

Sergeant Harold Lambert Buck[©]

Regimental number: 86016

2nd Signal Company, Canadian Engineers

born: 26 May 1893 - died: 21 September 1918

Sergeant Harold Lambert Buck, born on 26 May 1893 in London, England,¹ was the son of William and Alice Buck.² His father, William Frederick Buck was born in 1859 in Grantham, Lincolnshire,³ the son of Hart Buck.⁴ His mother, the former Alice Bush Lambert, was born in 1858 on the Isle of Wight,⁵ the daughter of William Toohey Lambert.⁶ William and Alice married on 23 June 1886 in Freshwater, on the Isle of Wight.⁷ They had four children: Hart (born in 1887),⁸ Ruth (born in 1889),⁹ Donald (born on 10 February 1892)¹⁰ and Harold.

In 1891, the family was living at 40 Rushey Green in Lewisham, where William was a coach and van builder. The family remained at that address until at least 1924.¹¹ Sometime after that, Harold's parents moved to 33 Polsted Road in south-east London.¹²

By 1911, there were only two children left a home: Harold and his brother, Hart.¹³ His brother, Donald, had immigrated to Canada in 1908 and was working as a teamster and living at the Edmonton Lumber Company Boarding House.¹⁴ His sister, Ruth, was an assistant mistress at a secondary school and was boarding at a home in Loughborough, Leicestershire.¹⁵

After that, Harold also immigrated to Canada and, just months after the Great War broke out in 1914, he enlisted as a Gunner in the 5th Brigade of the Canadian Field Artillery.¹⁶ He enlisted in Winnipeg on 8 December 1914. He was 21 years old, a clerk and a member of the Church of England. He was 5' 10" tall and had a fresh complexion, blue eyes and brown hair.

Although he enlisted in 1914, he did not land in France until 19 January 1916. While still in Winnipeg, he was hospitalised with the measles and inflamed cervical (neck) glands. He arrived in England in August 1915 on the ss Metegama. He joined the Front five months later.

In August 1916, he was appointed a Bombardier and then in November he was promoted to Corporal. He was sent on training courses in 1917 – telephone course and wireless instruction – so that, in October 1917, he transferred to the 2nd Signal Company. A month later he was promoted to Acting Sergeant and was confirmed in the rank of Sergeant two months after that.

He had two weeks leave in England at the end of January 1917 and then again at end of January 1918.

On 8 April 1917 he was gassed and admitted to a Casualty Clearing Station and from there to the 7th Canadian General hospital in Etaples. He rejoined his unit at the beginning of May. Two months later he was awarded Military Medal for bravery in the field. Then in November of the same year, he was awarded the Bar to the Military Medal.

About a year after he received the Bar to the Military Medal he was admitted to No. 1 fCanadian Casualty Clearing Station with shrapnel wounds to his chest and right shoulder.¹⁷ One military record suggests that he was actually wounded on 17 September,¹⁸ but he wasn't admitted to No. 1 CCCS until four days later. He died the same day and was buried the following day in Duisans

British Military Cemetery (Grave 26, Plot 6, Row H) with the chaplain W. Fisher presiding. His father was identified as his next-of-kin and he was notified of his death.

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

In addition to the Military Medal and the Bar, he was awarded the British War Medal (for service overseas between 1914 and 1918) and the Victory Medal (for service in an operational theatre).²³

Harold's brother, Donald, also served with the Canadian Expeditionary Force (Regimental number: 79168).²⁴ He was a teamster when he enlisted in December 1914 in Edmonton, Alberta – just a week after Harold enlisted in Winnipeg. He arrived in France in September 1915, having spent just three months in England on his way to the Front. He was promoted to Corporal in April 1917. He was discharged from the Canadian Expeditionary Force in April 1918 because, in March 1918, he had gone to the School of Military Aeronautics in Lenham. On 20 August 1918, he was appointed to a temporary commission as a 2nd Lieutenant in the Royal Air Force – just two and a half months before the end of the war. He was discharged in January 1919 from his station in Bagshott. After the war, he was probably living near Edmonton and working as a lumberjack.²⁵

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¹ "Canada, Soldiers of the First World War, 1914-1918," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 18 January 2016), entry for Harold L. Buck

² "1911 England, Wales & Scotland Census," *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 18 January 2016), entry for Alice Bush Lambert Buck, Registration district: Lewisham, Registration district number: 29, Enumeration district: 30, District number: -, Sub district: Lewisham, Sub district number: 3, Census reference: RG14PN2779 RG78PN95 RD29 SD3 ED30 SN325; Piece number: 2779

³ "England & Wales, FreeBMD Birth Index, 1837-1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 18 January 2016), entry for William Frederick Buck, Registration district: Grantham, Inferred County: Lincolnshire, Volume: 7a, Page: 405

⁴ "England Marriages," *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 18 August 2016), entry for William Frederick Buck, Residence: Freshwater, Hampshire, England, County: Hampshire

⁵ "England & Wales, FreeBMD Birth Index, 1837-1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 18 January 2016), entry for Alice Bush Lambert Buck, Registration district: Isle of Wight, Inferred County: Hampshire, Volume: 2b, Page: 471

⁶ "England Marriages," entry for William Frederick Buck

⁷ *Ibid.*

⁸ "England & Wales, FreeBMD Birth Index, 1837-1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 18 January 2016), entry for Hart Buck, Registration district: Lewisham, Inferred County: London, Volume: 1da, Page: 1154a

⁹ "England & Wales, FreeBMD Birth Index, 1837-1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 18 January 2016), entry for Ruth Buck, Registration district: Lewisham, Inferred County: London, Volume: 1da, Page: 1110

¹⁰ "Canada, Soldiers of the First World War, 1914-1918," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 18 January 2016), entry for Donald Buck

¹¹ "London, England, Electoral Registers, 1832-1965," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 18 January 2016), entry for Alice Bush Lambert Buck

¹² *Ibid.*

¹³ "1911 England, Wales & Scotland Census," entry for Alice Bush Lambert Buck

¹⁴ "1911 Census of Canada," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 24 March 2016), entry for Donald Byck, Province: Alberta, District: Strathcona, District Number: 6, Sub-District: 48 - Strathcona, part, Sub-District Number: 48

¹⁵ "1911 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 5 January 2016), entry for Bruno Whittle, Registration district: Loughborough, Registration District Number: 405, Sub-registration district: Loughborough, ED, institution, or vessel: 20, Piece: 19118

¹⁶ "Soldiers of the First World War: 1914-1918," *Library and Archives Canada* (www.bac-lac.gc.ca/; accessed 18 January 2016), entry for Buck, Harold L., Reference: RG 150, Accession 1992-93/166, Box 1234 - 53. Unless otherwise stated, all information about his military service comes from this record.

¹⁷ "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 672

¹⁸ "Soldiers of the First World War: 1914-1918," entry for Buck, Harold L.

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 "Soldiers of the First World War: 1914-1918," entry for Buck, Harold L.

²⁴ "Soldiers of the First World War: 1914-1918," *Library and Archives Canada* (www.bac-lac.gc.ca/; accessed 18 January 2016), entry for Buck, Donald, Reference: RG 150, Accession 1992-93/166, Box 1234 - 16. Unless otherwise stated, all information about his military service comes from this record.

²⁵ "1921 Census of Canada," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 18 January 2016), entry for Donald Buck, Province or Territory: Alberta, District: Edmonton South, District Number: 6, Sub-District Number: 49, City, Town or Village: 73-5-W5 73-4-W5 72-2-W5