

Gunner Noel Thurston Tuthill©
Regimental number: 308112
125th Heavy Battery, Royal Garrison Artillery

born: about 1896-died: 14 September 1918

Gunner Noel Thurston Tuthill was born probably in early 1896.¹ He was baptised on 4 February 1896 at Holy Trinity Church in Toxteth Park, near Liverpool, Lancashire, the son of Charles and Rosanna Tuthill.² His father, Charles William was born in about 1865³ and his mother, Rosanna (née Thurston) in about 1870.⁴ Both his parents were born near Mutford in Suffolk and were married there in 1887.⁵ They had at least fourteen children—eleven of who had survived to 1911.⁶ Those who were identified—thirteen children, two of whom died before 1911—were: Charles William (born in about 1888),⁷ Rossana (born in about 1889),⁸ Henry James (born in about 1891),⁹ George Thurston (born in about 1892),¹⁰ Lillian (born in about 1894),¹¹ Noel, Harriet Ann (born in about 1897 and died in about 1902),¹² Marie May (born in about 1899),¹³ Isaac Thurston (born in about 1900 and died the following year),¹⁴ David Thurston (born in about 1903),¹⁵ Violet Grace (born in about 1904),¹⁶ Ivan Oswald (born in about 1908)¹⁷ and Priscilla A. Jane (born in about 1910).¹⁸

Their first two children, Charles and Rosanna, were born when they were still in Suffolk. But in about 1891, the family moved to the Liverpool area and were living at 45 Cleopas Street in Toxteth Park, where Charles was a general labourer. The next six children were born in the Liverpool area. By 1901, the family had moved to Catherine Terrace in Litherland, where Charles was now a dock labourer. Sometime between 1901 and 1903, the family moved back to Suffolk and, in 1911, they were living at 46 Kirkley Run in Lowestoft and Charles was, once again, a general labourer.

Noel enlisted in the Royal Garrison Artillery in Liverpool. He served in the 125th Heavy Battery, which went to France in April 1916. The Heavy Batteries were most often used to destroy and neutralise enemy artillery. On 13 September 1918, Noel was admitted to No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station with a compounded fracture to his left leg, which was amputated, and gunshot wounds to his right leg and right hand.¹⁹ He died on 14 September and was buried that day in Duisans British Military Cemetery (Grave 67, Plot 5, Row H), with the chaplain W. Fisher presiding.

Duisans British Military Cemetery is located in Etrun, near Arras, in France. The first burials took place in the cemetery in March 1917.²⁰ No. 1 CCCS arrived at the beginning of September and was stationed near Duisans for two months in the autumn of 1918.²¹ A total of 75 patients died at No. 1 CCCS in September 1918.

His next-of-kin was his father, who was living at 347 Grafton Street in Toxteth, and he was notified of his death.²² His mother received the monies owing to him from the army after his death.²³

Noel was awarded the British War Medal (for service overseas between 1914 and 1918) and the Victory Medal (for service in an operational theatre).²⁴

Several of Noel's brother also served in the Great War. His eldest brother, Charles, who was an engine driver, enlisted as a private in the Suffolk Regiment (regimental number 13988) on 2 September 1914.²⁵ He also served in the Royal Engineers and the Military Foot Police Corps.²⁶ He was appointed acting lance corporal in October, but reverted to private in February 1915. He joined the British Expeditionary Force in France on 26 July 1915, just a week after he married Ellen Maud

Tuttle on 21 July in Lowestoft, Suffolk.²⁷ In 19 June 1919, he was demobilised and transferred to the army reserve.²⁸ Like his brother, he was awarded the British War and Victory Medals).²⁹ Since he served before the end of 1915, he was also awarded the 1914-15 Star (for service in the war against Germany between 5 August 1914 and 31 December 1915).

Although Noel and Charles were army men, their four brothers went to sea. Three brothers served in the Royal Navy Reserve Service—Henry,³⁰ George³¹ and David.³² George was also a British Navy seaman in 1919.³³ David and Ivan were both ship crew, serving as bridge boys—David in 1924 by the age of 21 on the SS *Cedric*³⁴ and Ivan by the age of 14 on the R. M. S. *Baltic*.³⁵

One of Noel's sisters left England for the United States. Violet Grace, a domestic, first went to Canada in 1923, going to London, Ontario – possibly for a visit.³⁶ In September 1927 she sailed again from Liverpool and went to Canada as a landed immigrant, going to St Thomas, Ontario.³⁷ In 1930, she went to Detroit, Michigan, in the United States.³⁸ She was a servant in the home of David and Sylvia Spiechler.³⁹

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¹ "England & Wales, FreeBMD Birth Index, 1837-1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 3 November 2015), entry for Noel Tuthill, Registration district: Toxteth Park, Inferred County: Lancashire, Volume: 8b, Page: 157

² "Liverpool, England, Baptisms, 1813-1906," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 3 November 2015), entry for Noel Thurston Tuthill, Reference Number: 283 TRI/2/3

³ "England & Wales, FreeBMD Birth Index, 1837-1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 3 November 2015), entry for Charles William Tuthill, Registration district: Blything, Inferred County: Suffolk, Volume: 4a, Page: 631; "England, Select Births and Christenings, 1538-1975," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 3 November 2015), entry for Charles William Tuthill, FHL Film Number: 952464

⁴ "England & Wales, FreeBMD Birth Index, 1837-1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 3 November 2015), entry for Rosanna Thurston, Registration district: Mutford, Inferred County: Suffolk, Volume: 4a, Page: 769

⁵ "England & Wales marriages 1837-2008," *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 3 November 2015), entry for William Charles Tuthill, District: Mutford, County: Suffolk, Volume: 4A, Page: 1798

⁶ 1911 census "1911 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 3 November 2015), entry for Moel Thurston Tuthill, Registration district: Mutford, Registration District Number: 218, Sub-registration district: Lowestoft, ED, institution, or vessel: 18, Household schedule number: 413, Piece: 11053

⁷ "England & Wales, FreeBMD Birth Index, 1837-1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 3 November 2015), entry for Charles William Tuthill, Registration district: Mutford, Inferred County: Suffolk, Volume: 4a, Page: 871

⁸ "England & Wales births 1837-2006," *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 3 November 2015), entry for Rosina Tuthell, District: Mutford, County: Suffolk, Volume: 4A, Page: 903

⁹ "England & Wales, FreeBMD Birth Index, 1837-1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 3 November 2015), entry for Henry James Tuthill, Registration district: Toxteth Park, Inferred County: Lancashire, Volume: 8b, Page: 164

¹⁰ "England & Wales, FreeBMD Birth Index, 1837-1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 3 November 2015), entry for George Tuthill, Registration district: Toxteth Park, Inferred County: Lancashire, Volume: 8b, Page: 164

¹¹ "England & Wales, FreeBMD Birth Index, 1837-1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 3 November 2015), entry for Lilian Tuthill, Registration district: Toxteth Park, Inferred County: Lancashire, Volume: 8b, Page: 131

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- ¹² "England & Wales, FreeBMD Birth Index, 1837-1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 3 November 2015), entry for Harriet Ann Tuthill, Registration district: Liverpool, Inferred County: Lancashire, Volume: 8b, Page: 26; "England & Wales, FreeBMD Death Index, 1837-1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 4 November 2015), entry for Harriet Ann Tuthill, Registration district: West Derby, Inferred County: Lancashire, Volume: 8b, Page: 212
- ¹³ "England & Wales, FreeBMD Birth Index, 1837-1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 3 November 2015), entry for Marie May Tuthill, Registration district: West Derby, Inferred County: Lancashire, Volume: 8b, Page: 518
- ¹⁴ "England & Wales, FreeBMD Birth Index, 1837-1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 3 November 2015), entry for Isaac Thurston Tuthill, Registration district: West Derby, Inferred County: Lancashire, Volume: 8b, Page: 266; "England & Wales, FreeBMD Death Index, 1837-1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 4 November 2015), entry for Isaac Thurlstan Tuthill, Registration district: West Derby, Inferred County: Lancashire, Volume: 8b, Page: 209
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- ²⁰ "Duisans British Cemetery, Etrun," Commonwealth War Graves Commission (www.cwgc.org; accessed 7 October 2015)
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- ²³ "UK, Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects, 1901-1929," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 3 November 2015), entry for Noel Tuthill
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- ²⁷ "England & Wales, FreeBMD Marriage Index, 1837-1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 6 November 2015), entry for Charles W Tuttle, Registration district: Mutford, Inferred County: Suffolk, Volume: 4a, Page: 3234
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- ²⁹ "British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914-1920," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 6 November 2015), entry for Charles Tuthill
- ³⁰ "Web: UK, Royal Naval Reserve Service Records Index, 1860-1955," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 4 November 2015), entry for Henry James Tuthill, Service number: S 3684

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³⁴ "New York, Passenger Lists, 1820-1957," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 4 November 2015), entry for David T. Tuthill

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