

Private Harry Hare[©]

Regimental number: 37691

21st Battalion, West Yorkshire Regiment (Prince of Wales's Own)

born: 1885 – died: 29 April 1918

Private Harry Hare was born in 1885,¹ the son of Tom and Sarah (nee Goodman) Hare.² Harry's father was born in about 1848 in Leeds, Yorkshire, and was baptized at St Mark's Church in Woodhouse, Leeds, on 25 December 1849.³ His wife came from Market Harborough, Leicestershire, where she was born on 8 May 1852.⁴ Sarah was just 16 when she and Tom married in Leeds in 1868.⁵ Over the next 20 years, they had eight children, five of whom they lost in childhood and two of whom died as adults:

- Sarah Ellen was born in early 1869⁶ but died at 8 months of age and was buried at St Mark's Church on 10 October 1869;⁷
- Alfred was born in 1871;⁸
- Louisa was born in 1875, and she and Alfred were baptized together at St Matthew's Church in Leeds on 8 July 1877;⁹
- Anne was born in 1878 and baptized on 1 October 1878 also at St Matthew's.¹⁰ She died in the autumn of the same year and was buried at St Mark's on 5 October 1878;¹¹
- Alice was probably born early in 1879.¹² She died late in 1880, at the age of 1, and was buried at St Mark's on 9 November 1880;¹³
- Mary was born in 1882 and baptized on 10 March 1883 in All Souls Church in Leeds.¹⁴ She died in 1883 and was buried at St Mark's on 14 March 1883;
- Harry; and
- Annie was born in mid-1887.¹⁵

In 1871, Tom and Sarah were living at Reuben Cottages in Leeds, where Tom was a bricklayer.¹⁶ Ten years later they were still in Leeds but living at 10 Claro Terrace with two children and Sarah's father and brother.¹⁷ Tom died in 1887, at the young age of 38, and was buried on 12 November at St Mark's.¹⁸ He lived just long enough to see the birth of his last child Annie.

In 1891, Sarah was a widow, living with four surviving children on Cemetery Street in Leeds. Sarah was working as a laundress to help support the family. Two children were also working—Alfred as a domestic groom and Louisa as a tailoress.¹⁹

The following year, Sarah remarried, marrying Edwin Furness in Leeds.²⁰ They had one son, William, born probably in January 1894.²¹ Sadly, he died at 11 months of age and was buried in St Mark's cemetery on 15 December 1894.²² Sarah had now lost five children in their first years of life.

The same year that her last child died, Sarah's eldest two surviving children, Louisa and Alfred, got married. Alfred married Mary Ann Hirst on 12 May 1894 at Emmanuel Church in Leeds.²³ Sadly, Alfred died two years later. He was probably working at Buckingham House on Headingley Lane when he died. He was buried with his father and four siblings in the cemetery at St Mark's on 11 September 1896.²⁴

On 25 December 1894, just ten days after the burial of her young half-sibling, Louisa married Arthur William Barber, a widower, also at Emmanuel Church in Leeds.²⁵

In 1901, Sarah and Edwin were living at 28 Cemetery Street, where Edwin, like Sarah's first husband, was a bricklayer. Harry and Annie were living with their parents. Harry was a joiner's assistant.²⁶ Four years later, he married Ethel Lilian Dearlove on 12 July 1905 at All Soul's Church in Leeds.²⁷ (Just as an aside, Ethel's father's name was Frederick Handel Dearlove and he was a musician!)

In the first five years of their marriage, they had three children—Alfred William (born in 1906),²⁸ Harry (born in 1907)²⁹ and Mary Lilian (born in 1908).³⁰ Sadly, all died in childhood—Harry and Mary Lilian died a few months apart in 1909³¹ and Alfred died at the age of 4 in 1910.³² All this loss must have taken its toll on the young couple. In 1911, they were living at 10 Hawes Street, Rider Road, in Woodhouse, where Harry was a joiner.³³ Sadly, Ethel herself died four years later, at the beginning of 1915.³⁴ Harry had married at 20 and, by the age of 30, had lost his wife and three children and would soon lose his own life.

In 1911, Sarah and Edwin were still living at 28 Cemetery Street.³⁵

Harry enlisted in the British Expeditionary Force in about September 1916³⁶ in Leeds and served with the 21st Battalion of the Prince of Wales's Own (West Yorkshire) Regiment.³⁷

In April 1918, Harry's battalion was in the trenches near Château de Werppe, northeast of Bethune in northern France. The troops had been working on trenches for several days and some Other Ranks (non-officers) has been wounded or killed almost every day. Then, on 26 April:

In camp about 9 PM the enemy shelled the huts heavily for five minutes – fortunately the working parties were all out. The casualties were 5 men killed; 29 men wounded and 14 men gassed.³⁸

Harry may have been one of the wounded men. He was admitted to No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station on 26 April 1918 with gunshot wounds to his head. He survived for three days but died on 29 April and was buried the following day in Pernes Military Cemetery (Plot 2, Row A, Grave 25) with the Canadian chaplain G. C. d'Easum presiding.³⁹

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.⁴⁰ Harry was one of 177 soldiers admitted on 26 April and one of 46 soldiers to die at the station that month.⁴¹

The letter from the chaplain to notify the family of his death was sent to his mother, who was still living on Cemetery Street.⁴² The monies owing to Harry by the army upon his death were sent to his mother and Miss Ada Hargrave.⁴³ After so much tragedy in his young life, had Harry found another partner? An Ada Hargrave was working as a domestic servant in Roundhay—a few miles from Leeds—in 1911.⁴⁴ Could she have been the one?

Harry was awarded posthumously the British War Medal (for service overseas between 1914 and 1918) and the Victory Medal (for service in an operational theatre).⁴⁵

Harry's stepfather Edwin died in 1921 and was buried at St Mark's on 24 June of that year.⁴⁶ In 1939, Sarah was living at 19 Chapel Street in Huddersfield, Yorkshire, with Mary Maria Furness (a textile warper, born in 1887),⁴⁷ but it is not clear how, if at all, she was related to Sarah. Sarah died in 1942 in Huddersfield, at the age of 89.⁴⁸

It is not certain what happened to his younger sister Annie, but in 1911, Harry's older sister Louisa was living at 3 Sedan Place, Camp Road, in Leeds, with her husband Arthur, a clothes presser, and six children.⁴⁹ Arthur served in the Army Service Corps during the Great War, but he was discharged in 1917 because of rheumatism and heart disease.⁵⁰ Louisa died in 1930 and was buried in St Mark's cemetery on 6 November.⁵¹

While Harry was buried in northern France, by 1930 there were nine members of his Hare and Furness families buried in St Mark's cemetery in Woodhouse, Leeds—seven siblings, his father and stepfather.

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⁴ "1939 England and Wales Register," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 14 June 2019), entry for Sarah Furness, Schedule number: 12, Sub-schedule number: 1, Enumeration district: KFBC, Registration district: 495/2

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¹¹ "West Yorkshire, England, Deaths and Burials, 1813–1985," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 17 November 2019), entry for Anne Hare

¹² "GRO online index–birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 16 November 2019), entry for Hare, Alice, Registration district: Leeds, Volume 09B, Page 565

¹³ "National Burial Index For England & Wales," *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 17 November 2019), entry for Alice Hare, Place: Leeds, County: Yorkshire, Yorkshire (West Riding)

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