

Sapper George Ernest Brazier
Regimental number: 103552
129th Field Company, Royal Engineers

born: 1886 - died: 1 May 1916

Sapper George Ernest Brazier was the only child of Edmund and Harriet Brazier of Claverley, near Wolverhampton in Shropshire.¹ He was born in early 1886 and baptised at the parish church in Claverley on 11 March 1886. His father, the son of William and Elizabeth Brasier, was probably born in 1845 and was baptised on 4 January 1846.² His mother, the former Harriet Brown, daughter of Charles and Mary Brown, was born in 1848 and baptised on 9 October of that year.³ Edmund and Harriet were married on 21 January 1885 at the parish church in Claverley.⁴

George's father was a sawyer – sawing timber in a timber mill or pit⁵ – like his father before him⁶ – although in the 1911, census he was shown as a jobbing gardener.⁷ Throughout their marriage, his mother was a dressmaker, working in the home.⁸ George was a carpenter – first an apprentice in 1901 and then a full carpenter in 1911. For most of their married life, the family lived at Griffiths Green in Claverley.⁹

George enlisted as a Sapper in the Royal Engineers in Bridgnorth, Shropshire,¹⁰ probably close to or after the end of 1915.¹¹ His war was short. He died of gas poisoning at the 1st Canadian Casualty Clearing Station on 1 May 1916.¹² The 1st CCCS was stationed in Bailleul, France, near to where there had been gas attacks on a number of British army units. The 1st CCCS also felt the effects of the gas attacks.¹³

George was a member of the Church of England and buried in the Bailleul Communal Cemetery Extension, Nord (Plot II, Row D, Grave 118). Bailleul is in France, close to the Belgian border. It was occupied on 14 October 1914 and became an important railhead, air depot and hospital centre. Several Casualty Clearing Stations, including the 1st Canadian, were quartered there for considerable periods. The earliest Commonwealth burials at Bailleul were made in April 1915. An extension was built and burials continued until April 1918, and occurred again in September and after the Armistice, when graves were brought in from the neighbouring battlefields.

A letter was sent to his mother to notify her of his death. He was awarded the British War Medal (for service overseas between 1914 and 1918) and the Victory Medal (for service in an operational theatre).¹⁴

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¹ "Shropshire baptisms," *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 29 August 2015), entry for George Ernest Brasier, Archive reference: P68/A/2/2, Page: 239

² "Shropshire baptisms," *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 29 August 2015), entry for Edmund Brasier, Archive reference: P68/A/2/1, Page: 200

³ "Shropshire baptisms," *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 29 August 2015), entry for Harriet Brown, Archive reference: P68/A/2/2, Page: 16

⁴ "Shropshire marriages," *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 29 August 2015), entry for Harriet Brown, Archive reference: P68/A/3/5, Page: 173

⁵ "Hall Genealogy Website : Old Occupation Names" <http://rmhh.co.uk/occup/index.html>

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- ⁶ "1881 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 29 August 2015), entry for Edmond Brasier, Registration district: Bridgnorth, ED, institution, or vessel: 5, Piece: 2631, Folio: 51, Page Number: 1;
- "1891 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 28 August 2015), entry for George E. Brazter, Registration district: Bridgnorth, ED, institution, or vessel: 6, Piece: 2095, Folio: 62, Page Number: 1;
- "1911 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 28 August 2015), entry for George Ernest Brazier, Registration district: Bridgnorth, Registration District Number: 346, Sub-registration district: Worfield, ED, institution, or vessel: 7, Household schedule number: 71, Piece: 15988
- ⁷ "1901 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 28 August 2015), entry for George E. Brazier, Registration district: Bridgnorth, Sub-registration district: Worfield, ED, institution, or vessel: 6, Piece: 2520, Folio: 65, Page Number: 1, Household schedule number: 3
- ⁸ "1891 England Census," entry for George E. Brazter; "1901 England Census," entry for George E. Brazier; "1911 England Census," entry for George Ernest Brazier
- ⁹ 1891, 1901 1911 census "1891 England Census," entry for George E. Brazter; "1911 England Census," entry for George Ernest Brazier; "1901 England Census," entry for George E. Brazier
- ¹⁰ "UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War, 1914-1919," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 28 August 2015), entry for George Ernest Brazier
- ¹¹ He was not awarded the 1914-15 Star, which means that he did not serve overseas before the end of 1915. "British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914-1920," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 26 November 2015), entry for George E. Brazier
- ¹² "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 79
- ¹³ "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; accessed 17 June 2015)
- ¹⁴ "British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914-1920," entry for George E. Brazier