

Gunner Henry Devlin[©]
Regimental number: 16683
143rd Battery, Royal Garrison Artillery

born: about 1886 – died: 21 August 1917

Gunner Henry Devlin was born in about 1886 in Mossend, Lanarkshire, Scotland, the son of Henry and Mary Devlin.¹ Both his parents were from Ireland—his father was born there in about 1845 and his mother in about 1849. Henry was the youngest of their four children and their only son. He had three older sisters: Agnes (born in about 1880), Margaret (born in about 1882) and Esther (born in about 1884).

In 1891, the family was living at 19 Miln Wood Row in Bothwell, Lanarkshire, where Henry's father was a general labourer.² Ten years later, the family was at No 19 Low Biggins, Fullwood Road in Bothwell. His father was now an ironworker labourer.³

At the very beginning of the Great War, Henry enlisted in the Royal Garrison Artillery and he joined the Western Front on 25 September 1914.⁴ He survived nearly three years of the war. On 21 August 1917, he was admitted unconscious to No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station with gunshot wounds to his hip, both legs and his back. He did not regain consciousness before he died the same day.⁵ He was buried in Adinkerke Military Cemetery (Grave Reference: C. 34).⁶

Adinkerke Military Cemetery is 20 kilometres east of Dunkirk, in the community of De Panne, just across the border into Belgium. There are 168 Commonwealth soldiers from the Great War buried in the cemetery.⁷

His sister Agnes, who was now married to Mr O'Neil and living at Bulwood Place, Clydesdale, Mossend, was his next of kin and was notified of his death.⁸ She received the monies owing to him from the army upon his death.⁹

Henry was awarded 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).¹⁰

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¹ "1901 Scotland Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 26 May 2016), entry for Henry Devlin, Enumeration district: 13, Household schedule number: 173, Line: 10, Roll: CSSCT1891_225

² "1891 Scotland Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 26 May 2016), entry for Henry Devlin, Enumeration district: 13, Household schedule number: 173, Line: 10, Roll: CSSCT1891_225

³ "1901 Scotland Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk; accessed 26 May 2016), entry for Henry Derlin [*sic*], Enumeration district: 9, Household schedule number: 61, Line: 22, Roll: CSSCT1901_249

⁴ "British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914–1920," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 25 May 2016), entry for Henry Devlin

⁵ "Record of Deaths, 17 February 1916 – 10 February 1919, a record maintained at No. 1 CCCS," *Library and Archives Canada*, (records accessed 2013 and 2016), Record Group 9, series IIC10, volume 4556, Record number 347

⁶ *Commonwealth War Graves Commission*, (www.cwgc.org: accessed 25 May 2016), entry for Devlin, Henry, Service No: 16683

⁷ "Adinkerke Military Cemetery," *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* (<http://www.cwgc.org/>: accessed 30 April 2016)

⁸ "Record of Deaths, 17 February 1916 – 10 February 1919, a record maintained at No. 1 CCCS," *Library and Archives Canada*, Record number 347

⁹ "UK, Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects, 1901–1929," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 25 May 2016), entry for Henry Devlin

¹⁰ "British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914–1920," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk), entry for Henry Devlin