

Gunner Harry Charlesworth
Regimental number: 151447
87th Siege Battery, Royal Garrison Artillery

born: 10 June 1886 - died: 7 September 1918

Gunner Harry Charlesworth was born on 10 June 1886, the son of James and Millicent Charlesworth.¹ He was baptised at All Saints Church in the parish of Netherthong, Yorkshire on 1 August 1886. Harry's parents were both born in Netherthong – his father, James, in about 1853 and his mother, the former Millicent Goddard, in about 1854.² James and Millicent were married in the parish church of Netherthong on 21 December 1878.³ They had three children – Harry and two older children (Herbert, born on 6 November 1879,⁴ and Esther Ann, born on 23 July 1883).⁵

In 1901, the family was living on Church Street in Netherthong, where James was a woolen presser.⁶ By 1911, they were living at 34 Whitehead Lane in Huddersfield, Yorkshire.⁷ James was still working in the woolen industry, as a cloth presser. His son, Harry, the only child still living at home, had joined him and was a cloth finisher. His father died in 1916, at the age of 64.⁸

It was in Huddersfield that Harry enlisted in the Royal Garrison Artillery.⁹ The 87th Siege Battery of the RGA went to France on 6 May 1916. It is not known if Harry was with the Battery then, or if he joined it later.

On 7 September 1918, he was admitted to the 1st Canadian Casualty Clearing Station with gunshot wounds to his left lung and died the same day.¹⁰ He was buried two days later in Duisans' British Military Cemetery (Plot 5, Row H, Grave 40) with the chaplain, W. F. O'Neill Fisher presiding. Harry was a member of the Church of England.

Duisans' British Military Cemetery is located in Etrun, near Arras, in France. The first burials took place in the cemetery in March 1917.¹¹ The 1st CCCS arrived at the beginning of September and was stationed near Duisans for two months in the autumn of 1918.¹² A total of 75 patients died at the 1st CCCS in September.

The monies owing to him from the army after his death were sent to his mother¹³ and he left a will with probate also to his mother.¹⁴

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¹ "West Yorkshire, England, Births and Baptisms, 1813-1910," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 7 October 2015), entry for Harry Charlesworth

² "1901 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 7 October 2015), entry for Harry Charlesworth, Registration district: Huddersfield, Sub-registration district: Honley, ED, institution, or vessel: 18, Piece: 4094, Folio: 137, Page Number: 8, Household schedule number: 58

³ "West Yorkshire, England, Marriages and Banns, 1813-1935," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 7 October 2015), entry for James Charlesworth

⁴ "West Yorkshire, England, Births and Baptisms, 1813-1910," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 7 October 2015), entry for Herbert Charlesworth

⁵ "West Yorkshire, England, Births and Baptisms, 1813-1910," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 7 October 2015), entry for Esther Ann Charlesworth

⁶ "1901 England Census," entry for Harry Charlesworth

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- ⁷ "1911 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk; accessed 7 October 2015), entry for Harry Charlesworth, Registration district: Huddersfield, Registration District Number: 495, Sub-registration district: Almondbury, ED, institution, or vessel: 6, Piece: 26259
- ⁸ "West Yorkshire, England, Deaths and Burials, 1813-1985," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk; accessed 23 September 2015), entry for James Charlesworth
- ⁹ "UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War, 1914-1919," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk; accessed 7 October 2015), entry for Harry Charlesworth
- ¹⁰ "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 638
- ¹¹ "Duisans British Cemetery, Etrun," Commonwealth War Graves Commission (www.cwgc.org; accessed 7 October 2015)
- ¹² "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=FINN&p=1&u=http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/archivianet/02015202_e.html&r=1&f=G; accessed 17 June 2015)
- ¹³ "UK, Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects, 1901-1929," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk; accessed 7 October 2015), entry for Harry Charlesworth
- ¹⁴ "England & Wales, National Probate Calendar (Index of Wills and Administrations), 1858-1966." *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk; accessed 7 October 2015), entry for Harry Charlesworth