

**Private Albert Broughton**<sup>©</sup>  
**Regimental number: 442337**  
**54th Battalion, Canadian Infantry**

**born: 29 March 1882–died: 1 October 1918**

Private Albert Broughton was born on 29 March 1882 in West Hartlepool, County Durham, in England.<sup>1</sup> Both his parents were also born in West Hartlepool—his father, Joseph William Broughton in about 1858 and his mother, the former Sarah Ann Hugill, in about 1859.<sup>2</sup> They married in 1880 in Hartlepool<sup>3</sup> and probably had four children:

- Clara (born in 1880),<sup>4</sup>
- Albert,
- Ernest (born in 1885)<sup>5</sup> and
- Alfred (born in 1892).<sup>6</sup>

The year after their marriage, Joseph and Sarah Ann were living at 11 Mary Street in Hartlepool, where Joseph was a pork butcher.<sup>7</sup> They were at the same address in 1891 but, by then, had three children.<sup>8</sup>

Sarah Ann died sometime before the turn of the century, possibly in 1893 in Chester, Cheshire.<sup>9</sup> Joseph remarried in 1900. He wed Elizabeth Read early on 15 January 1900 at St Peter's Church in Leeds, Yorkshire,<sup>10</sup> and they had a son, Wilfred, in 1903.<sup>11</sup>

No information was found about Albert's father and stepmother in 1901. However, in 1911 they were living, with three of their children, at 215 Hornby Road in Blackpool, Lancashire. Joseph was a restaurant baker and confectioner.<sup>12</sup>

In 1901, just after his father's second marriage, Albert was not living at home. He was a journeyman butcher, living in the home of Thomas Rowles, a shopkeeper and butcher, at 11 Union Terrace, Old Bury Road, in Salford, outside Manchester, Lancashire.<sup>13</sup>

Five years later, Albert left England to immigrate to Canada, sailing from Liverpool and arriving in Halifax, Nova Scotia, on 24 January 1906. He was a butcher, heading to Brandon, Manitoba.<sup>14</sup> He ended up, six months later, in Marquette, Manitoba, about 175 kilometers east of Brandon, as a servant in the home of farmer Robert Bell and his wife Florence.<sup>15</sup>

Albert enlisted in the Canadian Expeditionary Force on 8 May 1915 in Vernon, British Columbia.<sup>16</sup> He was 5' 4½" tall and had a black complexion, blue eyes and brown hair. He was now recorded as being a miner.

He left from Halifax, Nova Scotia, on H. M. T. *Saxonia* to travel to England, arriving in Plymouth on 1 December 1915. He went to the Canadian army camp at Bramshott and, from there, was granted a five-day furlough in May 1916. He left for France with the 54th Battalion on 13 August 1916, arriving in Le Havre the next day. A year later, he was sent on a cooks' course in the field. He received a Good Conduct Badge in May 1917 and on 30 August was promoted to lance corporal. He had 10 days leave in October. At his own request, he reverted to the rank of private on 26 April 1918.

At the end of September 1918, Albert's battalion was stationed west of Cambrai, in northern France.<sup>17</sup> On 27 September, the battalion launched an offensive to take Bourlon Wood. It was successful, but cost the battalion dearly with 30 officers and Other Ranks killed, mostly by machine gun fire. The battalion had a day of rest on 28 September. On 29 September, the battalion received the order that it would be continuing the offensive the next day. The offensive of the 30th was less successful; there were six casualties from shelling as the troops made their way to the assembly position. They faced heavy shelling and, by the end of the day, two officers were killed and six wounded; 22 Other Ranks were killed and 183 wounded. Albert was one of them. On 30 September, he

. . . was severely wounded in the abdomen by enemy shrapnel while with his Battalion in the assembly position South of Sancourt, on the morning of September 30th, 1918, just a few minutes prior to an attack. He was speedily removed to the dressing station, and evacuated to No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station, where he succumbed to his wounds the following day.<sup>18</sup>

He died on 1 October and was buried the same day in Duisans British Military Cemetery (Plot 8, Row A, Grave 11) with the Canadian chaplain A. D. Reid presiding.<sup>19</sup>

Duisans British Military Cemetery is located in Etrun, near Arras, in France. The first burials took place in the cemetery in March 1917.<sup>20</sup> No. 1 CCCS arrived at the beginning of September 1918 and was stationed near Duisans for two months in the autumn of 1918. Albert was one of 48 Canadian soldiers to die there in October.<sup>21</sup>

The chaplain sent a letter to Albert's father Joseph, who was living on Blackpool Road in Poulton-le-Fylde, Lancashire.<sup>22</sup> It was his father who had the following inscription placed on his gravestone:

HIS COUNTRY CALLED  
HE ANSWERED<sup>23</sup>

After the war, his father moved to 10 Marlborough Road in Exeter, Devon,<sup>24</sup> which is where he was living when he died in 1927.<sup>25</sup>

Little is known about Albert's siblings. His sister Clara, at the age of 19, married Arthur Rutter on 23 September 1899 St Aidan's Church in Leeds, Yorkshire.<sup>26</sup> Arthur was an assistant to a fish and game dealer and the couple was living at 42 Ganton Place in Leeds in 1901.<sup>27</sup> They had a daughter, Blanche, born in 1899, but sadly she died soon after birth.<sup>28</sup> In August 1917, Clara petitioned for divorce and the final decree was granted on 4 November 1918.<sup>29</sup> It is not known what happened to Clara after her divorce.

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<sup>1</sup> "Personnel Records of the First World War," *Library and Archives Canada* (<http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca>: accessed 30 January 2020), entry for Broughton, Albert, Reference: RG 150, Accession 1992-93/166, Box 1116-6, Item number: 66858, Digitized service file - PDF format: B1116-S006

<sup>2</sup> "1881 England Census," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 29 January 2020), entry for Joseph W. Broughton, Registration district: Hartlepool, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 33, Piece: 4910, Folio: 10, Page: 15

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- <sup>3</sup> "England & Wales, Civil Registration Marriage Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 26 November 2020), entry for Joseph William Broughton, Registration district: Hartlepool, Inferred county: Durham, Volume: 10a, Page: 123
- <sup>4</sup> "GRO online index–birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 1 February 2020), entry for Broughton, Clara, Registration district: Hartlepool, Volume 10A, Page 126
- <sup>5</sup> "GRO online index–birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 1 February 2020) entry for Broughton, Ernest, Registration district: Hartlepool, Volume 10A, Page 132
- <sup>6</sup> "GRO online index–birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 1 February 2020) entry for Broughton, Alfred, Registration district: Hunslet, Volume 09B, Page 260
- <sup>7</sup> "1881 England Census," *Ancestry*, entry for Joseph W. Broughton
- <sup>8</sup> "1891 England Census," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 19 February 2020), Registration district: Hartlepool, Sub-registration district: Hartlepool, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 36, Piece: 4063, Folio: 62. Note that the Broughton family is not included in the index for the 1891 census; however, the family does appear on the census image.
- <sup>9</sup> "England & Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 3 February 2020), entry for Sarah Ann Broughton, Registration district: Chester, Inferred county: Cheshire, Volume: 8a, Page: 317
- <sup>10</sup> "West Yorkshire, England, Marriages and Banns, 1813–1935," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 18 February 2020), entry for Elizabeth Read
- <sup>11</sup> "GRO online index–birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 1 February 2020), entry for Broughton, Wilfred, Registration district: Flyde, Volume 08E, Page 643
- <sup>12</sup> "1911 England Census," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 29 January 2020), entry for Joseph William Broughton, Registration district: Flyde, Registration district number: 477, Sub-registration district: Blackpool, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 27, Piece: 25429
- <sup>13</sup> "1901 England Census," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 29 January 2020), entry for Albert Broughton, Registration district: Salford, Sub-registration district: Broughton, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 41, Piece: 3727, Folio: 107, Page: 20, Household schedule number: 89
- <sup>14</sup> "Canadian Passenger Lists, 1865–1935," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 30 January 2020), entry for Albert Broughton
- <sup>15</sup> "1906 Canada Census of Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 30 January 2020), entry for Albert Broughton, Province: Manitoba, District: Marquette, Sub-district: 05
- <sup>16</sup> "Personnel Records of the First World War," entry for Broughton, Albert. Unless otherwise specified, all information about Albert's military service come from this source.
- <sup>17</sup> "War diaries 54th Canadian Infantry Battalion," *Library and Archives Canada* (<http://collectionscanada.gc.ca>: accessed 14 February 2020), Date: 1918/05/01–1919/04/30, File: RG9-III-D-3. Volume/box number: 4942, File number: 445, Copied container number: T-10749. Unless otherwise specified, all information about Albert's battalion's movements comes from this source.
- <sup>18</sup> "Canada, War Graves Registers (Circumstances of Casualty), 1914–1948," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 1 February 2020), entry for Albert Broughton, Service number: 442337
- <sup>19</sup> "No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station," *British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa* ([www.bifhsgo.ca](http://www.bifhsgo.ca): accessed 1 February 2020), entry for Broughton, A.
- <sup>20</sup> "Duisans British Cemetery, Etrun," *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* ([www.cwgc.org](http://www.cwgc.org); accessed 7 October 2015)
- <sup>21</sup> "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/>; accessed 17 June 2015)
- <sup>22</sup> "No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station," *British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa* ([www.bifhsgo.ca](http://www.bifhsgo.ca): accessed 1 February 2020), entry for Broughton, A.
- <sup>23</sup> *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* ([www.cwgc.org](http://www.cwgc.org): accessed 1 February 2020), entry for Broughton, Albert, Service number: 442337

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<sup>24</sup> "England & Wales, Electoral Registers 1920–1932," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 1 February 2020), entry for Joseph William Broughton, Archive reference: SPR.Mic.P.51/BL.E.31

<sup>25</sup> "England & Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 21 January 2020), entry for Joseph W Broughton, Registration district: Exeter, Inferred county: Devon, Volume: 5b, Page: 109

<sup>26</sup> "West Yorkshire, Non-Conformist Records, 1646–1985," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 29 January 2020), entry for Clara Broughton

<sup>27</sup> "1901 England Census," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 29 January 2020), entry for Clara Rutter Registration district: Leeds, Sub-registration district: West Leeds, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 43, Piece: 4234, Folio: 7, Page: 8, Household schedule number: 53

<sup>28</sup> "GRO online index–birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 1 February 2020), entry for Rutter, Blanche, Registration district: Hunslet, Volume 09B, Page 513, "England & Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 21 January 2020), entry for Blanche Rutter, Registration district: Leeds, Inferred county: Yorkshire West Riding, Volume: 9b, Page: 374

<sup>29</sup> "England & Wales, Civil Divorce Records, 1858–1918," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 29 January 2020), entry for Clara Rutter, Divorce court file number: 9957