

Lieutenant Stanley Gordon Bowe[©]

Regimental number: —

18th Battalion, Lancashire Fusiliers

born: 27 January 1885 - died: 15 May 1918

Lieutenant Stanley Gordon Bowe was born on 27 January 1885 in Liverpool, Lancashire, the son of Thomas and Alice Bowe. He was baptized just over a month later, on 9 March 1885, at St Saviour's Church.¹ His father Thomas had married Alice (nee Davies), 10 years his junior, in 1879 in Liverpool. Thomas was born in about 1845 in Crosthwaite, Cumberland, and Alice in about 1855 in Liverpool.² Stanley was their youngest child—he had an older brother, John Charles (born on 27 June 1880),³ and an older sister, Annie Henderson (born on 4 April 1883).⁴

The family lived at 127 Chatham Street in Liverpool for at least 30 years. In 1891, Thomas was a clerk at the Mersey Dock and Harbour Board and all three children were in school.⁵ The Dock Board was created in 1858 as the port authority for the lower River Mersey.⁶ By 1901, Stanley had become a bank clerk.⁷ Ten years later, Thomas had retired from the Dock Board, but Stanley was still a bank clerk.⁸

In 1914, Stanley, then a tea salesman, joined the Freemasons, a fraternal organization, in Liverpool. He was a member of the Arthur Stanley Lodge, which was consecrated on 29 November 1910 and named after the Provincial Grand Master, the Honorable Arthur Stanley.⁹ (Arthur Stanley was a British politician and the son of Lord Stanley, Governor General of Canada and famous for presenting Canada with the Stanley Cup.¹⁰)

It is not known when Stanley enlisted in the British Expeditionary Force, but he may have only gone to France on 28 April 1918. He served first as a private with the Lancashire Hussars Yeomanry (regimental numbers: 179/R and 1303), but at some point was promoted to lieutenant and transferred to the 18th Battalion of the Lancashire Fusiliers. When he died, Stanley was attached to the 2nd/5th Battalion of the regiment. On 14 May 1918, Stanley was admitted to No. 1 Canadian Clearing Station with gunshot wounds resulting in a compound fracture of his left thigh and a fracture of his right leg. He died the following day and was buried on 16 May in Pernes British Military Cemetery (Plot 1, Row E, Grave 18) with the Canadian chaplain J. K. Tibbits presiding.¹¹

Pernes British Military Cemetery was only set up in April 1918 when No. 1 and No. 4 CCCSs came to Pernes, driven back by the German advance.¹² Stanley was one of 170 admissions to No. 1 CCCS on 14 May. In that month, a total of nearly 4,000 soldiers were admitted and 115 died.¹³

His mother was his next of kin and was notified of his death.¹⁴ Stanley left £525 14s. 6d. in his will and probate of his will was awarded to his father.

Stanley was awarded posthumously the British War Medal (for service overseas between 1914 and 1918) and the Victory Medal (for service in an operational theatre).¹⁵ He is also commemorated in the Allerton Cemetery in Allerton, Liverpool.¹⁶

Stanley's father Thomas died in 1921¹⁷ and his mother Alice 12 years later.¹⁸ Both Stanley's siblings remained in Liverpool. John married Gertrude Margaret Griffiths in 1906¹⁹ and, in 1939, he was a fruit company auctioneer living at 32 Montclair Drive in Liverpool.²⁰ Annie married Henry Joseph

Davies in 1919²¹ and 20 years later was living at 61 Heathfield Road in Liverpool—just a few blocks from her brother.²²

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¹ “Liverpool, England, Baptisms, 1813–1906,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 1 March 2018), entry for Stanley Gordon Bowe

² “1891 England, Wales & Scotland Census,” *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 1 March 2018), entry for Stanley G Bowe, Registration district: Liverpool, Archive reference: RG12; Piece number: 2915, Folio: 44, Page: 19

³ “Liverpool, England, Baptisms, 1813–1906,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 1 March 2018), entry for John Charles Bowe

⁴ “Liverpool, England, Baptisms, 1813–1906,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 1 March 2018), entry for Annie Henderson Bowe

⁵ “1891 England, Wales & Scotland Census,” *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 1 March 2018), entry for Stanley G Bowe

⁶ “Mersey Docks and Harbour Board,” *Merseyside Maritime Museum* (<http://www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk/maritime/archive/collections/mdhc.aspx>: accessed 2 March 2018)

⁷ “1901 England Census,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 1 March 2018), entry for Stanley G Bowe, Registration district: Liverpool, Sub-registration district: Mount Pleasant, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 14, Piece: 3417, Folio: 157, Page: 14, Household schedule number: 81

⁸ “1911 England, Wales & Scotland Census,” *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 1 March 2018), entry for Stanley G Bowe, Registration district: Liverpool, Registration district number: 453, Enumeration district: 11, District number: 11, Sub-district: Abercromby, Sub-district number: 3, Census reference: RG14PN22185 RG78PN1313 RD453 SD3 ED11 SN71, Piece number: 22185

⁹ “The Arthur Stanley Lodge History,” *Ormskirk and Bootle Groups of Lodges and Chapters* (<http://ormskirkbootle.westlancsfreemasons.org.uk/lodges-in-the-group/lodge-histories/the-arthur-stanley-lodge-no-3469/>: accessed 2 March 2018)

¹⁰ “Arthur Stanley (politician),” *Wikipedia* ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arthur_Stanley_\(politician\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arthur_Stanley_(politician)): accessed 2 March 2018)

¹¹ “No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station,” *British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa* (www.bifhsgo.ca: accessed 28 February 2018), entry for Bowe, S. G.

¹² “Pernes British Military Cemetery,” *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* (<http://www.cwgc.org/find-a-cemetery/cemetery/11600/PERNES%20BRITISH%20CEMETERY>: accessed 13 January 2015)

¹³ “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=FIN&p=1&u=http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/archivianet/02015202_e.html&r=1&f=G: accessed 15 December 2014)

¹⁴ “No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station,” *British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa* (www.bifhsgo.ca: accessed 28 February 2018), entry for Bowe, S. G. His next of kin was identified in the chaplains’ diary as “Mother, Mrs S. G. Bowe.” Since there is no evidence the he was married, this should probably have been Mrs T. Bowe. The medals were sent to his mother, Mrs T. Bowe.

¹⁵ “British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914–1920,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 1 March 2018), entry for Stanley Gordon Bowe

¹⁶ *Find A Grave*, database and images (<https://www.findagrave.com> : accessed 01 March 2018), memorial page for Lieut. Stanley Gordon Bowe (1883–13 May 1918), Find A Grave Memorial no. [69104773](https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/69104773), citing Allerton Cemetery, Allerton, Metropolitan Borough of Liverpool, Merseyside, England ; Maintained by ProgBase (contributor [47278889](https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/47278889))

¹⁷ "England & Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 21 January 2018), entry for Thomas Bowe, Registration district: Liverpool, Inferred county: Lancashire, Volume: 8b, Page: 100

¹⁸ "England & Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 21 January 2018), entry for Alice Bowe, Registration district: Liverpool, Inferred county: Lancashire, Volume: 8b, Page: 251

¹⁹ "England & Wales Marriages, 1538–1988," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 1 March 2018), entry for John Charles Bowe

²⁰ "1939 Register," *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 1 March 2018), entry for John C Bowe, Ref: RG101/4369I/010/4, Letter code: —

²¹ "England & Wales Marriages, 1538–1988," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 1 March 2018), entry for Annie Henderson Bowe

²² "1939 Register," *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 1 March 2018), entry for Annie H Davies, Ref: RG101/4369G/013/5, Letter code: —