

Private Lister Marsden®

Regimental number: 242586

1st/5th Battalion, King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry

born: 1897 - died: 19 July 1917

Private Lister Marsden was born in 1897 in Morley, Yorkshire, the son of Ledgerd and Sarah Sykes.¹ Ledgerd was born in 1864² in Flockton, Yorkshire³ and his wife, the former Sarah Sykes, in 1865 or 1866 in Kirkburton, also in Yorkshire.⁴ Ledgerd married Sarah on 9 January 1886 in the parish church in Kirkburton.⁵ They apparently had 11 children, two of whom had died before 1911.⁶ Ten of the children have been identified: Ben (born in 1887), Joseph (born in 1889), Charles Henry (born in 1890), George (born in 1892), Fred (born in 1893), Hannah Mary (born in 1896), Lister, Realea (born in 1901), Ethel (born in 1904) and Clara (born in 1905). No evidence was found for the eleventh child or the deaths of two children.

In 1901, the family was living at 52 Valley Road in Morley, between Dewsbury and Leeds. Lister's father was a coal miner.⁷ Ten years later, at the age of 47, he had become a newsagent; however, his sons had gone into the coal mines. Lister was a pit hand—a “screener.” The family was living at 6 Filey Street in Morley.⁸

Sometime after July 1916,⁹ Lister enlisted as a private in the British Expeditionary Force in Wakefield, Yorkshire, enlisting in the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry.¹⁰ The 5th Battalion of the KOYLI was mobilized in Doncaster, Yorkshire, at the war's outbreak in August 1914. The battalion left Folkestone to go to Boulogne on 12 April 1915 and was mostly stationed near Estaires in northern France. The battalion took part in the Battle of Aubers Ridge in May 1915 and the battles of the Somme in the second half of 1916.¹¹ It is not known when Lister joined the battalion.

Lister was admitted to No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station on 19 July 1917 with wounds to his abdomen, leg and arms. He died on 19 July and was buried the following day.¹²

The diary maintained by the chaplains at No.1 CCCS indicates that he was buried in Adinkerke Military Cemetery. However, the Commonwealth War Graves Commission record suggests he was buried in the nearby Adinkerke Churchyard Extension (Grave Reference: 810).¹³ Both cemeteries are located just less than a kilometre apart in Adinkerke, near Veurne, Belgium—across the border from Dunkirk, France. Commonwealth troops held the Front from the Belgian coast inland for about 70 kilometres from June to November 1917. No. 1 CCCS was at Adinkerke for a short time in June,¹⁴ arriving there from Dunkirk just two days before Lister was admitted.¹⁵ The Adinkerke Military Cemetery has 168 Commonwealth Great War graves¹⁶ and the Adinkerke Churchyard Extension has 67.¹⁷



Private Lister Marsden's gravestone

Source: *Global, Find A Grave Index for Burials at Sea and other Select Burial Locations, 1300s–Current* (<https://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GRid=11852783&ref=acom>; accessed 7 April 2017), entry for Pvt L Marsden

The chaplain at No. 1 CCCS wrote to Lister's father, who was still living at 6 Filey Street, Morley, on 20 July and led devotions for the soldier.¹⁸ His father also received the monies owing to Lister from the army upon his death.¹⁹

Lister was awarded the British War Medal (for service overseas between 1914 and 1918) and the Victory Medal (for service in an operational theatre).²⁰ He is commemorated on the Morley War Memorial.²¹



Morley War Memorial, Morley Community Archives

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¹ "1901 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 7 April 2017), entry for Lester [sic] Marsden, Registration district: Dewsbury, Sub-registration district: Morley, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 16, Piece: 4254, Folio: 175, Page: 21, Household schedule number: 133

² "England & Wales, Civil Registration Birth Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 7 April 2017), entry for Ledgear Marsden, Registration district: Wakefield, Inferred county: Yorkshire West Riding, Volume: 9c, Page: 5. There are various spelling of Ledgear's name, including Ledgerd and Ledgard.

³ "West Yorkshire, England, Church of England Births and Baptisms, 1813–1910," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 7 April 2017), entry for Ledgard Marsden

⁴ "England, Select Births and Christenings, 1538–1975," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 13 April 2017), entry for Sarah Sykes, FHL File number: 993691; "West Yorkshire, England, Births and Baptisms, 1813–1910," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 13 April 2017), entry for Sarah Sykes

⁵ "West Yorkshire, England, Marriages and Banns, 1813–1935," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed April 2017), entry for Ledgerd Marsden

⁶ "1911 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 7 April 2017), entry for Lister Marsden, Registration district: Dewsbury, Registration district number: 503, Sub-registration district: Morley, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 11, Piece: 27219

⁷ "1901 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 7 April 2017), entry for Lester [sic] Marsden

⁸ "1911 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 7 April 2017), entry for Lister Marsden

⁹ 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 5 April 2017), entry for Lister Marsden

¹⁰ "UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War, 1914–1919," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 7 April 2017), entry for Lister Marsden

¹¹ "Kings Own Yorkshire Light Infantry 5th Btn.," *The Wartime Memories Project* (<http://www.wartime-memoriesproject.com/greatwar/allied/alliedarmy-view.php?pid=661>: accessed 6 April 2017)

¹² "No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station," *British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa* (www.bifhsgo.ca: accessed 5 April 2017), entry for Marsden, Lester [sic]

¹³ *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* (www.cwgc.org: accessed 5 April 2017), entry for Marsden, L., Service No: 242586

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- ¹⁴ "Adinkerke Military Cemetery," *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* (www.cwgc.org: accessed 7 April 2017)
- ¹⁵ "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/netacgi/nph-brs?s1=casualty+clearing&s13=&s12=&l=20&s9=RG9&s7=9-52&Sect1=IMAGE&Sect2=THESOFF&Sect4=AND&Sect5=WARDPEN&Sect6=HITOFF&d=FIN&p=1&u=http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/archivianet/02015202_e.html&r=1&f=G: accessed 23 November 2014)
- ¹⁶ "Adinkerke Military Cemetery," *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* (www.cwgc.org: accessed 7 April 2017)
- ¹⁷ "Adinkerke Churchyard Extension," CWGC <http://www.cwgc.org/>: accessed 18 April 2017
- ¹⁸ "No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station," *British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa* (www.bifhsgo.ca: accessed 5 April 2017), entry for Marsden, Lester [*sic*]
- ¹⁹ "UK, Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects, 1901–1929," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 5 April 2017), entry for Lister Marsden
- ²⁰ "British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914–1920," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 7 April 2017), entry for Lister Marsden
- ²¹ "1917 Casualties," *Morley Community Archives* <https://www.morleyarchives.org.uk/>: accessed 19 April 2017)