

Private Leslie Herbert Harwood©
Regimental number: 19156
9th Battalion, Royal Sussex Regiment

born: 28 May 1899 - died: 1 June 1918

GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN
BY HIS SORROWING
FATHER, MOTHER
BROTHERS & SISTERS¹

Private Leslie Herbert Harwood was loved and missed by his family: his father Herbert Edward Harwood, his mother Hilda Gertrude Welsh and his three brothers and sisters.

Leslie was born on 28 May 1899 and baptized on 30 July 1899 at St John's Church in Walham Green in London²—the same church in which his parents had married on 31 August 1895.³ Leslie's father was born in Aller, Somerset, on 2 January 1871 and his mother in London on 1 September 1871.⁴ Leslie was Herbert and Hilda's second son. Their first son, William, was born on 10 May 1897.⁵ After Leslie's birth, they had two more children: Hilda Gertrude (born on 10 February 1902)⁶ and John Edward (born on 10 November 1907).⁷

Leslie's father was an insurance agent. In 1901, the family was living at 48 Harewood Road in Fulham, London,⁸ and ten years later, the family had moved to 8 Grant Road in Wealdstone, near Harrow.⁹

Leslie enlisted in the 13th Battalion of the Royal Fusiliers in Fulham,¹⁰ sometime after June 1917.¹¹ At some point he transferred to the 9th Battalion of the Royal Sussex Regiment and, in early June 1918, the battalion was in the trenches, north of Loos, France. It was reportedly a fairly quiet tour. The battalion's work involved primarily filling the front line trench with wire and digging saps¹² forward of the line.¹³ It is not known how it happened, but Leslie was already dead when he was admitted to No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station on 1 June. He had been gassed. He was buried the next day in Pernes Military Cemetery (Plot 2, Row E, Grave 30) with the Canadian chaplain J. K. Tibbits presiding.¹⁴

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.¹⁵ In June 1918, over 4,000 soldiers were admitted to No. 1 CCCS.¹⁶ There were 82 deaths that month.

His father was his next of kin and was notified of Leslie's death.¹⁷ He also received the monies owing to his son from the army upon his death.¹⁸ His father had also served as a special constable during the Great War.¹⁹

Leslie was awarded posthumously the British War Medal (for service overseas between 1914 and 1918) and the Victory Medal (for service in an operational theatre).²⁰

In 1939, his parents and his two brothers were living together at 268/70/72 High Road in Harrow, Middlesex.²¹ His father was an estate agent and his brothers William and John were a bank official (foreign department) and furniture shop keeper, respectively. His sister married Henry J Kitch in

1926²² and, in 1939, they were living at 87 Wilbury Crescent in Hove, Sussex, where Henry was a printing ink representative.²³

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¹ *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* (www.cwgc.org: accessed 3 December 2017), entry for Harwood, Leslie Herbert, Service No: 19156. The serial number given in the No. 1 CCCS chaplains' records (63048) is probably wrong.

² "London, England, Church of England Births and Baptisms, 1813–1916," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 1 November 2017), entry for Leslie Herbert Harwood

³ "London, England, Church of England Marriages and Banns, 1754–1930," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 1 November 2017), entry for Herbert Edward Harwood

⁴ "1939 Register," *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 18 November 2017), entry for Herbert E Harwood, Ref: RG101/0799A/020/13 Letter Code: BIGF

⁵ *Ibid.*

⁶ "1939 Register," *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 18 November 2017), entry for Hilda G Kitch, Ref: RG101/2513D/005/41 Letter Code: —

⁷ "1939 Register," *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 18 November 2017), entry for Herbert E Harwood

⁸ "1901 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 1 November 2017), entry for Leslie A [*sic*] Harwood, Registration district: Fulham, Sub-registration district: North East Fulham, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 09, Piece: 59, Folio: 88, Page: 3, Household schedule number: 24

⁹ "1911 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 5 January 2017), entry for Leslie Harwood, Registration district: Hendon, Registration district number: 130, Sub-registration district: Harrow, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 20, Household schedule number: 151, Piece: 7087

¹⁰ "UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War, 1914–1919," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 1 November 2017), entry for Leslie Herbert Harwood

¹¹ 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 1 November 2017), entry for Leslie Herbert Harwood

¹² Saps were short trenches dug into No Man's Land to create listening posts and allow soldiers to move forward without being exposed to enemy fire. ("Sapping : First World War," Spartacus Educational (<http://spartacus-educational.com/FWWsapping.htm>: accessed 2 November 2017))

¹³ "UK, WWI War Diaries (France, Belgium and Germany), 1914–1920," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 1 November 2017), Regiment or unit: Royal Sussex Regiment, Sub-unit: 9th Battalion, Division: 24th Division, Diary dates: 1915 Aug - 1919 May, Piece description: Piece 2219/2: 9 Battalion Royal Sussex Regiment (1915 Aug - 1919 May), Piece number: 2219

¹⁴ "No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station," *British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa* (www.bifhsgo.ca: accessed 5 July 2017), entry for L H Harwood

¹⁵ "Pernes British Military Cemetery," *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* (<http://www.cwgc.org/find-a-cemetery/cemetery/11600/PERNES%20BRITISH%20CEMETERY>: accessed 13 January 2015)

¹⁶ "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)

¹⁷ "No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station," *British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa* (www.bifhsgo.ca: accessed 5 July 2017), entry for L H Harwood

¹⁸ "UK, Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects, 1901–1929," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 1 November 2017), entry for Leslie Herbert Harwood

¹⁹ "1939 Register," *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 22 February 2017), entry for Herbert E Harwood

²⁰ "British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914–1920," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 1 November 2017), entry for Leslie H Harwood

²¹ "1939 Register," *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 22 February 2017), entry for Herbert E Harwood

²² "England & Wales Marriages 1837–2005," *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 18 November 2017), entry for Hilda G Harwood, District: Hendon, County: Middlesex, Volume: 3A, Page: 726

²³ "1939 Register," *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 18 November 2017), entry for Hilda G Kitch, Ref: RG101/2513D/005/41 Letter Code: —