

Private George William Dunicliff©

Regimental number: 9918

1st Battalion, Prince of Wales's (North Staffordshire) Regiment

born: 16 November-1889 died: 15 June 1916

Private George William Dunicliff was one of 704,803 soldiers from the British Isles who died in or because of the First World War.¹ He was born on 16 November 1889 in Stafford, Staffordshire.² His father, Edwin Dunicliff (1854–1891),³ and his mother, née Mary Elizabeth Wallace (aka Wallis) (1854–1909),⁴ were both born in Leicestershire villages about 43 km apart. Edwin, the son of Sarah Thompson and George Dunicliff, a gamekeeper, was born in Ashby-de-la-Zouch.⁵ Mary Elizabeth, the daughter of Margaret Haynes and William Wallis, a framework knitter,⁶ was born in Bruntingthorpe. Edwin and Mary Elizabeth married on 5 November 1876 in Bruntingthorpe.⁷

The couple had eight children: Harriet Ann (1877–1955),⁸ Eleanor Louisa (1879–1958),⁹ Edwin (1882–1938),¹⁰ Elizabeth (1883–1982),¹¹ Sarah (1884–1944),¹² Beatrice (1887–1949),¹³ then George William and lastly Annie Eliza (1892–1892).¹⁴

In the first few years of their marriage, Edwin and Mary lived in Derbyshire, where he was employed as a coachman.¹⁵ By 1881, the couple had moved to 2 Parker's Croft Road, Stafford, Staffordshire. Edwin was working as a groom.¹⁶ Stafford became their home town and the six other children were born there. When George William was baptised in 1889, his father was working as a coachman at the Swan Hotel. He was still in this occupation in 1891, and the family was living at 6 Mill Street, Stafford. Four of the older children attended school.¹⁷ Thirteen-year-old Harriet was a domestic servant at Swiss Cottage, Queensville, Staffordshire.¹⁸

George's early life was not easy. He was only 21 months old when his father died. Edwin, driving a two-wheeled horse-drawn cart, was returning to the Swan Hotel on 28 July 1891 after driving a customer, Mr. Ward, to Butterhill. The horse panicked, demolishing the cart. Edwin incurred a fracture of the left femur and was taken to the Infirmary at Stafford, where he died on 3 August 1891 at age 37.¹⁹ George's mother was expecting her eighth child, Annie Eliza, who died soon after her birth.

Somehow, Mary Elizabeth managed to keep the family together. In 1901 the family was still living at 6 Mill Street. George was probably attending school. His sister, Harriet, was back home and along with Elizabeth, Sarah and Beatrice was working in a shoe factory. His only brother, Edwin, was employed as a railway clerk.²⁰ Eleanor Louisa (aka Helena Louise) was a cook for the Orme family in Buxton, Derbyshire.²¹

In the next decade, the family's composition changed as George's sisters married and started families of their own. In 1903, Harriet Ann married William Simmonds and Eleanor Louisa married Henry Joseph Brooker.²² Elizabeth wed Evan Bloor in 1906,²³ and in 1909 Sarah married John Wall²⁴ and Beatrice wed Frederick Harvey.²⁵ George and Edwin were living with their mother at 6 Mill Street when she contracted meningitis and died on 12 November 1909 at the Infirmary, Stafford. Edwin was with her and reported the death.²⁶

In 1911, George was working as a printer and living at 72 Foregate Street, Stafford, with his brother Edwin, his sister Beatrice Harvey, his brother-in-law Frederick Harvey, and his one-year-old nephew, also Frederick Harvey.²⁷

When war was declared on 4 August 1914, George was 24 years old. Like many others at the time he was probably caught up in the patriotic fervour that swept the country. He enlisted in Stafford, joining the 1st Battalion, Prince of Wales's (North Staffordshire) Regiment (aka North Staffordshire Regiment and North Staffords),²⁸ probably in August.²⁹ His brother Edwin enlisted in the Coldstream Guards on 3 September.³⁰

The North Staffordshire Regiment was a line infantry regiment formed under the Childers Reform of 1 July 1881 by merging the 64th (2nd Staffordshire) Regiment of Foot and the 98th (Prince of Wales's) Regiment of Foot into two battalions. During the First World War, the regiment raised 16 Reserve, Territorial and New Army battalions; it lost 5,430 men during the course of the war.³¹

On 4 August 1914, the 1st Battalion, North Staffordshire Regiment was part of the 17th Brigade of the 6th Division stationed at Buttevant, County Cork, Ireland. On 17 August, it moved to Cambridge, England, and on 31 August to Warren Hill, Newmarket, Suffolk. George might have been one of the reservists who joined the regiment in Ireland or one of the reinforcements who arrived on 21 and 29 August to bring the battalion up to establishment.³² On 7 September, the battalion left Newport, travelling 241 km by train to Southampton. It was delayed in transport by the shift of the base of the British Expeditionary Force (BEF) from Le Havre to Saint-Nazaire, France.³³ The battalion's soldiers boarded the SS *Westmeath* and the SS *Lake Michigan*, docking at Saint-Nazaire on 11 and 12 September, respectively.

On 13 September, the battalion travelled 490 km by train to Coulommiers, France. By 21 September, the men had marched to Soupir, Hautes-de-France, to relieve units that had been fighting the enemy at Aisne Heights since 14 September. George and his fellow soldiers encountered heavy sniper and shell fire, dug themselves in and worked to improve the trenches. By 26 September, two officers and 71 soldiers of other ranks (ORs) had been wounded. The first five days of October were spent near Oeuilly (aka Œuilly) guarding the bridges over the Aisne River. The battalion was on the move again by 6 October when the BEF decided to consolidate its forces to the west to ensure its access to the sea and to stop the enemy's advance. The battalion's 25 officers and 949 ORs transferred rapidly from Oeuilly via Dampleux, Compiègne, Blendecques and Arques to arrive at Hazebrouck on 11 October.

From 13 October to 22 November 1914, the battalion took part in the critical fighting that occurred as the BEF attempted to extend its front in Flanders. The battalion was successful in attacking and driving the enemy out of the villages of Méteren and Oulstersteene on 13 October, capturing two Maxim guns. One officer and 10 ORs were killed; three officers and 38 ORs were wounded and two were missing. Major-General J. L. Keir and Brigadier-General W. R. B. Doran (17th Infantry Brigade) congratulated the battalion on the success of the mission.

The battalion had other encounters with the enemy, for example at Wez Macquart, Steenwerck, Lille and Fleurbaix. From 28 October to 18 November, the battalion was temporarily transferred to the 18th Infantry Brigade, where it was involved in more skirmishes with the enemy, mainly in the Rue du Bois trenches. Brigadier-General W.N. Congreve (18th Infantry Brigade) wrote to Brigadier-General W.R. B. Doran that the battalion was excellent in every way and that he was sorry to lose it. He felt that the men were always cheery and made light of difficulties. Doran replied that he could

put the North Staffords in the tightest of corners and they would always come out a credit to themselves.³⁴

On 18 November, the battalion moved to billets in an asylum at Armentières and took up positions in nearby trenches. Perhaps George saw H.R.M. King George V and Edward, Prince of Wales, who inspected the 17th Infantry Brigade on 2 December. By 11 December, the battalion was once more in the trenches at Rue du Bois and the men's "cheery nature" would be sorely needed. Under constant shell and sniper fire, they dug and improved the trenches with names such as *Dead Man's Alley*. The weather was cold and raining. On 14 December, the rain washed up many of the dead that the men had buried last time they were at Rue du Bois. By 20 December, the trenches were collapsing, filled with water and mud.

On 24 December, the enemy asked for an armistice for Christmas. A truce occurred. On Christmas Day not a shot was fired. The men sang songs in turn from opposite parapets, with the enemy soldiers singing better than the British soldiers. George might have been one of the men from the battalion who assisted the enemy to bury their dead. The soldiers from both sides walked together and exchanged cigarettes and cigars. Brigadier-General W.N. Congreve, who was visiting the North Staffords that day with "Mother's gift of toffee, sweets, cigarettes, pencils, handkerchiefs and writing paper," described the truce in a letter home. He did not participate, fearing that his rank might be too tempting to an enemy sniper.³⁵ The enemy wanted to continue the peace and no shots were fired on 26 December. Rain came down in torrents, with fearful storms on 27, 28 and 29 December. George and the other men of the battalion were up to their waists in water and mud. The battalion was relieved on 31 December and retired to billets at La Chapelle-d'Armentières.

During the first five months of 1915, George and his fellow soldiers constructed trenches near Armentières, working mainly at night under constant danger from shelling, machine gun and sniper fire. By 19 January, the casualties (killed or wounded) to date were 17 officers and 426 ORs. Reinforcements replaced the fallen. The weather was inclement and the trenches were often filled with water. Many of the men's boots rotted and replacement boots were not obtained until 3 March. The battalion led a successful attack on 11/12 March, taking L'Épinette (east of Armentières). The cost was 131 casualties: two officers and 21 ORs were killed and five officers and 103 ORs injured. General Sir Horace Smith-Dorian congratulated the battalion and Major-General J. L. Keir expressed his pleasure with the "men's steadiness and good work."³⁶

On 4 April, the enemy put up flags suggesting an Easter truce, but this time George and the other soldiers responded with gunfire. By 30 April, the casualty count to date was 739, of which 30 were officers. Many of these casualties were caused by shell fire from howitzers that the men nicknamed *Wee Willie* and *Black Maria*.

On 3 June, the battalion transferred via Bailleul to trenches at Poperinghe (aka Poperinge), Belgium. On 6 July, Lieutenant-General Allenby thanked the battalion for the heroic intervention of 2nd Lieutenant W.G.F. Smith and his men, who stopped the enemy's invasion of the 41st Brigade trenches. He also sent his condolences to the battalion because Lieutenant Smith died from wounds that he incurred in the effort.³⁷

During August, George and the other men were involved in action at Hooge. British Commander-in-Chief Sir John French congratulated the battalion on its successful attack on 13 August, which he considered "one of the best conducted of the smaller operations of the campaign."³⁸

On 18 October 1915, the 1st Battalion, North Staffordshire Regiment was transferred to 24 Division, 72nd Infantry Brigade³⁹ and was involved in action at St. Eloi on 30 October. A number of men received military awards for their actions. On a rainy 26 November the battalion marched to Hellebroucq, where it would spend most of December 1915 in training exercises. On 25 December, George and his fellow soldiers enjoyed a Christmas dinner under much more favourable conditions than the previous year.

From January to June 1916, the battalion was stationed in trenches in the Ypres Salient area around Hooge, Zillebeke Lake, Wulverghem and Dranouter. During that time, between 19 December 1915 and 30 June 1916 (before the Battles of the Somme), the BEF was not engaged in any major battles. Nevertheless, 5,845 officers and 119,296 ORs were either killed or wounded.⁴⁰ George experienced shelling, sniper fire, endless noise, and small skirmishes followed by rest periods behind the lines. During those rest periods he and the other men were assigned to work parties. In April 1916, the battalion was assigned to trenches near Wulverghem. The enemy's trenches were only 45 m from the BEF trenches D3, D4, and D5 occupied by the battalion.

On 26 April, the battalion received notice that a gas attack was possible. As days passed, it seemed a false alarm; then on 30 April at 12:55 a.m. the enemy released poisonous gas, which reached the battalion's trenches in 11 seconds, giving the men little time to don their gas helmets. The casualties were considerable. The enemy followed with an attack, but the surviving soldiers rallied and were able to launch a counterattack to regain the lost ground. On April 30, Major-General J.E. Capper, 24th Division, congratulated the men with these words: "Glad you held your own. Well done."⁴¹ On 28 May, General Sir H. Plumer, Second Army, visited the battalion to give military awards to a number of the men.

During May and early June, the battalion continued to man the trenches near Danouter. Sometime around 15 June, George was wounded. Information about when, where or how he was injured was not available. He was taken to No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station (CCS) at Bailleul, France, which was about 6 km from Danouter. He might have been one of the 104 injured men admitted on 14 June.⁴² He was one of two patients to die there on a dull and cloudy Thursday, 15 June.⁴³ At some point, his sister Beatrice Harvey was informed of his death. On 13 September 1916, she received George's savings of £4 12s. 8d. and on 12 September 1919, she received a War Gratuity of £10 10s.⁴⁴

Private George William Dunnicliff was buried at Bailleul Communal Cemetery Extension, Nord (Grave/Memorial Reference II. B. 182). His brother Edwin ensured that George's last name was spelled "Dunnicliff" on the gravestone and not "Dunicliffe,"⁴⁵ which was how it was spelled in his military file.

Bailleul is in France, close to the Belgian border. It was occupied on 14 October 1914 and became an important railhead, air depot and hospital centre. Several casualty clearing stations, including No. 1 Canadian CCS, were quartered there. The earliest Commonwealth burials at Bailleul were made in April 1915. An extension was built and burials continued until April 1918; they occurred again in September and after the Armistice, when soldiers' remains were brought in from the neighbouring battlefields.

George was posthumously awarded the 1914 Star, also called the Mons Star (for serving in a theatre of war between 5 August 1914 and midnight of 22/23 November 1914), the Victory Medal (for service in an operational theatre), and the British War Medal (for service overseas between 1914 and 1918).⁴⁶ As next of kin, Beatrice also received a memorial plaque and a parchment scroll.

Although George's siblings must have grieved his death immensely, the social conventions of the day demanded that the bereaved accept their losses quietly and stoically. Their world continued without him. His brother-in-law Frederick Harvey died in 1924 from wounds received during the war, leaving Beatrice a widow with young children to support.⁴⁷ His brother Edwin survived the war; he died in 1938 leaving his estate of £207 17s. 4d. to Beatrice.⁴⁸ On Edwin's gravestone, George William's name was also inscribed along with this last word: *Reunited*.⁴⁹

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¹ "Some British Army Statistics of the Great War," *The Long, Long Trail* (<https://www.longlongtrail.co.uk/army/some-british-army-statistics-of-the-great-war>: accessed 6 November 2020)

² "Staffordshire Baptisms," *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 04 January 2020), entry for George William Dunicliff, Archive reference: D1399/12, Page: 66. **Note:** The spelling of George's last name varies. In some records it was spelled Duniccliffe and Tuniccliffe.

³ "GRO Indexes, 1837–1918 Births," *General Register Office* (https://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/indexes_search.asp: accessed 9 February 2020), entry for Edwin Dunicliff, GRO Reference: 1854, M Quarter in Ashby-de-la-Zouch, Volume: 07A, Page: 96, Mother's maiden surname: Thompson; "Certified copy of an entry of Death," *General Register Office* (https://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/order_history.asp: accessed 17 October 2019), entry for Edwin Duniccliffe, GRO Reference: 1891, S Quarter, District: Stafford, Volume: 6B, Page: 5, Age: 37, When and Where Died: 3 August 1891, Infirmary, Stafford

⁴ "GRO Indexes, 1837–1918 Births," *General Register Office* (https://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/indexes_search.asp: accessed 9 February 2020), entry for Mary Elizabeth Wallis, GRO Reference: 1854, J Quarter in Lutterworth, Volume: 07A, Page: 9, Mother's maiden surname: Haynes; "Certified copy of an entry of Death," *General Register Office* (https://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/order_history.asp: accessed 16 February 2020), entry for Mary Elizabeth Dunicliff, GRO Reference: 1909, D Quarter, District: Stafford, Volume: 06B, Page: 6, Age: 55, When and Where Died: 12 November 1909, Infirmary, Stafford. **Note:** The spelling of Mary's maiden surname varies in different records. At birth, her last name was spelled as Wallis. In the birth records of her children except for Harriet Ann, her maiden surname was spelled as Wallace.

⁵ "1861 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.ca: accessed 6 February 2020), entry for Edwin Dunicliff, Registration district: Shardlow, Sub-registration district: Melbourne, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 9c, Piece: 2489, Folio: 135, Page: 8

⁶ "1861 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 6 February 2020), entry for Mary Wallis, Registration district: Lutterworth, Sub-registration district: Lutterworth, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 7, Piece: 2244, Folio: 78, Page: 13

⁷ "England, Leicestershire Parish Registers, 1533–1991," *Family Search* (www.familysearch.org: accessed 12 January 2020) entry for Edwin Duniccliffe, Event date: 5 Nov 1876, Event place: Bruntingthorpe, Leicestershire, England, Spouse's name: Mary Elizabeth Wallace, Page number: 9, Record number: GBPRS/LEKS/BANNS/000635551/1

⁸ "GRO Indexes, 1837–1918 Births," *General Register Office* (https://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/indexes_search.asp: accessed 30 January 2020), entry for Harriet Ann Dunicliff, GRO Reference: 1877, D Quarter in Burton Upon Trent, Volume: 06B, Page: 366, Mother's maiden surname: Wallis; "Staffordshire, England, Marriage, Birth and Death Indexes 1837–2017," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 11 February 2020), entry for Harriet Ann Simmonds, Record type: Death, Birth date: abt 1878, Registration district: Stoke-on-Trent, Death date: 1955, Death place: Staffordshire, England

⁹ "GRO Indexes, 1837–1918 Births," *General Register Office* (https://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/indexes_search.asp: accessed 30 January 2020), entry for Eleanor Louisa Dunicliff, GRO Reference: 1879, D Quarter in Belpor, Volume: 07B, Page: 529, Mother's maiden surname: Wallace; "England & Wales, National Probate Calendar (Index of Wills and Administration),

1858–1995,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 7 February 2020), entry for Eleanor Louise Brooker, Death date: 11 March 1958, Death place: Cheshire, England, Probate date: 9 September 1958. **Note:** Eleanor married Henry Joseph Brooker in 1903. She preferred the name Helena Louise.

¹⁰ “GRO Indexes, 1837–1918 Births,” *General Register Office*

(https://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/indexes_search.asp: accessed 9 February 2020), entry for Edwin Dunicliff, GRO Reference: 1882, M Quarter in Stafford, Volume: 06B, Page: 18, Mother’s maiden surname: Wallace; “England & Wales, National Probate Calendar (Index of Wills and Administration), 1858–1995,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 7 February 2020), entry for Edwin Dunicliff, Death date: 13 March 1938, Death place: London, England, Probate date: 19 May 1938

¹¹ “England, Select Births and Christenings, 1538–1975,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 12 February 2020), entry for Elizabeth Dunicliff, Birth date: 15 Dec 1883, FHL film number: 1526110, Reference ID: item 11 p 232; “GRO Indexes, 1837–1918 Births,” *General Register Office*

(https://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/indexes_search.asp: accessed 7 February 2020), entry for Elizabeth Dunicliff, GRO Reference: 1884, M Quarter in Stafford, Volume: 06B, Page: 6, Mother’s maiden surname: Wallace; “England & Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1916–2007,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 11 February 2020), entry for Elizabeth Bloor, Birth date: 15 Dec 1883, Registration date: 1982, Registration district: Stafford, Inferred county: Staffordshire, Volume: 30, Page: 1003

¹² “England, Select Births and Christenings, 1538–1975,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 12 February 2020), entry for Sarah Dunicliff, Birth date: 10 Dec 1884, FHL film number: 1526110, Reference ID: item 11 p. 260; “GRO Indexes 1837–1918 Births,” *General Register Office*

(https://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/indexes_search.asp: accessed 7 February 2020), entry for Sarah Dunicliff, GRO Reference: 1885, M Quarter in Stafford, Volume: 06B, Page: 5, Mother’s maiden surname: Wallace; “Staffordshire, England, Birth Marriage and Death Indexes, 1837–2017,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 11 February 2020), entry for Sarah Wall, Record type: Death, Birth date: abt 1885, Registration district: Stoke-on-Trent, Death date: 1944, Death place: Staffordshire, England

¹³ “GRO Indexes 1837–1918 Births,” *General Register Office*

(https://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/indexes_search.asp: accessed 7 February 2020), entry for Beatrice Dunicliff, GRO Reference: 1887, M Quarter in Stafford, Volume: 06B, Page: 10, Mother’s maiden surname: Wallace; “England and Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1916–2007,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 11 February 2020), entry for Beatrice Harvey, Birth date: abt 1887, Registration date: 1949, Registration district: Stafford, Inferred county: Staffordshire, Volume: 9b, Page: 324

¹⁴ “GRO Indexes 1837–1918 Births,” *General Register Office*

(https://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/indexes_search.asp: accessed 7 February 2020), entry for Annie Eliza Dunicliff, GRO Reference: 1892, J Quarter in Stafford, Volume: 06B, Page: 11, Mother’s maiden surname: Wallace; “GRO Indexes 1837–1957 Deaths,” *General Register Office*

(https://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/indexes_search.asp: accessed 7 February 2020), entry for Annie Eliza Dunicliff, GRO Reference: 1892, D Quarter, District: Stafford, Volume: 06B, Page: 1, Age: 0

¹⁵ “Derbyshire, England, Church of England Baptisms, 1813–1916,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 9 February 2020), entry for Harriet Ann Dunicliff, Baptism place: Mickleover, All Saints, Derbyshire

¹⁶ “1881 England, Wales & Scotland Census,” *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 7 February 2020), entry for Edwin Dunicliff, Registration district: Stafford, Archive reference: RG11, Piece: 2687, Folio: 76, Page: 8

¹⁷ “1891 England, Wales & Scotland Census,” *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 10 February 2030), entry for Edwin Dunicliff, Registration district: Stafford, Archive reference: RG12, Piece: 2139, Folio: 25, Page: 8

¹⁸ “1891 England Census,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 7 February 2020), entry for Harriet Dunicliff, Registration district: Stafford, Enumeration district, institution or vessel: 18, Piece: 2138, Folio: 88, Page: 4

¹⁹ “The Serious Trap Accident at Butterhill,” *Staffordshire Chronicle*, August 8, 1891 p. 7, *The British Newspaper Archive* (<https://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk>: accessed 22 February 2020)

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- ²⁰ “1901 England, Wales & Scotland Census,” *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: access 10 February 2020), entry for George W. Dunnicliff, Registration district: Stafford, Archive reference: RG13, Piece: 2571, Folio: 56, Page: 3
- ²¹ “1901 England Census,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 10 February 2020), entry for Helene Louis Tunnicliffe [*sic*], Registration district: Chapel En Le Frith, Sub-registration district: Buxton, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 9, Household schedule number: 126, Piece: 3270, Folio: 101, Page: 26
- ²² “Staffordshire, England, Marriage, Birth and Death Indexes 1837–2017,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 11 February 2020), entry for Harriett [*sic*] Ann Dunnicliff, Record type: Marriage, Marriage date: 1903, Marriage place: Stafford, Staffordshire, England, Registration district: Stafford, Spouse: William Simmonds; “England, Cheshire Parish Registers, 1538–2000,” *Family Search* (<https://www.familysearch.org>: accessed 11 February 2020), entry for Henry Joseph Brooker, Event type : Marriage, Event date : 08 Sept 1903, Event place, Toft, Cheshire, England, Spouse’s name : Helena Louise [*sic*]Dunnicliff, Spouse’s father’s name : Edwin Dunnicliff
- ²³ “England & Wales, Civil Registration Marriage Index, 1837–1915,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 10 February 2020), entry for Elizabeth Dunicliff, Year: 1907, Registration district: Stafford, Inferred county: Staffordshire, Volume: 6b, Page: 23, Spouse: Evan Bloor
- ²⁴ “Staffordshire, England, Marriage, Birth and Death Indexes 1837–2017,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 11 February 2020), entry for Sarah Dunnicliff, Record type: Marriage, Marriage date: 1909, Marriage place: Stafford, Staffordshire, England, Registration district: Stafford, Spouse: John Wall
- ²⁵ “England & Wales, Civil Registration Marriage Index, 153–1915,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 15 February 2020), entry for Beatrice Dunnicliff, Year: 1909, Registration district: Stafford, Inferred county: Staffordshire, Volume: 6b, Page: 23
- ²⁶ “Certified copy of an entry of Death,” *General Register Office*, entry for Mary Elizabeth Dunnicliff
- ²⁷ “1911 England Census,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 13 February 2020), entry for Edwin Dunnacliffe [*sic*], Registration district: Stafford, Registration district number: 357, Sub-district: Stafford, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel, 20, Piece: 16353
- ²⁸ “Soldiers Died in the Great War 1914–1919,” *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 12 February 2020), entry for George Dunnicliffe. **Note:** George’s surname was spelled Dunnicliffe on all his military records.
- ²⁹ “British Army WW1 Medal Roll Index Cards, 1914–1920,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 11 February 2020), entry for George Dunnicliffe, Regiment or Corps: North Staffordshire (Prince of Wales’s) Regiment, Regimental number: 9918
- ³⁰ “British Army WW1 Service Records, 1914–1920,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 20 February 2020), entry for Edwin Dunnicliffe, Regiment or Corps: Coldstream Guards, Regimental number: 11520
- ³¹ “The North Staffordshire Regiment (Prince of Wales’s),” *National Army Museum* (<https://www.nam.ac.uk/explore/north-staffordshire-regiment-prince-wales>: accessed 20 February 2020); “Unit History: North Staffordshire Regiment,” *Forces War Records* (<https://www.forces-war-records.co.uk/units/1715/north-staffordshire-regiment>: accessed 20 February 2020)
- ³² “1st Battalion, North Staffordshire Regiment (Prince of Wales’s), War Diaries, 1914 Aug–1915 Oct,” *National Archives, Kew* (<https://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/details/r/C7352350>: accessed 20 February 2020) **Note:** Unless otherwise identified, all information about the 1st Battalion’s movements during this time period comes from this source.
- ³³ James E. Edmonds, *Military Operations, France and Belgium, 1914*, vol. 1., (London: Macmillan and Co. Ltd., 1937), p. 440. *Internet Archive* (<https://archive.org/details/3edmilitaryopera01edmouoft/page/440/mode/2up/search/6th+Division>: accessed 28 February 2020)
- ³⁴ “1st Battalion, North Staffordshire Regiment (Prince of Wales’s), War Diaries, 1914 Aug–1915 Oct,” entry for 17 November 1914
- ³⁵ “WW1 Christmas truce letter found in Staffordshire,” *BBC News*, 4 December 2014 (<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-stoke-staffordshire-30296660>: accessed 23 March 2020)

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- ³⁶ “1st Battalion, North Staffordshire Regiment (Prince of Wales’s), War Diaries, 1914 Aug–1915 Oct,” entry for 13 March 1915
- ³⁷ “1st Battalion, North Staffordshire Regiment (Prince of Wales’s), War Diaries, 1914 Aug–1915 Oct,” entry for 6 July 1915
- ³⁸ “1st Battalion, North Staffordshire Regiment (Prince of Wales’s), War Diaries, 1914 Aug–1915 Oct,” entry for 13 August 1915
- ³⁹ “UK, WW1 War Diaries (France, Belgium and Germany), 1914–1920,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 14 April 2020), entry for Prince of Wales’s (North Staffordshire) Regiment, 24th Division, Piece: 2213/1:1, 1 Battalion, Prince of Wales’s (North Staffordshire) Regiment (1915 Nov–1919 May). **Note:** Unless otherwise identified, all information about the 1st Battalion, Prince of Wales’s (North Staffordshire) Regiment’s movements during this time period comes from this source.
- ⁴⁰ James E. Edmonds, *Military Operations France and Belgium 1916*, vol. 1, (London: MacMillan Company, 1932) p. 243. *Internet Archive* (<https://archive.org/details/in.ernet.dli.2015.210679/page/n323/mode/2up>: accessed 21 April 2020)
- ⁴¹ “UK, WW1 War Diaries (France, Belgium and Germany), 1914–1920,” entry for 30 April 1916
- ⁴² “War Diaries of the First World War: 1st Canadian Casualty Clearing Station 1914/08/13–19/03/31,” *Library and Archives Canada* (<http://central.bac-lac.gc.ca/item?id=e001509285&app=fonandcol&op=img>: accessed 14 January 2020), entries for 14 and 15 June 1916
- ⁴³ “No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station,” *British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa* (www.bifhsgo.ca: accessed 10 May 2020), entry for G. Dunnicliffe
- ⁴⁴ “UK, Army Registers of Soldiers’ Effects, 1901–1929,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 29 March 2020), entry for George Dunnicliffe, Service Number: 9918
- ⁴⁵ *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* (<https://www.cwgc.org/find-war-dead/casualty/199213/dunnicliff-george-william> : accessed 25 April 2020), entry for George William Dunnicliff
- ⁴⁶ “British Army WW1 Medal Roll Index Cards, 1914–1920,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 8 April 2020), entry for George William Dunnicliffe, Regimental Number: 9918; “UK, WW1 Service Medal and Award Roll 1914–1920,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 1 May 2020), entry for G. Dunnicliffe, Regimental number: 9918, Medal awarded: 1914 Star
- ⁴⁷ UK, WW1 Pension Ledgers and Index Cards, 1914–1923,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 1 May 2020), entry for Frederic Harvey, Death date: 20 Sept 1924, Service number: 40594, Corps, regiment or unit: N. Staffs
- ⁴⁸ “England and Wales, National Probate Calendar (Index of Wills and Administrations), 1858–1995,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 1 May 2020), entry for Edwin Dunnicliff, Death date: 1938
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