

Private George Lockwood©

Regimental number: 13476

23rd Battalion, Labour Corps

born: 1879–died: 7 May 1918

Private George Lockwood was born in Thirsk, Yorkshire,¹ in the first half of 1879,² the son of John and Sarah,³ and was baptized in Thirsk on 27 July 1879.⁴ His brother John Thomas was baptized the same day.⁵

John Lockwood, born in Malton, Yorkshire, in about 1828, was a widower when he married Sarah Brown on 2 March 1879.⁶ He was 51 and she was 38. His first wife, Harriet Walker, whom he had married in 1857 in Malton, Yorkshire,⁷ died in 1868 in Malton at the age of 31. Before her death, John, an agricultural labourer, and Harriet, a dressmaker, were living in Leavening, Malton. They do not appear to have had any children but, in 1861, they had a nurse child [infant foster child] named Edwin Croft, born in about 1860, living with them.⁸ Edwin was actually probably born in Malton in 1859 and his mother's maiden name was likely Hood.⁹

Three years after Harriet's death, John and Edwin were living on Edward Street, Thornaby, Stockton, in Yorkshire. John, who was a labourer at the iron works, was now described as Edwin's father. Also living with them was Sarah Brown, born in about 1843 in Thirsk, a servant, and her two-year old son, Jonah.¹⁰

Eight years later John, now a labourer, married Sarah Brown at the parish church in Thirsk.¹¹ Sarah probably bore John six children. A daughter, Harriet, who was born in 1875 but sadly died the following year,¹² and a son, John Thomas, who was born in 1876,¹³ arrived before their marriage but were registered as Lockwood children. The following four children were born after their marriage:

- George,
- Alice Ann (born in 1880),¹⁴
- Edwin James (known as James) (born in 1882)¹⁵ and
- David (born in 1888).¹⁶

In 1881, John and Sarah were living with three children—John, George and Alice—at St James Green in Thirsk, where John was a railway porter.¹⁷ Sadly, the following year, Edwin Croft, age 22, died in York. He had been living at 13 Colliergate.¹⁸ Then, two years later, John's daughter Alice Ann died.¹⁹

By 1891, the family had moved to 161 Long Street in Thirsk and John was now a labourer.²⁰ Ten years later, John, now 73 years old, was a "parish royal labourer." He, his wife and two children—George and David—were living at Stammergate in Thirsk. George, age 22, was a horseman on a farm.²¹ Three years later, John died in Sowerby, near Thirsk. When he died on 5 January 1904, he left effects of £10.²²

It is not known where George was in 1911. However, his brother James had married in 1907 and lost his wife a few years later. In 1907, James married Florence Ellen Brown in Thirsk. They had two children—Mary Elizabeth (born in 1907) and Edith Ellen (born in 1909). Sadly, Florence died in

1910 at the age of 26. The following year James, then 28, was a widower with two children, working as a farm labourer and living at St James Green with his mother Sarah and his brother David.²³

George's mother died in Thirsk in 1916.²⁴ The year before, George had married Rose Malton, also in Thirsk.²⁵ Just over a year later, George joined in the British Expeditionary Force. He enlisted in about May 1916²⁶ in Richmond, Yorkshire, and probably first served with the 16th Battalion, Yorkshire Regiment (registration number 30389).²⁷ When he died, he was serving with the 23rd Battalion, Labour Corps.

He was admitted to No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station on 7 May 1918 and died there the same day. He was also buried the same day in Pernes British Cemetery (Plot 2, Row B, Grave 8) with the Canadian chaplain G. C. d'Easum presiding.²⁸

Pernes British Cemetery was only set up in April 1918 when No. 1 and No. 4 CCCSs came to Pernes, driven back by the German advance.²⁹ James was one of 77 soldiers admitted on 24 April 1918 and one of 115 soldiers to die at the station in May 1918.³⁰

A letter was sent to his wife, who was living at Harker's Cottage, Long Street in Thirsk.³¹ She received the monies owing to him from the army upon his death.³² They do not appear to have had any children. After the war, George's wife was living at Rooker Hill, Pilmoor, Yorkshire, about 10 miles from Thirsk.³³

George was awarded posthumously the British War Medal (for service overseas between 1914 and 1918) and the Victory Medal (for service in an operational theatre).³⁴

George's wife Rose was remarried, apparently to her former brother-in-law James Lockwood, in 1919.³⁵ In 1921, Stanley Lockwood was born in Thirsk, the son of Lockwood and Malton.³⁶ In 1939, James and Rose were living with Stanley on Wath Lane in Helperby, Yorkshire.³⁷

George's brother John served in the army prior to the Great War.³⁸ He was a carter's labourer when he enlisted on 7 February 1899 in the 2nd West Yorkshire Regiment. Early in his service, he was injured while on a pass in Shaw Mills, Yorkshire. On 16 May 1899, he was jumping with friends and fell on his knee. Three days later he was admitted to hospital. He was diagnosed with synovitis—an injury that was first thought to be severe enough to incapacitate him in performing with duties. In July, this judgement of the impact of his injury was reversed. At the same time, he was subject to a court order to make maintenance payments to Jane Calvert for an illegitimate child that he was reported to have fathered. He had to pay 2s 6d a week plus costs of £2 7s. To ensure that he made these payments, 3d was taken off his pay each day.

Nevertheless, in November 1899, his rheumatism was severe enough that he was assigned to rest and light duties. On 27 February 1900, he was found guilty of non-compliance with an order and was confined to barracks for 7 days. Less than a week later, he deserted from the army, on or about 3 March 1900. It is not clear if, or when, he returned and whether he served in the Great War.

George's youngest brother David probably also served in the British Expeditionary Force and, like his brother, gave his life. He enlisted in about November 1914³⁹ and served as a driver in the Royal



Private George Lockwood's gravestone

Source: Findagrave

Horse Artillery and Royal Field Artillery (regimental number 34881). He died on 12 March 1917.⁴⁰ He has no known grave but is commemorated on Thiepval Memorial in Somme, France (Pier and Face 1 A and 8 A).⁴¹

David's parents had both died by 1916, leaving just George's wife and three brothers to mourn George's death. He had lost two sisters in infancy and an adopted brother at 22. Of his three brothers, John had been in the army before the war, but his whereabouts during or after the Great War are not known; James had been married but his wife had died in 1910 and he did not remarry until 1919 and, finally, David died in 1917.

So, upon David's death, the remaining members apparently close to the family were George, James and George's wife Rose. So, it is probably not surprising that the monies owing to David from the army upon his death were left to Mrs. Rose Lockwood and also to his brother James. The award was apparently made at the request of his brothers George and James.⁴² It is assumed that Mrs. Rose Lockwood was George's wife.

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¹ "UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War, 1914–1919," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 7 May 2019), entry for George Lockwood

² "GRO online index–birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 20 August 2019), entry for Lockwood, George, Registration district: Thirsk, Volume 09D, Page 425

³ "1891 England, Wales & Scotland Census," *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 11 May 2019), entry for George Lockwood, Registration district: Thirsk, Archive reference: RG12; Piece number: 3982, Folio: 15, Page: 23

⁴ "Yorkshire Baptisms," *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 5 July 2019), entry for George Lockwood, Archive reference: N-PR-TH1-8, Page: 132

⁵ "Yorkshire Baptisms," *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 5 July 2019), entry for John Thomas Lockwood, Archive reference: N-PR-TH1-8, Page: 132

⁶ "Yorkshire Marriages," *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 14 May 2019), entry for John Lockwood, County: Yorkshire (North Riding), Archive: North Yorkshire County Record Office, Archive reference: N-PR-TH1-15, Page: 146

⁷ "England & Wales Marriages 1837–2005," *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 22 August 2019), entry for John Lockwood, District: Malton, County: Yorkshire, Volume: 9D, Page: 502

⁸ "1861 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 10 December 2019), entry for John Clark, Registration district: Malton, Sub-registration district: Weston, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 3, Household schedule number: 31, Piece: 3624, Folio: 40, Page: 20

⁹ "GRO online index–birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 25 August 2019), entry for Croft, Edwin, Registration district: Malton Union, Volume: 09D, Page: 305

¹⁰ "1871 England, Wales & Scotland Census," *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 20 August 2019), entry for John Lockwood, Registration district: Stockton, Archive reference: RG10, Piece number: 4900, Folio: 18, Page: 26

¹¹ "Yorkshire Marriages," *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 14 May 2019), entry for John Lockwood

¹² "GRO online index–birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 22 August 2019), entry for Lockwood, Harriet, Registration district: Thirsk, Volume 09D, Page 405; "England & Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 21 January 2019), entry for Harriet Lockwood, Registration district: Thirsk, Inferred county: Yorkshire, Volume: 9d, Page: 250

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- ¹³ "GRO online index–birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 22 August 2019) entry for Lockwood, John Thomas, Registration district: Goole, Volume: 09C, Page: 775. This is probably the birth record for their son John Thomas. However, a maiden name for his mother is not given, which would suggest that the mother's maiden name was Lockwood. There is another record for John Brown born in Thirsk in 1877, with the mother's maiden name given as Lockwood. ("GRO online index–birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 22 August 2019) entry for Brown, John, Registration district: Thirsk, Volume: 09D, Page: 415). John's name is clearly shown as John Thomas in the 1879 baptismal record for the son of John and Sarah Lockwood ("Yorkshire Baptisms," *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 5 July 2019), entry for John Thomas Lockwood)
- ¹⁴ "GRO online index–birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 22 August 2019), entry for Lockwood, Edward James, Registration district: Thirsk, Volume: 09D, Page: 444
- ¹⁵ "GRO online index–birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 22 August 2019), entry for Lockwood, David, Registration district: Thirsk, Volume: 09D, Page: 405
- ¹⁶ "GRO online index–birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 22 August 2019), entry for Lockwood, Alice Ann, Registration district: Thirsk, Volume: 09D, Page: 405
- ¹⁷ "1881 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 20 August 2019), entry for George Lockwood, Registration district: Thirsk, Sub-registration district: Hythe, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 1, Piece: 4820, Folio: 11, Page: 14
- ¹⁸ "Deaths," *York Herald*, York, Yorkshire, *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 25 August 2019), entry for Edwin Croft
- ¹⁹ "National Burial Index For England & Wales," *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 16 August 2019), entry for Alice Ann Lockwood details?
- ²⁰ "1891 England, Wales & Scotland Census," entry for George Lockwood
- ²¹ "1901 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 14 May 2019), entry for George Lockwood, Registration district: Thirsk, Sub-registration district: Thirsk, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 1, Piece: 4547, Folio: 15, Page: 22, Household schedule number: 159
- ²² "England & Wales, National Probate Calendar (Index of Wills and Administrations), 1858–1995," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 14 May 2019), entry for John Lockwood details?
- ²³ "1911 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 22 August 2019), entry for John T. Lockwood, Registration district: Huddersfield, Registration district number: 495, Sub-registration district: Kirkheaton, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 5, Piece: 26282
- ²⁴ "England & Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 20 August 2019), entry for Sarah Lockwood, Registration district: Thirsk, Inferred county: Yorkshire North Riding, Volume: 9d, Page: 537
- ²⁵ "England & Wales, Civil Registration Marriage Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 14 May 2019), entry for George Lockwood, Registration district: Thirsk, Inferred county: Yorkshire North Riding, Volume: 9d, Page: 708
- ²⁶ Based on "War Gratuity Calculator" (<https://wargratitude.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 6 May 2019), entry for George Lockwood
- ²⁷ "UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War, 1914–1919," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 7 May 2019), entry for George Lockwood
- ²⁸ "No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station," *British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa* (www.bifhsgo.ca: accessed 13 May 2019), entry for Lockwood, G.
- ²⁹ "Pernes British Military Cemetery," *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* (<http://www.cwgc.org/>: accessed 13 January 2015)
- ³⁰ "War Diaries of the First World War: 1st Canadian Casualty Clearing Station 1914/08/13-1919/03/31," *Library and Archives Canada* (<http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/>: accessed 28 March 2018)
- ³¹ "No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station," *British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa* (www.bifhsgo.ca: accessed 13 August 2019), entry for Lockwood, G.

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- ³² "UK, Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects, 1901–1929," details? entry for George Lockwood
- ³³ *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* (www.cwgc.org: accessed 3 December 2019), entry for Lockwood, George, Service No: 30389
- ³⁴ "British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914–1920," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 3 September 2019), entry for George Lockwood details?
- ³⁵ "England & Wales, Civil Registration Marriage Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 25 August 2019), entry for James E. Lockwood, Registration district: Thirsk, Inferred county: North Yorkshire, Volume: 9d, Page: 799
- ³⁶ "England & Wales, Civil Registration Birth Index 1916–2007," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 17 March 2019), entry for Stanley Lockwood, Registration district: Thirsk, Inferred county: London, Volume: 1d, Page: 216
- ³⁷ "1939 England and Wales Register," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 14 June 2019), entry for Rose Lockwood, Schedule number: 36, Sub-schedule Number: 2, Enumeration district: JHVB, Registration district: 530/1
- ³⁸ "British Army WWI Service Records, 1914–1920," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 14 May 2019), entry for John Thomas Lockwood. Although this record is identified as being a WWI record, there is no evidence that he served in WWI. Unless otherwise specified, all information about his military service comes from this source.
- ³⁹ 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 3 September 2019), entry for David Lockwood
- ⁴⁰ "UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War, 1914–1919," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 3 September 2019), entry for David Lockwood
- ⁴¹ "Thirsk St Mary War Memorial," *Roll of Honour* (<http://www.roll-of-honour.com/>: accessed 3 September 2019), entry for Lockwood, David
- ⁴² "UK, Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects, 1901–1929," entry for David Lockwood