

Private William John King[©]

Regimental number: 3080272

13th Royal Highlanders of Canada or 16th Battalion, Canadian Infantry

born: 9 April 1898 - died: 28 September 1918

Private William John King was born on 9 April 1898 in Newton, Middlesex, Massachusetts.¹ He was the son of John Charles King and Charlotte M. Frazier² (also known as Lottie). Both his parents were born in Nova Scotia, Canada,³ in about 1867.⁴ They married in about 1890⁵ but it is not known where. There are also a range of possible dates for their immigration to the United States but, in 1900, John and Charlotte were living in Boston, Massachusetts with seven children.⁶ John was an engineer.

William came from a large family, but the exact identities of his siblings are not known. By 1910, John and Charlotte had had ten children, eight of whom were still living.⁷ These were likely: Lizzie J. (born in 1892),⁸ Joseph E. (born in about 1893),⁹ Alice Mabel (born in 1894),¹⁰ Martha (born in about 1894),¹¹ William J. (born in about 1898),¹² George Amady (born in 1901),¹³ Madeline R. (born in about 1903)¹⁴ and Marie Agnes (born in about 1906).¹⁵ Rose M. (born in about 1904) does not appear in the 1910 census but she was, according to the 1920 census, born before 1910.¹⁶ Three other children appear with the family in the 1900 census: Jane E. (born in about 1892),¹⁷ Leo (born in about 1895),¹⁸ and Thomas Alvin (born in 1900).¹⁹ These children are not with the family in 1910. Perhaps some of these children died before 1910.

William enlisted in the Canadian Expeditionary Force on 29 October 1917 in Montreal.²⁰ On enlisting, he gave his date of birth as 9 April 1897. This would have made him 20 years old. However, according to his birth record, he would actually have been 19 years old. Either way he was old enough to enlist and be sent overseas. At the time he was a teamster and living in Boston. He was 5' 7" tall and had a dark complexion, blue eyes and brown hair and was a Roman Catholic.

It is unclear if he served with the 13th Royal Highlanders of Canada²¹ (better known as the Black Watch) or the 16th Battalion (Scottish Regiment)²² or both. But he may have been with the 16th Battalion when he was injured.

Whilst taking part in the attack on Marquoin on September 27th, 1918, he was wounded in the abdomen by shrapnel from an enemy shell. His wounds were dressed and he was taken to the No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station where he died the following day.

Indeed, he was admitted to No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station on 27 September, although the chaplains' journal indicates that he died the same day and was buried the following day in Duisans' British Military Cemetery (Grave 26, Plot 7, Row A) with the Canadian chaplain, W. Fisher, presiding.²³

Duisans British Military Cemetery is located in Etrun, near Arras, in France. The first burials took place in the cemetery in March 1917.²⁴ No. 1 CCCS arrived at the beginning of September and was stationed near Duisans for two months in the autumn of 1918.²⁵ A total of 75 patients died at No. 1 CCCS in September 1918.

His next-of-kin was his sister, Miss M. King, who was living at 344 Saratoga Street East, Boston. This may have been Margaret or Mary – both of whom were living at that address, with their parents, in 1910.

The family lived in Boston until at least 1920.²⁶ By 1930, John was a widow and still living in Boston, with his daughters, Martha and Madeline.²⁷ Madeline had married Gunner Anderson in about 1928.

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¹ "Massachusetts Births and Christenings, 1639–1915," *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:FH5V-QPX> : accessed 15 February 2016), entry for William John King, 09 Apr 1898; citing Newton, Middlesex, Massachusetts, cn 214; FHL microfilm 743,826. His attestation form for the Canadian Expeditionary Force indicates that he was born on 9 April 1897.

² Frazier is the maiden name given on William's birth record, as it is on those of several of his siblings. However, in 1920, Toussant (John) Fougere and his wife, Pauline, are living with John Charles and his wife and they are identified as his father- and mother-in-law. If William's mother was the daughter of John Fougere, perhaps her first marriage was to Frazier and a second marriage to King. No evidence of this has been found.

³ "Massachusetts Births and Christenings, 1639–1915," entry for William John King

⁴ "1910 United States Federal Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 11 February 2016), entry for William J. King

⁵ "1900 United States Federal Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 11 February 2016), entry for William J. King

⁶ *Ibid.*

⁷ "1910 United States Federal Census," entry for William J. King

⁸ *Ibid.*

⁹ *Ibid.*

¹⁰ "Massachusetts Births, 1841–1915," *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:FXWL-8RC>: accessed 15 February 2016), entry for Alice Mabel King, 18 Dec 1894; citing Boston, Suffolk, Massachusetts, reference 9591, Massachusetts Archives, Boston; FHL microfilm 1,651,226

¹¹ "1910 United States Federal Census," entry for William J. King

¹² *Ibid.*

¹³ "Massachusetts Births, 1841–1915," *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:FXN2-JHY>: accessed 21 February 2016), entry for George Amady King, 29 Sep 1901; citing Boston, Massachusetts, reference p 335, Massachusetts Archives, Boston; FHL microfilm 2,057,387

¹⁴ "1910 United States Federal Census," entry for William J. King

¹⁵ "Massachusetts Births and Christenings, 1639–1915," *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:FH11-PH5> : accessed 15 February 2016), entry for Marie Agnes King, 21 Jan 1906; citing Boston, Suffolk, Massachusetts, cn 6668; FHL microfilm 596,120

¹⁶ "1920 United States Federal Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 11 February 2016), entry for John C. King

¹⁷ "1900 United States Federal Census," entry for William J. King

¹⁸ *Ibid.*

¹⁹ "Massachusetts Births and Christenings, 1639–1915," *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:F4GF-4P1> : accessed 15 February 2016), entry for Thomas Alvin King, 20 Apr 1900; citing Boston, Suffolk, Massachusetts, 3098; FHL microfilm 595,526

²⁰ "Canada, Soldiers of the First World War, 1914–1918," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 11 February 2016), entry for William John King

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- ²¹ "Record of Deaths, 17 February 1916–10 February 1919, a record maintained at No. 1 CCCS," *Library and Archives Canada*, (records accessed 2013 & 2016), Record Group 9, series IIC10, volume 4556, Record number 682
- ²² "Commonwealth War Graves Commission," (www.cwgc.org; accessed 25 January 2016), entry for King, W. J., Service No: 3080272
- ²³ "Record of Deaths, 17 February 1916–10 February 1919, a record maintained at No. 1 CCCS," Record number 682
- ²⁴ "Duisans British Cemetery, Etrun," Commonwealth War Graves Commission (www.cwgc.org; accessed 7 October 2015)
- ²⁵ "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=FINN&p=1&u=http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/archivianet/02015202_e.html&r=1&f=G; accessed 17 June 2015)
- ²⁶ "1910 United States Federal Census," entry for William J. King and "1920 United States Federal Census," entry for John C. King
- ²⁷ "1920 United States Federal Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk; accessed 15 February 2016), entry for John C. King