

## **Private Joseph William Neale<sup>©</sup>**

**Regimental number: 97919**

**5th Battalion, Sherwood Foresters (Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Regiment)**

**born: 1899 - died: 21 May 1918**

Private Joseph William Neale was born in Doncaster, Yorkshire, in 1899,<sup>1</sup> the only son of William Henry Neale and his wife, the former Ellen Bowling.<sup>2</sup> His father was also born in Doncaster, in about 1871,<sup>3</sup> the son of Joseph and Mary Neal.<sup>4</sup> His mother was born in Hoyland Common, Yorkshire, in about 1871, the daughter of John Richard and Elizabeth Breasley Bowling.<sup>5</sup> Before their marriage, Ellen was a milliner<sup>6</sup> and William was a brass finisher.<sup>7</sup>

William and Ellen married in Doncaster in 1892<sup>8</sup> and had four children. Their first three children were daughters—Edith Lillian (born in 1893),<sup>9</sup> Jessie Beatrice (born in 1894)<sup>10</sup> and Isabella (born in 1896).<sup>11</sup> Sadly, Isabella died when she was just a few months old.<sup>12</sup> Then their father William died in 1898, when he was just 27 years old.<sup>13</sup> Just a few months later, his only son, Joseph William, was born in 1899.

In 1901, Ellen, a widow with three children under the age of 9, was living with her mother-in-law, Mary Neale, at 32 Fitzwilliam Street in Doncaster.<sup>14</sup> She would remain at this address for at least the next two decades. Ten years later, the family was still living together—Joseph was at school and his older sisters were in domestic service.<sup>15</sup> Ellen's father John was visiting the family at the time of the census. Four years later, Joseph's sister Edith died in Doncaster in 1915.<sup>16</sup>

Joseph was a beer bottler when he enlisted in the Sherwood Foresters on 12 March 1917.<sup>17</sup> He probably went to France with the 43rd Reinforcement in January 1918 and was then posted to the 1/6th Battalion of the Sherwood Foresters. He presumably transferred later to the Regiment's 1/5th Battalion, because he was serving with this unit when he died.<sup>18</sup>

On May 1918, the 1/5th Battalion was stationed in Vaudricourt, south of Bethune, in northern France. On 18/19 May, the enemy raided the left company and was repulsed without British casualties. A number of bombs and rifles were found. Enemy gas shelling was abnormally high in the days that followed—so much so that a relief that was to occur on 22 May was postponed because of the number of gas casualties in the preceding days.<sup>19</sup> Joseph was probably one of these, because he had been gassed when he was admitted to No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station on 21 May with gunshot wounds to his head and arms.<sup>20</sup> He died the same day and was buried the following day in Pernes British Cemetery (Plot 1, Row F, Grave 38) with the Canadian chaplain R. K. Lambert presiding.

Joseph was one of 233 Sherwood Foresters who died in May 1918<sup>21</sup> and one of 294 admissions to No. 1 CCCS on 21 May 1918.<sup>22</sup> In May 1918, a total of nearly 4,000 soldiers were admitted to No. 1 CCCS, where there were 115 deaths in the month—more than in any of the other three and a half months that No. 1 CCCS was in Pernes. 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.<sup>23</sup>

Joseph's mother, still living at 32 Fitzwilliam Street, was his next of kin and was notified of his death.<sup>24</sup> She received the monies owing to Joseph from the army upon his death.<sup>25</sup>

Joseph was awarded posthumously the British War Medal (for service overseas between 1914 and 1918) and the Victory Medal (for service in an operational theatre).<sup>26</sup>

Joseph's remaining sister Jessie was probably working as a café manageress and living at 28 Windsor Road in Hebden Royd, Yorkshire, in 1939 and died in Todmorden, West Yorkshire, in 1976.

It is not known when his mother Ellen died. She had experienced a lot of grief in her life. She lost a brother and a sister when they were in their teens<sup>27</sup> and she was only a few years older. She lost an infant daughter and then her 27-year-old husband. Her eldest daughter died at the age of 22, she lost her only son at the age of 19 in the Great War, and her father probably died three years after the end of the war.<sup>28</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> "GRO online index–birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 20 April 2018) entry for Neale, Joseph William, Registration district: Doncaster, Volume 09C, Page 855

<sup>2</sup> *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* ([www.cwgc.org](http://www.cwgc.org): accessed 11 April 2018), entry for Neale, Joseph William, Service No: 97919

<sup>3</sup> "England & Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 20 April 2018), entry for William Henry Neale, Registration district: Doncaster, Inferred county: Yorkshire West Riding, Volume: 9c, Page: 531

<sup>4</sup> "1891 England Census," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 27 January 2018), entry for William H. Pedler [*sic*], Sub-registration district: Doncaster, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 16, Piece: 3864, Folio: 99

<sup>5</sup> "England, Select Marriages, 1538–1973," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 20 April 2018), entry for Ellen Bowling, FHL film number: 1545692, Reference ID: it 1 p 150

<sup>6</sup> "1891 England Census," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 27 January 2018), entry for Ellen Bowling, Sub-registration district: Bawtry, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 12, Piece: 3867, Folio: 115

<sup>7</sup> "1891 England Census," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 27 January 2018), entry for William H. Pedler [*sic*]

<sup>8</sup> "England, Select Marriages, 1538–1973," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 20 April 2018), entry for Ellen Bowling

<sup>9</sup> "GRO online index–birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 20 April 2018) entry for Neale, Edith Lilian, Registration district: Doncaster, Volume 09C, Page 816

<sup>10</sup> "GRO online index–birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 20 April 2018) entry for Neale, Jessie Beatrice, Registration district: Doncaster, Volume 09C, Page 730

<sup>11</sup> "GRO online index–birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 20 April 2018) entry for Neale, Isabella, Registration district: Chesterfield, Volume 07B, Page 799

<sup>12</sup> "England & Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 20 April 2018), entry for Isabella Neale, Registration district: Doncaster, Inferred county: Yorkshire West Riding, Volume: 9c, Page: 455

<sup>13</sup> "England & Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 20 April 2018), entry for William Henry Neale

<sup>14</sup> "1901 England Census," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 11 January 2018), entry for Joseph W Neale, Registration district: Doncaster, Sub-registration district: Doncaster, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 19, Piece: 4413, Folio: 19, Page: 29, Household schedule number: 199

<sup>15</sup> "1911 England Census," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 5 January 2018), entry for Joseph William Neale, Registration district: Doncaster, Registration district number: 512, Sub-registration district: Doncaster, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 11, Piece: 28200

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- <sup>16</sup> “England & Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1837–1915,” *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 20 April 2018), entry for Edith L. Neale, Registration district: Doncaster, Inferred county: Yorkshire West Riding, Volume: 9c, Page: 1108
- <sup>17</sup> “British Army WWI Service Records, 1914–1920,” *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 17 December 2018), entry for Joseph William Neale. Unless otherwise noted, all information about Joseph’s military service comes from this source.
- <sup>18</sup> “No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station,” *British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa* ([www.bifhsgo.ca](http://www.bifhsgo.ca): accessed 11 April 2018), entry for Neale, J. W.
- <sup>19</sup> “UK, WWI War Diaries (France, Belgium and Germany), 1914–1920,” *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 21 April 2018), Regiment or unit: Sherwood Foresters (Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Regiment), Sub-unit: 1/5 Battalion, Division: 46th Division, Diary entry start date: Jun 1918, Diary entry end date: 18 Jun 1918, Diary dates: 1915 Mar–1919 May, Diary entry location: Report on Raid by the 1/5th Battalion, Sherwood Foresters, on the night of 18th/19th June, 1918, Piece description: Piece 2695/1: 1/5 Battalion Sherwood Foresters (Notts and Derby Regiment) (1915 Mar–1919 May), Piece number: 2695
- <sup>20</sup> “No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station,” *British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa* ([www.bifhsgo.ca](http://www.bifhsgo.ca): accessed 11 April 2018), entry for Neale, J. W.
- <sup>21</sup> “A Roll of Honour to the Men of the Sherwood Foresters (Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Regiment) who fell in the Great War 1914-1918” (<http://www.the-sherwood-foresters.co.uk/index.html>: accessed 21 April 2018)
- <sup>22</sup> “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](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)
- <sup>23</sup> “Pernes British Military Cemetery,” *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* (<http://www.cwgc.org/find-a-cemetery/cemetery/11600/PERNES%20BRITISH%20CEMETERY>: accessed 13 January 2015)
- <sup>24</sup> “No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station,” *British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa* ([www.bifhsgo.ca](http://www.bifhsgo.ca): accessed 11 April 2018), entry for Neale, J. W.
- <sup>25</sup> “UK, Army Registers of Soldiers’ Effects, 1901–1929,” *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 21 April 2018), entry for Joseph William Neale
- <sup>26</sup> “British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914–1920,” *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 20 April 2018), entry for Joseph W Neale
- <sup>27</sup> “England & Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1837–1915,” *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 21 April 2018), entry for Lilian Bowling, Registration district: Barnsley, Inferred county: Yorkshire West Riding, Volume: 9c, Page: 126; “England & Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1837–1915,” *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 21 April 2018), entry for Daniel Brearsley Bowling, Registration district: Barnsley, Inferred county: Yorkshire West Riding, Volume: 9c, Page: 129
- <sup>28</sup> “England & Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1837–1915,” *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 28 April 2018), entry for John Bowling, Registration district: Doncaster, Inferred county: Yorkshire West Riding, Volume: 9c, Page: 912