

Private William John Pride[©]

Regimental number: G/3870

8th Battalion, Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment

born: 1892 - died: 20 May 1916

Private William John Pride was the son of Christopher Pride and the former Hannah Maria Elias.¹ Both his parents were born in 1862 in Cardiff² and they married there in 1885.³ William was one of 19 children born to Hannah.⁴ At least her first four children were born before her marriage to Christopher:

- Harriett Elizabeth Elias was born in 1881 and baptized on 27 June 1881, as the daughter of Anna Elias. She may have been born in the Union Workhouse and baptized by the chaplain;⁵
- A second child, Harriett Ellen Elias, was born in 1881;⁶
- John Henry Pride was born in 1883⁷ and baptized at the age of 2 with his brother Christopher on 30 July 1885.⁸ He died at the age of 7 and was buried on 7 March 1891;⁹ and
- Hannah Maria Pride was born in 1884 but died soon after.¹⁰

After their marriage, 11 more births to Hannah were identified:

- Christopher Thomas was born on 11 Jul 1885¹¹ and was baptized on 30 July 1885;¹²
- Joseph Evans was born on 10 Apr 1887 and baptized on 18 May 1887;¹³
- William David was born in 1888 and baptized on 17 October 1888).¹⁴ He died at the age of 22 months and was buried on 29 July 1890;¹⁵
- Lydia Mary was born in 1890 and baptized on 24 July 1890).¹⁶ She married John Russell in 1916;¹⁷
- William John was born on 22 February 1892 and baptized a month later;¹⁸
- Margaret Ann was born on 9 December 1893 and baptized three months later.¹⁹ She married Edwin Thorne in 1914;²⁰
- Hannah Maria was born on 9 October 1895,²¹ but died at the age of 22 months and was buried on 4 September 1897;²²
- Twins sons, Matthew and James, were born on 29 June 1898 and baptized a month later.²³ Sadly, Matthew died at 2 months;²⁴
- Charles Henry was born in 1900 and baptized on 8 July 1900.²⁵ He married Doris M. W. Lewis in 1927;²⁶
- Dorothy May was born in 1904 and baptized on 5 October 1902.²⁷ She married Albert Dimock in 1944;²⁸ and
- Matthew was born in 1905 and baptized on 13 December 1905.²⁹ He married Ivy P. Edwards in 1941.³⁰

Three children were not identified. They may have died at birth and their births were not registered.

After Christopher and Hannah married, they were living at 7 Stag Terrace in Cardiff.³¹ By 1890, the family had moved to 27 Springfield Place,³² where Christopher was a blacksmith's hammerman.³³ Ten years later, the family had moved two doors down to 23 Springfield Place,³⁴ where the family would remain for at least 30 years.³⁵ In 1911, Christopher was a blacksmith's striker working in a

ship repair yard. William and his brother Joseph had joined the city of Cardiff—William working as a tramcar cleaner and Joseph as a tram conductor.

William joined the British Expeditionary Force at the beginning of the war, enlisting in Cardiff as a private in the Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment in about September 1914.³⁶ It is not known how or when William was wounded but, at the time of his death, he was serving with the 8th Battalion, which was stationed in northern France. The battalion joined the Western Front at the end of August 1915 and William joined his comrades on 30 September 1915.

From 9–14 May 1916, William's battalion was in reserve in Danoutre, in Belgium near the French border. On the night of 14/15 May, it returned to the front line trenches and relieved the 8th Battalion of the Royal West Kent Regiment. There was a false gas alarm on 17 May, but otherwise no incidents and no casualties reported.³⁷ Nonetheless, William died at No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station on 20 May 1916.³⁸ Perhaps he had been wounded much earlier.

William was buried at Bailleul Communal Cemetery Extension, Nord (Plot II, Row B, Grave 104).³⁹ Bailleul is in France, but near the Belgian border, about 15 kilometres southwest of Ypres. It was occupied in October 1914 and became an important hospital centre not just for No. 1 CCCS but also for No. 1 Australian and five British Army casualty clearing stations.⁴⁰

A letter was sent to his mother to inform her of her son's death.⁴¹ She also received the monies owing to him from the army upon his death.⁴²

All three of William's surviving brothers, who were of an age to serve, also enlisted in the British Expeditionary Force—all enlisted early in the war, but only two survived.

His eldest brother Christopher, a collier, was a gunner with the Royal Field Artillery (regimental number 9592) and went to France on 16 January 1915.⁴³ He had served previously in the Carmarthenshire Royal Garrison Artillery (Militia) before enlisting.⁴⁴ He survived the war and married Gertrude E. King (born on 8 August 1891)⁴⁵ in 1932.⁴⁶ However, they had at least six children before they married: Thomas H. (born on 26 April 1913),⁴⁷ William Charles (born 12 Nov 1914),⁴⁸ James A. (born in 1921),⁴⁹ Christopher J. (born on 8 June 1926),⁵⁰ Joseph T. (born in 1928),⁵¹ Dorothy E. (born in 1930)⁵² and John M (born on 11 January 1934).⁵³ Sadly, their son William, like his uncle before him, died at war. He was in the Royal Artillery (service number 1582419) and was taken prisoner of war by the Japanese.⁵⁴ He died on 18 May 1945, just before the end of the Second World War with Japan, and is buried in Djakarta War Cemetery in Indonesia. In 1939, Christopher was a gas works labourer and he and Gertrude were living at 151 Penarth Road in Cardiff with some of their children. Christopher died there on 11 October 1945.⁵⁵

Joseph, a car conductor attested on 17 October 1914 in Plymouth and joined the Transport Company of the Army Service Corps (regimental number 13660). Like his brother, he had previously served in the Royal Garrison Artillery for 17 years. On 24 December 1917, he was discharged as no longer being fit for war service.⁵⁶ His pension files indicate that he had epilepsy and would receive a pension of 15d per diem for life.⁵⁷ He had married Kay Louisa Watson on 1 March 1917 in Bermondsey⁵⁸ and had at least three children—James F. (born in 1918), William J., (born in 1919)⁵⁹ who was perhaps named after his uncle, and Margaret M. (born in 1920).⁶⁰ In 1939, Joseph, a heavy worker on the wharf, and his wife were living on St James' Road in Bermondsey. Joseph died in June 1957 in Bermondsey, London.⁶¹

William's younger brother James died 11 days after William. He had enlisted in the Royal Marine Light Infantry and died, at the age of 17, on 31 May 1916 on the first day of the Battle of Jutland. He was serving on the H.M.S. Defence.⁶² The ship was hit by two salvos from German ships. One detonated the rear magazine and the resulting fire spread to secondary magazines that also exploded. There were no survivors.⁶³ The Battle of Jutland, which was fought off the North Sea coast of Denmark's Jutland Peninsula, was the largest naval battle of the war and the only major clash of battleships in that war.⁶⁴ Since James' body was not recovered for burial, the inscription that the family included on William's gravestone in Bailleul cemetery reads:

ALSO HIS BROTHER JAMES KILLED JUTLAND BATTLE MAY 31ST 1916

Their father Christopher died on 25 December 1933, while still living at 23 Springfield Place.⁶⁵ His wife probably died five years later.⁶⁶

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¹ "1901 Wales Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 17 August 2018), entry for William Pride, Registration district: Cardiff, Sub-registration district: West Cardiff, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 12, Household schedule number: 315, Piece: 4985, Folio: 213, Page: 52

² "Wales, Select Births and Baptisms, 1541-1907," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 9 December 2018), entry for Christopher Pride, FHL Film Number: 104857, 104858; "England & Wales, Civil Registration Birth Index, 1837-1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 9 December 2018), entry for Hannah Maria Elias, Registration district: Cardiff, Inferred county: Glamorgan, Volume: 11a, Page: 245

³ "England & Wales, Civil Registration Marriage Index, 1837-1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 17 August 2018), entry for Christopher Pride, Registration district: Cardiff, Inferred county: Glamorgan, Volume: 11a, Page: 463

⁴ "1911 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 17 August 2018), entry for William Pride, Registration district: Cardiff, Registration district number: 588, Sub-registration district: West Cardiff, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 11, Household schedule number: 84, Piece: 32143

⁵ "GRO online index-birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 9 December 2018) entry for Elias, Harriet Elizabeth, Registration district: Cardiff, Volume 11A, Page 228; "Glamorganshire Baptisms," *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 9 December 2018), entry for Harriet Elizabeth Elias

⁶ "GRO online index-birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 9 December 2018) entry for Elias, Harriet Ellen, Registration district: Cardiff, Volume 11A, Page 264. No other information was found for Harriet Ellen, daughter of Elias, born in Cardiff, with this family or any other. Perhaps she was the twin of Harriet Elizabeth, but died soon after birth, although no record of a death was found.

⁷ "GRO online index-birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 9 December 2018) entry for Pride, John Henry, Registration district: Cardiff, Volume 11A, Page 325;

⁸ "Glamorganshire Baptisms," *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 9 December 2018), entry for John Henry Pride

⁹ "England & Wales Deaths 1837-2007," *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 9 December 2018), entry for John Pride, District: Cardiff, County: Glamorganshire, Volume: 11A, Page: 247; "Glamorganshire Burials," *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 10 December 2018), entry for John Pride, Page 258

¹⁰ "GRO online index-birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 9 December 2018) entry for Pride, Hannah Maria, Registration district: Cardiff, Volume 11A, Page 373; "England & Wales Deaths 1837-2007," *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 9 December 2018), entry for Hannah Maria Pride, District: Cardiff, County: Glamorganshire, Volume: 11A, Page: 190

¹¹ "1939 Register," *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 11 December 2018), entry for Christopher T. Pride, Ref: RG101/7268A/005/42 Letter code: XGSU

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- ¹² "GRO online index–birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 9 December 2018) entry for Pride, Christopher Thomas, Registration district: Cardiff, Volume 11A, Page 314; "Glamorganshire Baptisms," *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 9 December 2018), entry for Christopher Thomas Pride
- ¹³ "GRO online index–birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 9 December 2018) entry for Pride, Joseph Evans, Registration district: Cardiff, Volume 11A, Page 333; "Glamorganshire Baptisms," *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 9 December 2018), entry for Joseph Evans Pride
- ¹⁴ "GRO online index–birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 9 December 2018) entry for Pride, William David, Registration district: Cardiff, Volume 11A, Page 267; "Glamorganshire Baptisms," *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 9 December 2018), entry for William David Pride
- ¹⁵ "Glamorganshire Burials," *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 10 December 2018), entry for William David Pride, Page 248
- ¹⁶ "GRO online index–birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 9 December 2018) entry for Pride, Lydia Mary, Registration district: Cardiff, Volume 11A, Page 230767; "Glamorganshire Baptisms," *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 9 December 2018), entry for Lydia Mary Pride
- ¹⁷ "England & Wales Marriages 1837–2005," *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 7 December 2018), entry for Lydia M. Pride, District: Cardiff, County: Glamorganshire, Volume: 11A, Page: 663
- ¹⁸ "Glamorganshire Baptisms," *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 9 December 2018), entry for William John Pride
- ¹⁹ "Glamorganshire Baptisms," *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 9 December 2018), entry for Margaret Anne Pride
- ²⁰ "England & Wales, Civil Registration Marriage Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 26 November 2018), entry for Margaret A. Pride, Registration district: Cardiff, Inferred county: Glamorgan, Volume: 11a, Page: 958
- ²¹ "Glamorganshire Baptisms," *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 9 December 2018), entry for Anna Maria Pride [*sic*]. Although she was baptized as Anna, her death records shows her names as Hannah—the same name as a sister who predeceased her.
- ²² "England & Wales Deaths 1837–2007," *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 9 December 2018), entry for Hannah Maria Pride, District: Cardiff, County: Glamorganshire, Volume: 11A, Page: 219; "Glamorganshire Burials," *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 10 December 2018), entry for Hannah Maria Pride, Page 25
- ²³ "Glamorganshire Baptisms," *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 9 December 2018), entry for Matthew Pride ; "Glamorganshire Baptisms," *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 9 December 2018), entry for James Pride
- ²⁴ "Glamorganshire Burials," *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 10 December 2018), entry for Matthew Pride, Page 36
- ²⁵ "GRO online index–birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 9 December 2018) entry for Pride, Charles Henry, Registration district: Cardiff, Volume 11A, Page 379; "Glamorganshire Baptisms," *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 9 December 2018), entry for Charles Henry Pride
- ²⁶ "England & Wales, Civil Registration Marriage Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 26 November 2018), entry for Charles H. Pride, Registration district: Cardiff, Inferred county: Glamorgan, Volume: 11a, Page: 672
- ²⁷ "England & Wales, Civil Registration Birth Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 17 March 2018), entry for Dorothy May Pride, Registration district: Cardiff, Inferred county: Glamorgan, Volume: 11a, Page: 412; "Glamorganshire Baptisms," *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 9 December 2018), entry for Dorothy May Pride

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- ²⁸ “England & Wales, Civil Registration Marriage Index, 1837–1915,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 26 November 2018), entry for Dorothy M. Pride, Registration district: Cardiff, Inferred county: Glamorgan, Volume: 11a, Page: 1195
- ²⁹ “Glamorganshire Baptisms,” *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 9 December 2018), entry for Matthew Pride
- ³⁰ “England & Wales, Civil Registration Marriage Index, 1837–1915,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 26 November 2018), entry for Matthew Pride, Registration district: Cardiff, Inferred county: Glamorgan, Volume: 11a, Page: 958
- ³¹ “Glamorganshire Baptisms,” *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 9 December 2018), entry for John Henry Pride
- ³² “Glamorganshire Baptisms,” *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 9 December 2018), entry for Lydia Mary Pride
- ³³ “1891 Wales Census,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 17 August 2018), entry for Christopher Pride, Registration district: Cardiff, Sub-registration district: Cardiff, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 44a, Piece: 4399, Folio: 82, Page: 78
- ³⁴ “1901 Wales Census,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 17 August 2018), entry for William Pride
- ³⁵ “England & Wales, National Probate Calendar (Index of Wills and Administrations), 1858–1966,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 17 August 2018), entry for Christopher Pride
- ³⁶ 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 17 August 2018), entry for William Pride
- ³⁷ “UK, WWI War Diaries (France, Belgium and Germany), 1914–1920,” Regiment or unit: Queen's Own (Royal West Kent) Regiment, Sub-unit: 8th Battalion, Division: 24th Division, Diary Dates: 1915 Aug–1919 Apr, Piece Description: Piece 2213/2: 8 Battalion Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment) (1915 Aug - 1919 Apr), Piece Number: 2213
- ³⁸ “No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station,” *British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa* (www.bifhsgo.ca: accessed 16 August 2018), entry for Pride, W.
- ³⁹ *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* (www.cwgc.org: accessed 3 December 2018), entry for Pride, W., Service No: G/3870
- ⁴⁰ “Bailleul Community Cemetery, Nord,” *Commonwealth War Graves Commission*, (www.cwgc.org: accessed 17 January 2017)
- ⁴¹ “No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station,” *British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa* (www.bifhsgo.ca: accessed 16 August 2018), entry for Pride, W.
- ⁴² “UK, Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects, 1901–1929,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 17 August 2018), entry for William Pride
- ⁴³ “British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914–1920,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 9 December 2018), entry for Christopher T. Price
- ⁴⁴ “British Army WWI Service Records, 1914–1920,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 9 December 2018), entry for Christ Thomas Pride
- ⁴⁵ “1939 Register,” *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 11 December 2018), entry for Christopher T. Pride
- ⁴⁶ “England & Wales, Civil Registration Marriage Index, 1837–1915,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 11 December 2018), entry for Christopher T. Pride, Registration district: Cardiff, Inferred county: Glamorganshire, Volume: 11a, Page: 1023
- ⁴⁷ “1939 Register,” *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 11 December 2018), entry for Christopher T. Pride
- ⁴⁸ *Ibid.*

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- ⁴⁹ "England & Wales, Civil Registration Birth Index 1916–2007," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 9 December 2018), entry for James A. Pride, Registration district: Cardiff, Inferred county: Glamorganshire, Volume: 11a, Page: 1030
- ⁵⁰ "1939 Register," *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 11 December 2018), entry for Christopher T. Pride
- ⁵¹ "England & Wales, Civil Registration Birth Index 1916–2007," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 9 December 2018), entry for Joseph T. Pride, Registration district: Cardiff, Inferred county: Glamorganshire, Volume: 11a, Page: 532
- ⁵² "England & Wales, Civil Registration Birth Index 1916–2007," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 9 December 2018), entry for Dorothy E. Pride, Registration district: Cardiff, Inferred county: Glamorganshire, Volume: 11a, Page: 649
- ⁵³ "1939 Register," *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 11 December 2018), entry for Christopher T. Pride
- ⁵⁴ "UK, Allied Prisoners of War, 1939-1945," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 11 December 2018), entry for William Charles Pride
- ⁵⁵ "England & Wales, National Probate Calendar (Index of Wills and Administrations), 1858–1966," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 11 December 2018), entry for Christopher Thomas Pride
- ⁵⁶ "British Army Service Records 1914–1920," *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 9 December 2018), entry for Joseph Pride
- ⁵⁷ "British Army WWI Pension Records 1914–1920," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 7 December 2018), entry for Joseph Pride, Form title: Short Service Attestation
- ⁵⁸ "British Army Service Records 1914–1920," *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 9 December 2018), entry for Joseph Pride
- ⁵⁹ "England & Wales, Civil Registration Birth Index 1916–2007," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 9 December 2018), entry for William J. Pride, Registration district: St Olave, Inferred county: London, Volume: 1d, Page: 216
- ⁶⁰ "England & Wales, Civil Registration Birth Index 1916–2007," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 9 December 2018), entry for Margaret M. Pride, Registration district: St Olave, Inferred county: Greater London, Volume: 1d, Page: 329
- ⁶¹ "England & Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 11 December 2018), entry for Joseph E. Pride, Registration district: Bermondsey, Inferred county: London, Volume: 5c, Page: 97
- ⁶² "UK, Commonwealth War Graves, 1914–1921 and 1939–1947," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 7 December 2018), entry for James Pride
- ⁶³ "HMS Defence (1907)," *Wikipedia* ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HMS_Defence_\(1907\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HMS_Defence_(1907)): accessed 9 December 2018)
- ⁶⁴ "Battle of Jutland," *Wikipedia* (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Jutland: accessed 9 December 2018)
- ⁶⁵ "England & Wales, National Probate Calendar (Index of Wills and Administrations), 1858–1966," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 17 August 2018), entry for Christopher Pride
- ⁶⁶ "England & Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 9 December 2018), entry for Hannah M. Pride, Registration district: Cardiff, Inferred county: Glamorganshire, Volume: 11a, Page: 474