

Gunner Joseph Bloom[©]
Regimental number: L/18503
"A" Battery, 264th Brigade, Royal Field Artillery

born: 1893 - died: 30 September 1918

Gunner Joseph Bloom was born in 1893 in Liverpool, Lancashire,¹ the son of Marks Bloom and his wife, Sarah.² Marks was born in about 1862, in Koons, Russia and his wife was probably the former Elizabeth Garside,³ and she was born in about 1872 in Lancashire. Marks and Sarah were probably married in 1887 in Prestwich, Lancashire.⁴ They had ten children, nine of who survived childhood:⁵ Sarah (or Rebecca) Bloom (born in 1888),⁶ Zelda (born in 1891),⁷ Joseph, Abraham (born in 1896),⁸ Esther (born in 1898),⁹ Leah (born in 1901),¹⁰ Simon (born in 1905),¹¹ Harry (born in 1908)¹² and David (born in 1911).¹³ Their tenth child was Rachel, born in 1903 but died the same year.¹⁴

In 1891, the family was living at 5 Lockett Street in Cheetham, Manchester, where Joseph's father was a machinist.¹⁵ By 1901, the family had moved to Liverpool and was living at 9 St David's Place.¹⁶ Ten years later, the family was at 70 Smithdown Lane, still in Liverpool. Joseph's father was a tailor's machinist. Joseph was now working as a shop assistant in a sports outfitters.¹⁷

Joseph enlisted in the Royal Field Artillery in Liverpool and was serving in "A" Battery of the 264th Brigade when he was injured and admitted to No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station with gunshot wounds to his abdomen, knee and thigh.¹⁸ He was admitted on 30 September 1918 and died and was buried the same day. The Canadian chaplain, A. D. Reid, presided over his burial in Duisans British Military Cemetery (Grave 97, Plot 7, Row A).

Duisans British Military Cemetery is located in Etrun, near Arras, in France. The first burials took place in the cemetery in March 1917.¹⁹ No. 1 CCCS arrived at the beginning of September 1918²⁰ and was stationed near Duisans for two months in the autumn of 1918.²¹ A total of 75 patients died at No. 1 CCCS in September 1918.²²

Although the chaplain did not, at the time, know his next of kin, the monies owing to him from the army upon his death were sent to his father.²³

Joseph was awarded the British War Medal (for service overseas between 1914 and 1918) and the Victory Medal (for service in an operational theatre).²⁴

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¹ "England & Wales, FreeBMD Birth Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 20 March 2016), entry for Joseph Bloom, Registration district: Liverpool, Inferred County: Lancashire, Volume: 8b, Page: 93

² "1901 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 20 March 2016), entry for Joseph Bloom, Registration district: Liverpool, Sub-registration district: Mount Pleasant, ED, institution, or vessel: 07, Piece: 3416, Folio: 133, Page Number: 4, Household schedule number: 21

³ "England & Wales, Civil Registration Marriage Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 10 May 2017), entry for Marks Bloom, Registration district: Prestwich, Inferred county: Lancashire, Volume: 8d, Page: 555. Marks' wife appears as Sarah in all the census records, but the only possible marriage record for Marks Bloom indicates he married Elizabeth Garside. Garside (or Garthside) is the maiden name of the mother of all the Bloom children.

⁴ *Ibid.*

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- ⁵ "1911 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk; accessed 20 March 2016), entry for Joseph Bloom, Registration district: West Derby, Registration District Number: 455, Sub-registration district: West Derby Western, ED, institution, or vessel: 57, Piece: 22609
- ⁶ "GRO online index–birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>; accessed 10 May 2017) entry for Bloom, Sarah, Registration district: Prestwich, Volume 08D, Page 393. This is probably the first child of Marks and his wife. However, her first name appears as Rebecca in subsequent census records.
- ⁷ "GRO online index–birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>; accessed 10 May 2017) entry for Bloom, Zelda, Registration district: Prestwich, Volume 08D, Page 391
- ⁸ "GRO online index–birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>; accessed 10 May 2017) entry for Bloom, Joseph, Registration district: Liverpool, Volume 08B, Page 93
- ⁹ "GRO online index–birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>; accessed 10 May 2017) entry for Bloom, Esther, Registration district: Liverpool, Volume 08B, Page 82
- ¹⁰ "GRO online index–birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>; accessed 10 May 2017) entry for Bloom, Leah, Registration district: Liverpool, Volume 08B, Page 69
- ¹¹ "GRO online index–birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>; accessed 10 May 2017) entry for Bloom, Simon, Registration district: Liverpool, Volume 08B, Page 127
- ¹² "GRO online index–birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>; accessed 10 May 2017) entry for Bloom, Harry, Registration district: Liverpool, Volume 08B, Page 125
- ¹³ "GRO online index–birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>; accessed 10 May 2017) entry for Bloom, David, Registration district: Liverpool, Volume 08B, Page 537
- ¹⁴ "GRO online index–birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>; accessed 10 May 2017) entry for Bloom, Rachel, Registration district: Liverpool, Volume 08B, Page 107; "England & Wales, FreeBMD Death Index, 1837-1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk; accessed 13 April 2016), entry for Rachel Bloom, Registration district: Liverpool, Inferred County: Lancashire, Volume: 8b, Page:127
- ¹⁵ "1891 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk; accessed 20 March 2016), entry for Marks Bloom, Registration district: Prestwich, ED, institution, or vessel: 3, Piece: 3261, Folio: 119, Page Number: 29
- ¹⁶ "1901 England Census," entry for Joseph Bloom
- ¹⁷ "1911 England Census," entry for Joseph Bloom
- ¹⁸ "Record of Deaths, 17 February 1916–10 February 1919, a record maintained at No. 1 CCCS," *Library and Archives Canada*, (records accessed 2013 & 2016), Record Group 9, series IIC10, volume 4556, Record number 689
- ¹⁹ "Duisans British Cemetery, Etrun," Commonwealth War Graves Commission (www.cwgc.org; accessed 7 October 2015)
- ²⁰ "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>; accessed 17 June 2015)
- ²¹ "Duisans British Cemetery, Etrun"
- ²² "War Diaries of the First World War: 1st Canadian Casualty Clearing Station 1914/08/13–1919/03/31"
- ²³ "UK, Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects, 1901–1929," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk; accessed 20 March 2016), entry for Joseph Bloom
- ²⁴ "British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914–1920," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk; accessed 20 March 2016), entry for Joseph Bloom