

Lance Corporal William Albert Pavett[©]
Regimental number: 1855
1/6th Battalion (Territorial), Northumberland Fusiliers

born: 6 May 1896–died: 28 May 1916

Lance Corporal William Albert Pavett was born on 6 May 1896¹ in Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Northumberland, the son of Frederick George and Annie Pavett.² Frederick was born in about 1859 in London, Middlesex,³ and Annie (nee Osborne) was born in about 1854 in Perrinport, Cornwall.⁴ They married at St Andrew's Church in Plymouth on 14 January 1886⁵ and had seven children:

- Walter Frederick Henry (born on 14 July 1888);⁶
- Catherine Beatrice Florence (born on 17 November 1889);⁷
- Edwin George (born in 1891, but died shortly after birth);⁸
- Ethel Maud May (born on 6 July 1892);⁹
- Stephen Wallace Bruce (born in 1895, but died at the age of 1);¹⁰
- William; and
- Agnes Mabel (born in 1899, but died a few months later).¹¹

William's father Frederick was in the Royal Marines. Five years before his marriage, he was a private in the Royal Marine Light Infantry, serving on HMS *Triumph*. He was a sergeant when he married Annie in 1886; by 1891, he was a corporal and the family was living in the married quarters of the Royal Marine Depot Cavalry Barracks and Married Square in Walmer, Kent.¹²

By 1895, the family had moved to Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Northumberland, where their son Stephen was born and where William was born the following year. In 1897, Frederick was discharged from the marines.¹³ Sadly, he died three years later¹⁴—less than a year after the death of his youngest child. The year his father died, William was admitted to Raby Street Council Infant School,¹⁵ where his sister Ethel had been at school for two years.¹⁶ William stayed in the school until July 1903.

In 1901, William's mother was living at 7 Shipley Street in Newcastle, with two children—Ethel and William.¹⁷ William's brother Walter was a patient in the Home for Destitute Crippled Children in Gosforth, near Newcastle.¹⁸ The home was founded by a Newcastle philanthropist to care for destitute children with a physical handicap who were not suitable to be housed in the workhouse.¹⁹

Ten years later, Annie was living at 60 Denmark Street, Heaton, Newcastle, and William was working in a toffee factory.²⁰ Ethel was also living at home, but it is not clear where Walter was at that time.

William enlisted in the 1/6th Battalion (Territorial) of the Northumberland Fusiliers in Newcastle²¹ in about August 1914.²²

In early May 1916, William's battalion was stationed around Westoutre and Locre, near the French–Belgian border. On 24 May, the battalion was in the trenches, where the first couple of days passed relatively quietly. Although three days later there were mortar attacks on both sides, there were few casualties. However, while strafing the craters opposite the British line, the brigade and battalion bombing officers were accidentally wounded by a Mills rifle grenade that misfired. William may have been one of these officers. He was wounded on 27 May²³ and died of head wounds the following day at No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station.²⁴ He was buried in Bailleul Communal

Cemetery Extension, Nord (Plot II, Row B, Grave 118)²⁵ and a letter was sent to his mother at 10 Bolam Street, Byker, in Newcastle to notify her of his death.²⁶ She and William's brother Walter received the monies owing to him from the army upon his death.²⁷

Bailleul was occupied in October 1914 and became an important hospital centre for not just No. 1 CCCS but also No. 1 Australian and five British Army casualty clearing stations.²⁸

Sadly, William's mother died less than a year after her son.²⁹ This meant that, of a family of nine, at best there were only three of William's siblings still alive. Walter, a blind pensioner, was living with his sister Ethel in 1939 at 339 Benson Road in Newcastle.³⁰ Ethel had married Robert T. Chapman in 1913, but Robert died in 1932³¹ and Ethel remarried, marrying George A. H. Sibbald in 1934.³² No information was found about William's sister Catherine after 1891.

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¹ "National School Admission Registers & Log-books 1870–1914," *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 26 January 2019), entry for William Pavett, Archive reference: E.NC78/3/1/2, Folio/Page no.: -

² "1881 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 27 January 2019), entry for Frederick G. Pavett, Registration district: Royal Navy, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: Mosquito, Piece: 5642, Folio: 29, Page: 22; "1891 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 27 January 2019), entry for Annie Pavitt [*sic*], Sub-registration district: Deal, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: Royal Marine Depot Cavalry Barracks and Married Square, Piece: 739, Folio: 152

³ "1881 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 27 January 2019), entry for Frederick G. Pavett

⁴ "1891 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 27 January 2019), entry for Annie Pavitt [*sic*]

⁵ "UK, British Army and Navy Birth, Marriage and Death Records, 1730–1960," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 28 January 2019), entry for Fredk. G. Pavett

⁶ *Ibid.*

⁷ *Ibid.*

⁸ "GRO online index–birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 27 January 2019), entry for Pavett, Edwin George, Registration district: Easty, Volume 02A, Page 958; "England & Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 11 January 2019), entry for Edwin George Pavett, Registration district: Easty, Inferred county: Kent, Volume: 2a, Page: 492

⁹ "National School Admission Registers & Log-books 1870–1914," *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 26 January 2019), entry for Ethel Pavett, Archive reference: E.NC78/3/2/1Folio/Page no.: -

¹⁰ "GRO online index–birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 27 January 2019), entry for Pavett, Stephen Wallace Bruce, Registration district: Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Volume 10B, Page 99; "England & Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 11 January 2019), entry for Stephen Willis [*sic*] B. Pavett, Registration district: Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Inferred county: Northumberland, Volume: 10b, Page: 101

¹¹ "GRO online index–birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 27 January 2019), entry for Pavett, Agnes Mabel, Registration district: Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Volume 10B, Page 168

¹² "1891 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 27 January 2019), entry for Annie Pavitt [*sic*].

¹³ "UK, British Army and Navy Birth, Marriage and Death Records, 1730–1960," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 28 January 2019), entry for Fredk. G. Pavett

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- ¹⁴ "England & Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 11 January 2019), entry for Frederick G. Pavett, Registration district: Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Inferred county: Northumberland, Volume: 10b, Page: 118
- ¹⁵ "National School Admission Registers & Log-books 1870–1914," *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 26 January 2019), entry for William Pavett
- ¹⁶ "National School Admission Registers & Log-books 1870–1914," *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 26 January 2019), entry for Ethel Pavett
- ¹⁷ "1901 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 11 January 2019), entry for William Pavett, Registration district: Newcastle upon Tyne, Sub-registration district: Byker, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 18, Piece: 4790, Folio: 36, Page: 15, Household schedule number: 90
- ¹⁸ "1901 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 11 January 2019), entry for Walter Pavett, Registration district: Castle Ward, Sub-registration district: Gosforth, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 5, Piece: 4816, Folio: 132, Page: 32, Household schedule number: 211
- ¹⁹ "Former Sanderson Hospital, Gosforth," *Co-Curate* (<https://co-curate.ncl.ac.uk/former-sanderson-hospital-gosforth/>: accessed 26 January 2019)
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- ²¹ "UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War, 1914–1919," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 11 January 2019), entry for William Albert Pavett
- ²² Based on "War Gratuity Calculator" (<https://wargratiuity.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 January 2019), entry for William Gavett [sic]
- ²³ "UK, WWI War Diaries (France, Belgium and Germany), 1914–1920," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 24 January 2019), Regiment or Unit: Northumberland Fusiliers, Sub-unit: 1/6th Battalion (Territorial), Division: 50th Division, Diary dates: 1915 Apr 1–1915 Sept 30, Piece description: Piece 2829/1-6: 149 Infantry Brigade: 6 Battalion Northumberland Fusiliers (1915 Apr–1918 Jul), Piece number: 2829
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- ²⁵ *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* (www.cwgc.org: accessed 3 December 2019), entry for Pavett, W. A., Service No: 1855
- ²⁶ "No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station," *British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa* (www.bifhsgo.ca: accessed 22 December 2019), entry for Pavett, W. A.
- ²⁷ "UK, Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects, 1901–1929," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 11 January 2019), entry for William Gavett [sic]
- ²⁸ "Bailleul Community Cemetery, Nord," *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* (www.cwgc.org: accessed 17 January 2017)
- ²⁹ "England & Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 11 January 2019), entry for Annie Pavett, Registration district: Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Inferred county: Northumberland, Volume: 10b, Page: 244
- ³⁰ "1939 Register," *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 11 January 2019), entry for Walter F. H. Pavett, Ref: RG101/29361/008/41, Letter code: GATB
- ³¹ "England & Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 11 January 2019), entry for Robert T. Chapman, Registration district: Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Inferred county: Northumberland, Volume: 10b, Page: 87
- ³² "England & Wales, Civil Registration Marriage Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 26 November 2019), entry for Ethel M. M. Chapman, Registration district: Newcastle upon Tyne, Inferred county: Northumberland, Volume: 10b, Page: 297