

Private William Good©
Regimental number: 360295
1st/10th (Scottish) Battalion, The King's (Liverpool Regiment)

born: 1898–died: 30 April 1918

The births of Private William Good and his two siblings were registered in Birkenhead, but they were probably born in nearby New Brighton. William (known to his family as Willie) was born in 1898,¹ his brother Robert Barclay on 11 May 1899² and his sister Violet Catherine Harkins on 17 February 1902.³ At the time, Birkenhead was in Cheshire, but it is now in Merseyside, just across the River Mersey from Liverpool. Their parents, Robert Good and Mary Barclay, both came from Scotland—Robert was born in about 1870 in Glasgow, Lanarkshire, and Mary in about 1868 in Port Glasgow,⁴ which, although it was just 16 miles from Glasgow on the opposite sides of Clyde River, was in the county of Renfrewshire. They married in Govan, Glasgow, in 1897.⁵

Shortly after their marriage, they moved to Cheshire, where their first child was born in 1897. Robert Sr. was a mechanical engineer and, in 1901, the family was living at 36 Wentworth Road, Liscard, Birkenhead.⁶ Ten years later, with addition of a daughter, the family had moved to 37 Deveraux Drive in Seacombe, less than two miles from Birkenhead.

It appears, based on the war gratuity that his father received when Willie died, that he enlisted at the beginning of the war,⁷ even though he was no more than 16 years of age. He enlisted in the 10th (Scottish) Battalion of The King's (Liverpool Regiment).⁸ This battalion was formed in August 1914 and first went overseas on 2 November 1914.⁹ However, Willie was not awarded the 1914–15 Star (for service in the war against Germany between August 1914 and December 1915),¹⁰ which means that he did not go overseas until after 1 January 1916, when he would have been at least 18 years old. He was in France when he was fatally injured in April 1918 at the age of 20.¹¹

The 10th Battalion was caught up in the German spring offensive and, in mid-April, took part in the battle of Béthune. It is not known how Willie was wounded, but he was admitted to No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station on 24 April with gunshot wounds and a compound fracture of his left thigh and right ankle. He died five days later and was buried in Pernes Military Cemetery (Plot 2, Row A, Grave 24) on 30 April with the Canadian chaplain G. C. d'Easum presiding.¹²

A letter was sent to Willie's mother at 9 Croxteth Road in Liscard, Wallasey, Cheshire.¹³ His father received the monies owing to him from the army upon his death¹⁴ and he requested the following inscription to be included on his gravestone:

IN EVER LOVING MEMORY
FROM MOTHER, FATHER
SISTER AND BROTHER¹⁵

Willie was awarded posthumously the British War Medal (for service overseas between 1914 and 1918) and the Victory Medal (for service in an operational theatre).¹⁶

Willie's father died just a few years later. After his death on 25 March 1923, he was buried in Rake Lane Cemetery in Wallasey and his gravestone includes a memorial to his son:

IN
 Loving Memory Of
 MY DEARLY LOVED HUSBAND
 ROBERT GOOD
 DIED 25TH MARCH 1923, AGED 53 YEARS
 ALSO OF PTE. WILLIE GOOD
 (L'POOL SCOTTISH)
 BELOVED ELDEST SON OF THE ABOVE
 DIED OF WOUNDS IN FRANCE 30TH APRIL 1918.
 AGED 20 YEARS¹⁷

Mary lived another 20 years after the death of her husband. In 1939, she was living with her daughter Violet at 20 Bishop's Road in Wallasey.¹⁸ She died four years later in Wallasey.¹⁹

Violet had married Andrew L. Ewart in Birkenhead in 1926.²⁰ Her husband was not shown with Violet in the 1939 Register, but he was possibly there.²¹ Violet died in 1987 at the age of 85.²²

Willie and Violet's brother Robert Jr. also served in World War 1.²³ As a teenager, he signed up to be a cadet in the 1st Egremont Cadet Corps. When he enlisted in the British Expeditionary Force on 1 September 1914, he claimed that he was only 14 years and 2 months old. However, when he had enlisted in the Territorial Force nearly a year earlier, he had claimed to be 15 years old. It appears that neither was correct. In September 1914, he was still too young to enlist as a soldier,²⁴ so he became a bugler and drummer with the 10th Battalion (Liverpool Scottish) of the King's Liverpool Regiment (regimental number: 355345). He did not embark for the Front until 10 July 1918 and joined his unit in the field on 30 July. He served in France until January 1919 and was discharged in May 1919.

In 1925, Robert Jr. married Doris M. F. Buckley in Wallasey²⁵ and in 1939, he and Doris were both living at "Hillgarth" Mosslands in Wallasey, where Robert was a "checker."²⁶ Robert Jr. died on 2 June 1980.²⁷



Gravestone of Robert Good Sr.
 Source: "UK and Ireland, Find A Grave Index, 1300s-Current"

© 2019 BIFHSGO

¹ "GRO online index–birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 22 October 2019) entry for Good, William, Registration district: Birkenhead, Volume 08A, Page 582

² "1939 Register," *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 6 November 2019), entry for Robert B. Good, Ref: RG101/3966C/019/10, Letter code: LDCL

³ "1939 Register," *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 6 November 2019), entry for Violet (C. H.) Ewart, Ref: RG101/3965B/017/40, Letter code: LDCB

⁴ "1911 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 21 October 2019), entry for William Good, Registration district: Birkenhead, Registration district number: 452, Sub-registration district: Wallasey, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 52, Piece: 22104

⁵ "Statutory Registers–Marriages," *ScotlandsPeople* (<http://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/>: accessed 22 October 2019), entry for Robert Good, Registration district: Govan, Reference: 646/2 183

-
- ⁶ “1901 England, Wales & Scotland Census,” *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk; accessed 22 October 2019), entry for Robert Good, Registration district: Birkenhead, Archive reference: RG13, Piece: 3402, Folio: 11, Page: 13
- ⁷ Based on “War Gratuity Calculator” (<https://wargratiuity.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 20 October 2019), entry for William Good
- ⁸ “UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War, 1914–1919,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk; accessed 20 October 2019), entry for William Good
- ⁹ “King’s (Liverpool Regiment),” *The Long, Long Trail* (<https://www.longlongtrail.co.uk/army/regiments-and-corps/the-british-infantry-regiments-of-1914-1918/kings-liverpool-regiment/>; accessed 22 October 2019)
- ¹⁰ “British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914–1920,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk; accessed 20 October 2019), entry for William Good
- ¹¹ *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* (www.cwgc.org; accessed 3 December 2019), entry for Good, William, Service No: 360295
- ¹² “No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station,” *British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa* (www.bifhsgo.ca; accessed 20 October 2019), entry for Good, K. A. [sic]
- ¹³ *Ibid.*
- ¹⁴ “UK, Army Registers of Soldiers’ Effects, 1901–1929,” entry for William Good
- ¹⁵ *Commonwealth War Graves Commission*, entry for Good, William
- ¹⁶ “British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914–1920,” *Ancestry*, entry for William Good
- ¹⁷ “UK and Ireland, Find A Grave Index, 1300s–Current,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk; accessed 21 October 2019), entry for Robert Good
- ¹⁸ “1939 Register,” *Findmypast*, entry for Violet (C. H.) Ewart
- ¹⁹ “England & Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1837–1915,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk; accessed 21 October 2019), entry for Mary Good, Registration district: Wallasey, Inferred county: Cheshire, Volume: 8a, Page: 863
- ²⁰ “England & Wales, Civil Registration Marriage Index, 1837–1915,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk; accessed 6 November 2019), entry for Violet C. H. Good, Registration district: Birkenhead, Inferred county: Cheshire, Volume: 8a, Page: 1252
- ²¹ “1939 Register,” *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk; accessed 6 November 2019), entry for Violet (C H) Ewart
- ²² “England & Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1837–1915,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk; accessed 6 November 2019), entry for Violet Catherine H. Ewart, Registration district: Wallasey, Inferred county: Merseyside, Volume: 37, Page: 1115
- ²³ “British Army WWI Service Records, 1914–1920,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk; accessed 6 November 2019), entry for Robert Barclay Goode [sic]. Unless otherwise stated, all information about Robert’s military career comes from this source.
- ²⁴ “Enlisting into the army,” *The Long, Long Trail* (<https://www.longlongtrail.co.uk/soldiers/a-soldiers-life-1914-1918/enlisting-into-the-army/>)
- ²⁵ “England & Wales, Civil Registration Marriage Index, 1837–1915,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk; accessed 6 November 2019), entry for Robert B. Good, Registration district: Birkenhead, Inferred county: Cheshire, Volume: 8a, Page: 1472
- ²⁶ “1939 Register,” *Findmypast*, entry for Robert B. Good
- ²⁷ “England & Wales, National Probate Calendar (Index of Wills and Administrations), 1858–1995,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk; accessed 6 November 2019), entry for Robert Barclay Good