

**Private John Overend©**  
**Regimental number: 202742**  
**7th Battalion, The King's (Liverpool) Regiment**

**born: 1883 – died: 1918**

John Overend was born in Birkenhead, Cheshire (across the River Mersey from Liverpool) on 16 April 1883,<sup>1</sup> the second child of William Charles and Harriet Sophia. His older brother, William Charles, was born in 1881 but died in 1889 at age 8.<sup>2</sup> John's only other sibling was a half brother, Clarence Stephenson Overend, born 25 years later in 1908.<sup>3</sup>

William Charles Overend Senior was a stonemason<sup>4</sup> and general building contractor<sup>5</sup> in Liverpool. He married Harriet Sophia Warner in Liverpool in 1880.<sup>6</sup> She was the daughter of Robert Michael Warner, a master mariner, and his wife Mary.<sup>7</sup>

After Harriet Sophia died in 1904,<sup>8</sup> at age 44, William Charles was remarried to Lily Harriet Kelner in 1907.<sup>9</sup> This wedding took place in Canada, which William Charles had visited at least twice, first in 1886 with his brother Thomas John,<sup>10</sup> and most recently in 1905<sup>11</sup> after the death of his first wife. Lily arrived in Canada from England only two days before the wedding.<sup>12</sup> Their son Clarence was born in Canada in 1908,<sup>13</sup> but soon afterward William and Lily returned to live in Lancashire,<sup>14</sup> where he died in 1914.<sup>15</sup>

John was living with his mother's older sister Ellen Jane and her husband Joseph Carey in 1891,<sup>16</sup> although his parents were living nearby.<sup>17</sup> In 1901 he was back living at home and working as a butcher's apprentice.<sup>18</sup> However, later that year, at age 18, he signed up as a mariner,<sup>19</sup> following in the footsteps of his maternal grandfather and also his paternal great-grandfather William Overend, who served in the Royal Navy<sup>20</sup> and whose death notice in the Lancaster Gazette in 1844 lauded him as "one of our old naval heroes who served in the hottest part of the long war."<sup>21</sup>

John's first ship was the *Majestic*, on which he served from 25 September to 12 October 1901.<sup>22</sup> He was still a mariner in 1912, when he is found in Australia as the ship's butcher on the *Wiltshire*.<sup>23</sup>

In June or July 1916,<sup>24</sup> John enlisted with The King's (Liverpool) Regiment and was assigned to the 7th Battalion.<sup>25</sup> At this time the battalion was stationed in France southwest of Arras.<sup>26</sup> He would have participated in the Battle of Morval (September 1916), the Battle of Pilkem Ridge (1917), and the Battle of Estaires (April 1918), among others.<sup>27</sup>

In June 1918, the battalion was in the trenches in the Festubert sector, near the town of Vaudricourt.<sup>28</sup> The war diary for the period has no record of actions or casualties, but on 11 June Private Overend was admitted to No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station with gunshot wounds to the head, chest and right leg.<sup>29</sup> He died the same day, June 11, age 35, and was buried the next day in the Pernes British Military Cemetery (Plot 5, Row A, Grave No. 7). There was no inscription on his tombstone.<sup>30</sup> The cemetery lies one kilometre west of Pernes-en-Artois, in the region of Pas de Calais, and contains the remains of 1096 soldiers from the two world wars.

Private John Overend received the Victory Medal (for service in an operational theatre) and the British War Medal (for service overseas between 1914 and 1918).<sup>31</sup>

With both of his parents deceased and no siblings of age, his next-of-kin was his cousin Gertrude Sarah Morphet,<sup>32</sup> née Fisher.<sup>33</sup>

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- <sup>1</sup> "England, Select Births and Christenings, 1538–1975," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.ca](http://www.ancestry.ca); accessed 23 April 2019), entry for John Overend, FHL film number: 93902
  - <sup>2</sup> "England & Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.ca](http://www.ancestry.ca); accessed 21 April 2019), entry for William Charles Overend, Registration district: Toxteth Park, Inferred county: Lancashire, Volume: 8b, Page: 174
  - <sup>3</sup> "Ontario, Canada, Births, 1858–1913," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.ca](http://www.ancestry.ca); accessed 24 April 2019), entry for Clarence Stephenson Overend,
  - <sup>4</sup> "1881 England Census," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.ca](http://www.ancestry.ca); accessed 27 April 2019), entry for William C. Overend, Registration district: West Derby, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 8, Piece: 3700, Folio: 47, Page: 27
  - <sup>5</sup> "1911 England Census," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.ca](http://www.ancestry.ca); accessed 21 April 2019), entry for William Charles Overend, Registration district: West Derby, Registration district number: 455, Sub-registration district: Walton, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 48, Piece: 22404
  - <sup>6</sup> "England & Wales, Civil Registration Marriage Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.ca](http://www.ancestry.ca); accessed 26 April 2019), entry for William Charles Overend, Registration district: West Derby, Inferred county: Lancashire, Volume: 8b, Page: 844
  - <sup>7</sup> "Liverpool, England, Baptisms, 1813–1917," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.ca](http://www.ancestry.ca); accessed 29 April 2019), entry for Harriet Sophia Warner, Reference number: 283 MIC/2/2
  - <sup>8</sup> "England & Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.ca](http://www.ancestry.ca); accessed 21 April 2019), entry for Harriett Sophia Overend, Registration district: West Derby, Inferred county: Lancashire, Volume: 8b, Page: 454
  - <sup>9</sup> "Ontario, Canada, Marriages, 1826–1937," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.ca](http://www.ancestry.ca); accessed 25 April 2019), entry for William Charles Overend
  - <sup>10</sup> "Canadian Passenger Lists, 1865–1935," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.ca](http://www.ancestry.ca); accessed April 25 2019), entry for Wm C Overend
  - <sup>11</sup> "Canadian Passenger Lists, 1865–1935," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.ca](http://www.ancestry.ca); accessed April 25 2019), entry for W C Overend
  - <sup>12</sup> "Canadian Passenger Lists, 1865–1935," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.ca](http://www.ancestry.ca); accessed April 25 2019), entry for Lily Kellner (*sic*)
  - <sup>13</sup> "Ontario, Canada births, 1858–1913," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.ca](http://www.ancestry.ca); accessed April 25 2019), entry for Clarence Stephenson Overend
  - <sup>14</sup> "1911 England Census," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.ca](http://www.ancestry.ca); accessed 19 April 2019), entry for William Charles Overend, Registration district: West Derby, Registration district number: 455, Sub-registration district: Walton, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 48, Piece: 22404
  - <sup>15</sup> "England & Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.ca](http://www.ancestry.ca); accessed 21 April 2019), entry for William C Overend, Registration district: West Derby, Inferred county: Lancashire, Volume: 8b, Page: 530
  - <sup>16</sup> "1891 England Census," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.ca](http://www.ancestry.ca); accessed 27 April 2019), entry for John Overend, Sub-registration district: Walton, Sub-schedule number: 31, Piece: 2975, Folio: 124, Page: 23
  - <sup>17</sup> "1891 England Census," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.ca](http://www.ancestry.ca); accessed 27 April 2019), entry for William E Overend (*sic*), Sub-registration district: Toxteth Park, Sub-schedule number: 65, Piece: 2936, Folio: 99, Page: 25
  - <sup>18</sup> "1901 England Census," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.ca](http://www.ancestry.ca); accessed 19 April 2019), entry for John Overend, Registration district: West Derby, Sub-registration district: West Derby, Eastern, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 15, Piece: 3500, Folio: 16, Page: 23, Household schedule number: 137

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- <sup>19</sup> "Liverpool, England, Crew Lists 1861–1919," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.ca](http://www.ancestry.ca): accessed 24 April 2019), entry for John Overend
- <sup>20</sup> "1841 England Census," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.ca](http://www.ancestry.ca): accessed 6 May 2019), entry for William Overend, Registration district: Lancaster, Sub-registration district: Heaton, Piece: 529, Book: 18, Folio: 13, Page: 20
- <sup>21</sup> *Lancaster Gazette*, 26 October 1844, page 3, *British Newspaper Archive* ([www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk](http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk): accessed 24 April 2019), search for William Overend
- <sup>22</sup> "Liverpool, England, Crew Lists 1861–1919," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.ca](http://www.ancestry.ca): accessed 24 April 2019), entry for John Overend
- <sup>23</sup> "New South Wales, Australia, Unassisted Immigrant Passenger Lists, 1826–1922," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.ca](http://www.ancestry.ca): accessed 24 April 2019), entry for John Overend
- <sup>24</sup> Based on "War Gratuity Calculator," *War Gratuity* (<https://wargratitude.wordpress.com/2015/08/16/gratuity-calculator/>: accessed 28 March 2019)
- <sup>25</sup> "UK, Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects, 1901–1929," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.ca](http://www.ancestry.ca): accessed 23 April 2019), entry for John Overend
- <sup>26</sup> "UK, WWI War Diaries (France, Belgium and Germany), 1914–1920," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.ca](http://www.ancestry.ca): accessed 5 May 2019), entry for Kings (Liverpool) Regiment, Sub-unit: 1/7 Battalion, Piece description: Piece 2927/1, Page: 12
- <sup>27</sup> *Forces War Records* (<https://www.forces-war-records.co.uk/units/259/kings-liverpool-regiment/>: accessed 3 May 2019), entry for Kings (Liverpool) Regiment
- <sup>28</sup> "UK, WWI War Diaries (France, Belgium and Germany), 1914–1920," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.ca](http://www.ancestry.ca): accessed 5 May 2019), entry for Kings (Liverpool) Regiment, Sub-unit: 1/7 Battalion, Piece description: Piece 2927/1, Page: 122
- <sup>29</sup> "No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station," *British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa* ([www.bifhsgo.ca](http://www.bifhsgo.ca): accessed 25 April 2019), entry for Overend, J.
- <sup>30</sup> *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* ([www.cwgc.org](http://www.cwgc.org): accessed 23 April 2019), entry for Overend, J., Service No: 202742
- <sup>31</sup> "British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914–1920," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.ca](http://www.ancestry.ca): accessed 5 April 2019), entry for John Overend
- <sup>32</sup> "No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station," *British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa* ([www.bifhsgo.ca](http://www.bifhsgo.ca): accessed 25 April 2019), entry for Overend, J.
- <sup>33</sup> "England & Wales, Civil Registration Marriage Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.ca](http://www.ancestry.ca): accessed 26 May 2019), entry for Gertrude Sarah Fisher, Registration district: Liverpool, Inferred county: Lancashire, Volume: 8b, Page: 56