

Private Frank Payne

Regimental number: 24829

11th Battalion, Machine Gun Corps

born: about 1897 - died: 16 September 1918

Private Frank Payne, born in about 1897 near Medway, Kent, was the son of Erasmus Eli and Elizabeth Payne.¹ Erasmus Eli was born in 1864, the son of Amos Payne,² in Brenchely, Kent.³ His wife, the former Elizabeth Clark, was born in 1866, the daughter of James Clark,⁴ in Marden, Kent.⁵ They were married on 14 February 1885 in Yalding, Kent, where Erasmus was a labourer.⁶ They had eight children, three of whom died before 1911.⁷ Six of Frank's seven siblings, including two of those who died in childhood, were identified: Elizabeth Frances (born in about 1885, but died in 1901),⁸ Emma (born in about 1888 and died in about 1889),⁹ Erasmus Ernest (born in about 1891),¹⁰ Ethel M. (born in about 1894),¹¹ Edward (born in about 1900)¹² and Nellie (born in about 1904).¹³

In 1891, the family was living in Rochester, Kent, where Frank's father was a brewer's drayman.¹⁴ In 1901, they had moved to 106 Henry Street, Chatham¹⁵ and then, by 1911, to 110 High Street in Milton Regis, where Erasmus was now a brewer's storekeeper.¹⁶ Frank, age 15, was a butcher's errand boy.

Frank enlisted in the army in Margate, Kent, serving initially with the East Kent Regiment, then transferring to the Machine Gun Corps.¹⁷ He joined the Front in France on 1 June 1915.¹⁸ He survived over three years before being fatally injured by a bomb in September 1918.¹⁹ On 16 September he was admitted to the 1st Canadian Casualty Clearing Station with wounds to his neck and a compound fracture of his left arm (humerus). He died that day and was buried the same day in Duisans British Military Cemetery (Grave 7, Plot 6, 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 The 1st 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 the 1st CCCS in September 1918.

His mother, who was his next-of-kin, was notified of his death. She was then living at 23 Shakespeare Road, Sittingbourne. Frank's father, Erasmus, appears to have been living in London, at 69 Dalberg Road, Brixton, from about 1920.²²

Frank was awarded the British War Medal (for service overseas between 1914 and 1918), the Victory Medal (for service in an operational theatre) and the 1914-15 Star (for service in the war against Germany between 5 August 1914 and 31 December 1915).²³

Frank's brother, Erasmus Ernest, also served, but survived, the Great War. He enlisted in February 1916, age 26, in the Coldstream Guard.²⁴ He was an engine driver's mate and living in Chatham. Just a month after enlisting, he married Maud Elizabeth Obee in Sittingbourne. He went overseas on 31 January 1917 and was injured just over a year later. He received a gunshot wound to his head on 30 March 1918 and was admitted to hospital in Etaples the following day. He was evacuated to England on 14 April 1918, just five months before his brother was killed. Erasmus was demobilized on 18 October 1919 and was awarded the British War and the Victory Medals. He was living at 23 Shakespeare Road, Sittingbourne, possibly with his mother, Elizabeth. Erasmus and his wife, Maud,

probably had at least six children; Erasmus Ernest (born on 13 March 1919), Douglas H. (born in about 1920),²⁵ Ethel E. (born in about 1926),²⁶ Winnifred M. (born in about 1928),²⁷ Edwin C. (born in about 1931)²⁸ and George A. (born in about 1932).²⁹

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¹ "1911 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 28 November 2015), entry for Frank Payne, Registration district: Milton, Registration District Number: 61, Sub-registration district: Milton, ED, institution, or vessel: 20, Household schedule number: 113, Piece: 4436

² "England & Wales marriages 1837-2008," *findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 5 January 2015), entry for Erasmus Eli Payne, District: Maidston, County: Kent, Volume: 2A, Page: 793

³ "1911 England Census," entry for Frank Payne

⁴ "England & Wales marriages 1837-2008," entry for Erasmus Eli Payne

⁵ "1911 England Census," entry for Frank Payne

⁶ "England & Wales marriages 1837-2008," entry for Erasmus Eli Payne

⁷ "1911 England Census," entry for Frank Payne

⁸ "Kent Baptisms," *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 28 November 2015), entry for Elizabeth Frances Payne; "England & Wales, FreeBMD Death Index, 1837-1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 29 November 2015), entry for Elizabeth Frances Payne, Registration district: Gravesend, Inferred County: Kent, Volume: 2a, Page: 370

⁹ "England & Wales, FreeBMD Birth Index, 1837-1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 28 November 2015), entry for Emma Payne, Registration district: Maidstone, Inferred County: Kent, Volume: 2a, Page: 707;

"England & Wales, FreeBMD Death Index, 1837-1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 29 November 2015), entry for Emma Payne, Registration district: Strood, Inferred County: Kent, Volume: 2a, Page: 322

¹⁰ "England & Wales, FreeBMD Birth Index, 1837-1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 28 November 2015), entry for Erasmus Ernest Payne, Registration district: Medway, Inferred County: Kent, Volume: 2a, Page: 598

¹¹ "England & Wales, FreeBMD Birth Index, 1837-1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 28 November 2015), entry for Ethel Payne, Registration district: Medway, Inferred County: Kent, Volume: 2a, Page: 597

¹² "1901 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 28 November 2015), entry for Frank Payne, Registration district: Medway, Sub-registration district: Rochester and Chatham, ED, institution, or vessel: 43, Piece: 729, Folio: 143, Page Number: 12, Household schedule number: 75

¹³ "1911 England Census," entry for Frank Payne

¹⁴ "1891 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 28 November 2015), entry for Erasmus Payn, Registration district: Medway, ED, institution, or vessel: 13, Piece: 2074, Folio: 117, Page Number: 7

¹⁵ "1901 England Census," entry for Frank Payne

¹⁶ "1911 England Census," entry for Frank Payne

¹⁷ "UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War, 1914-1919," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 28 November 2015), entry for Frank Payne

¹⁸ "British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914-1920," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 28 November 2015), entry for Frank Payne

¹⁹ "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 IIIC10, volume 4556, Record number 659

²⁰ "Duisans British Cemetery, Etrun," Commonwealth War Graves Commission (www.cwgc.org; accessed 7 October 2015)

²¹ "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=FINDD&p=1&u=http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/archivianet/02015202_e.html&r=1&f=G; accessed 17 June 2015)

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- ²² "London, England, Electoral Registers, 1832-1965," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 28 November 2015), entry for Erasmus Eli Payne
- ²³ "British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914-1920," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 26 November 2015), entry for Frank Payne
- ²⁴ "British Army WWI Pension Records 1914-1920," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 29 November 2015), entry for Ernest Erasmus Payne, Form Title: Short Service Attestation. Unless otherwise noted, all information about Ernest Erasmus' WW1 service comes from this record.
- ²⁵ "England & Wales, FreeBMD Birth Index, 1837-1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 29 November 2015), entry for Douglas H. Payne, Registration district: Medway, Inferred County: Surrey, Kent, Volume: 2a, Page: 1540
- ²⁶ "England & Wales, FreeBMD Birth Index, 1837-1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 29 November 2015), entry for Ethel E. Payne, Registration district: Medway, Inferred County: Surrey, Kent, Volume: 2a, Page: 1267
- ²⁷ "England & Wales, FreeBMD Birth Index, 1837-1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 29 November 2015), entry for Winnifred M. Payne, Registration district: Medway, Inferred County: Surrey, Kent, Volume: 2a, Page: 1250
- ²⁸ "England & Wales, FreeBMD Birth Index, 1837-1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 29 November 2015), entry for Edwin C. Payne, Registration district: Medway, Inferred County: Surrey, Kent, Volume: 2a, Page: 1233
- ²⁹ "England & Wales, FreeBMD Birth Index, 1837-1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 29 November 2015), entry for George A. Payne, Registration district: Medway, Inferred County: Surrey, Kent, Volume: 2a, Page: 1305