

Corporal Henry Percy Carr[©]

Regimental number: 203285

1st/5th Battalion, Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Regiment (Sherwood Foresters)

born: 1895 – died: 1918

Corporal Henry Percy Carr was born in Newark, Nottinghamshire, in 1895, the youngest child of William Henry and Rhoda Carr.¹ They had six children, three girls and three boys: Mary Eleanor (born 1881), Lewis (1883), Arthur (1885, died in infancy), Eva (1886), Lydia (1890), and Henry Percy (1895).²

William Henry was a brewer's clerk,³ born in Oakham, Rutland in 1851.⁴ Henry Percy's mother Rhoda was 11 years younger than her husband, born in Newark in 1863 to Thomas and Betsy Medd.⁵ Thomas was a plate layer for the railway.⁶

Sadly, William Henry died in 1902,⁷ at age 51, when Henry Percy was just 7 years old. Henry's oldest sister, Mary Eleanor, had died two years earlier in 1900,⁸ aged just 18.

In 1911, Rhoda was living with her remaining children in Newark.⁹ At this time, Henry Percy, now 15, was working as an iron moulder's labourer, probably to help pay the bills. The other older children all had jobs also.

Three years later, in late July 1914, the First World War began, and it wasn't long afterwards that Henry Percy signed up to join the army, on 2 September 1914.¹⁰ He was 19, unmarried, and working as a waiter. He enlisted with the Royal Regiment of Artillery and was posted to the Royal Field Artillery three days later. However, two months later, on 4 November 1914, he was discharged as not likely to be a fit soldier, due to a hernia.¹¹

It's not known whether he had the hernia fixed, but less than three months later (on 19 January 1915) he signed up again, this time with the 2/8th Battalion of the Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Regiment (Sherwood Foresters), a territorial battalion.¹² At the time the battalion was based in Newark, and men were billeted at home or in private billets.¹³ During the course of 1915, the battalion underwent training in various parts of England, notably Luton¹⁴ and Watford.¹⁵

On 19 September 1916, Private Carr was transferred to the 1/5th Battalion of the Sherwood Foresters.¹⁶ At the time it was stationed in Bellacourt, Northern France,¹⁷ just south of the town of Arras. In 1917 the battalion was involved in the Operations on the Ancre, Occupation of the Gommecourt Defences, the Attack on Rettemoy Graben, the German Retreat to the Hindenburg Line, the Attack on Lievin, and the Battle of Hill 70.¹⁸ Private Carr must have done well, as he was promoted to lance corporal on 24 May 1917, and to corporal on 8 August 1917.¹⁹ He took a 10 day leave in August 1917.²⁰

In June 1918, the battalion was near the town of Bethune, in the Gorre section.²¹ It was a quiet period of the war, but on 1 June, while the battalion was in Brigade Reserve,²² Corporal Carr suffered gunshot wounds to the abdomen and was taken to the No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station, where he died one week later on 8 June 1918, age 22.²³ He was buried the same day at Pernes British Military Cemetery, Plot 2, Row F, Grave No. 34. The cemetery lies one kilometre west of Pernes-en-Artois, in the region of Pas de Calais, and contains the remains of 1096 soldiers from the two world wars. The inscription on his tombstone reads

FONDLY REMEMBERED²⁴

Corporal Henry Percy Carr received the Victory Medal (for service in an operational theatre) and the British War Medal (for service overseas between 1914 and 1918).²⁵

Henry Percy's older brother Lewis cannot be linked to any military records. He was a railway clerk,²⁶ and he was still living in Newark at 81 Barnby Gate with his mother in 1923, when he died at age 39.²⁷

Henry Percy's sister Eva married William Wright in 1913²⁸ and had a son Richard in 1920.²⁹ His other sister Lydia did not marry. She was an assistant in a boot shop, and was living with her married sister in Newark in 1939.³⁰

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¹ "1901 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.ca: accessed 11 March 2019), entry for Henry P Carr, Registration district: Newark, Sub-registration district: Newark, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 05, Piece: 3197, Folio: 93, Page: 13, Household schedule number: 98

² "GRO online index-birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 10 March 2019), entries for Carr, mother's maiden name Medd, Registration districts: Newark, Nottingham, Basford, Volume 07B, Pages 427, 288, 177, 258, 225, 458

³ "1901 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.ca: accessed 11 March 2019), entry for William H Carr, Registration district: Newark, Sub-registration district: Newark, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 05, Piece: 3197, Folio: 93, Page: 13, Household schedule number: 98

⁴ "England & Wales, Civil Registration Birth Index, 1837-1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.ca: accessed 12 March 2019), entry for William Henry Carr, Registration district: Oakham, Inferred county: Rutland, Volume: 15, Page: 735

⁵ "1871 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.ca: accessed 12 March 2019), entry for Rhoda Medd, Registration district: Newark, Sub-registration district: Newark, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 6, Household schedule number: 145, Piece: 3542, Folio: 19, Page: 31

⁶ "1871 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.ca: accessed 12 March 2019), entry for Thomas Medd, Registration district: Newark, Sub-registration district: Newark, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 6, Household schedule number: 145, Piece: 3542, Folio: 19, Page: 31

⁷ "England & Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1837-1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.ca: accessed 11 March 2019), entry for William Henry Carr, Registration district: Newark, Inferred county: Nottinghamshire, Volume: 7b, Page: 285

⁸ "England & Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1837-1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.ca: accessed 11 March 2019), entry for Mary Eleanor Carr, Registration district: Newark, Inferred county: Nottinghamshire, Volume: 7b, Page: 353

⁹ "1911 England, Wales & Scotland Census," *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 18 March 2019), entry for Rhoda Carr, Registration district: Newark, Registration district number: 432, Sub-district: Newark, Sub-district number: 3, Enumeration district: 9, Household schedule number: 45, Piece: 89

¹⁰ "British Army WWI Pension Records 1914-1920," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.ca: accessed 12 March 2019), entry for Henry Percy Carr, Regimental number: 27370, Form title: Short Service Attestation, p. 24781

¹¹ *Ibid.*, Page: 24785

¹² "British Army WWI Service Records, 1914-1920," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.ca: accessed 12 March 2019), entry for Henry Percy Carr, Page: 70240

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- ¹³ "UK, WWI War Diaries (France, Belgium and Germany), 1914–1920," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.ca: accessed 12 March 2019), entry for Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Regiment (Sherwood Foresters), 59th Division, Sub-unit: 2/8th Battalion, Piece description: Piece 3025/8, Page: 5
- ¹⁴ *Ibid.*, Page: 21
- ¹⁵ *Ibid.*, Page: 29
- ¹⁶ "British Army WWI Service Records, 1914–1920," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.ca: accessed 12 March 2019), entry for Henry Percy Carr, Page: 70252
- ¹⁷ "UK, WWI War Diaries (France, Belgium and Germany), 1914–1920," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.ca: accessed 12 March 2019), entry for Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Regiment (Sherwood Foresters), 46th Division, Sub-unit: 1/5th Battalion, Piece description: Piece 2695/1, Page: 71
- ¹⁸ "The Wartime Memories Project: 5th Battalion, Sherwood Foresters during the Great War," *Wartime Memories Project* (<https://wartimememoriesproject.com/greatwar/allied/battalion.php?pid=940>: accessed 20 March 2019)
- ¹⁹ "British Army WWI Service Records, 1914–1920," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.ca: accessed 12 March 2019), entry for Henry Percy Carr, Page: 70243
- ²⁰ *Ibid.*, Page: 70254
- ²¹ "UK, WWI War Diaries (France, Belgium and Germany), 1914–1920," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.ca: accessed 12 March 2019), entry for Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Regiment (Sherwood Foresters), 46th Division, Sub-unit: 1/5th Battalion, Piece description: Piece 2695/1, Page: 125
- ²² *Ibid.*
- ²³ "No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station," *British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa* (www.bifhsgo.ca: accessed 5 March 2019), entry for Carr, H.P.
- ²⁴ *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* (www.cwgc.org: accessed 13 March 2019), entry for Carr, Henry Percy, Service No: 203285
- ²⁵ "UK, WWI Service Medal and Award Rolls, 1914–1920," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.ca: accessed 15 March 2019), entry for Henry Percy Carr
- ²⁶ "1901 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.ca: accessed 11 March 2019), entry for Lewis Carr, Registration district: Newark, Sub-registration district: Newark, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 05, Piece: 3197, Folio: 93, Page: 13, Household schedule number: 98
- ²⁷ "England & Wales, National Probate Calendar (Index of Wills and Administrations), 1858–1966," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.ca: accessed 17 March 2019), entry for Lewis Carr
- ²⁸ "England & Wales, Civil Registration Marriage Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.ca: accessed 6 March 2019), entry for Eva Carr, Registration district: Newark, Inferred county: Nottinghamshire, Volume: 7b, Page: 1049
- ²⁹ "England & Wales, Civil Registration Birth Index, 1916–2007," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.ca: accessed 12 March 2019), entry for Richard D Wright, Registration district: Newark, Inferred county: Nottinghamshire, Volume: 7b, Page: 1027
- ³⁰ "1939 Register," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.ca: accessed 16 March 2019), entry for Lydia Carr, Schedule number: 8, Sub-schedule number: 4, Enumeration district: RNNR