

## Private William Ernest Charles Woods<sup>©</sup>

**Regimental number: 1149**

**13th Battalion, Duke of Cambridge's Own (Middlesex) Regiment**

**born: 24 November 1893–died: 5 May 1916**

Private William Ernest Charles Woods was born in Twickenham,<sup>1</sup> in west London, in about November 1893<sup>2</sup> and baptized there on 19 February 1893.<sup>3</sup> He was the second child of William Inkerman Woods (born in about 1867 in Croydon, Surrey)<sup>4</sup> and his wife, the former Helena Kate Herring (born on 24 January 1869 in Richmond, Surrey).<sup>5</sup> They had married in Brentford, Essex, in 1890<sup>6</sup> and their first child, Lilian Alice, was born the following year.<sup>7</sup> After William Jr., they had three daughters—Mabel Dorothy Clara (born in 1895),<sup>8</sup> Hilda Lucy May (born in 1897)<sup>9</sup> and Violet Beatrice Maud (born in 1901).<sup>10</sup> Their last child was another son—Percy John Inkerman (born in 1907).

Sadly, their daughter Hilda died in 1897,<sup>11</sup> but the rest of the family continued to live in Brentford. In 1901, they were living on Napier Road, where William senior was a house painter.<sup>12</sup> Ten years later, William Jr. was working as a labourer with a painter—perhaps his father.<sup>13</sup> He had also served with the Salvation Army Corps.<sup>14</sup>

William Jr. enlisted in the British Expeditionary Force on 24 August 1914 in Hampton Hill, just a couple of miles from Twickenham.<sup>15</sup> He was a painter and 5' 4½" tall. He joined the Duke of Cambridge's Own (Middlesex) Regiment and went to the Front on 5 October 1915. He joined his battalion on 15 January 1916. Less than four months later he was fatally wounded.

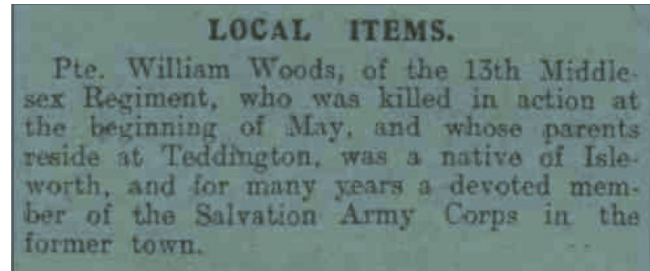


"Red Lodge, Hyde Park Corner, Ploegsteert, November 1917," *Australian War Memorial* (<https://www.awm.gov.au/>: accessed 27 November 2018)

The 13th Battalion arrived at Red Lodge, near Ploegsteert, Belgium, after being relieved by the 9th Battalion of the Royal Sussex Regiment. A lot of soldiers were sick because of the effects of a gas attack. As a result, the battalion was unable to parade and the working parties were small. Nonetheless, on 6/7 April the battalion, less the 35 men who were still sick, relieved the Royal Sussex Regiment. The battalion continued to alternate with the Royal Sussex Regiment until the end of the month. On 30 April, the battalion was back at Red Lodge, doing short parades and engaging in working parties. Somehow eight Other Ranks were wounded. William may have been one of them.<sup>16</sup>

William was admitted to No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station, where he died of wounds to his abdomen at 1:50 a.m. on 5 May 1916.<sup>17</sup> He was buried in Bailleul Communal Cemetery Extension, Nord (Plot II, Row D, Grave 9).<sup>18</sup> Bailleul is in northern France, near the Belgian border, about 15 kilometres southwest of Ypres. It was occupied in October 1914 and became an important hospital centre, not just for No. 1 CCCS, but also for No. 1 Australian and five British Army casualty clearing stations.<sup>19</sup>

His mother, who was living at 26 Victor Road, in Teddington, Middlesex, was notified of William's death and received the monies owing to William from the army upon his death. His death was announced in the local newspaper.<sup>20</sup>



"Local Items," *Middlesex Chronicle*, 10 June 1916  
Source: *Findmypast*

William was awarded posthumously the British War Medal (for service overseas between 1914 and 1918), the Victory Medal (for service in an operational theatre) and the 1914–15 Star (for service in the war against Germany between 5 August 1914 and 31 December 1915).<sup>21</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> "British Army WWI Service Records, 1914–1920," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 16 August 2018), entry for William Ernest Charles Woods

<sup>2</sup> "GRO online index–birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 27 November 2018), entry for Woods, William Ernest Charles, Registration district: Brentford, Volume 03A, Page 70

<sup>3</sup> "London, England, Church of England Births and Baptisms, 1813–1917," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 16 August 2018), entry for William Ernest Charles Woods

<sup>4</sup> "1911 England Census," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 5 January 2018), entry for William E C Woods, Registration district: Brentford, Registration district number: 128, Sub-registration district: Isleworth, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 7, Household schedule number: 343, Piece: 6812

<sup>5</sup> "England Births and Christenings, 1538–1975," *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:NKTV-NMB>: 5 June 2018, entry for Helena Kate Herring, 24 Jan 1869), index based upon data collected by the Genealogical Society of Utah, Salt Lake City; FHL microfilm 1,042,20. Helena was also known as Ellen.

<sup>6</sup> "England & Wales, Civil Registration Marriage Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 26 November 2018), entry for William Inkerman Woods, Registration district: Brentford, Inferred county: Middlesex, Volume: 3a, Page: 208

<sup>7</sup> "GRO online index–birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 27 November 2018), entry for Woods, Lilian Alice, Registration district: Brentford, Volume 03A, Page 73

<sup>8</sup> "GRO online index–birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 27 November 2018), entry for Woods, Mabel Dorothy Clara, Registration district: Brentford, Volume 03A, Page 78

<sup>9</sup> "GRO online index–birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 27 November 2018) entry for Woods, Hilda Lucy May, Registration district: Brentford, Volume 03A, Page 58

<sup>10</sup> "GRO online index–birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 27 November 2018) entry for Woods, Violet Beatrice Maud, Registration district: Brentford, Volume 03A, Page 66

<sup>11</sup> "England & Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 27 November 2018), entry for Hilda Lucy M Woods, Registration district: Brentford, Inferred county: Middlesex, Volume: 3a, Page: 33

<sup>12</sup> "1901 England Census," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 11 January 2018), entry for William Wood [sic], Registration district: Brentford, Sub-registration district: Isleworth, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 03, Piece: 1183, Folio: 68, Page: 46, Household schedule number: 313

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- <sup>13</sup> "1911 England Census," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 5 January 2018), entry for William E C Woods
- <sup>14</sup> "Local Items," *Findmypast* ([www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk): accessed 27 November 2018), British newspapers, *Middlesex Chronicle*, 10 June 1916
- <sup>15</sup> "British Army WWI Service Records, 1914–1920," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 16 August 2018), entry for William Ernest Charles Woods
- <sup>16</sup> "UK, WWI War Diaries (France, Belgium and Germany), 1914–1920," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 20 December 2018), Regiment or unit: Duke of Cambridge's Own (Middlesex) Regiment, Sub-unit: 13th Battalion, Division: 24th Division, Diary dates: 1915 Aug–1919 Nov, Piece description: Piece 2219/1: 13 Battalion Middlesex Regiment (1915 Aug–1919 Nov), Piece number: 2219
- <sup>17</sup> "No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station," *British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa* ([www.bifhsgo.ca](http://www.bifhsgo.ca): accessed 16 August 2018), entry for Woods, W. E. C.
- <sup>18</sup> *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* ([www.cwgc.org](http://www.cwgc.org): accessed 3 December 2018), entry for Woods, W E C, Service No: G/1149
- <sup>19</sup> "Bailleul Community Cemetery, Nord," *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* ([www.cwgc.org](http://www.cwgc.org): accessed 17 January 2017)
- <sup>20</sup> "Local Items," *Findmypast* ([www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk): accessed 27 November 2018), British newspapers, *Middlesex Chronicle*, 10 June 1916
- <sup>21</sup> "British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914–1920," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 16 August 2018), entry for William E C Woods