

Private Thomas Edward Brook
Regimental number: 205307
1st Battalion, Northumberland Fusiliers

born: probably 10 December 1888 - died: 25 July 1918

Private Thomas Edward Brook was the husband of Beatrice Ethel Haigh. They married in St Andrew's Church, Bradford on 21 August 1909.¹ Beatrice Ethel, was the daughter of Willis and Clara Haigh of Dalton, Yorkshire. She was born in Richmond, Yorkshire in about 1889.² When they were married, Thomas was working as a carter. The following year, on 12 March, Thomas and Ethel had a son, Alfred.³ (After their marriage, Beatrice Ethel commonly used the name Ethel.) Alfred was baptised on 18 May 1910 at St. Andrew's, Bradford. In 1911, the family was living at 42 Woodland Road, Whetley Lane, Girdlington, near Bradford.⁴

Thomas enlisted initially in the 5th Battalion of the Northumberland Fusiliers, part of the Territorial Force. The Fusiliers was the second largest infantry regiment of the British Army during the war.⁵ The 1st Battalion, which Thomas was serving with at his death, was a regular army battalion assigned to the 9th Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division throughout the war.



T. E. Brook in Pernes cemetery
(Source: Author, July 2015)

Thomas was admitted to the 1st Canadian Casualty Clearing Station on 24 July 1918 with pleurisy pneumonia.⁶ He died and was buried the following day in the Pernes British Military Cemetery (Plot 5, Row F, Grave 37). The chaplain R. L. Brydges presided. He replaced the chaplain J. K. Tibbits who had left on leave a week earlier.⁷ Thomas was a member of the Church of England.

The day that he was admitted to the 1st CCCS, there were 108 admissions and Thomas was one of 39 to die at that CCCS in July.⁸ Most of the over 1,000 First World War soldiers buried in the Pernes British Military Cemetery died at one of the nearby clearing stations.⁹ This cemetery was only set up in April 1918 when the 1st and 4th Canadian Casualty Clearing Stations came to Pernes, driven back by the German advance.

Thomas' wife, who was living at 5 Lawrence Street in Princeville, near Bradford, was notified of his death¹⁰ and received the monies owing to him from the army after his death.¹¹ Thomas was awarded the British War Medal (for service overseas between 1914 and 1918) and the Victory Medal (for service in an operational theatre).¹²

Thomas was probably the son of Alfred and Mary Ellen Brook, who lived at 10 Abbey Street.¹³ He was born on 10 December 1888 and baptised at the parish of St Jude in Manningham, near Bradford, Yorkshire. His father, Alfred, was born in about 1857 in Bradford, the son of William Brook, and was a quarryman or stone mason. His mother, the former, Mary Ellen Mortimer, was born in about 1858, in Stockton, Yorkshire, the daughter of John Mortimer.¹⁴ Alfred and Mary Ellen were married on 5 February 1876 in the parish church of Shipley, near Bradford.¹⁵ They had six children, five of whom survived infancy: Emma (born in May 1876),¹⁶ John William (born in April

1880),¹⁷ Hannah (born in November 1888),¹⁸ Elizabeth (born in September 1889)¹⁹ and Thomas Edward. Their last child, Alfred was born in September 1892 but died the following spring.²⁰

© BIFHSGO, 2015

¹ "West Yorkshire, England, Marriages and Banns, 1813-1935," *findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 15 June 2015), entry for Beatrice Ethel Haigh

² "1891 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 15 June 2015), entry for Beatrice Brook, Registration district: Burnley, ED, institution, or vessel: 24b, Piece: 3364, Folio: 104, Page Number: 9

³ "West Yorkshire, England, Births and Baptisms, 1813-1910," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 15 June 2015), entry for Alfred Brook

⁴ "1911 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 15 June 2015), entry for Thomas Brook, Registration district: Bradford, Registration District Number: 498, Sub-registration district: Manningham, ED, institution, or vessel: 29, Piece: 26792

⁵ "List of Northumberland Fusiliers battalions in World War I," *Wikipedia* (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Northumberland_Fusiliers_battalions_in_World_War_I#1st_Battalion: accessed 31 January 2015)

⁶ "Record of Deaths, 17 February 1916 - 10 February 1919, a record maintained at No. 1 CCCS," *Library and Archives Canada*, (records accessed 2013 & 2015), Record Group 9, series IIC10, volume 4556, Record number 635

⁷ "War Diaries of the First World War: 1st Canadian Casualty Clearing Station 1914/08/13-1919/03/31," *Library and Archives Canada* (http://data4.collectionscanada.gc.ca/netacgi/nph-brs?s1=casualty+clearing&s13=&s12=&l=20&s9=RG9&s7=9-52&Sect1=IMAGE&Sect2=THESOFF&Sect4=AND&Sect5=WARDPEN&Sect6=HITOFF&d=FINDD&p=1&u=http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/archivianet/02015202_e.html&r=1&f=G

⁸ "War Diaries of the First World War: 1st Canadian Casualty Clearing Station 1914/08/13-1919/03/31"

⁹ "Pernes British Military Cemetery" *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* (<http://www.cwgc.org/find-a-cemetery/cemetery/11600/PERNES%20BRITISH%20CEMETERY>: accessed 13 January 2015)

¹⁰ "Record of Deaths, 17 February 1916 - 10 February 1919, a record maintained at No. 1 CCCS," *Library and Archives Canada*, Record number 635

¹¹ "UK, Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects, 1901-1929," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 13 June 2015), entry for Thomas Edward Brook

¹² "British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914-1920," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 26 November 2015), entry for Harry Reuben Knight

¹³ "West Yorkshire, England, Births and Baptisms, 1813-1910," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 15 June 2015), entry for Thomas Edward Brook

¹⁴ "1891 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 15 June 2015), entry for Thomas E. Brook, Registration district: Bradford, Sub registration district: Bradford West End, ED, institution, or vessel: 4, Piece: 3628, Folio: 83, Page Number: 24

¹⁵ "West Yorkshire, England, Marriages and Banns, 1813-1935," *findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 15 June 2015), entry for Alfred Brook

¹⁶ "West Yorkshire, England, Births and Baptisms, 1813-1910," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 15 June 2015), entry for Emma Brook

¹⁷ "West Yorkshire, England, Births and Baptisms, 1813-1910," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 15 June 2015), entry for John William Brook

¹⁸ "West Yorkshire, England, Births and Baptisms, 1813-1910," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 15 June 2015), entry for Hannah Brook

¹⁹ "West Yorkshire, England, Births and Baptisms, 1813-1910," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 15 June 2015), entry for Elizabeth Brook

²⁰ "West Yorkshire, England, Births and Baptisms, 1813-1910," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 15 June 2015), entry for Alfred Brook; "England & Wales, FreeBMD Death Index, 1837-1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 15 June 2015), entry for Alfred Brook, Registration district: Bradford, Inferred County: Yorkshire West Riding, Volume: 9b, Page: 61