

**Private Wilfred Carter©**  
**Regimental number: 65476**  
**1st Battalion, Northumberland Fusiliers**

**born: 1879–died: 1918**

Private Wilfred Carter was born in Leeds, Yorkshire, in early 1879, the second son of Jonathan and Elizabeth Knapton Carter.<sup>1</sup> Jonathan worked in the local textile industry as a wool spinner,<sup>2</sup> though in later life he became an insurance agent<sup>3</sup> and then worked for the Singer sewing machine company.<sup>4</sup> Elizabeth, born in 1854,<sup>5</sup> was the daughter of Samuel and Elizabeth Lowe. Samuel also worked in the textile industry as a slubber.<sup>6</sup>

Jonathan and Elizabeth were married on 14 May 1875.<sup>7</sup> They had six children, five of them boys. They were Bertie (born 1876), Wilfred (1879), James Edward (1880), Samuel Arthur (1882), Maud Elizabeth (1887), and Harold (1892).<sup>8</sup>

Unlike most of his family, Wilfred did not go into the textile industry. He worked in the printing industry as a compositor,<sup>9</sup> setting type. At the time of his enlistment into the army, he was working for the firm of Messrs. Goodall and Suddick, publishers and printers in Leeds.<sup>10</sup>

On 2 June 1903, Wilfred married Bertha Powell, the daughter of Henry Powell, an iron moulder,<sup>11</sup> and his wife Clara, née Kenworthy.<sup>12</sup> They had a son, Reginald Henry, in 1906,<sup>13</sup> of whom more later, and a daughter, Clarissa René, in 1911,<sup>14</sup> of whom no further records could be found; she may not have survived infancy.

We do not know exactly when Wilfred enlisted in the army, but he only received a war gratuity of £3, so he did not serve for more than one year.<sup>15</sup> He enlisted in the Northumberland Fusiliers and was assigned to the 1st Battalion.<sup>16</sup> His military records list him both as private<sup>17</sup> and as lance-corporal,<sup>18</sup> so he was clearly promoted at some point. His records at the time of his death, however, list him as private, so he may have requested a move back or been demoted.

In June 1918, the battalion was stationed in the Hinges sector in Northern France, just north of the town of Bethune.<sup>19</sup> On the night of June 5/6, there was considerable harassing enemy fire, resulting in four killed and sixteen wounded.<sup>20</sup> One of these was Private Carter, who was admitted to No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station with gunshot wounds to the abdomen, and penetrating wounds to his face and right arm.<sup>21</sup> He died the same day, 6 June, age 39, and was buried the following day at Pernes British Military Cemetery (Plot 1, Row F, Grave No. 22).<sup>22</sup> 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

THOUGH DEATH DIVIDES STILL MEMORY CLINGS  
FROM HIS LOVING WIFE<sup>23</sup>

Private Wilfred Carter received the Victory Medal (for service in an operational theatre) and the British War Medal (for service overseas between 1914 and 1918).<sup>24</sup>

Wilfred's son Reginald married, in 1932, Elsie Greenhalgh, a schoolteacher from Leigh, Lancashire.<sup>25</sup> In 1939 he was working as a Master on HMS *Conway*, a training ship for Royal Navy and Merchant Navy officers, stationed on the River Mersey at Rock Ferry.<sup>26</sup>

Wilfred's older brother Bertie married Laura Cowgill Wigglesworth on 16 April 1906,<sup>27</sup> and they had two daughters, Maud (born 1909)<sup>28</sup> and Phyllis (1911).<sup>29</sup> Bertie was an iron turner in 1911.<sup>30</sup> No link to military records could be found.

Brother James Edward Carter also had no links to military records. He was a cloth warehouseman at age 21 in 1901.<sup>31</sup>

Brother Samuel Arthur also married, in 1907, Lottie Jones, a tailoress at the time.<sup>32</sup> They had two children: Cyril in 1908<sup>33</sup> and Edna May in 1913.<sup>34</sup> Samuel Arthur did enlist in the military. He was assigned in 1917 to HMS *President II*, a shore facility at Crystal Palace in London.<sup>35</sup> This was the home of the Royal Naval Air Service (RNAS), which later became the Royal Air Force (RAF).<sup>36</sup> He served from 18 December 1917 to 31 March 1918.

Youngest brother Harold Carter married Alice Cooper on 2 February 1921,<sup>37</sup> after the war was over. No military records could be found. They had a daughter, Helen Margaret, in 1934.<sup>38</sup>

Sister Maud Elizabeth married Thomas Edgar Morris on 8 April 1912<sup>39</sup> and had two daughters: Mary (born 1913)<sup>40</sup> and Winifred Joan (1918).<sup>41</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> "1881 England Census," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.ca](http://www.ancestry.ca): accessed 27 February 2019), entry for Wilfred Carter, Registration district: Bramley, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 29, Piece: 4508, Folio: 9, Page: 12

<sup>2</sup> "1871 England Census," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.ca](http://www.ancestry.ca): accessed 27 February 2019), entry for Jonathan Carter, Registration district: Bramley, Sub-registration district: Wortley, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 25, Household schedule number: 82, Piece: 4538, Folio: 50, Page: 14

<sup>3</sup> "1901 England Census," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.ca](http://www.ancestry.ca): accessed 11 March 2019), entry for Jonathan Carter, Registration district: Bramley, Sub-registration district: Wortley, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 39, Piece: 4213, Folio: 46, Page: 36, Household schedule number: 229

<sup>4</sup> "1911 England Census," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.ca](http://www.ancestry.ca): accessed 11 March 2019), entry for Jonathan Carter, Registration district: Bramley, Registration district number: 499, Sub-registration district: Wortley, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 33, Piece: 26903

<sup>5</sup> "England & Wales, Civil Registration Birth Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.ca](http://www.ancestry.ca): accessed 27 February 2019), entry for Elizabeth Knapton Lowe, Registration district: Hunslet, Inferred county: Yorkshire West Riding, Volume: 9b, Page: 188

<sup>6</sup> "1871 England Census," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.ca](http://www.ancestry.ca): accessed 27 February 2019), entries for Elizabeth and Samuel Lowe, Registration district: Bramley, Sub-registration district: Wortley, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 26, Household schedule number: 41, Piece: 4539, Folio: 5, Page: 6

<sup>7</sup> "West Yorkshire, England, Marriages and Banns, 1813–1935," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.ca](http://www.ancestry.ca): accessed 26 February 2019), entry for Jonathan Carter

<sup>8</sup> "1901 England Census," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.ca](http://www.ancestry.ca): accessed 27 February 2019), entry for Jonathan Carter, Registration district: Bramley, Sub-registration district: Wortley, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 39, Piece: 4213, Folio: 46, Page: 36, Household schedule number: 229

<sup>9</sup> "1901 England Census," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.ca](http://www.ancestry.ca): accessed 27 February 2019), entry for Wilfred Carter, Registration district: Bramley, Sub-registration district: Wortley, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 39, Piece: 4213, Folio: 46, Page: 36, Household schedule number: 229

<sup>10</sup> *Yorkshire Evening Post*, 29 June 1918, page 3, *British Newspaper Archive* ([www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk](http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk): accessed 7 February 2019)

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- <sup>11</sup> “West Yorkshire, England, Marriages and Banns, 1813–1935,” *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.ca](http://www.ancestry.ca): accessed 26 February 2019), entry for Wilfred Carter
- <sup>12</sup> “West Yorkshire, England, Marriages and Banns, 1813–1935,” *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.ca](http://www.ancestry.ca): accessed 26 February 2019), entry for Henry Powell
- <sup>13</sup> “England & Wales, Civil Registration Birth Index, 1837–1915,” *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.ca](http://www.ancestry.ca): accessed 27 February 2019), entry for Reginald Henry Carter, Registration district: Bramley, Inferred county: Yorkshire West Riding, Volume: 9b, Page: 318
- <sup>14</sup> “England & Wales, Civil Registration Birth Index, 1837–1915,” *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.ca](http://www.ancestry.ca): accessed 27 February 2019), entry for Clarissa R Carter, Registration district: Bramley, Inferred county: Yorkshire West Riding, Volume: 9b, Page: 225
- <sup>15</sup> Based on “War Gratuity Calculator” (<https://wargratitude.wordpress.com/2015/08/16/gratuity-calculator/>: accessed 8 March 2019); “UK, Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects, 1901–1929,” *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.ca](http://www.ancestry.ca): accessed 9 February 2019), entry for Wilfred Carter
- <sup>16</sup> *Ibid.*
- <sup>17</sup> *Ibid.*
- <sup>18</sup> “UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War, 1914–1919,” *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.ca](http://www.ancestry.ca): accessed 8 February 2019), entry for Wilfred Carter
- <sup>19</sup> “UK, WWI War Diaries (France, Belgium and Germany), 1914–1920,” *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.ca](http://www.ancestry.ca): accessed 5 March 2019), entry for Northumberland Fusiliers, Sub-unit: 1 Battalion, Piece description: Piece 1430/1-4, page 641
- <sup>20</sup> *Ibid.*
- <sup>21</sup> “No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station,” *British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa* ([www.bifhsgo.ca](http://www.bifhsgo.ca): accessed 5 February 2019), entry for Carter, W.
- <sup>22</sup> *Ibid.*
- <sup>23</sup> *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* ([www.cwgc.org](http://www.cwgc.org): accessed 3 March 2019), entry for Carter, Wilfred, Service No: 65476
- <sup>24</sup> “UK, WWI Service Medal and Award Rolls, 1914–1920,” *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.ca](http://www.ancestry.ca): accessed 5 March 2019), entry for Wilfred Carter
- <sup>25</sup> “England & Wales, Civil Registration Marriage Index, 1916–2005,” *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.ca](http://www.ancestry.ca): accessed 5 March 2019), entry for Reginald H Carter, Registration district: Leigh, Inferred county: Lancashire, Volume: 8c, Page: 558
- <sup>26</sup> “1939 Register,” *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.ca](http://www.ancestry.ca): accessed 16 February 2019), entry for Reginald H Carter, Schedule number: 155, Sub-schedule number: 1, Enumeration district: LFOA
- <sup>27</sup> “West Yorkshire, England, Marriages and Banns, 1813–1935,” *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.ca](http://www.ancestry.ca): accessed 26 February 2019), entry for Bertie Cartee [*sic*]
- <sup>28</sup> “England & Wales, Civil Registration Birth Index, 1837–1915,” *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.ca](http://www.ancestry.ca): accessed 27 February 2019), entry for Maud Carter, Registration district: Leeds, Inferred county: Yorkshire West Riding, Volume: 9b, Page: 450
- <sup>29</sup> “England & Wales, Civil Registration Birth Index, 1837–1915,” *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.ca](http://www.ancestry.ca): accessed 27 February 2019), entry for Phyllis Carter, Registration district: Leeds, Inferred county: Yorkshire West Riding, Volume: 9a, Page: 375
- <sup>30</sup> “1911 England Census,” *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.ca](http://www.ancestry.ca): accessed 11 March 2019), entry for Bertie Carter, Registration district: Leeds, Registration district number: 500, Sub-registration district: Kirkstall, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 33, Piece: 27062
- <sup>31</sup> “1901 England Census,” *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.ca](http://www.ancestry.ca): accessed 11 March 2019), entry for James E Carter, Registration district: Bramley, Sub-registration district: Wortley, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 39, Piece: 4213, Folio: 46, Page: 36, Household schedule number: 229

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- <sup>32</sup> "England & Wales, Civil Registration Marriage Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.ca](http://www.ancestry.ca): accessed 26 February 2019), entry for Samuel Arthur Carter, Registration district: Bramley, Inferred county: Yorkshire West Riding, Volume: 9b, Page: 840
- <sup>33</sup> "West Yorkshire, Non-Conformist Records, 1646–1985," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.ca](http://www.ancestry.ca): accessed 9 March 2019), entry for Cyril Carter, Reel number: Armley, Beeston, Burley, Farnley, Holbeck, Leeds; LNC7, Reference number: LW 423
- <sup>34</sup> "England & Wales, Civil Registration Birth Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.ca](http://www.ancestry.ca): accessed 27 February 2019), entry for Edna M Carter, Registration district: Bramley, Inferred county: Yorkshire West Riding, Volume: 9b, Page: 438
- <sup>35</sup> "UK, Royal Navy Registers of Seamen's Services, 1853–1928," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.ca](http://www.ancestry.ca): accessed 3 March 2019), entry for Samuel Arthur Carter
- <sup>36</sup> "HMS *President*, (shore establishment)" *Wikipedia* ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HMS\\_President\\_\(shore\\_establishment\)#HMS\\_President\\_II](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HMS_President_(shore_establishment)#HMS_President_II)): accessed 16 March 2019)
- <sup>37</sup> "West Yorkshire, Non-Conformist Records, 1646–1985," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.ca](http://www.ancestry.ca): accessed 3 March 2019), entry for Harold Carter, Reel number: Armley, Batley, Bolton, Bradford . . . ; WC 18
- <sup>38</sup> "England & Wales, Civil Registration Birth Index, 1916–2007," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.ca](http://www.ancestry.ca): accessed 28 February 2019), entry for Helen M Carter, Registration district: Pontefract, Inferred county: West Yorkshire, Volume: 9c, Page: 172
- <sup>39</sup> "West Yorkshire, England, Marriages and Banns, 1813–1935," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.ca](http://www.ancestry.ca): accessed 26 February 2019), entry for Maud Elizabeth Carter
- <sup>40</sup> "England & Wales, Civil Registration Birth Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.ca](http://www.ancestry.ca): accessed 27 February 2019), entry for Mary Morris, Registration district: Bramley, Inferred county: Yorkshire West Riding, Volume: 9b, Page: 465
- <sup>41</sup> "England & Wales, Civil Registration Birth Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.ca](http://www.ancestry.ca): accessed 27 February 2019), entry for Winifred J Morris, Registration district: Bramley, Inferred county: Yorkshire West Riding, Volume: 9b, Page: 323