

Lance Corporal George Daniels[©]

Regimental number: 201254

1st/4th Battalion, King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry

born: 1883- died: 28 July 1917

Lance Corporal George Daniels was born on 23 January 1883,¹ one of at least eight children born to Peter Daniels and his wife Mary Williamson, who married in Warrington, Lancashire, in 1874.² George was baptized on 18 February 1883 at St. Elphins' church in Warrington. The other children identified were:

- John (born on 17 December 1874)³
- Mary Ellen (born in 1876)⁴
- Joseph (born on 3 October 1879)⁵
- Alice (born on 11 September 1881)⁶
- Martha Ann (born on 15 May 1885)⁷
- Florence (born on 22 February 1887)⁸
- Emma Jane (born on 21 March 1888)⁹

George's father Peter was a wire rope maker and, in 1891, the family was living at No. 8 Marriotts Buildings in Alverthorpe and Thornes, near Wakefield in Yorkshire.¹⁰ His son John was also a wire rope maker and Mary Ellen a mill hand. Ten years later they were at the same address, but Peter was now a furnaceman and George had begun work as an iron foundry labourer.

George's father died on 28 November 1903 and is buried in Wakefield Cemetery.¹¹ It is not certain what happened to George's mother, but no further information was found to indicate her whereabouts after 1901.

George married Margaret Spencer on 18 May 1907 in St Paul's church, the parish church of Alverthorpe. They would have three children before George enlisted to serve in the Great War:

- Robert (born on 29 July 1908 and baptized on 6 September 1908 at St Paul's)¹²
- John (born on 25 May 1910¹³ and baptized at St Paul's on 3 July 1910¹⁴)
- Edna (born on 25 July 1913)¹⁵

Sadly, Robert died at the age of three. On 13 June 1912, the young child was playing outside near his home, when he ran into the road and was hit by a van belonging to the local grocer. He was taken to Clayton Hospital but died the following day with a fractured skull. The jury at the inquest ruled that the death was accidental.¹⁶

George probably enlisted in the British Expeditionary Force in about January 1915¹⁷ and served with the 1st/4th Battalion, King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry. On 18 July 1917, the battalion replaced a Royal Scots Regiment battalion holding the defences of Nieuport, on the Belgian coast of the North Sea.¹⁸ Over the next few days, there was

A WAKEFIELD CHILD RUN OVER.

THE JURY'S COMMENT ON A TYPE OF VAN.

An inquest was held at the Wakefield Clayton Hospital on the body of a three-year-old child named Robert Daniels, son of George Daniels, collier, 4, Spa Fold, Flanshaw Lane. On Thursday night the child was playing near its home, and ran into the road. A van belonging to Mr. Dixon Watson, grocer, of Wakefield, came along, and before the driver could pull up the child was knocked down and the wheels passed over it head. A rag man was blowing a horn near the spot, and it is supposed the child did not hear the conveyance coming, and the driver said the horse was pretty high up in front of him, and he could only see on one side.

The child was removed to the Clayton Hospital, and it was found that he had a scalp wound seven inches long and a fractured skull. He died early the following morning.

In summing up, the Coroner said the kind of van in question was most improper. There was no blame attaching to the driver, who was going slowly, and he thought it was an accident.

The jury found that "the child was accidentally killed by being run over by a van being driven slowly up Flanshaw Lane." The jury expressed the view that the van was not a suitable one, and the Coroner said it should be entirely altered or destroyed.

A Wakefield Child Run Over

Source: *Yorkshire Evening Post*, 15 June 1912

intermittent to heavy shelling of the town, with shells of all calibres, including gas shells, coming from the northeast. On 21 July, the shelling continued all day and then picked up again at 11 p.m. and midnight and continued at 2 a.m. the next day. By the end of the night, seven other ranks (non-officers) has been killed and nine wounded. A further nine officers had been wounded by the gas shells and 413 other ranks. The effect of these gas attacks was clearly described in the battalion's war diary:

This new type of gas shell which was used by the enemy contains a gas smelling slightly of garlic or mustard. These gases were the chief cause of the large number of casualties sustained by the Battalion on the night 21/22 July. The immediate effects were slight irritation of the nose and throat. Sneezing was a common feature followed by vomiting. The eyes became acutely inflamed and painful. Coughing resembling symptoms of bronchitis was noticeable for at least a week after the men had been in contact with the gas.¹⁹

George was probably one of the injured soldiers. He was one of 290 soldiers admitted to No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station (CCCS) on 22 July 1917.²⁰ He survived for about a week, but died of gas poisoning on 28 July at 12:30 p.m.²¹ and was buried in Adinkerke Churchyard Extension (Grave 851).²² Adinkerke Churchyard Extension is a military cemetery in Adinkerke, about 15 kilometres southwest of Nieupoort, Belgium. It contains 67 Commonwealth burials from the Great War. No. 1 CCCS arrived in Adinkerke in June 1917.²³

In July 1917, the No. 1 CCCS was stationed at Adinkerke, near the France-Belgium border. Harry was one of 248 admissions on 28 July.²⁴

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).²⁵

In 1918, Margaret remarried, wedding Henry Fell on 30 March 1918 in the same church where she and George had married nearly 13 years earlier.²⁶ The Daniel and Fell families knew each other. In 1911, Henry was a visitor in the home of George's brother John and his wife Florence²⁷—Henry was Florence's nephew.²⁸ George's sister Mary Ellen had married a Fell in 1895.²⁹

In 1921, Margaret and Henry were living with Margaret's two children at 17 Huntsman's Fold, Flanshaw, near Wakefield, where Henry was a hewer in a coal mine.³⁰ In 1939, the couple were living on their own in Wakefield.³¹ It is not known when Margaret died.

George's two surviving children lived in and around Wakefield their whole lives. **John**, a moulder, married Mabel Hall in Wakefield in 1934.³² Five years later he and Mabel were living at 17 Holly Street in Wakefield. He died there in 1972.³³ **Edna** married John Hartley, a miner, in 1937 in Wakefield³⁴ and two years later they were living at 50 Brandy Carr Road, Kirkhamgate, near Wakefield.³⁵ She died in 1969 and was buried at St Paul's, the parish church in Alverthorpe,³⁶ where her parents married and her young brother died the year before she was born.

The lives of George's wife and children revolved around the mines and St Paul's church in Alverthorpe. So did the lives of his brothers and sisters.

- George's eldest brother **John** married Florence Fell on 7 November 1896 at St Paul's.³⁷ In 1939, he and Florence were living at 7 Huntsman Fold, Wakefield, where John was an unemployed iron foundry worker.³⁸ He died in December 1944 and was buried at St Paul's.³⁹

- **Mary Ellen** and her husband Sam Fell were living in Pontefract, Yorkshire, in 1911.⁴⁰ Sam died in 1913 was buried at St Paul's.⁴¹ Mary Ellen possibly died four years later—just months before the death of her brother.⁴²
- **Joseph** married Florence Ellis in 1902.⁴³ In 1939, he was a colliery surface worker.⁴⁴ He died in 1958 and was buried at St Paul's.⁴⁵
- On 4 August 1900, **Alice** married Joe Broadhead.⁴⁶ In 1939, she and Joe were living at 59, Horbury Road in Wakefield and Joe was a milk delivery salesman.⁴⁷ She died in 1959 and was buried at St Paul's.⁴⁸
- **Martha Ann** probably did not marry and died at the age of 91 in 1976.⁴⁹
- **Florence** married James Palmer, a miner, on 13 February 1909 at St Paul's. it is not known when Florence died.
- **Emma Jane** married Albert Jaques, a coal miner, on 26 March 1910 at St Paul's.⁵⁰ She died in 1940 and was buried at St Paul's.⁵¹

© 2024 BIFHSGO

¹ "England, Select Births and Christenings, 1538–1975," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 19 February 2024), entry for George Daniells [*sic*], FHL film number: 1562966, Reference ID: item v 55 p 127

² "England & Wales Marriages 1837–2005," *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 10 February 2024), entry for Peter Daneils, District: Warrington, County: Lancashire, Volume: 8C, Page: 234

³ "1939 Register," *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 19 February 2024), entry for John Daniels, Schedule Number: 90, Archive reference: RG101/35751/008/31, Piece number: 35751, Item number:: 8, Line number: 31

⁴ "GRO online index (birth)," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 18 February 2024) entry for Daniels, Mary Ellen, Registration district: Warrington, Volume 08C, Page 204

⁵ "1939 England and Wales Register," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 14 June 2024), entry for Joseph Daniels, Schedule number: 144, Sub-schedule Number: 1, Enumeration district: Kjbe, Registration district: 504-1

⁶ "1939 England and Wales Register," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 14 June 2024), entry for Alice Broadhead, Schedule number: 45, Sub-schedule Number: 2, Enumeration district: Kjba, Registration district: 504-1

⁷ "England & Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1916–2007," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 17 February 2024), entry for Martha Ann Daniels, Registration district: Wakefield, Inferred county: West Yorkshire, Volume: 5, Page: 119

⁸ "West Yorkshire, England, Church of England Births and Baptisms, 1813–1910," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 19 May 2024), entry for Florence Daniells [*sic*]

⁹ "1939 Register," *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 19 February 2024), entry for Emma J Jaques, Schedule Number: 252, Sub Schedule Number: 4, Enumeration district: Kjbn, Registration district: 504-1

¹⁰ "1891 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 27 January 2024), entry for George Pinches, Registration district: Wakefield, Sub-registration district: Alverthorpe, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 8, Piece: 3753, Folio: 76

¹¹ "UK and Ireland, Find A Grave Index, 1300s-Current," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 10 February 2024), entry for Peter Daniels

¹² "West Yorkshire, England, Church of England Births and Baptisms, 1813–1910," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 10 February 2024), entry for Robert Daniels

¹³ "UK, WWI, Pension Ledgers and Index Cards, 1914-1923," FOLD3 *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 12 November 2023), entry for Geo: Daniels [*sic*]

¹⁴ "West Yorkshire, England, Church of England Births and Baptisms, 1813–1910," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 10 February 2024), entry for John Daniels

¹⁵ "UK, WWI, Pension Ledgers and Index Cards, 1914-1923," FOLD3 *Ancestry*, entry for Geo: Daniels [*sic*].

-
- ¹⁶ “Search newspapers,” *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 10 February 2024), entry for Robert Daniel, “A Wakefield Child Run Over,” *Yorkshire Evening Post*, 15 June 1912
- ¹⁷ 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 10 February 2024), entry for George Daniels
- ¹⁸ “1/4 Battalion King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry,” *The National Archives* (www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/: accessed 12 February 2024), Date: 1914 Aug. - 1919 May, Reference: WO 95/2806/1
- ¹⁹ *Ibid.*
- ²⁰ “War Diaries of the First World War: 1st Canadian Casualty Clearing Station 1914/08/13-1919/03/31,” *Library and Archives Canada* (<https://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/military-heritage/first-world-war/Pages/war-diaries.aspx>: accessed 26 March 2024)
- ²¹ “Search Name Index,” *British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa* (www.bifhsgo.ca: accessed 19 September 2024), entry for Daniels, G., No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station
- ²² *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* (www.cwgc.org: accessed 19 September 2024), entry for Lance Corporal G. Daniel
- ²³ “Adinkerke Churchyard Extension,” *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* (www.cwgc.org: accessed 11 February 2024)
- ²⁴ “War Diaries of the First World War: 1st Canadian Casualty Clearing Station 1914/08/13–1919/03/31,” *Library and Archives Canada* (<https://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/military-heritage/first-world-war/Pages/war-diaries.aspx>: accessed 26 March 2023)
- ²⁵ “British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914–1920,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 21 February 2024), entry for George Daniels
- ²⁶ “West Yorkshire, England, Marriages and Banns, 1813–1935,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 13 February 2024), entry for Margaret Daniels
- ²⁷ “1911 England, Wales & Scotland Census,” *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 13 February 2024), entry for Henry Fell, Registration district: Wakefield, Registration district number: 504, Sub-district: Wakefield, Sub-district number: 4, Enumeration district: 26, Piece: 27402, Schedule: 248
- ²⁸ “1891 England Census,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 27 January 2024), entry for Floren Fell, Registration district: Wakefield, Sub registration district: Alverthorpe, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 4, Piece: 3752, Folio: 80
- ²⁹ “England & Wales Marriages 1837–2005,” *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 5 January 2024), entry for Mary Ellen Daniels, District: Wakefield, County: Yorkshire, Volume: 9C, Page: 5
- ³⁰ “1921 Census Of England & Wales,” *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 13 September 2024), entry for Margaret Fell, Registration district: Wakefield, Registration district number: 504, Sub-district: Wakefield, Sub-district number: 4, Enumeration district number: 32, Archive series: RG 15, Piece number: 22507, Schedule number: 95, District reference: RD 504 RS 4 ED 32, 35, 36, 37
- ³¹ “1939 Register,” *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 22 February 2024), entry for Margaret Fell, Letter code: KJBJ, Reference: RG101/3575G/017/34, Piece number: 3575G, Item number: 17, Line number : 34
- ³² “West Yorkshire, England, Marriages and Banns, 1813–1935,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 20 February 2024), entry for John Daniels
- ³³ “England & Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1916–2007,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 17 February 2024), entry for John Daniels, Registration district: Wakefield, Inferred county: West Yorkshire, Volume: 2d, Page: 1484
- ³⁴ “England & Wales Marriages 1837–2005,” *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 5 January 2024), entry for Edna Daniels, District: Wakefield, County: Yorkshire, Volume: 9C, Page: 7

³⁵ "1939 Register," *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 11 February 2024), entry for Edna Hartley, Schedule Number: 332, Sub Schedule Number: 2, Enumeration district: KOTM, Piece number: 3739B, Item number: 3, Line number: 11

³⁶ "West Yorkshire, England, Deaths and Burials, 1813–1985," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 11 February 2024), entry for Edna Hartley

³⁷ "West Yorkshire, England, Marriages and Banns, 1813–1935," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 20 February 2024), entry for John Daniels

³⁸ "1939 Register," *Findmypast*, entry for John Daniels

³⁹ "West Yorkshire, England, Deaths and Burials, 1813–1985," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 20 February 2024), entry for John Daniels

⁴⁰ "1911 England, Wales & Scotland Census," *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 20 February 2024), entry for Mary Ellen Fell, Registration district number: 505, Sub-district: Pontefract, Enumeration district: 14, Piece: 27474

⁴¹ "West Yorkshire, England, Deaths and Burials, 1813–1985," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 20 February 2024), entry for Sam Fells

⁴² "England Deaths & Burials 1538-1991," *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 20 February 2024), entry for Mary Fell

⁴³ "England & Wales, Civil Registration Marriage Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 26 November 2024), entry for Joseph Daniels, Registration district: Wakefield, Inferred county: Yorkshire West Riding, Volume: 9c, Page: 99

⁴⁴ "1939 England and Wales Register," *Ancestry*, entry for Joseph Daniels

⁴⁵ "West Yorkshire, England, Deaths and Burials, 1813–1985," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 20 February 2024), entry for Joseph Daniels

⁴⁶ "West Yorkshire, England, Marriages and Banns, 1813–1935," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 18 February 2024), entry for Alice Daniels

⁴⁷ "1939 England and Wales Register," *Ancestry*, entry for Alice Broadhead

⁴⁸ "West Yorkshire, England, Deaths and Burials, 1813–1985," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 18 February 2024), entry for Abie [*sic*] Broadhead

⁴⁹ "England & Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1916–2007," *Ancestry*, entry for Martha Ann Daniels, Registration district: Wakefield, Inferred county: West Yorkshire, Volume: 5, Page: 1195

⁵⁰ "West Yorkshire, England, Marriages and Banns, 1813–1935," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 19 February 2024), entry for Emma Jane Daniels

⁵¹ "West Yorkshire, England, Deaths and Burials, 1813–1985," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 18 February 2024), entry for Abie [*sic*] Broadhead