

**Private Silvester Carr<sup>©</sup>**  
**Regimental number: 201436**  
**1st/4th Battalion, The Loyal North Lancashire Regiment**

**born: about 1890 - died: 24 May 1918**

BLESSED ARE THE DEAD  
WHO DIE IN THE LORD<sup>1</sup>

This is the inscription that Private Silvester Carr's wife requested for his gravestone in Pernes British Military Cemetery. Ellen Hargreaves, born in about 1890 in Freckleton, Lancashire, the daughter of James and Elizabeth Hargreaves,<sup>2</sup> had married Silvester in 1913 in Fylde, Lancashire.<sup>3</sup> Before their marriage, she was living at 22 Lytham Road in Freckleton and was working as a cotton weaver.<sup>4</sup>

Silvester was living just over a mile away at 73 Reeskin Road in Freckleton in 1911. Before his marriage, he was a railway cleaner for the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway Company, but his father was a cotton weaver.<sup>5</sup>

Silvester's father, Thomas Carr, was born in about 1865 in Preston, Lancashire.<sup>6</sup> In 1911, he was a widower. His wife, the former Margaret Westhead (born in about 1868 in Commonsidge, Lancashire),<sup>7</sup> had died the year before.<sup>8</sup> Thomas and Margaret had married in 1889 in Fylde, Lancashire<sup>9</sup> and Silvester was probably the eldest of their nine children:<sup>10</sup>

- Silvester (born in about 1890),<sup>11</sup>
- Ann (born in about 1891, but died in 1909),<sup>12</sup>
- Jane (born in about 1894),<sup>13</sup>
- Ellen (born in about 1896, but died 1899),<sup>14</sup>
- Margaret (born in about 1898),<sup>15</sup>
- Thomas (born in about 1903, but died in 1903),<sup>16</sup>
- Thomas James (born in about 1904)<sup>17</sup> and
- Rebekah (born in about 1905).<sup>18</sup>

The identity of their ninth child, who probably died in childhood, was not found.

After Silvester's birth, he and his parents were living on Lytham Road in Warton, Lancashire.<sup>19</sup> Lytham Road ran between Warton and Freckleton, which was just a mile away. Ten years later they had moved just minutes away to 67 Bank Lane in Warton.<sup>20</sup>

Silvester had been married just two years when he enlisted in the Loyal North Lancashire Regiment on 26 May 1915.<sup>21</sup> He was 5' 4½" tall, was in good physical form and a member of the Plymouth Brethren.

On 12 October 1915, he sailed from Southampton to France and was probably with the 4th Battalion of the Loyal North Lancashire Regiment. In August 1916, he joined the 164th Brigade, Runner Section. Six months later, he was hospitalized with scabies and it was seven weeks before he rejoined his battalion. He had 10 days leave in England in September/October 1917, and this may have been the last time he saw his family, because he died about six months later.

Silvester was already dead when he was admitted to No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station on 25 May 1918.<sup>22</sup> His cause of death was ulcerative endocarditis and a cerebral embolism, which had been aggravated by service in the field. A post-mortem revealed a cerebral hemorrhage.

He was buried on 25 May in Pernes British Military Cemetery (Plot 2, Row C, Grave 22) with the Canadian chaplain R. K. Lambert presiding. The chaplain did not know who Silvester's next of kin was, but a comrade who knew him agreed to write to his family.<sup>23</sup>

After the war, Silvester's wife was living at 17 Lytham Road.<sup>24</sup> His personal possessions—a wallet, photographs, letters, a cigarette case, a mirror, a watching guard, a pipe, a purse, a cigarette holder, three religious books, two class badges, a calendar, two identity discs (one blank) and a metal ring—were returned to her in August 1918.

Silvester was awarded posthumously 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).<sup>25</sup> In September 1919, his wife applied to the War Office for his Victory Medal<sup>26</sup> and, in August 1921, she was still requesting the memorial plaque, which had been promised.<sup>27</sup>

Silvester's father Thomas remarried during the war, marrying Margaret Rose on 16 June 1917 at the Church of St Philip in Liverpool.<sup>28</sup> Sadly, Thomas probably died just a few years later in Fylde.<sup>29</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* ([www.cwgc.org](http://www.cwgc.org): accessed 3 December 2018), entry for Carr, Silvester, Service No: 201436

<sup>2</sup> "1911 England Census," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 30 April 2018), entry for Ellen Hargreaves, Registration district: Flyde, Registration district number: 477, Sub-registration district: Kirkham, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 7, Piece: 25374

<sup>3</sup> "England & Wales, Civil Registration Marriage Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 26 November 2018), entry for Silvester Carr, Registration district: Fylde, Inferred county: Lancashire, Volume: 8e, Page: 1416

<sup>4</sup> "1911 England Census," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 30 April 2018), entry for Ellen Hargreaves

<sup>5</sup> "1911 England Census," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 29 April 2018), entry for Selvester [sic] Carr, Registration district: Flyde, Registration district number: 477, Sub-registration district: Kirkham, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 6, Piece: 25373

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>7</sup> "1901 England Census," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 11 January 2018), entry for Silvester Carr, Registration district: Fylde, Sub-registration district: Kirkham, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 19, Piece: 3964, Folio: 166, Page: 13, Household schedule number: 67

<sup>8</sup> "England & Wales Deaths 1837–2007," *Findmypast* ([www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk): accessed 29 January 2018), entry for Margaret Carr, District: Fylde, County: Lancashire, Volume: 8E, Page: 428

<sup>9</sup> "England & Wales Marriages 1837–2015," *Findmypast* ([www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk): accessed 30 April 2018), entry for George Edward Byrch, District: Fylde, County: Lancashire, Volume: 8E, Page 1046

<sup>10</sup> "1911 England Census," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 29 April 2018), entry for Selvester [sic] Carr

<sup>11</sup> "GRO online index–birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 29 April 2018) entry for Carr, Silvester, Registration district: Fylde, Volume 08E, Page 672

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- <sup>12</sup> "GRO online index–birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 29 April 2018) entry for Carr, Ann, Registration district: Fylde, Volume 08E, Page 670; "GRO online index–death," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 29 April 2018) entry for Carr, Ann, Volume 08E, Page 433
- <sup>13</sup> "GRO online index–birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 29 April 2018) entry for Carr, Jane, Registration district: Fylde, Volume 08E, Page 648
- <sup>14</sup> "GRO online index–birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 29 April 2018) entry for Carr, Ellen, Registration district: Fylde, Volume 08E, Page 683; "England & Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 29 April 2018), entry for Ellen Carr, Registration district: Fylde, Inferred county: Lancashire, Volume: 8e, Page: 516
- <sup>15</sup> "GRO online index–birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 29 April 2018) entry for Carr, Margaret, Registration district: Fylde, Volume 08E, Page 671
- <sup>16</sup> "GRO online index–birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 29 April 2018) entry for Carr, Thomas, Registration district: Fylde, Volume 08E, Page 653; "GRO online index–death," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 29 April 2018) entry for Carr, Thomas, Volume 08E, Page 355
- <sup>17</sup> "GRO online index–birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 29 April 2018) entry for Carr, Thomas James, Registration district: Fylde, Volume 08E, Page 630
- <sup>18</sup> "GRO online index–birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 29 April 2018) entry for Carr, Rebekah, Registration district: Fylde, Volume 08E, Page 548
- <sup>19</sup> "1891 England Census," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 27 January 2018), entry for Silvester Carr, Sub-registration district: Kirkham, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 10, Piece: 3450, Folio: 24
- <sup>20</sup> "1901 England Census," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 11 January 2018), entry for Silvester Carr
- <sup>21</sup> "British Army WWI Service Records, 1914–1920," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 29 April 2018), entry for Silvester Carr. Unless otherwise indicated, all information about Silvester's military career comes from this source.
- <sup>22</sup> "No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station," *British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa* ([www.bifhsgo.ca](http://www.bifhsgo.ca): accessed 29 April 2018), entry for Carr, S.
- <sup>23</sup> *Ibid.*
- <sup>24</sup> *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* ([www.cwgc.org](http://www.cwgc.org): accessed 3 December 2018), entry for Carr, Silvester
- <sup>25</sup> "British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914–1920," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 29 April 2018), entry for Silvester Carr
- <sup>26</sup> *Ibid.*
- <sup>27</sup> "British Army WWI Service Records, 1914–1920," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 29 April 2018), entry for Silvester Carr
- <sup>28</sup> "Liverpool, England, Church of England Marriages and Banns, 1813–1921," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 29 April 2018), entry for Thomas Carr
- <sup>29</sup> "England & Wales Deaths 1837–2007," *Findmypast* ([www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk): accessed 5 May 2018), entry for Thomas Carr, District: Fylde, County: Lancashire, Volume: 8E, Page: 788; "England & Wales Deaths 1837–2007," *Findmypast* ([www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk): accessed 5 May 2018), entry for Thomas Carr, District: Fylde, County: Lancashire, Volume: 8E, Page: 1029