

Private Stanley Frederick Playdon[©]
Regimental number: 41097
7th Battalion, Northamptonshire Regiment

born: 1899 - died: 1 June 1918

Private Stanley Frederic Playdon was born in 1899 in Lambeth, Surrey.¹ He was the son of George Frederick and Barbara Playdon and was baptized on 27 August 1899 at St Michael's Church, Lambeth.² It was the same church where his parents had married exactly a year before. George (born in about 1875) and the former Barbara Trood (born in about 1878),³ were married on 27 August 1898.⁴ George was a commercial clerk.

Three years later George was a bookkeeper and he and Barbara were living with Barbara's mother, also Barbara, at 24 St Martin's Road in Lambeth. By then, they had one child—Stanley. Also living with them were Barbara junior's siblings—Martha (a cashier) and Thomas (a country council constable). George and Barbara's second son, Leslie Spencer, was born in 1905.⁵ Six years later, George had become an auditor for a cement manufacturer and the family was living at 98 Pelham Road in Gravesend, Kent.⁶ The area around Gravesend was propitious for making cement as there was easy access to plentiful water and chalk. "By 1900, there were nine cement works operating on the Thames between Swanscombe and Gravesend."⁷

Stanley probably enlisted sometime after June 1917⁸ in the Bedfordshire Regiment (Regimental number: 51596).⁹ At some point, he transferred to the 7th Battalion of the Northamptonshire Regiment.

At the end of May 1918, his battalion was stationed near Lens in northern France,¹⁰ where, on 30 May, it relieved the 13th Battalion of the Middlesex Regiment. On the evening of the next day, the battalion was subject to enemy gas and artillery attacks—one Other Rank (non-officer) died and eleven were evacuated. The attack continued into the next day, when the enemy artillery was described as "slightly active." Three Other Ranks were gassed. One of these might have been Stanley, because he was admitted to No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station on 1 June, suffering from the gas attack.¹¹ He died the same day. By 4 June 1918, the battalion had received word that a total of six Other Ranks had died as a result of the gas attack on the night of 31 May to 1 June.¹²

Stanley was buried on 2 June in Pernes Military Cemetery (Plot 2, Row E, Grave 33) with the Canadian chaplain J. K. Tibbits presiding.¹³ The Pernes British Military Cemetery was only set up in April 1918 when No. 1 and No. 4 CCCSs came to Pernes, driven back by the German advance.¹⁴ Stanley's father George was his next of kin and was notified of his death.¹⁵ He had the following inscription included on his gravestone:

MAKE HIM TO BE NUMBERED
WITH THY SAINTS
IN GLORY EVERLASTING¹⁶

Stanley's father also received the monies owing to him from the army upon his death.¹⁷ George probably died only a few years later, dying in 1927, at the age of 52, in Gravesend.¹⁸ His mother probably lived a much longer life—dying in 1972, at the age of 94.¹⁹

Stanley was awarded posthumously the British War Medal (for service overseas between 1914 and 1918) and the Victory Medal (for service in an operational theatre).²⁰

Stanley probably worked for the Midland Bank before the war, as he is honoured on the London Joint City and Midland Bank Roll of Honour at Canary Wharf in Tower Hamlets, London. Approximately half the bank's staff at that time served during the Great War. He is also honoured on the memorial in All Saint's Church, Perry Street, in Northfleet, Gravesend.²¹

Stanley's brother Leslie married Florence Ethel Morrison in 1932,²² they had one son, Frederick James,²³ who was born in 1932 and married Margaret Ford in 1959.²⁴ Leslie died in Derby, Derbyshire, in 1994.



War Memorial, All Saint's Church, Perry Street, Northfleet Gravesend

Source: *All Saint's Church, Perry Street* (with permission)

© 2018 BIFHSGO

¹ "GRO online index-birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 10 November 2017) entry for Playdon, Stanley Frederick, Registration district: Lambeth, Volume 01D, Page 439

² "London, England, Church of England Births and Baptisms, 1813-1916," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 11 October 2017), entry for Stanley Frederick Playdon

³ "1901 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 11 January 2017), entry for Bruno Whittle, Registration district: Lambeth, Sub-registration district: Kennington Second, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 24, Piece: 423, Folio: 29, Page: 49, Household schedule number: 335

⁴ "London, England, Church of England Marriages and Banns, 1754-1930," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 11 October 2017), entry for George Frederick Playdon

⁵ "GRO online index-birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 10 November 2017) entry for Playdon, Leslie Spencer, Registration district: Lambeth, Volume 01D, Page 442

⁶ "1911 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 5 January 2017), entry for Bruno Whittle, Registration district: Gravesend, Registration district number: 44, Sub-registration district: Gravesend, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 17, Household schedule number: 261, Piece: 3830

⁷ « Cement Industry," *Discover Gravesham* (<http://www.discovergravesham.co.uk/business-industry/cement-industry.html>: accessed 12 October 2017)

⁸ 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 11 October 2017), entry for Stanley Frederick Playdon

⁹ "UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War, 1914-1919," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 11 October 2017), entry for Stanley Frederick Playdon

¹⁰ "UK, WWI War Diaries (France, Belgium and Germany), 1914-1920," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 11 October 2017), Regiment or unit: Northamptonshire Regiment, Sub-unit: 7th Battalion, Division: 24th Division, Diary entry start date: 1915, Diary dates: 1915 Aug - 1919 Jun, Piece description: Piece 2218/2: 7 Battalion Northamptonshire Regiment (1915 Aug - 1919 Jun), Piece number: 2218

¹¹ "No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station," *British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa* (www.bifhsgo.ca: accessed 5 July 2017), entry for Playdon, S J

¹² "UK, WWI War Diaries (France, Belgium and Germany), 1914-1920," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 11 October 2017)

-
- ¹³ “No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station,” *British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa* (www.bifhsgo.ca: accessed 5 July 2017), entry for Playdon, S J
- ¹⁴ “Pernes British Military Cemetery,” *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* (<http://www.cwgc.org/find-a-cemetery/cemetery/11600/PERNES%20BRITISH%20CEMETERY>: accessed 13 January 2015)
- ¹⁵ “No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station,” *British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa* (www.bifhsgo.ca: accessed 5 July 2017), entry for Playdon, S J
- ¹⁶ *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* (www.cwgc.org: accessed 3 December 2017), entry for Playdon, Stanley Frederick, Service No: 41097
- ¹⁷ “UK, Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects, 1901–1929,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 11 October 2017), entry for Stanley Frederick Playdon
- ¹⁸ “England & Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1837–1915,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 11 October 2017), entry for George Frederick Playdon, Registration district: Gravesend, Inferred county: Kent, Volume: 2a, Page: 653
- ¹⁹ “England & Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1837–1915,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 11 October 2017), entry for Barbara Playdon, Registration district: Derby, Inferred county: Derbyshire, Volume: 3a, Page: 1008
- ²⁰ “British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914–1920,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 14 October 2017), entry for Stanley F Playdon
- ²¹ “War Memorial,” *All Saint's Church, Perry Street* (<http://allsaintsperrystreet.org.uk/war-memorial/>: accessed 14 October 2017)
- ²² “England & Wales, Civil Registration Marriage Index, 1837–1915,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 11 October 2017), entry for Leslie S Playdon, Registration district: Strood, Inferred county: Kent, Volume: 2a, Page: 103; “1911 England Census,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 5 January 2017), entry for Florence Ethel Morrison, Registration district: South Shields, Registration district number: 44556 Sub-registration district: South Shields, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 11, Piece: 30270
- ²³ “England & Wales, Civil Registration Birth Index, 1837–1915,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 17 December 2017), entry for Frederick J Playdon, Registration district: Dartford, Inferred county: Surrey, Kent, Volume: 2a, Page: 1140
- ²⁴ “England & Wales, Civil Registration Marriage Index, 1837–1915,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 21 October 2017), entry for Frederick J Playdon, Registration district: Belper, Inferred county: Derbyshire, Volume: 3a, Page: 133