

First World War Service Record of James Robert Blake

The following is from the National Archives Ref: WO 374/7021

Register No.

Minute Sheet No.

(Extracted from 100/Inf./1895.)

Temporary Captain J.R.Blake, (Lt 8th Bn)
Worcestershire Regiment.

For consideration as to retention of temporary rank.

"Missing" reported 9/4/18.

25/3/18

Am

8/29/588

M.S.4.K.2.

2

MS 3. Gas.

Will you state whether this officer's death has been
officially presumed, and date of same, please.

MS 4 K 2.
15.1.20

A.H. Churchill
Worcester

MS 4. K 2.

3

Death has been accepted on lapse
of time as having occurred on or since
25th March 1918

W. Hamlyn

MS 3 Gas. J.F.
2nd Feb. 1920.

Colonel.

Any further communication on
this subject should be addressed to—
The Secretary,
War Office,
Imperial Institute,
South Kensington,
London, S.W.7,
and the following number quoted.

WAR OFFICE,

LONDON, S.W.1,

Blake 4th July, 1919.

1/29/2663. Accounts 4. (P. & S.)

I am commanded by the Army Council to
inform you of the wish of H.M. Government that
the next-of-kin of all officers and men who have fallen
in the defence of their country should receive a plaque
and scroll, bearing the name and regiment, as a
memorial of their patriotism and sacrifice.

In order to ensure that the plaque and scroll
reach the next-of-kin of the late *Captain*
James Robert Blake
4th Dorsetshire Regt.

I am to enquire whether you can inform this Depart-
ment of the name and address of the late Officer's
nearest relative now living, in the following order of
relationship:—

Widow ...	...	...	...	...	} none
Eldest Son ...	...	...	...	...
" Daughter ...	...	...	...	...	} <i>James Edward Hurley Blake</i>
Father ...	...	...	...	...
Mother ...	...	...	...	...	} <i>Beatrice Harriet Blake</i>
Eldest Brother ...	...	...	...	...
" Sister ...	...	...	...	...	} <i>Beatrice Elizabeth Blake</i>
" Half-Brother ...	...	...	...	...
" " Sister ...	...	...	...	...	} <i>all 3 Bretford Vicarage</i> <i>Honeybourne</i> <i>Worcestershire</i>

The Council regret that owing to the great
number of these memorials it is not possible to say
in any individual case when their receipt may be
expected.

I am, *Yours*

Your obedient Servant,

Rev. J. E. H. Blake
Bretford Vicarage
Honeybourne
Worcestershire

SHARES RETAINED—

Action to be taken, if any.

Amount

For whom

I am to enquire whether you can inform this Department of the name and address of the late Officer's nearest relative *now living*, in the following order of relationship:—

Widow	} none
Eldest Son	...	...	...	...	...
" Daughter	} James Edward Hunley Blake Beatrice Harriet Blake
Father	...	...	...	...	...
Mother	} none Beatrice Elizabeth Blake
Eldest Brother	...	...	...	...	...
" Sister	} none { all of Bretforton Vicarage Honeybourne Worcestershire
" Half-Brother	...	...	...	...	...
" " Sister	...	...	...	...	...

The Council regret that owing to the great number of these memorials it is not possible to say in any individual case when their receipt may be expected.

I am, *Yours*

Your obedient Servant,

Register No. 9729/1798
(Accts 4.)

Extract from *Letters of Administration (Will annexed).*
Probate of Will.
Confirmation.

Dated 18th October 1919

Granted at P.P.R.

Resealed

1. Estate of James Robert Blake of Bretforton Vicarage Honeybourne in the
Co of Worces: Capt: Worcesters: Rgt:

2. Date and Place of Death died on or since the 25th March 1918 in France on
active service

3. Will *Formal Will dated 7th July 1916*

4. Grantees The Rev: James Edward Huxley Blake Clerk Father of deceased
the sole Executor named in the said Will

5. Gross Value £ 248.0.2.

6. Disposal of Medals }
Decorations } *To the Mother*

7. Extracted by) Messrs Byrch, Cox & Sons,
Solicitors,
Evaghani.

8. Produced by)

9. Returned to)

10. Date of Registration

23.10.19.

ES 23/10/19.

Extract from X. 94774.
9/29/1798

Captain J.R. Blake, 8th att. 14th Worcester Regt., reported "Wounded and Missing 25th March 1918" on List No.C.1535.

No further information has been received, and in view of the lapse of time since he was reported Missing his death has now been accepted for official purposes as having occurred on or since 25th March 1918.

War Office,

7th March, 1919.

Register No.

9/29/941

Minute Sheet No.

Appointments, Commissions, etc.,

Approved by

The F.M.C.-in-C., British Armies in France.

List No. 135.

G.H.Q.

12th May 1917.

14th Bn. Worc. R.

2nd Lt. (temp. Lt.) J.R. Blake, 8th Bn. to be actg. Capt. whilst
comdg. a Co. 11th April 1917.

Proceed to Gazette.
A. Keene

M. S. K4

4/6/17.

CONFIDENTIAL

PROCEEDINGS OF A MEDICAL BOARD.

A.F.M. 45.

assembled at 30, Imperial Square, Cheltenham. on 1/12/16.
by order of War Office Letter No. 9/29/588 (A.G. 4c.) dated 25/11/16.
for the purpose of examining and reporting upon the present state of health
of (Rank & Name) Lieut. J.R. Blake. (Corps) 7th. Res. Bn. Worces
Regt.
Age 23. Service 2.3/12 yrs. Disability Debility Laryngitis
Date of commencement of leave granted for present disability Following Measles
Date on which placed on half pay for present disability _____

The Board having assembled pursuant to order, and having read the instructions on the back of the form, proceed to examine the above named officer and find that

he has now recovered.

CONFIDENTIAL.

Army Form A. 45.

PROCEEDINGS OF A MEDICAL BOARD

assembled at Military Hospital Worcester on 30-10-16
by order of G.O.B. in So. Lancashire Command

for the purpose of examining and reporting upon the present state of health of
(Rank and Name) Lieut. J.R. Blake (Corps) 8th. W. Res. Regt.
Age 23 Service 2 2/12 Disability Debility Laryngitis following measles
Date of commencement of leave granted for present disability 13. 9. 16
Date on which placed on half-pay for present disability _____

The Board having assembled pursuant to order, and having read the instructions on the back of the form, proceed to examine the above-named officer and find that

he has recovered but is not yet sufficiently hard
for general service

9/29/582 929
CONFIDENTIAL

Army Form A. 45.

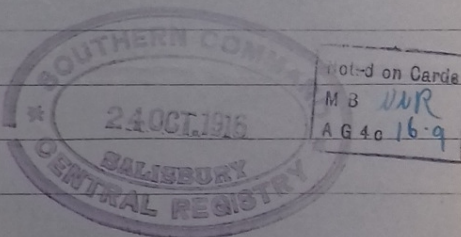
PROCEEDINGS OF A MEDICAL BOARD

assembled at Mullbank on 12. 9. 16
by order of GOC London District
for the purpose of examining and reporting upon the present state of health
(Rank and Name) Lieut. J. R. Blake (Corps) 8th Worcester
Age 22 Service 2 yrs Disability Debility, laryngitis fol
Date of commencement of leave granted for present disability 13. 9. 1916
Date on which placed on half-pay for present disability _____

The Board having assembled pursuant to order, and having read the instruction on the back of the form, proceed to examine the above-named officer and find that

he has been in France for 17 months. He contracted measles on 13/8/16 and this was followed by laryngitis and pneumonia. He was admitted to this hospital on 7/9/16 convalescent. He has lost weight and is still hoarse & weak.

Bretford Vicarage
Honeybourne
Worcester



The opinion of the Board upon the questions herein is as follows:—

(2) c. If unfit for general service at home, is he fit for light duty at home?

No

d. If not so fit, how long is he likely to be unfit for light duty at home?

6 weeks

Is the officer fit to perform any duties not coming within the above categories? If so, specify the nature of the duties which he might perform.

(5.) Was it caused by military service? Yes

(6.) If caused by military service, to what specific conditions is it attributed?

Exposure to infection

Signatures

R. R. Lunn Lt. Col. Rams President
F. Murchie Capt. R.A.M.C. Members.
H. H. Dummer Capt. Rams

9/29/588

WAR OFFICE,

LONDON, S.W.

A. G. 4c.

1 Rank and Name

JAMES ROBERT BLAKE.

Lieut. (Temp)

2. (a) Regiment & Brigade (or Division.)

2. (b) If attached to another unit Overseas, the Battalion and name of Regiment must be stated.

3. Address in United Kingdom.

Bretforton Vicarage.

Honeybourne Wores.

4. Date of leaving Unit (Abroad).

August 17th 1916.

5. Date of Embarkation for England

September 7th 1916.

6. Port of Embarkation for England.

Calais.

7. Port of Disembarkation (England)

Dover

8. Date of Arrival in England

Sept. 7. '16.

9. Name of Ship

Hospital Ship Stad Antwerpen

10. Cause of Return

Debility after Measles.

11. Dates if on leave, from

12 Sept 1916

to

24 Oct 1916.

12. Authority

Medical Board. P.A.M. Hosp
Millbank dated 12/30/16.

13. Whether examined by a Medical Board since return from Continent

(Date) 4/10/16.

(Signature)

J.R. Blake
Lieut
8th Wores

8th Battalion, The Worcestershire Regiment.

Corporal James Robert Blake
to be Second Lieutenant.

3
6 JAN 1915

9/Infantry/9145

Extract from a ^{* BIRTH}
~~BAPTISMAL~~ Certificate kept in the Parish or

District of Tamworth. in the Sub-District of Fazeley.

in the County^{ies} of Stafford and Warwick.

YEAR 1893.

Reference No. 357.

When and where born Twenty first October 1893 Manor House Wilnecote
Warwick.

Name, in full James Robert Blake.

Sex Boy.

Name and Surname of Father James Edward Huxley Blake.

Name and Maiden Surname Beatrice Harriet/ Blake formerly Milward.
 of Mother

Rank or Profession, and (Clerk in Holy Orders.
 residence of Father (Manor House Wilnecote.

When registered Sixth December 1893.

Name of Registrar Arthur Brown.

Baptismal name, if added after
 Registration of Birth

I CERTIFY that the above is a true copy of the above-mentioned extract: also that the Certificate and Signature of the Registrar, or other authorised official, were attached thereto, thus identifying the same with the original entry in the Register of Births, or other sub-district or parochial records.

Place Salisbury.

Arthur M. Maudslayi

Capt.

Assistant Military Secretary.

Date 28/12/14.

Command.

Southern

* In the event of a statutory declaration accompanying the certificate, a certified copy should also be attached hereto.

QUESTIONS TO BE ANSWERED BY A CANDIDATE FOR APPOINTMENT TO A
COMMISSION IN THE TERRITORIAL FORCE.

N.B.—It is of great importance, that the names given in the Birth Certificate should be correctly stated on this form, and it is to be clearly understood that, where they differ, the names and date of Birth given in the Birth or Baptismal Certificate will be accepted for Official record.

Regiment or Corps for which recommended

If more than one Battalion Regt., for which
Battalion recommended

Rank to which to be appointed

1. Are you a British subject by birth or naturalization?
(If by naturalization, a certificate from the Home Office should be attached.)
2. Are you of pure European descent?
3. What is your full Surname?
4. What are your full Christian names? [See "N.B." above.]
- *5. What is the exact date of your birth? [See "N.B." above.]
6. What is your height?
7. Where were you born?
8. At what school or college were you educated?
9. What is your address for correspondence?
10. What is your profession or occupation?
11. Do you now hold a Commission, or are you now serving in any of His Majesty's Regular, Reserve, Territorial, Auxiliary, Indian or Colonial Forces, the Channel Islands Militia, or the Officers Training Corps? If so, state the nature of the commission you hold, or the capacity in which you are serving.
12. Have you held a Commission in or have you served in any of His Majesty's Regular, Reserve, Territorial, Auxiliary, Indian or Colonial Forces, the Channel Islands Militia, or the Officers Training Corps?
If so, state:—
 - a. The Regiment or Corps in which you served.
 - b. If commissioned, the date of the resignation of your commission.
 - c. Your rank on retirement.
 - d. If not commissioned, the date of your discharge.
 - e. The circumstances in which you retired, or were discharged; and
 - f. Whether you have served in any campaign. If you have, attach a statement certified by a Senior Officer who is personally cognizant of such service.
13. Have you been nominated for any other Regiment or Corps?

I certify the above answers to be correct.

Usual Signature of Candidate

J. R. Blake

Date 4/11/14

MEDICAL CERTIFICATE.

I certify that Mr. Blake is fit in health for the discharge of the duties of
an Officer of the Territorial Force.

Signature Chas. Derapath Capt

Date Nov. 10. 1914.

* Does not apply to a candidate who has served as a Commissioned Officer in the Regular Army, the Territorial Force, or the British Auxiliary Forces.

8th Bⁿ Wore Reg.

2 Lieutenant.

Yes.

Yes.

Blake
James Robert

21. Oct 1893

6 feet.

Wilmore, N. Tamworth.

Malvern College

The Lees, Malvern.

Architect.

8th. Wore. Reg.

(T.)

Private

a Malvern College O.T.C.

b -

c. Private

d. Oct. 5. 1911.

e. Discharge as a result

leaving Malvern College

f -

Certificate of Moral Character from the Head of the School, College or other Educational Establishment at which the Candidate has been educated during the past two years. If this certificate does not cover a period of two years, or if the Candidate has not been at School during that period, a certificate signed by the Minister of the Parish or other local clergyman, or a Magistrate, or if the Candidate has served in the Regular Forces, a certificate from his Commanding Officer must be furnished.

I hereby certify to the good moral character of James Robert Blake
the last two years

Signature Herbert Hamerly

† Description Assistant Priest, Mahon Priory

Date Nov. 2. 1914.

To be filled in when the first certificate does not cover two years.

I hereby certify to the good moral character of

from _____ to _____

Signature _____

† Description _____

Date _____

† Here state whether Tutor, Head of School or College, Minister of Parish or other local clergyman, or Magistrate, &c.

Declaration in the case of a Candidate (other than a Cadet, past or present, of the Officers' Training Corps) who has served, or is still serving, in the ranks of a Regular or other unit.

I have interviewed Corporal T. B. Blake 8th Bn. 4th Sec.
and I am of the opinion that he is in every way eligible and suitable for a
commission in the 8th Bn. 4th Sec. R.F.C.
of the Territorial Force.

Station Gloucester

Date 21st Dec 1914.

Belg. Gen. Comdg.
Gloucester & Worcester Inf. Bde.
Signature.†

† To be signed by an Officer not below the rank of a Brigade Commander.



TELEGRAPHIC
RECORD OFFICE
WARWICK.

TERRITORIAL FORCE.

4 years' Service in the United Kingdom.

ATTESTATION OF

No. 2250 Name Jas. Robt. Blake Corps 8th Bn. Worcs. Regt.

Questions to be put to the Recruit before Enlistment.

1. What is your Name? James Robert Blake
2. In the Parish of Wilmcote in or near the Town of Lamworth in the County of Warwickshire
3. Are you a British Subject? Yes
4. What is your Age? 20 Years 9 Months
5. What is your Trade or Calling? Apprentice Architect
6. In whose employ are you? A Bill Parker
7. Where do you now reside? The Rectory Malvern
8. Are you now an Apprentice? if so, please state particulars Yes. Principals permission
9. Are you married? No
10. Do you now belong to the Army, the Marines, the Militia, the Militia Reserve, the Territorial Force, the Royal Navy, the Army Reserve (Regular or Special), or any Naval Reserve Force? If so, to what Corps? No
11. Have you ever served in the Army, the Marines, the Militia, the Militia Reserve, the Imperial Yeomanry, the Territorial Force, the Royal Navy, the Volunteers, the Army Reserve (Regular or Special), or any Naval Reserve Force? If so, please state Corps and cause of discharge No
12. Do you belong, or have you belonged, to any Cadet Unit? Malvern College O.T.C.
13. Have you ever been rejected as unfit for the Military or Naval Forces of the Crown? If so, on what grounds? No
14. Did you receive a Notice, and do you understand its meaning? Yes
15. Are you willing to be attested for the term of 4 years (provided His Majesty should so long require your services) for service in the Territorial Force of the County of Worcester to serve in the 8th Bn. Yes

Amendment for question 16.—Army Forms E. 501 and E. 501A (9/London County/323).

16. Do you understand—

- (a) That during the first year of your original enlistment you will be required to attend the number of drills and fulfil the other conditions prescribed for a recruit of the arm or branch of the service which you have elected to join?
- (b) That you will be required to complete such preliminary training by the 31st October next following your original enlistment, unless before that date you obtain permission from your Commanding Officer to complete it afterwards, but that in any case you must complete it within 12 months of your original enlistment?
- (c) That in addition to such preliminary training you will be liable to attend the number of drills and fulfil the other conditions relating to training prescribed for the arm or branch of the service which you have elected to join, and be liable to be trained for not less than 8, or more than 15 days altogether, in every year, or, if belonging to a mounted branch for not less than 8, or more than 18 days altogether, in every year, as may be prescribed, and may for that purpose be called out, once or oftener, in every year?
- (d) That if you, without leave or reasonable excuse, fail to attend the number of drills required to fulfil the conditions relating to preliminary or annual training prescribed for your arm or branch of the service, you render yourself liable to a fine not exceeding 25?
- (e) That when a proclamation has been issued, in case of imminent national danger or great emergency, calling out the first class Army Reserve you will become liable to be embodied?
- (f) That, if your term of 4 years' service expires when a proclamation ordering the Army Reserve to be called out on permanent service is in force, you may be required to prolong your service for a further period not exceeding 12 months?
- (g) That you will be liable to serve in any place in the United Kingdom without further agreement, but not in any place outside the United Kingdom unless you voluntarily undertake to do so?
- (h) That you will be required to deliver up in good order, fair wear and tear only excepted, at such time and place as may be ordered by the Commanding Officer, all arms, clothing and appointments issued to you, being public property (including the property of the County Association)?

being specified, and the period of annual training in any year may be extended by an Order in Council, due notice thereof having been given, and provided that neither House of Parliament has dissented, but the whole period of annual training shall not exceed 30 days in any year.

Under the provisions of Section 99 of the Army Act, if a person knowingly makes a false answer to any question contained in the attestation paper, he renders himself liable to punishment.

I, James Robert Blake, do solemnly declare that the above answers made by me to the above questions are true, and that I am willing to fulfil the engagements made.

J.R. Blake SIGNATURE OF RECRUIT.
Maurice J. Phillips Signature of Witness.

OATH TO BE TAKEN BY RECRUIT ON ATTESTATION.

I, James Robert Blake, do make Oath, that I will be faithful and bear true Allegiance to His Majesty King George the Fifth, His Heirs, and Successors, and that I will, as in duty bound, honestly and faithfully defend His Majesty, His Heirs, and Successors, in Person, Crown, and Dignity against all enemies, according to the conditions of my service.

CERTIFICATE OF MAGISTRATE OR ATTESTING OFFICER.

I, Maurice J. Phillips, do hereby certify, that, in my presence, all the foregoing Questions were put to the Recruit, above named, that the Answers written opposite to them are those which he gave to me, and that he has made and signed the Declaration, and taken the oath at Worcester on this 26 day of

Aug 1914. Maurice J. Phillips Signature of Justice of the Peace, Officer, or other person authorised to attest Recruits.

If any alteration is required on this page of the Attestation, a Justice of the Peace should be requested to make it and initial the alteration under Section 99 (6), Army Act.

The Recruit should, if he require it, receive a copy of the Declaration on Army Form E. 501A.

Description of James R. Blake on Enlistment.

MEDICAL INSPECTION REPORT.

(Applicable to all ranks.)

Name James Robert Blake
Apparent age 20 years 9 months.
Height 6 feet inches.

*Chest measurement { Girth when fully expanded inches.
Range of expansion inches.

Vision Good

Physical development Good

* Chest measurement will be obtained by adjusting the tape so that its posterior upper edge touches the inferior angles of the shoulder blades, and its anterior lower edge the upper part of the nipples, while the arms hang loosely by the side.

Certificate of Medical Examination.

I have examined the above-named Recruit and find that he does not present any of the causes of rejection specified in the Regulations. He can see at the required distance with either eye; his heart and lungs are healthy; he has the free use of his joints and limbs; he does not suffer from hernia; and declares that he is not subject to fits of any description.

I consider him fit for the Territorial Force.

Date 7. 8. 1914.

Place Worcester

H. R. Foster Surgeon-Major
Medical Officer.

* Insert here "fit" or "unfit."

NOTE.—Should the Medical Officer consider the Recruit unfit, he will fill in the foregoing certificate only in the case of those who have been attested and will briefly state below the cause of unfitness.

Certificate of Primary Military Examination.

I hereby certify that the above-named Recruit was inspected by me, and I consider him fit for service in the 8th Batt: Worcs. Regt. and that due care has been exercised in his enlistment.

Date 7th Aug. 1914.

Place Salver St.

Manneyville
Lt Col Worcs } Recruiting Officer.

* Insert here "fit" or "unfit."

† Insert the "Regiment" or "Corps."

* Certificate of Approving Officer.

I certify that this Attestation of the above-named Recruit is correct, and properly filled up, and that the required forms appear to have been complied with. I accordingly approve, and appoint him to the 8th Batt: Worcs. Regt.

If enlisted by special authority, Army Form B. 203 (or other authority for the enlistment) will be attached to the original attestation.

Date 7th August 1914.

Place Worcester

W. H. Kelley Capt. & Adj. } Approving Officer.
8th Bn Worcestershire Regiment.

* The signature of the Approving Officer is to be affixed in the presence of the Recruit.

† Here insert the "Corps" for which the Recruit has been enlisted.

The entries on this page only require to be made from time to time as they occur.

STATEMENT of the SERVICES of No. 2250 Name James R. Blake
 Showing preliminary training, other special courses of training, Annual Training,† and when mobilized, etc.

Corps	Unit	Promotions, Reductions, Casualties, &c.	Rank	From	To	Signature of Officers certifying correctness of Entries
-------	------	--	------	------	----	---

Service towards engagement reckons from

		7-8-1914				
		Attended		7.8.14		
		Apprentice	Pte	7-8.14	10.9.14	
		Apprentice	Le Corp	11.9.14	13.10.14	
		Apprentice	"	14.10.14	18.11.14	
		Promoted	Corpl	19.11.14	6.1.15	

Total service towards engagement in the Territorial Force to 6.1.15 (date of
 discharge) _____ years 153 days.

CHARACTER

Very Good

Discharged in consequence of Granted a Commission in 8th Bn
Worcestershire Regt of 7-1-15. Auth: London Gazette of 6-1-15.

The discharge of the above-named man is hereby approved.

Station Maldon

Signature Walter R. Peck **Lieut. Colonel,**

Date 8th February 1915.

Commanding 8th Bn Worcestershire Regiment.

† In the case of Annual Training it will be sufficient to state if "Present," or "Absent" and the year.

The Entries on this page only require to be made from time to time as they occur.

No. 2250 Name James R. Blake

MILITARY HISTORY SHEET.

1. Service.

Place	From	To	Years	Day
<u>Home</u>	<u>7-8-14</u>	<u>6-1-15</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>15</u>

2. Passed classes of
Instruction† ...

† This includes any authorised

Initials of
making the

8. Injuries in or by
the Service ...

9. Name and address
of next of kin ...

Rev. J. F. H. Blake
The Lees, Walsham.