

Lance Corporal Ernest Shaw[©]
Regimental number: 11952
3rd Battalion, North Staffordshire Regiment

born: 1888 - died: 1 May 1916

Lance Corporal Ernest Shaw was born in 1888 in Newcastle, Staffordshire,¹ the son of John and Eva Shaw.² He was baptized on 29 December 1895 at St Giles Church in Newcastle under Lyme, on the same day as his younger sister, Daisy.³ His father, John, was born in 1856, also in Newcastle, and his mother, Eva (the former Eva Cummings) was born in about 1858 in Manchester, Lancashire. John and Eva were married on 12 October 1875 at Holy Trinity Church in Hartshill, Staffordshire.⁴ John and Eva had nine children, eight of whom survived to 1911:⁵ Alexander (born in about 1877), Gertrude (born in about 1878), John (born in about 1880), William (born in about 1882), James (born in about 1884), Lillie (born in about 1886), Ernest, Daisy (born in about 1894), and Douglas (born in about 1901, but died in 1905).⁶

Shortly after Ernest was born the family was living at 5 Goose Street in Newcastle under Lyme, where his father was a butcher.⁷ By 1901, the family was living at 18 Legge Street, still in Newcastle under Lyme.⁸ Ernest's father was now a labourer underground in a colliery, as were three of his older brothers—John, William and James.

In 1909, Ernest married Mary March near Stoke-on-Trent.⁹ They had a son, Ernest William, born in 1910.¹⁰ The following year they were living at 57 Stoke Garden Road in Stoke-on-Trent.¹¹ Ernest was a "potter sanitary presser."¹² Sadly, Mary died in 1913, leaving Ernest alone with his three-year old son.

Ernest enlisted in the North Staffordshire Regiment in Stoke-on-Trent and probably joined the British Expeditionary Force in France sometime after the beginning of 1916.¹³ He probably survived only about four months on the Front. He died of gas poisoning on 1 May 1916 at No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station.¹⁴

Ernest was member of the Church of England and was buried in the Bailleul Communal Cemetery Extension, Nord (Plot II, Row D, Grave 107).¹⁵ Bailleul was occupied on 14 October 1914 and became an important railhead, air depot and hospital centre. Several Casualty Clearing Stations, including No. 1 Canadian, were quartered there for considerable periods. The earliest Commonwealth burials at Bailleul were made in April 1915. An extension was built and burials continued until April 1918, and occurred again in September and after the Armistice, when graves were brought in from the neighbouring battlefields.¹⁶

His sister, Gertrude, was identified as Ernest's next-of-kin and was appointed the guardian for his son. As such, she was notified by No. 1 CCCS chaplain of his death¹⁷ and received the monies owing to Ernest from the army upon his death. Gertrude had married Thomas James Hulme in 1903¹⁸ and, in 1911, was living at 29 Boulton Street in Wolstanton, Staffordshire, with her husband and their three children.¹⁹ At the time of Ernest's death, the notification to Gertrude was sent to her at 78 Hassell Street, Newcastle-under-Lyme.

Ernest was awarded the British War Medal (for service overseas between 1914 and 1918) and the Victory Medal (for service in an operational theatre).²⁰

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- ¹ "England & Wales, FreeBMD Birth Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 28 September 2015), entry for Ernest Shaw, Registration district: Newcastle under Lyme, Inferred County: Staffordshire, Volume: 6b, Page: 71
- ² "1891 England, Wales & Scotland Census," *findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 28 September 2015), entry for Ernest Shaw, County: Staffordshire, Registration district: Newcastle under Lyme, Archive reference: RG12, Piece number: 2149, Folio: 80, Page: 6
- ³ "Staffordshire baptisms," *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 28 September 2015), entry for Ernest Shaw, Archive reference: D3310/1, Page: 96
- ⁴ "Staffordshire marriages," *findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 28 September 2015), entry for John Shaw, Archive Reference: D950/7; Page: 239, Register Type: Marriage, Record set: Staffordshire marriages
- ⁵ "1891 England, Wales & Scotland Census," entry for Ernest Shaw; "1901 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 27 September 2015), entry for John Shan [*sic*], Registration district: Newcastle under Lyme, Sub-registration district: Newcastle under Lyme, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 04, Piece: 2578, Folio: 86, Page Number: 40, Household schedule number: 250; "1911 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 14 September 2015), entry for John Shaw, Registration district: Stoke upon Trent, Registration District Number: 361, Sub-registration district: Stoke upon Trent, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 5, Household schedule number: 36, Piece: 16553
- ⁶ "England & Wales, FreeBMD Death Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 28 September 2015), entry for David Robert Shaw, Registration district: Newcastle under Lyme, Inferred County: Staffordshire, Volume: 6b, Page: 37
- ⁷ "1891 England, Wales & Scotland Census," *findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 28 September 2015), entry for Ernest Shaw; "1901 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 27 September 2015), entry for John Shan [*sic*]
- ⁸ "1901 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 27 September 2015), entry for John Shan [*sic*]
- ⁹ "England & Wales, FreeBMD Marriage Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 14 September 2015), entry for Ernest Shaw, Registration district: Stoke upon Trent, Inferred County: Staffordshire, Volume: 6b, Page: 291
- ¹⁰ "1911 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 14 September 2015), entry for Ernest Shaw, Registration district: Stoke upon Trent, Registration District Number: 361, Sub-registration district: Stoke upon Trent, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 1, Household schedule number: 337, Piece: 16549
- ¹¹ *Ibid.*
- ¹² A "presser" was a moulder in a pottery factory. "Pottery Industry Jobs," (www.thepotteries.org; accessed 28 September 2015) "Sanatary" possibly refers the type of pottery that he made – sanitary ware.
- ¹³ He was not awarded the 1914–15 Star, which was awarded for service in the war against Germany between 5 August 1914 and 31 December 1915). This suggests that he did not join the theatre of war until after the end of 1915.
- ¹⁴ "Record of Deaths, 17 February 1916–10 February 1919, a record maintained at No. 1 CCCS," *Library and Archives Canada*, (records accessed 2013 & 2015), Record Group 9, series IIC10, volume 4556, Record number 81
- ¹⁵ "Commonwealth War Graves Commission," (www.cwgc.org; accessed 14 September 2015), entry for Shaw, E., Service No: 11952
- ¹⁶ "Bailleul Communal Cemetery, Nord," Commonwealth War Graves Commission (<http://www.cwgc.org/find-a-cemetery/cemetery/2000047/Bailleul%20Communal%20Cemetery.%20Nord>; accessed 5 August 2015)
- ¹⁷ "Record of Deaths, 17 February 1916 - 10 February 1919, a record maintained at No. 1 CCCS," Record number 81

¹⁸ "England & Wales marriages 1837–2008," *findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 14 September 2015), entry for Thomas James Hulme, District: Newcastle under Lyme, County: Staffordshire, Volume: 6B, Page: 100

¹⁹ "1911 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 14 September 2015), entry for Thomas James Hulme, Registration district: Wolstanton, Registration District Number: 360, Sub-registration district: Wolstanton, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 1, Household schedule number: 187, Piece: 16439

²⁰ "British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914–1920," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 14 September 2015), entry for Ernest Shaw