

Private Thomas Bartram[©]
Regimental number: 94483
13th Battalion, The King's (Liverpool Regiment)

born: 3 June 1898–died: 7 May 1918

Private Thomas Bartram was born on 3 June 1898 in Liverpool, Lancashire and was baptized exactly a month later at St George's Everton, Liverpool. He was the first son of Richard Bartram and his wife, the former Caroline Elizabeth Garrett.¹ Both his parents were born in about 1878—his father in Rotherham, Yorkshire, and his mother in Liverpool (on 5 July 1878),² where they married in 1897.³ They had five children; sadly, two died in childhood.⁴ Their second child, Emily, was born the year after Thomas but died soon after birth.⁵ Two children followed shortly afterwards—Nora on 14 August 1902⁶ and Richard on 16 July 1904.⁷ It is not known who the fifth child was.

In 1901, the young family was living at 79 Sedley Street in Liverpool, where Thomas' father was working as a life insurance agent. Ten years later, the family had moved about four miles away to the opposite side of Liverpool and was living at 51 Ancaster Road. Thomas was at school, but also working as a shop assistant—probably with his father, who was in the groceries and provisions trade.

Early in 1915, Thomas' father died,⁸ and his mother remarried later the same year. She married Hugh Parry in West Derby, Lancashire.⁹

Two years after the outbreak of war. Thomas enlisted in the British Expeditionary Force. He enlisted in about August 1916,¹⁰ when he was 18 years old, as a private in the Manchester Regiment (regimental number: 252581). At some point, he transferred to The King's (Liverpool Regiment) and was serving with the 13th Battalion of that regiment in 1918.¹¹

At the beginning of May 1918, Thomas' battalion was stationed in Annezin, just outside Bethune in northern France. The battalion was required to move from Annezin because the area was heavily shelled with gas shells, called Yellow Cross, because of their yellow markings, indicating mustard gas.¹² The battalion moved to Choques on 2 May. In the evening of 4 May the troops moved into the Shropshire Line and the next day began work on digging a new trench. The troops remained in the trenches and continued to work on the new trench at night for next two nights.¹³

It is not known how Thomas was injured, but he was admitted on 7 May to No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station with shrapnel wounds, and both his legs were severed below the knee. He died the same day and was buried that day in Pernes Military Cemetery (Plot 2, Row B, Grave 7) with the Canadian chaplain G. C. d'Easum presiding.¹⁴

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.¹⁵ Thomas was one of 156 soldiers admitted on 7 May and one of 115 soldiers to die at the station that month.¹⁶

A letter was sent to his mother, who was living at 69 Armley Road, Anfield, Liverpool, to notify her of her son's death.¹⁷ She received the monies owing to her son from the army upon his death.¹⁸

Thomas was awarded posthumously the British War Medal (for service overseas between 1914 and 1918) and the Victory Medal (for service in an operational theatre).¹⁹

In 1939, Thomas' mother may have been a widow again and living at 19 Starfield Street in Liverpool.²⁰

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¹ "Liverpool, England, Baptisms, 1813–1906," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 12 April 2019), entry for Thomas Bartram

² "1939 England and Wales Register," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 14 April 2019), entry for Caroline E. Parry, Schedule number: 158, Sub-schedule Number: 1, Enumeration district: NISK, Registration district: 455/7

³ "England & Wales, Civil Registration Marriage Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 12 April 2019), entry for Richard Bartram, Registration district: Liverpool, Inferred county: Lancashire, Volume: 8b, Page: 265

⁴ "1911 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 12 April 2019), entry for Bruno Whittle, Registration district: Toxteth Park, Registration district number: 454, Sub-registration district: Toxteth Park East, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 16, Piece: 22294

⁵ "GRO online index–birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 12 April 2019) entry for Bartram, Emily, Registration district: West Derby, Volume 08B, Page 298; "England & Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 12 April 2019), entry for Emily Bartram, Registration district: West Derby, Inferred county: Lancashire, Volume: 8b, Page: 251

⁶ "Liverpool, England, Baptisms, 1813–1906," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 12 April 2019), entry for Nora Bartram

⁷ "Liverpool, England, Baptisms, 1813–1906," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 12 April 2019), entry for Richard Bartram

⁸ "England & Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 12 April 2019), entry for Richard Bartram, Registration district: Prescot, Inferred county: Lancashire, Volume: 8b, Page: 1041

⁹ "England & Wales, Civil Registration Marriage Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 12 April 2019), entry for Caroline E. Bartram, Registration district: West Derby, Inferred county: Lancashire, Volume: 8b, Page: 1373

¹⁰ 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 12 April 2019), entry for Thomas Bartram

¹¹ "UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War, 1914–1919," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 12 April 2019), entry for Thomas Bartram

¹² "Chemical weapons in World War I," *Wikipedia* (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chemical_weapons_in_World_War_I: accessed 13 April 2019)

¹³ "13 Battalion King's Liverpool Regiment," *The National Archives*, Catalogue reference: WO 95/1429/2

¹⁴ "No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station," *British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa* (www.bifhsgo.ca: accessed 12 April 2019), entry for Bartram J. [sic]

¹⁵ "Pernes British Military Cemetery," *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* (<http://www.cwgc.org/>: accessed 13 January 2015)

¹⁶ "War Diaries of the First World War: 1st Canadian Casualty Clearing Station 1914/08/13-1919/03/31," *Library and Archives Canada* http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/lac-bac/results/images?module=images&SortSpec=score+desc&Language=eng&ShowForm=hide&SearchIn_1=mainNumber&SearchInText_1=2005082&Operator_1=AND&SearchIn_2=&SearchInText_2=&Operator_2=AND&SearchIn_3=&SearchInText_3=&Level=&MaterialDateOperator=after&MaterialDate=&DigitalImages=1&Source=&ResultCount=10: accessed 28 March 2018)

¹⁷ "No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station," *British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa* (www.bifhsgo.ca: accessed 12 April 2019), entry for Bartram J. [sic]

¹⁸ "UK, Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects, 1901-1929," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 12 April 2019), entry for Thomas Bartram

¹⁹ "British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914-1920," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 12 April 2019), entry for Thomas Bartram

²⁰ "1939 England and Wales Register," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 14 April 2019), entry for Caroline E. Parry