

Private Harry Hardwick©

Regimental numbers: 2337, 6553, 203179

1st/5th Battalion, Prince of Wales's Own (West Yorkshire) Regiment

born: 21 May 1894-died: 28 July 1917

Harry was born on 21 May 1894, the son of Henry Hardwick and his wife, the former Martha Elizabeth Stephenson. He was baptized on 25 December 1894 at St Peter's Church in Leeds.¹ His father, Henry (also known as Harry, but called Henry in this biography), a brickmaker, married his mother on 7 April 1890 at the parish church of St Clement in Sheepscar, Leeds.² Harry was one of 13 children born to the couple—four of whom died as infants or toddlers:

- Ruth (born on 22 September 1890 and baptized on 29 March 1891 at St Peter's Church)³
- John James (born on 14 November 1892)⁴
- Harry
- Caroline (born on 25 June 1895 and baptized at St Peter's Church on 25 December 1901, with two siblings, William and Beatrice)⁵
- William (born on 21 October 1897)⁶
- Ada (born on 26 September 1899 and baptized at St Clement's Church in Sheepscar on 6 December 1908.⁷ She sadly died at the age of 2 and was buried in Beckett Street Cemetery, in Leeds, on 27 October 1901.)⁸
- Beatrice (born on 22 February 1901)⁹
- Alice (born in August 1902 and died when she was just 6 hours old. She was also buried in Beckett Street Cemetery.)¹⁰
- Rebecca (born on 21 November 1903 and baptized on 9 December 1903 at St Clement's Church)¹¹
- Ernest (born on 1906 and baptized on 14 January 1906 at St Clement's Church)¹²
- Lily (born in 1907 and baptized in a private service on 16 October 1907. She died shortly afterward and was buried on 27 October 1907 in Beckett Street Cemetery. The burial record indicates that she died at the age of 10 days)¹³
- Ada Hardwick (born on 23 October 1908¹⁴ and baptized at St Clement's Church on 6 December 1908)¹⁵
- Frederick (born in May 1912, but sadly died when he just 4 days old and was buried in Beckett Street Cemetery on 1 June 1912)¹⁶

The family lived in central Leeds for many years. In 1891, Henry and Martha were living at 13 Haigh Street with their first child, Ruth.¹⁷ Ten years later, they were living at 19 Folly Lane, but there were now six children.¹⁸ Harry, aged 6, was not with the family—he was in the home of his grandmother, Sarah Stephenson, at 2 New Cleveland Street. Sarah was a widow and working as a box maker.¹⁹ By the end of the year, when three children were baptized at St Peter's Church, Harry's parents and siblings had moved to Grey Street.²⁰

By 1911, the family, with eight children, were living at 2 New Cleveland Row, probably the former home of Martha's parents. Their daughter Ruth, who was living with them, had married William Beckett Denison on 7 March 1910. Ruth and William, with their son Harry, were three of the 12 people living in the three-room house.²¹

Harry was still living with his grandmother in 1911, but now at 26 New Cleveland Street—apparently just down the street from his former home and that of his parents and siblings. He was a “teayle cutter”—perhaps this was a tile cutter.²²

After the declaration of war in August 1914, three Hardwick men enlisted to support the war effort. Harry signed up for service in the Great War in about August 1914²³ and joined the 1st/5th Battalion of the Prince of Wales's Own (West Yorkshire) Regiment.²⁴ His brother John (also known as Jack) enlisted in about October 1914.²⁵ Their father Henry joined the 3rd Battalion of the 8th Regiment of the Leeds Rifles.²⁶

Harry went to France on 16 April 1915.²⁷ It appears that he might have been wounded in July 1916.²⁸

Just over two years later, his battalion was stationed near Nieuport. Starting early in the morning of 22 July 1917, the enemy began a barrage of gas shells that continued on and off all day. The battalion was unable to move without being observed. By the end of the day, 141 other ranks (non-officers) had been gassed and six wounded.

THE RIFLES' RANK AND FILE.
Casualties among the rank and file of the Leeds Rifles of which we have received news are as follow:—
Corporal Jack Hardwick has been killed, and his brother, Rifleman Harry Hardwick, wounded. Their father, Mr. Hardwick, of 2, New Cleveland Row, Newtown, is himself training in the 3-8th Leeds Rifles.
Extract from *Yorkshire Evening Post*, 11 July 1916
Source: British Newspaper Archives, *Findmypast*

Harry was probably one of them. He was admitted to No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station²⁹ on 22 July 1917 and died of gas poisoning six days later.³⁰ In July 1917, No. 1 CCCS was stationed at Adinkerke, about 4 km southwest of Coxyde in Belgium near the France–Belgium border. Harry was one of 290 admissions on 22 July.³¹

Harry was buried in Oosthoek Military Cemetery. After the end of the war, his remains and those of 24 other soldiers were removed from this cemetery and reinterred in Coxyde Military Cemetery (Plot II, Row L, Grave 12).³² The cemetery is near Coxyde (now known as Koksijde) on the Belgian coast of the North Sea. French troops established the cemetery. When Commonwealth forces relieved the French in June 1917, it became the most important Commonwealth cemetery on the Belgian coast.³³

A letter was probably sent by the chaplain to his next of kin.³⁴ His mother had the following inscription included on his gravestone:

IN LIFE
LOVED AND RESPECTED
IN DEATH
DEEPLY LAMENTED³⁵

Harry had been living with his grandmother in 1901 and 1911. It is not known if there was a break with his birth family, but his grandmother Sarah was identified as his sole legatee in the army document outlining money owed to Harry upon his death. Sarah, born in about 1852, had married John Stephenson in 1870³⁶ and Harry's mother, Martha, was their first child.³⁷ John died in 1889³⁸ and Sarah died in 1921.³⁹

Harry was awarded posthumously the British War Medal (for service overseas between 1914 and 1918), the Victory Medal (for service in an operational theatre) and the 1914–15 Star (for service in the war against Germany between 5 August 1914 and 31 December 1915).⁴⁰

After the war, Harry's sister **Ruth** was living with her husband and four children at 18 New Cleveland Street. She was working as an ankle strap machinist at Taylor Boot Manufacturer in Leeds.⁴¹ Ruth may have died in 1953.⁴²

As mentioned above, Harry's brother **John** also served in the Great War; he too joined the West Yorkshire Regiment⁴³ and went to France on the same day as Harry.⁴⁴ He was a lance corporal (regimental number 2663) when he died of wounds a year before his brother.⁴⁵ He died on 3 July 1916 and is buried in Puchevillers British Cemetery, near Amiens, France.⁴⁶

Harry's sister **Caroline** married Alfred John Hare on 7 August 1916 at St Peter's Church.⁴⁷ In 1939, she and Alfred were living at 3 Gipton Square in Leeds, and Alfred was an engineer's fitter.⁴⁸ Caroline probably died in 1962.⁴⁹

Sadly, Harry's brother **William**, a boiler maker, died young. He had married Hilda Sotheran in 1920 in Leeds⁵⁰ and they named their first son Harry.⁵¹ But he died in March 1937, at the age of 39, and was buried in Beckett Street Cemetery.⁵²

After the war, four of Harry's siblings (Beatrice, Rebecca, Ernest and Ada) were living with their parents in Leeds. Gradually his sisters left home, but continued to live in Leeds:

- **Beatrice** married Herbert Wells in 1922⁵³ and in 1939, she and Herbert were living at 14 William View. Beatrice was a tailoress.⁵⁴
- **Rebecca** married Clifford Bastow in 1929⁵⁵ and ten years later was living 12 Lincolnville. Rebecca was a rag sorter.⁵⁶
- **Ada** married Sidney Fearnside in 1931⁵⁷ and a son, Walter, born two years later. In 1939, they were living at 7 Garnet Parade. Ada was a shoe machinist.⁵⁸ She died in 1959.⁵⁹

No information was found about his brother Ernest.

Harry's mother died in 1932 and was buried in Beckett Street Cemetery. No evidence was found for the death of her husband.

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¹ "West Yorkshire, England, Church of England Births and Baptisms, 1813–1910," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 20 September 2023), entry for Harry Hardwick

² "West Yorkshire, England, Marriages and Banns, 1813–1935," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 13 March 2024), entry for Henry Hardwick

³ "West Yorkshire, England, Church of England Births and Baptisms, 1813–1910," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 25 March 2024), entry for Ruth Hardwick

⁴ "West Yorkshire, England, Church of England Births and Baptisms, 1813–1910," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 23 March 2024), entry for John James Hardwick

⁵ "West Yorkshire, England, Church of England Births and Baptisms, 1813–1910," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 25 March 2024), entry for Caroline Hardwick

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- ⁶ “West Yorkshire, England, Church of England Births and Baptisms, 1813–1910,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 25 March 2024), entry for William Hardwick
- ⁷ “West Yorkshire, England, Church of England Births and Baptisms, 1813–1910,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 22 September 2024), entry for Ada Hardwick
- ⁸ “Leeds, England, Beckett Street Cemetery, 1845–1987,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 17 March 2024), Register Type: Burials – Anglicans, entry for Ada Hardwick
- ⁹ “West Yorkshire, England, Church of England Births and Baptisms, 1813–1910,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 25 March 2024), entry for Beatrice Hardwick
- ¹⁰ “GRO online index (birth),” *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 29 March 2024), entry for Hardwick, Alice, Registration district: Leeds, Volume 09B, Page 441; “Leeds, England, Beckett Street Cemetery, 1845–1987,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 29 March 2024), Register Type: Burials – Anglicans, entry for Alice Hardwick
- ¹¹ “West Yorkshire, England, Church of England Births and Baptisms, 1813–1910,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 13 March 2024), entry for Rebekah Hardwick. The name on her baptism certificate was spelled Rebekah but, in all subsequent records, her name was Rebecca.
- ¹² “GRO online index (birth),” *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 25 March 2024), entry for Hardwick, Ernest, Registration district: Leeds, Volume 09B, Page 409; “West Yorkshire, England, Church of England Births and Baptisms, 1813–1910,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 25 March 2024), entry for Ernest Hardwick
- ¹³ “GRO online index (birth),” *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 17 March 2024), entry for Hardwick, Lily, Registration district: Leeds, Volume 09B, Page 362; “Leeds, England, Beckett Street Cemetery, 1845–1987,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 17 March 2024), Register Type: Burials – Nonconformists, entry for Lilly Hardwick
- ¹⁴ “1939 England and Wales Register,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 25 March 2024), entry for Ada Fearnside, Schedule number: 10, Sub-schedule number: 2, Enumeration district: KGXI, Registration district: 501/2
- ¹⁵ “GRO online index (birth),” *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 17 March 2024), entry for Hardwick, Ada, Registration district: Leeds, Volume 09B, Page 268; “West Yorkshire, England, Church of England Births and Baptisms, 1813–1910,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 29 March 2024), entry for Ada Hordinck [sic]
- ¹⁶ “GRO online index (birth),” *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 29 March 2024), entry for Hardwick, Frederick, Registration district: Leeds, Volume 09B, Page 581; “Leeds, England, Beckett Street Cemetery, 1845–1987,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 29 March 2024), Register Type: Burials – Anglicans, entry for Frederick Hardwick
- ¹⁷ “1891 England, Wales & Scotland Census,” *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 20 September 2023), entry for Harry Hardwick, Registration district: Leeds, Sub-district: North Leeds, Enumeration district: 71; Piece number: 3695, Folio: 114, Page: 20
- ¹⁸ “1901 England, Wales & Scotland Census,” *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 20 September 2023), entry for Henry Hardwick, Registration district: Hunslet, Sub-district: Hunslet, Enumeration district: 53, Piece: 4195, Folio: 160, Page: 9
- ¹⁹ “1901 England, Wales & Scotland Census,” *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 13 March 2024), entry for Henry Hardwick, Registration district: Leeds, Sub-district: North Leeds, Enumeration district: 51, Piece: 4226, Folio: 64, Page: 24
- ²⁰ “West Yorkshire, England, Church of England Births and Baptisms, 1813–1910,” *Ancestry*, entries for Caroline Hardwick, William Hardwick and Beatrice Hardwick
- ²¹ “1911 England, Wales & Scotland Census,” *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 20 September 2023), entry for Harry Hardwick, Registration district: Leeds, Registration district number: 500, Sub-district: North Leeds, Sub-district number: 2, Enumeration district: 21, Piece: 26955
- ²² “1911 England Census,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 20 September 2023), entry for Harry Hardwick, Registration district number: 500, Sub-registration district: North Leeds, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 12, Piece: 26955

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- ²³ 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 13 March 2024), entry for Harry Harwick
- ²⁴ “UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War, 1914–1919,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 20 September 2023), entry for Harry Hardwick
- ²⁵ 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 30 March 2024), entry for John Harwick
- ²⁶ “The Rifles’ Rank and File,” *British Newspaper Archives, Findmypast, Yorkshire Evening Post*, 11 July 1916, p. 5
- ²⁷ “British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914–1920,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 23 March 2024), entry for Harry Hardwick
- ²⁸ “The Rifles’ Rank and File,” *British Newspaper Archives, Findmypast, Yorkshire Evening Post*, 11 July 1916, p. 5
- ²⁹ A casualty clearing station was a military medical unit behind the front lines, usually located near transportation. Casualties who did not soon die or could not be adequately treated in the CCS were stabilized before being transported to a field or military hospital. (Casualty Clearing Station,” *Wikipedia* (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Casualty_Clearing_Station: accessed 2 May 2020)
- ³⁰ “Search Name Index,” *British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa* (www.bifhsgo.ca: accessed 20 September 2023), entry for Harwick, H.
- ³¹ “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)
- ³² *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* (www.cwgc.org: accessed 3 December 2024), entry for Private Harry Hardwick; *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* (www.cwgc.org: accessed 20 September 2023), entry for Coxyde Military Cemetery
- ³³ *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* (www.cwgc.org: accessed 7 April 2024), entry for Coxyde Military Cemetery
- ³⁴ “Search Name Index,” *British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa*, entry for Harwick, H. His next of kin was identified as Mrs. M A Jones, from South Wales. However, no evidence was found to explain Harry’s relationship with Mrs. Jones and this reference is likely to be a mistake made by the chaplain. A comrade who died the same day, Sargeant William John Jones of the Royal Engineers, came from Wales and he is identified as the son of John and Mary Ann Jones of The Castle Hotel, Abercrave, Swansea. (“Search Name Index,” *British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa* (www.bifhsgo.ca: accessed 19 September 2023), entry for Jones, W. J.)
- ³⁵ *Commonwealth War Graves Commission*, entry for Private Harry Hardwick
- ³⁶ “West Yorkshire, England, Marriages and Banns, 1813–1935,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 1 April 2024), entry for Sarah Bramham Coomings
- ³⁷ “GRO online index (birth),” *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 1 April 2024), entry for Stephenson, Martha Elizabeth, Registration district: Leeds, Volume 09B, Page 436
- ³⁸ “UK and Ireland, Find A Grave Index, 1300s–Current,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 1 April 2024), entry for John Stephenson
- ³⁹ “Leeds, England, Beckett Street Cemetery, 1845–1987,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 1 April 2024), Register Type: Burials – Nonconformists, entry for Sarah Stephenson
- ⁴⁰ “British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914–1920,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 23 March 2024), entry for Harry Hardwick
- ⁴¹ “1921 Census of England & Wales,” *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 25 March 2024), entry for Ruth Denison, Registration district: Leeds, Registration district number: 500, Sub-district: North Leeds, Sub-district number: 2, Enumeration district number: 29, Archive series: RG 15, Piece number: 22060, Schedule number: 14, District reference: RD 500 RS 2 ED 29

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- ⁴² "England & Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1916–2007," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 25 March 2024), entry for Ruth Denison, Registration district: Leeds, Inferred county: Yorkshire West Riding, Volume: 2c, Page: 134
- ⁴³ "UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War, 1914–1919," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 25 March 2024), entry for John Hardwick
- ⁴⁴ "British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914–1920," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 23 March 2024), entry for John Hardwick
- ⁴⁵ "UK, World War I Pension Ledgers and Index Cards, 1914–1923," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 23 March 2024), entry for John James Hardwick, Reference Number: 4/D/13291
- ⁴⁶ "UK, Commonwealth War Graves, 1914–1921 and 1939–1947," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 23 March 2024), entry for John James Hardwick
- ⁴⁷ "West Yorkshire, England, Marriages and Banns, 1813–1935," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 25 March 2024), entry for Caroline Hardwick
- ⁴⁸ "1939 England and Wales Register," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 25 March 2024), entry for Caroline Hare, Schedule number: 279, Sub-schedule number: 2, Enumeration district: KGHU, Registration district: 500/2
- ⁴⁹ "England & Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1916–2007," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 25 March 2024), entry for Caroline Hare, Registration district: Wakefield, Inferred county: Yorkshire West Riding, Volume: 2d, Page: 581
- ⁵⁰ "England & Wales Marriages 1837–2005," *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 25 March 2024), entry for William Hardwick, District: Leeds, County: Yorkshire, Volume: 9B, Page: 801
- ⁵¹ "GRO online index (birth)," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 25 March 2024), entry for Hardwick, Harry, Registration district: Leeds, Volume 09B, Page 505; "1939 Register," *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 25 March 2024), entry for Hilda Hardwick, Enumeration district letter code: KGHU, Schedule: 265, Sub-schedule number: 1, Reference: RG101/3447D/022/39, Piece number: 3447D, Item number: 22, Line number: 39
- ⁵² "Leeds, England, Beckett Street Cemetery, 1845–1987," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 25 March 2024), Register Type: Burials – Nonconformists, entry for William Hardwick
- ⁵³ "England & Wales, Civil Registration Marriage Index, 1916–2005," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 25 March 2024), entry for Winifred A. White, Registration district: Leeds, Inferred county: Yorkshire West Riding, Volume: 9b, Page: 1113
- ⁵⁴ "1939 England and Wales Register," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 25 March 2024), entry for Beatrice Wells, Schedule number: 168, Sub-schedule number: 2, Enumeration district: KGZD, Registration district: 501/3
- ⁵⁵ "England & Wales, Civil Registration Marriage Index, 1916–2005," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 25 March 2024), entry for Rebecca [*sic*] Hardwick, Registration district: Leeds North, Inferred county: Yorkshire West Riding, Volume: 9b, Page: 773a
- ⁵⁶ "1939 England and Wales Register," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 25 March 2024), entry for Rebecca Barton [*sic*], Schedule number: 122, Sub-schedule number: 2, Enumeration district: KGAD, Registration district: 500-1
- ⁵⁷ "England & Wales, Civil Registration Marriage Index, 1916–2005," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 25 March 2024), entry for Winifred A. White, Registration district: Leeds North, Inferred county: Yorkshire West Riding, Volume: 9b, Page: 686
- ⁵⁸ "1939 England and Wales Register," entry for Ada Fearnside
- ⁵⁹ "England & Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1916–2007," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 25 March 2024), entry for Ada Fearnside, Registration district: Leeds, Inferred county: Yorkshire West Riding, Volume: 2c, Page: 354