017); "1901 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 11 January 2017), entry for Harold Shaw, Registration district: Manchester, Sub-registration district: Ancoats, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 29, Piece: 3744, Folio: 7, Page: 5, Household schedule number: 26; "1911 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 4 October 2017), entry for Harold Shaw, Registration district: Manchester, Registration district number: 466, Sub-registration district: Ancoats, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 26, Piece: 24114
- ¹³ "1939 Register," *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 6 October 2017), entry for John W Shaw, Ref: RG101/4528J/009/15, Letter code: NKOC
- ¹⁴ "England & Wales Marriages 1837–2005," *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 6 October 2017), entry for Florence Walker, District: Manchester, County: Lancashire, Volume: 10E, Page: 788
- ¹⁵ 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 4 October 2017), entry for Harold Shaw
- ¹⁶ "UK, WWI War Diaries (France, Belgium and Germany), 1914–1920," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 5 October 2017), Regiment or unit: King's (Liverpool) Regiment, Sub-unit: 10th Battalion, Division: 55th Division, Diary dates: 1916 Jan - 1919 Sep, Piece description: Piece 2929/3: 1/10 Battalion King's Liverpool Regiment (1916 Jan - 1919 Sep), Piece number: 2929
- ¹⁷ "No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station," *British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa* (www.bifhsgo.ca: accessed 30 August 2017), entry for Shaw, H.
- ¹⁸ "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)
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- ²¹ "UK, Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects, 1901–1929," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 4 October 2017), entry for Harold Shaw
- ²² "British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914–1920," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 4 October 2017), entry for Harold Shaw