

Lance Corporal William Henry Attwood[©]
Regimental number: 202574
8th Queen's Own (Royal West Kent) Regiment

born: 1898 - died: 6 June 1918

Lance Corporal William Henry Attwood was born in 1898¹ and baptized on 21 August at St John the Evangelist Church, in Clifton, Gloucestershire.² He was the son of Henry William Attwood and Eliza Morgan, who were married on 5 August 1894 at St John's Church in Parkend, near Lydney, Gloucestershire.³ Henry was born in about 1866 in Clifton and Eliza in about 1871 in Pillowell, near Lydney. They had two children—William in 1898 and an older daughter, Hilda May, born two years earlier.⁴

In 1901, the family was living at 27 Brighton Road in Bristol, where Henry was a house painter. Ten years later, Henry was a grocer's porter and the family had moved to 22 Lansdown Road, in Redland, Bristol.

William was living in Bristol when he enlisted there in the British Expeditionary Force⁵ in about November 1915.⁶ He first served with the Gloucester Regiment (Regimental number: 4726) and, at some point, transferred to the 8th Battalion of the Queen's Own (Royal West Kent) Regiment. Given that he was not awarded the 1914–15 Star for service between August 1914 and December 1915, he probably did not go to the Front until after the end of 1915.

At the beginning of June 1918, the 8th Battalion was stationed at Bully-Grenay, just northwest of Lens, France. On 4 June, it moved to Cité St Pierre to relieve the 9th Battalion of the East Surrey Regiment. The battalion was conducting working parties. On 6 June, a sergeant and four Other Ranks from "D" Company of William's battalion were hit with high explosives.⁷ William may have been one of these, because that day he was admitted to No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station with gunshot wounds that penetrated his abdomen, chest, right arm and face.⁸ He died the same day and was buried that day in Pernes Military Cemetery (Plot 2, Row F, Grave 15), with the Canadian chaplain J. K. Tibbits presiding.

The 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.⁹ In June 1918, over 4,000 soldiers were admitted to No. 1 CCCS.¹⁰ There were 82 deaths that month.

His mother was his next of kin and was notified of his death.¹¹ She requested the following inscription be included on his gravestone:

THE LORD'S WILL BE DONE¹²

William was awarded posthumously the British War Medal (for service overseas between 1914 and 1918) and the Victory Medal (for service in an operational theatre).¹³

His father Henry received the monies owing to him from the army.¹⁴ Henry died in Bristol in 1932¹⁵ but Eliza did not die until 1951.¹⁶

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- ¹ "GRO online index–birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 2 November 2017) entry for Attwood, William Henry, Registration district: Barton Regis, Volume: 06A, Page: 40
- ² "England, Select Births and Christenings, 1538–1975," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 7 March 2017), entry for William Henry Attwood, FHL film number: 1596545
- ³ "Gloucestershire, England, Church of England Marriages and Banns, 1754–1938," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 2 November 2017), entry for Henry William? Attwood
- ⁴ "GRO online index–birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 2 November 2017) entry for Attwood, Hilda May, Registration district: Barton Regis, Volume: 06A, Page: 169
- ⁵ "UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War, 1914–1919," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 2 November 2017), entry for William Henry Attwood
- 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 19 January 2017), entry for William Henry Attwood
- ⁷ "UK, WWI War Diaries (France, Belgium and Germany), 1914–1920," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 13 November 2017), Regiment or unit: Queen's Own (Royal West Kent) Regiment, Sub-unit: 8th Battalion, Division: 24th Division, Diary dates: Aug - 1919 Apr, Piece description: Piece 2213/2: 8 Battalion Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment) (1915 Aug - 1919 Apr), Piece number: 2213
- ⁸ "No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station," *British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa* (www.bifhsgo.ca: accessed 2 November 2017), entry for Atwood, W.
- ⁹ "Pernes British Military Cemetery," *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* (<http://www.cwgc.org/find-a-cemetery/cemetery/11600/PERNES%20BRITISH%20CEMETERY>: accessed 13 January 2015)
- ¹⁰ "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=FIND&p=1&u=http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/archivianet/02015202_e.html&r=1&f=G: accessed 15 December 2014)
- ¹¹ "No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station," *British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa* (www.bifhsgo.ca: accessed 2 November 2017), entry for Atwood, W.
- ¹² *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* (www.cwgc.org: accessed 2 November 2017), entry for Attwood, W H, Service No: 202574
- ¹³ "British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914–1920," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 26 November 2017), entry for William Henry Attwood
- ¹⁴ "UK, Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects, 1901–1929," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 19 January 2017), entry for William Henry Attwood
- ¹⁵ "England & Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 14 November 2017), entry for Henry W Attwood, Registration district: Bristol, Inferred county: Gloucestershire, Volume: 6a, Page: 269
- ¹⁶ "England & Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 14 November 2017), entry for Eliza Attwood, Registration district: Bristol, Inferred county: Gloucestershire, Volume: 7b, Page: 249