

Private Albert Roebuck Berridge[©]
Regimental number: 240245
1st/5th Yorkshire & Lancashire Regiment

born: 1896 - died: 1 August 1917

When Private Albert Roebuck Berridge was born in Rawmarsh, near Rotherham, Yorkshire, in 1896, his birth was registered as Albert Roebuck.¹ He was the son of George Roebuck Berridge (George junior) and Clara Finney.² George junior was born in Rotherham in 1876, the son of Emma Berridge (nee Emma Oxley,³ born in Attercliffe, Yorkshire, in about 1838).⁴ In 1856, Emma married Frederick Berridge at the parish church in Sheffield.⁵ In 1861, she and Frederick were living in Sheffield⁶—they eventually had three children.⁷ There is no evidence of Frederick's death but, in 1871 Emma was living in Rawmarsh with Samuel Heppenstall, with whom she had three children.⁸

By 1881, Emma was still in Rawmarsh, but now living with George Roebuck (George senior), a coal miner, Albert's grandfather.⁹ They had four children: Eva Roebuck (born in 1872),¹⁰ Elizabeth (born in 1874),¹¹ George junior and Ezra (born in 1878).¹² All the children were listed in the 1881 census with George senior's last name—Roebuck. Also living with them were two of Emma's children by Samuel Heppenstall. However, since George and Emma were not married, their four children were registered at birth with the surname Berridge. George senior and Emma eventually married in 1896.¹³

The year before, George junior, as George Roebuck, had married Clara Finney in 1895 in Rotherham and they had two children: Albert and Emma (born in 1897).¹⁴ Sadly, Clara died in 1898, leaving George junior with two young children.

It is not known what became of Emma but, in 1901, George junior, a widower, and his son were living at 37 Dale Street in Rawmarsh, with, George senior and Emma. George junior's name is shown as George R. Berridge, but his son Albert's last name was Roebuck. Like his father, George junior was a coal hewer.

In 1911, Albert and his father were living in two rooms at 2 Bramelds Yard, Stocks Lane in Rawmarsh. Albert had joined his father in the coal mines and, at the age of 15, was a driver.¹⁵

In August 1914,¹⁶ Albert enlisted in the 5th Battalion of the Yorkshire & Lancashire Regiment in Rotherham¹⁷ as Albert Roebuck Berridge. The registration of his birth as Roebuck was likely a mistake. Berridge was the legal surname of his father, who was the illegitimate son of Emma Berridge. Hence, it was also the legal surname of Albert, as the legitimate son of George junior.

Albert joined the Front in France on 13 April 1915.¹⁸ Just over two years later he was admitted to No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station, where he died of gas poisoning on 1 August 1917.¹⁹ He was buried in Coxyde Military Cemetery (Grave Reference: Plot II, Row B, Grave 13).²⁰ His father asked to have the following inscription put on his gravestone:

PEACE, PEACE IS MINE²¹

Coxyde Military Cemetery (located near the village of Koksijde in Belgium) was about 10 kilometres behind the front line in 1917. Commonwealth troops had relieved the French forces in the area and the village was used for rest billets. Although the village was occasionally shelled, the cemetery,

which had been started by French troops, was reasonably safe. "It became the most important of the Commonwealth cemeteries on the Belgian coast and was used at night for the burial of the dead brought back from the front line."²² There are now just over 1,500 Commonwealth graves from the Great War in the cemetery.

The monies owing to him from the army upon his death were sent to his father.²³ However, the chaplain at No 1 CCCS indicated that his next of kin was his mother, Mrs A. G. Berridge, living at 4 Peashill Street in Rawmarsh.²⁴ This may have been meant to refer to his stepmother, Rose Ann Berridge.

Albert 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).²⁵

Albert's father married at least twice after the death of his first wife—Albert's mother. In 1912, he married Rose Ann Aston.²⁶ Rose, who was born in 1881,²⁷ had previously been married to Jesse Edwards²⁸ and had had three children.²⁹ George and Rose Ann then had four children: Clifford (born in 1914),³⁰ Albert (born in 1918),³¹ Alwyn (born in 1921)³² and Sydney (born in 1925).³³ Rose Ann died in 1927.³⁴ In 1928, George married Martha Ball.³⁵ George, Martha and Albert's stepbrother Sydney were still living at 46 Dale Street in Rawmarsh in 1939.³⁶ By this time, Albert's father was incapacitated. He died the following year.³⁷

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¹ "GRO online index–birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 8 July 2017) entry for Roebuck, Albert, Registration district: Rotherham, Volume 09C, Page 699

² *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* (www.cwgc.org: accessed 12 May 2017), entry for Berridge, Albert Roebuck, Service No: 240245

³ "England & Wales, Civil Registration Birth Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 16 May 2017), entry for George Roebuck Berridge, Registration district: Rotherham, Inferred county: Yorkshire West Riding, Volume: 9c, Page: 651; "Yorkshire Baptisms," *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 5 July 2017), entry for George Berridge, Archive reference: PR-80-8, Page: 56

⁴ "1891 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 5 July 2017), entry for Emma Roebuck, Registration district: Rotherham, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 27, Piece: 3852, Folio: 56, Page: 18

⁵ "Yorkshire Marriages," *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 7 July 2017), entry for Emma Oxley, County: Yorkshire (West Riding), Archive: Sheffield Archives & Local Studies, Archive reference: PR-138-3-74; Page: 18

⁶ "1861 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 7 July 2017), entry for Emma Berridge, Registration district: Sheffield, Sub-registration district: South Sheffield, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 7, Household schedule number: 263, Piece: 3488, Folio: 58, Page: 41

⁷ Sarah Ann, born in 1858 ("GRO online index–birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 7 July 2017) entry for Berridge, Sarah Ann, Registration district: Ecclesall Bierlow, Volume 09C, Page 219); Lucy born in 1861 ("GRO online index–birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 7 July 2017) entry for Berridge, Lucy, Registration district: Sheffield, Volume 09C, Page 404); Clara born in 1861 ("GRO online index–birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 7 July 2017) entry for Berridge, Clara, Registration district: Sheffield, Volume 09C, Page 417)

⁸ "1871 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 7 July 2017), entry for Ada Heppenstall, Registration district: Rotherham, Sub-registration district: Kimberworth, Enumeration district, institution, or

vessel: 24, Household schedule number: 39, Piece: 4708, Folio: 122, Page: 8. The children were William (born in about 1864), Ada (born in about 1868) and John (born in about 1869).

⁹ "1881 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 6 July 2017), entry for George Roebuck, Registration district: Rotherham, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 27, Piece: 4679, Folio: 77, Page: 6

¹⁰ "GRO online index–birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 5 July 2017) entry for Berridge, Eva Roebuck, Registration district: Rotherham, Volume 09C, Page 651

¹¹ "GRO online index–birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 5 July 2017) entry for Berridge, Elizabeth, Registration district: Rotherham, Volume 09C, Page 610

¹² "GRO online index–birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 5 July 2017) entry for Berridge, Ezra, Registration district: Rotherham, Volume 09C, Page 661

¹³ "England & Wales, Civil Registration Marriage Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 5 July 2017), entry for George Roebuck, Registration district: Rotherham, Inferred county: Yorkshire West Riding, Volume: 9c, Page: 1122

¹⁴ "GRO online index–birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 8 July 2017) entry for Roebuck, Emma, Registration district: Rotherham, Volume 09C, Page 769

¹⁵ "1911 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 16 May 2017), entry for Albert R. Berridge, Registration district: Rotherham, Registration district number: 511, Sub-registration district: Rawmarsh, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 8, Piece: 28101

¹⁶ Based on "War Gratuity Calculator" (<https://wargratitude.wordpress.com/2015/08/16/gratuity-calculator/>: accessed 18 May 2017); "UK, Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects, 1901–1929," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 16 May 2017), entry for Albert Roebuck Berridge

¹⁷ "UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War, 1914–1919," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 16 May 2017), entry for Albert Roebuck Berridge

¹⁸ "British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914–1920," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 16 May 2017), entry for Albert Roebuck Berridge

¹⁹ "No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station," *British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa* (www.bifhsgo.ca: accessed 2 May 2017), entry for Berridge, A. R.

²⁰ *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* (www.cwgc.org: accessed 12 May 2017), entry for Berridge, Albert Roebuck

²¹ *Ibid.*

²² "Coxyde Military Cemetery," *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* (www.cwgc.org: accessed 2 May 2017)

²³ "UK, Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects, 1901–1929," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 16 May 2017), entry for Albert Roebuck Berridge

²⁴ "No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station," *British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa* (www.bifhsgo.ca: accessed 2 May 2017), entry for Berridge, A. R.

²⁵ "British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914–1920," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 16 May 2017), entry for Albert Roebuck Berridge

²⁶ "England & Wales, Civil Registration Marriage Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 5 July 2017), entry for George R Berridge, Registration district: Rotherham, Inferred county: Yorkshire West Riding, Volume: 9c, Page: 1273

²⁷ "England & Wales Deaths 1837–2007," *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 29 January 2017), entry for Rose A Berridge, District: Rotherham, County: Yorkshire, Volume: 9C, Page: 1104

²⁸ "England & Wales Marriages 1837–2008," *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 5 July 2017), entry for Rose Ann Aston, District: Rotherham, County: Yorkshire, Volume: 9C, Page: 1152

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- ²⁹ "1911 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 8 July 2017), entry for Rose A Edwards, Registration district: Rotherham, Registration district number: 511, Sub-registration district: Rawmarsh, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 8, Piece: 28101
- ³⁰ "GRO online index-birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 5 July 2017) entry for Berridge, Clifford, Registration district: Rotherham, Volume 09C, Page 1627
- ³¹ "England & Wales, Civil Registration Birth Index, 1837-1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 5 July 2017), entry for Albert E Berridge, Registration district: Rotherham, Inferred county: Yorkshire West Riding, Volume: 9c, Page: 1362
- ³² "England & Wales, Civil Registration Birth Index, 1837-1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 5 July 2017), entry for Alwyn Berridge, Registration district: Rotherham, Inferred county: Yorkshire West Riding, Volume: 9c, Page: 1478
- ³³ "England & Wales, Civil Registration Birth Index, 1837-1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 5 July 2017), entry for Sydney Berridge, Registration district: Rotherham, Inferred county: Yorkshire West Riding, Volume: 9c, Page: 1221
- ³⁴ "England & Wales Deaths 1837-2007," *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 5 July 2017), entry for Rose A Berridge, District: Rotherham, County: Yorkshire, Volume: 9C, Page: 1104
- ³⁵ "England & Wales, Civil Registration Marriage Index, 1837-1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 5 July 2017), entry for George Roebuck, Registration district: Rotherham, Inferred county: Yorkshire West Riding, Volume: 9c, Page: 1650
- ³⁶ "1939 Register," *Findmypast* (www.Findmypast.co.uk: accessed 1 July 2017), entry for George R. Berridge, Reference: RG101/3709C/017/2 Letter code: KOF P
- ³⁷ "England & Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1837-1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 21 January 2017), entry for George R Berridge, Registration district: Rotherham, Inferred county: Yorkshire West Riding, Volume: 9c, Page: 1764