

Lance Corporal Gilbert Clarkson[©]
Regimental number: 358208
1st/10th Battalion, The King's (Liverpool) Regiment

born: about 1861- died: 18 May 2018

Lance Corporal Gilbert Clarkson's wife Catherine had the following inscription written on his gravestone in Pernes British Military Cemetery:

REST IN THE LORD¹

Gilbert had married Catherine Chandler in 1911 in West Derby, Lancashire.² Catherine Louisa Chandler was born on 18 June 1884 and baptized at St. Peter's church in Liverpool, Lancashire. She and Gilbert had two sons: Eric, born in 1912,³ and Ronald, born in 1915.⁴

Nearly a year after the birth of his second son, Gilbert enlisted in the British Expeditionary Force. He enlisted in Stockport, Cheshire,⁵ probably in about April 1916.⁶ He served in the 10th Battalion of the King's (Liverpool) Regiment.

In the middle of May 1918, his battalion was in the trenches near Vaudricourt in northern France.⁷ On 13 May, the battalion sustained a few casualties from enemy fire in front line trenches and the battalion commander was injured and replaced. The next day the battalion was relieved by the 1/5th King's Liverpool Regiment and proceeded to camp in Vaudricourt, but Gilbert likely did not go with them. It was on 14 May that Gilbert was admitted to No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station with gunshot wounds to his head and a fractured skull.⁸ He died three days later and was buried in Pernes British Military Cemetery (Plot 1, Row E, Grave 30) with the Canadian chaplain R. K. Lambert presiding. Gilbert was one of seven Other Ranks (non-officers) in the battalion who were killed or died of wounds that month.⁹

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.¹⁰ Melville 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.¹¹

His wife, who was his next of kin and living at 66 Bramhill Lane, Stockport, in Cheshire, was notified of his death.¹² She also received the monies owing to him from the army upon his death.¹³ In 1939, Catherine and her son Ronald were still in Cheshire, living at 15 Birnam Road in Wallasey.¹⁴

Gilbert 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

Gilbert was probably the son of Thomas and Agnes Clarkson.¹⁶ Thomas was born in Fleetwood (probably in Lancashire) in about 1861 and Agnes (the former Agnes Ashworth), in Manchester in about 1862.¹⁷ They married in the parish church of St Philip's in Manchester on 8 March 1881¹⁸ and had 11 children: May (born in 1882),¹⁹ Gilbert, Frederick Joseph (born in 1887, but died the following year),²⁰ Thomas (born in 1889),²¹ Herbert (born in 1892, but died within a few months),²² Elsie (born in 1893),²³ William Harold (born in 1897, but died at the age of 3),²⁴ Robert (born in 1898),²⁵ Lawrence Arthur (born in 1900)²⁶ and George Ernest (born in 1902).²⁷ The identity of the eleventh child, who died before 1911, was not found.

In 1891, this family was living at 34 Worth Street, Manchester, where Thomas was a shutter maker.²⁸ Ten years later, the family had moved to 11 Franklin Street. Gilbert was now an errand boy.²⁹ In 1911, Thomas, Agnes and their three youngest children were living at 29 Shelmerdine Street.³⁰ But Gilbert and his brother Thomas were living at 77 Everton Road in Liverpool, where they both worked in a picture palace—Gilbert was the manager and Thomas, a lecturer.³¹ Gilbert and Catherine were married later that year.

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¹ *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* (www.cwgc.org: accessed 11 March 2018), entry for Clarkson, Gilbert, Service No: 358208

² "England & Wales, Civil Registration Marriage Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 11 March 2018), entry for Gilbert Clarkson, Registration district: West Derby, Inferred county: Lancashire, Volume: 8b, Page: 861

³ "GRO online index–birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 11 March 2018) entry for Clarkson, Eric, Registration district: West Derby, Volume 08B, Page 986

⁴ "GRO online index–birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 11 March 2018) entry for Clarkson, Ronald, Registration district: West Derby, Volume 08B, Page 986

⁵ "UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War, 1914–1919," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 11 March 2018), entry for Gilbert Clarkson

⁶ 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 10 March 2018), entry for Gilbert Clarkson

⁷ "UK, WWI War Diaries (France, Belgium and Germany), 1914–1920," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 11 March 2018), Regiment or unit: King's (Liverpool) Regiment, Sub-unit: 10th Battalion, Division: 55th Division, Diary entry start date: In the Field, Diary dates: 1916 Jan–1919 Sep, Diary entry location: In the Field, Piece description: Piece 2929/3: 1/10 Battalion King's Liverpool Regiment (1916 Jan–1919 Sep), Piece number: 2929

⁸ "No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station," *British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa* (www.bifhsgo.ca: accessed 11 March 2018), entry for Clarkson, G.

⁹ "UK, WWI War Diaries (France, Belgium and Germany), 1914–1920," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 11 March 2018), Regiment or unit: King's (Liverpool) Regiment

¹⁰ "Pernes British Military Cemetery," *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* (<http://www.cwgc.org/find-a-cemetery/cemetery/11600/PERNES%20BRITISH%20CEMETERY>: accessed 13 January 2015)

¹¹ "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=FINDD&p=1&u=http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/archivianet/02015202_e.html&r=1&f=G: accessed 15 December 2014)

¹² "No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station," *British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa* (www.bifhsgo.ca: accessed 11 March 2018), entry for Clarkson, G.

¹³ "UK, Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects, 1901–1929," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 10 March 2018), entry for Gilbert Clarkson

¹⁴ "1939 Register," *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 11 March 2018), entry for Catherine Clarkson, Reference: RG101/3961E/002/2, Letter code: LDBG

¹⁵ "British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914–1920," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 11 March 2018), entry for Gilbert Clarkson

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- ¹⁶ "1901 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 18 March 2018), entry for Gilbert Clarkson, Registration district: Manchester, Sub-registration district: St George, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 11, Piece: 3751, Folio: 87, Page: 18, Household schedule number: 126
- ¹⁷ "1911 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 22 March 2018), entry for Gilbert Clarkson, Registration district: West Derby, Registration district number: 455, Sub-registration district: South Everton, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 29, Piece: 2254
- ¹⁸ "Manchester, England, Church of England Marriages and Banns, 1754-1930," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 18 March 2018), entry for Thomas Clarkson, Reference number: M299/3/2/4
- ¹⁹ "GRO online index–birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 22 March 2018) entry for Clarkson, May, Registration district: Manchester, Volume 08D, Page 217
- ²⁰ "GRO online index–birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 22 March 2018) entry for Clarkson, Frederick Joseph, Registration district: Manchester, Volume 08D, Page 281; "England & Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 21 January 2018), entry for Frederick Joseph Clarkson, Registration district: Manchester, Inferred county: Lancashire, Volume: 8d, Page: 214
- ²¹ "GRO online index–birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 22 March 2018) entry for Clarkson, Thomas, Registration district: Manchester, Volume 08D, Page 286
- ²² "GRO online index–birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 22 March 2018) entry for Clarkson, Herbert, Registration district: Manchester, Volume 08D, Page 320; "England & Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 21 January 2018), entry for Herbert Clarkson, Registration district: Manchester, Inferred county: Lancashire, Volume: 8d, Page: 192
- ²³ "GRO online index–birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 22 March 2018) entry for Clarkson, Elsie, Registration district: Manchester, Volume 08D, Page 309
- ²⁴ "GRO online index–birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 22 March 2018) entry for Clarkson, William Harold, Registration district: Manchester, Volume 08D, Page 288; "England & Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 21 January 2018), entry for William Harold Clarkson, Registration district: Manchester, Inferred county: Lancashire, Volume: 8d, Page: 206
- ²⁵ "GRO online index–birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 22 March 2018) entry for Clarkson, Robert, Registration district: Manchester, Volume 08D, Page 298
- ²⁶ "GRO online index–birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 22 March 2018) entry for Clarkson, Lawrence Arthur, Registration district: Manchester, Volume 08D, Page 286
- ²⁷ "GRO online index–birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 22 March 2018) entry for Clarkson, George Ernest, Registration district: Manchester, Volume 08D, Page 295
- ²⁸ "1891 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 11 March 2018), entry for Gilbert Clarkson, Residence place: Manchester, Lancashire, England, Sub-registration district: St George, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 33, Piece: 3249, Folio: 19
- ²⁹ "1901 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 18 March 2018), entry for Gilbert Clarkson
- ³⁰ "1911 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 22 March 2018), entry for Thomas Clarkson, Registration district: Manchester, Registration district number: 466, Sub-registration district: St George, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 15, Piece: 24148
- ³¹ "1911 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 22 March 2018), entry for Gilbert Clarkson