

Private David Joseph Eastwood[©]
Regimental number: 438842
4th Canadian Mounted Rifles Battalion

born: 16 August 1885–died: 4 May 1918

Private David Joseph Eastwood was born on 16 August 1885 in Liverpool, Lancashire, the son of William Henry and Mary Eastwood and was baptized on 13 September 1885 at St Philemon's church in Toxteth, Liverpool.¹ David's father William was born on 20 November 1855 in West Derby, Lancashire,² and his mother, the former Mary Hughes, in about 1858 in Lilleshall, Shropshire.³ They married on 1 April 1883⁴ in Liverpool and had seven children:

- William Henry (born 28 April 1884),⁵
- David,
- Evelin Mary (born on 14 June 1887),⁶
- Frederick James (born on 1 October 1889, but died at the age of 1),⁷
- Dora Hughes (born on 23 July 1893),⁸
- Lillian May (born on 12 April 1895)⁹ and
- Violet Ellen (born on 11 May 1898).¹⁰

Before he married, David's father was at sea. He probably started as a boy on the SS *Alarm* in 1869, at the age of 14.¹¹ He does not appear to have been at sea all the time, because he also had other somewhat related occupations on land (barman, victualler and steward)¹² and, by at least 1877, he had become a steward at sea as well.¹³ However, he continued to work on and off on various ships until at least 1905, when he was a steward on the SS *La Marguerite*.¹⁴

The year after their marriage, William and Mary were living on Geraint Street in Liverpool and William was a barman.¹⁵ Within a year, they had moved to 42 Tavener Road and William had become a victualler.¹⁶ By 1889, they had moved to 30 Molyneux Street and William was recorded as being a steward.¹⁷ In 1891, William was still a steward and the family was living at 9 Darrel Street in West Derby.

After that, William appears to have spent more time at sea. In 1901, Mary was living with her six children, including David, at 21 Earle Road in West Derby. She was married, but William was not at home.¹⁸ In 1902 and 1903, William was serving as a steward on the *Majestic* and the *Cedric*, respectively.

Nor was he with the family ten years later. Mary was still at the same address with four daughters, two of whom were working—Evelyn as a music teacher and Dora as a typist.¹⁹ Although David had left home, he was still based at 21 Earle Road, and he had joined his father at sea. David was employed as a steward on the SS *Empress of Britain* in 1906 and 1907.²⁰ The *Empress of Britain* was a Canadian Pacific steamship built in Scotland that left on her maiden voyage from Liverpool to Quebec on 5 May 1905²¹ with David on board. He served as an assistant engineers' steward on multiple voyages until at least 16 February 1907.²²

At some point, David immigrated to Canada because, on 18 January 1915, he enlisted in the Canadian Expeditionary Force in Fort Frances, Ontario. On his attestation, he indicated that he was born on 16 August 1886 (not 1885), making him appear one year younger. It is not clear whether this was deliberate or a recording error.

David was 6' 1" tall, with a dark complexion, blue eyes and dark brown hair. He was a labourer before enlisting and serving in the militia of the 22nd Saskatchewan Light Horse. He had already served in the 2nd King's Liverpool Volunteer Battalion. His father, living at 233 Fieldway Garden Suburb, in Wavertree, Liverpool, was his next of kin.

David's father was still at sea when the war broke out. On 7 May 1915, he was a 2nd cabin bedroom steward on RMS *Lusitania* when it was attacked by a German submarine²³ 18 km off the southern coast of Ireland. She had been launched by the Cunard line in 1906 and was on her 202nd trans-Atlantic crossing when she was sunk.²⁴ The enemy justified the sinking of a passenger vessel because it believed that the ship was carrying tons of war munitions. Initially, this was denied by the Admiralty but, in 1982, the head of the British Foreign Office's American department admitted that there was a large amount of ammunition in the wreck.²⁵

David had just enlisted as a private in the 52nd Battalion a few months before his father died.²⁶ Nine months after enlisting he embarked for Southampton, arriving on 13 September 1915. He transferred to the Canadian training camp at Shorncliffe, where he stayed until he went to France in January 1916. He took up duties with the 4th Regiment of the Canadian Mounted Rifles (CMR) on 14 February 1916.

David had health issues soon after arriving at the Front. Military records reflect different illnesses, including influenza and trench fever. It appears that, on 10 April 1916, he developed trench fever and was admitted to the 1st Canadian General Hospital in Poperinghe, Belgium. From there, he was sent to Frensham Hill Military Hospital in Farnham, Surrey. He was still experiencing some pain in his legs when he was transferred to the Canadian Convalescent Hospital in Bearwood, near Wokingham, Berkshire. About two weeks later, he was discharged to duty and sent to the Canadian Casualty Assembly Centre in Shoreham, Kent.

Afterwards David transferred among different units located at Canadian bases (East Sandling, West Sandling and Shorncliffe) in England until he rejoined the 4th CMR in the field at the end of March 1918.

While he was in England, he married. He was given permission to marry on 24 January 1918, when he was a Signaller in 4th CMR stationed at St Martin's Camp, Shorncliffe, and a week later he married Hilda May Combs at St Matthias Church in the parish of Richmond, Surrey. Hilda was born on 1 September 1899²⁷ and was living at 39 Montague Road in Richmond. In February, just after his marriage, he signed a will leaving his personal estate to his new wife. This superseded the will he signed in November 1915, leaving everything to his mother.

When David went back to France and joined his unit on 20 April 1918. Just a day after he arrived, two companies of his battalion prepared for a raid on enemy lines, which took place on 22 April.²⁸ It is not known if David took part. On 29 April, the battalion received word that it would be relieved by an Imperial Battalion. All the First, Third and Fourth Canadian Divisions were relieved and assembled with other reserves in preparation for further enemy attacks. On 2 May, the battalion marched back to Les Brebis. However, David was probably not with them. Just three months after he married and one month after he rejoined his unit, David was fatally wounded. He was wounded by a gas shell on 1 May 1918 and admitted to No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station. On 2 May he was declared "dangerously ill." He died of his wounds at 12.45 p.m. on 4 May and was buried the following day in Pernes Military Cemetery (Plot 2, Row A, Grave 4) with the Canadian chaplain G. C. d'Easum presiding.²⁹

Pernes British Cemetery was only set up in April 1918 when No. 1 and No. 4 CCCSs came to Pernes, driven back by the German advance.³⁰ David was one of 220 soldiers admitted on 1 May 1918 and one of 115 soldiers to die at the station in May 1918.³¹ A cable was sent to his family on 11 May to inform them of David's death. The chaplain also sent a note to his wife, who was still living at 39 Montague Road.³²

After the war, his wife moved to 69 Queen's Road in Richmond and requested the following inscription for his gravestone:

GOD KEEP OUR BEST BELOVED
IN HIS EVER LOVING CARE³³

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

Two years after the end of the war, David's widow Mary remarried. On 15 November 1920, she married Alfred Herbert Etheridge in Speen, Berkshire.³⁴ Sadly, she was widowed again when Alfred died in 1925.³⁵ In 1939, she was living alone at 10 Midland Terrace in Acton, Middlesex.³⁶

During the war, David's mother moved to 34 Herondale Road, Mossley Hill, Liverpool. Before the Second World War some siblings had moved away from the Liverpool area. All had married—three before the Great War and two afterwards.

William Henry married Edith Mary Finlayson on 28 July 1910 at St Saviour's church in Liverpool.³⁷ The following year, they were living at 17 North Gate (Harborne Tenants Ltd) in Harborne, Birmingham. Edith's sister, Emily May Finlayson, was living with them. It was not known where they were in 1939.

Evelin Mary married Richard James Cobban on 23 September 1911 at the parish church in the parish of St Bede in Toxteth, Liverpool.³⁸ In 1925, they were living at 112 Stamfordham Drive in Allerton, Liverpool. In 1939, Evelin was living with the family of William and Lily Dunn at 308 St. Mary's Road in Liverpool. She was married, but James was not with her. He may have been living at 38 Church Road in Maldon and Coombe, Surrey, employed as a works manager at a soap factory.³⁹

Dora Hughes married Charles Reginald Gibson Pattinson in 1913 in West Derby, Lancashire.⁴⁰ She and Charles moved to Surrey and were living in the 1930s at 9 Burdon Lane in Sutton and Cheam in Surrey⁴¹ and, in 1939, she was living at the same address with Charles⁴² and her niece, the daughter of her brother William, Lois Margaret Eastwood.⁴³

Lillian May married Herbert James Foyster on 3 May 1918 at All Hallows church in Allerton, Lancashire.⁴⁴ Herbert served in the British Expeditionary Force in the Great War, enlisting as a gunner (regimental number 85275) in the Royal Garrison Artillery in June 1916.⁴⁵ He was invalided back to England on 11 May 1917 with what was possibly inflammation of the connective tissue in his left leg. He was discharged in January 1919.

In 1939, Herbert and Lillian were living at Tul Kesan on Wrigley's Lane, Formby, Lancashire, where Herbert was a grain cargo superintendent.⁴⁶

Violet Ellen married Wilfrid Henry Robinson, a committee clerk, on 4 June 1921 in the parish church of St Barnabas in Mossley Hill, Lancashire.⁴⁷ There is no indication of where they were in 1939.

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⁵ "Liverpool, England, Church of England Baptisms, 1813–1917," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 28 July 2019), entry for William Newry [*sic*] Eastwood

⁶ "GRO online index–birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 28 July 2019), entry for Eastwood, Evelin Mary, Registration district: West Derby, Volume 08B, Page 615; "Liverpool, England, Church of England Baptisms, 1813–1917," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 28 July 2019), entry for Emily [*sic*] Eastwood

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⁸ "Liverpool, England, Church of England Baptisms, 1813–1917," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 28 July 2019), entry for Dora Hughes Eastwood

⁹ "Liverpool, England, Church of England Baptisms, 1813–1917," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 28 July 2019), entry for Lilian May Eastwood

¹⁰ "Liverpool, England, Church of England Baptisms, 1813–1917," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 28 July 2019), entry for Violet Ellen Eastwood

¹¹ "Liverpool, England, Crew Lists 1861–1919," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 6 August 2019), entry for William Henry Eastwood, Reference Number: 387CRE/20

¹² "Liverpool, England, Church of England Baptisms, 1813–1917," entry for William Newry [*sic*] Eastwood; "Liverpool, England, Church of England Baptisms, 1813–1917," entry for David Joseph Eastwood; "Liverpool, England, Church of England Baptisms, 1813–1917," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 28 July 2019), entry for Frederick James Eastwood

¹³ "Liverpool, England, Crew Lists 1861–1919," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 6 August 2019), entry for William Henry Eastwood, Reference Number: 387CRE/692

¹⁴ "Liverpool, England, Crew Lists 1861–1919," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 6 August 2019), entry for W. Eastwood, Reference Number: 387CRE/503

¹⁵ "Liverpool, England, Church of England Baptisms, 1813–1917," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 28 July 2019), entry for David Joseph Eastwood

¹⁶ "Liverpool, England, Church of England Baptisms, 1813–1917," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 28 July 2019), entry for Emily [*sic*] Eastwood

¹⁷ "Liverpool, England, Church of England Baptisms, 1813–1917," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 28 July 2019), entry for Frederick James Eastwood

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¹⁹ "1911 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 15 May 2019), entry for Mary Estwood [*sic*], Registration district: West Derby, Registration district number: 47, Sub-registration district: West Derby Western, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 9, Piece: 22599

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- ²⁴ "RMS Lusitania," *Wikipedia* (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/RMS_Lusitania: accessed 7 August 2019)
- ²⁵ Ibid.
- ²⁶ "Personnel Records of the First World War," *Library and Archives Canada* (<http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/>: accessed 14 May 2019) entry for Eastwood, David Joseph, Reference: RG 150, Accession 1992-93/166, Box 2811 – 9, Item number: 370211, Digitized service file - PDF format: B2811-S009, Unless otherwise indicated, all information about David's war service comes from this source.
- ²⁷ "1939 Register," *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 28 July 2019), entry for Hild [sic] M. Etheridge, Ref: RG101/0663E/005/24, Letter code: BAAE
- ²⁸ *4th Canadian Mounted Rifles 1914–1919*, by Captain S. G. Bennett M.C. (https://archive.org/stream/mountedrifles00bennuoft/mountedrifles00bennuoft_djvu.txt: accessed 27 July 2019). Unless otherwise noted, all information about the movements of David's battalion comes from this source.
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- ³⁰ "Pernes British Military Cemetery," *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* (<http://www.cwgc.org/>: accessed 13 January 2015)
- ³¹ "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=mikanNumber&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)
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- ³³ *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* (www.cwgc.org: accessed 3 December 2019), entry for Eastwood, David Joseph, Service number: 438842
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- ³⁵ "England & Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 28 July 2019), entry for Alfred H. Etheridge, Registration district: Brentford, Inferred county: Middlesex, Volume: 3a, Page: 186
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- ⁴² "1939 England and Wales Register," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 14 June 2019), entry for Dora G. Pattinson, Schedule number: 182, Sub-schedule Number: 2, Enumeration district: CNKF, Registration district: 31/4
- ⁴³ "GRO online index–birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 25 August 2019), entry for Eastwood, Lois M., Registration district: King's Norton, Volume 06D, Page 162
- ⁴⁴ "Liverpool, England, Church of England Marriages and Banns, 1813–1921," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 29 July 2019), entry for Lillian May Eastwood
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