

Private Samuel Papas
Regimental number: 3105553
58th Battalion, Canadian Infantry

born: 1 March 1893 - died: 29 September 1918

Private Samuel Papas was living in the United States when he enlisted in the Canadian Expeditionary Force.¹ He was born on 1 March 1893 in Zante, Greece, the son of Pedro and Elinor Papas, who lived in Zante.

Samuel was a labourer, living at 739 Halstead South, in Chicago, Illinois, when he enlisted on 24 October 1917 in Toronto, at the age of 24. He was 5' 9" tall and had a dark complexion, brown eyes and dark hair. He was Greek Orthodox and was still a Greek national.²

Samuel served first with the 2nd Central Ontario Regiment.³ He sailed from Halifax on 3 February 1918 and arrived in Liverpool on 16 February. He went to the Canadian military training base at East Sandling in Kent, where he was transferred to the 8th Battalion, which had recently transferred from Shorncliffe to East Sandling.⁴ He then transferred to the 58th Battalion when he went to France on 8 August 1918.

His time on the front was very short—not even two months. He was serving on the front line when he was fatally injured in September 1918.⁵

Whilst taking part with his Company in an attack on the Marcoing Line, East of Cambrai, on the morning of September 29th, 1918, he was severely wounded [sic] in the stomach by shrapnel. He received First Aid, and was taken to No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station where he died shortly after admission.⁶

He was admitted to No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station with gunshot wounds that penetrated his abdomen.⁷ He died the same day and was buried the following day in Duisans British Military Cemetery (Grave 1, Plot 8, Row A) with the Canadian chaplain A. D. Reid presiding.

Samuel was one of many Other Ranks killed or wounded on 29 September. The total casualties over four days at the end of September were so significant—44 killed, 292 wounded and 18 missing—that additional recruits had to be brought in to supplement the ranks.⁸

Duisans British Military Cemetery is located in Etrun, near Arras, in France. The first burials took place in the cemetery in March 1917.⁹ No. 1 CCCS arrived at the beginning of September and was stationed near Duisans for two months in the autumn of 1918.¹⁰ A total of 75 patients died at No. 1 CCCS in September 1918.

His father was his next of kin and was notified of Samuel's death.

Samuel was probably awarded posthumously the British War Medal (for service overseas between 1914 and 1918) and the Victory Medal (for service in an operational theatre). The medals were sent to his mother, through the Royal Consul General for Greece in Montreal.

¹ "Canada, Soldiers of the First World War, 1914-1918," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 12 March 2016), entry for Samuel Papas

² "U.S., Residents Serving in Canadian Expeditionary Forces, 1917-1918," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 12 March 2016), entry for Samuel Papas, Serial Number: 2766

³ "Service Files of the First World War, 1914-1918 - CEF," *Library and Archives Canada* (<http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/military-heritage/first-world-war/first-world-war-1914-1918-cef/Pages/search.aspx>: accessed 15 November 2017) entry for Samuel Papas, Reference: RG 150, Accession 1992-93/166, Box 7559 - 36, Item Number: 566046, Digitized service file - PDF format: B7559-S036. Unless otherwise specified, all information about Samuel's military career comes from this service file.

⁴ "Guide to Sources Relating to Units of the Canadian Expeditionary Force: Reserve Battalions," *Library and Archives Canada* (www.bac-lac.gc.ca: accessed 16 November 2017)

⁵ "Canada, War Graves Registers (Circumstances of Casualty), 1914-1948," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 12 March 2016), entry for Samuel Papas

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ "Record of Deaths, 17 February 1916-10 February 1919, a record maintained at No. 1 CCCS," *Library and Archives Canada*, (records accessed 2013 & 2016), Record Group 9, series IIC10, volume 4556, Record number 690

⁸ "War diaries - 58th Canadian Infantry Battalion, Library and Archives Canada (www.bac-lac.gc.ca: accessed 15 November 2017), Dates: 1916/02/20-1919/03/12, Microfilm reel T-10749

90

⁹ "Duisans British Cemetery, Etrun," Commonwealth War Graves Commission (www.cwgc.org: accessed 7 October 2015)

¹⁰ "War Diaries of the First World War: 1st Canadian Casualty Clearing Station 1914/08/13-1919/03/31," *Library and Archives Canada* (www.bac-lac.gc.ca: accessed 17 June 2015)