

Private Wilhelm Theodor Klinge[©]

Regimental number: 284

4th Company, Reserve Infantry No. 209, German Army

born: 13 February 1889–died: 1 October 1918

Private Wilhelm Theodor Klinge was a German prisoner of war when he was admitted to No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station on 30 September 1918. He died the next day of shrapnel wounds to, and a fracture of, his right leg. He was buried the same day in Duisans British Cemetery (Plot 3, Row O, Grave 29) with the Canadian chaplain A. D. Reid presiding.¹

Wilhelm was born on 13 February 1889² in Bremen, Germany, the son of Valentin Klinge and Hermine Friederike Anna Mahlmann. He probably served in the German Imperial Army before the Great War—there are records for him in 1909, 1910 and 1911. In 1911, he was about 1.6 metres (5' 3") tall and a painter. His father had possibly died before this period, but his mother was still alive.³

Wilhelm enlisted to serve in World War I at the age of 22⁴ and was serving with the 4th Company of the Reserve Infantry No. 209 when he died.⁵

He probably had five siblings—one sister and four brothers:

- Hermann (born on 22 April 1871),⁶
- Auguste Dorothee Elise (born on 6 January 1873),⁷
- Valentin Carl Hermann (born on 15 November 1875),⁸
- Franz Ignatz Martin (born on 9 March 1884),⁹
- August Ernst (born on 30 October 1885).¹⁰

Hermine Dorothee (born on 17 June 1874)¹¹ may also have been a sister to Wilhelm, but this is not certain.

Three of his four brothers—Valentin,¹² Franz¹³ and August¹⁴—all enlisted in the Germany army at the age of 20. No evidence was found that any of them died in the war.

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¹ "No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station," *British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa* (www.bifhsgo.ca: accessed 24 February 2020), entry for Klinge [*sic*]

² "Hamburg, Germany, Deaths, 1874–1950," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 27 April 2020), entry for Wilhelm Theodor Klinge, Reference number: 332-5_823

³ "Bremen, Germany, Military Lists, 1712–1914," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 27 April 2020), entry for Wilhelm Theodor Klinge

⁴ *Ibid.*

⁵ "No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station," *British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa*, entry for Klinge [*sic*]

⁶ "Germany, Select Births and Baptisms," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 27 April 2020), entry for Hermann Klinge, FHL film number: 1344179

⁷ "Germany, Select Births and Baptisms," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 27 April 2020), entry for Auguste Dorothee Elise Klinge, FHL film number: 1344181

⁸ "Bremen, Germany, Military Lists, 1712–1914," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 27 April 2020), entry for Valentin Carl Hermann Klinge

⁹ "Bremen, Germany, Military Lists, 1712–1914," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 27 April 2020), entry for Franz Ignatz Martin Klinge

¹⁰ "Bremen, Germany, Military Lists, 1712–1914," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 27 April 2020), entry for August Ernst Klinge

¹¹ "Bremen, Germany, Military Lists, 1712–1914," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 27 April 2020), entry for August Ernst Klinge; "Germany, Select Births and Baptisms," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 27 April 2020), entry for Hermine Dorothee Klinge, FHL film number: 1344183. Hermine's father was Valentin Klinge, but her mother was Anna Hermine Elise Mahlmann. Is this the same person as Hermine Friederike Anna Mahlmann?

¹² "Bremen, Germany, Military Lists, 1712–1914," *Ancestry*, entry for Valentin Carl Hermann Klinge

¹³ "Bremen, Germany, Military Lists, 1712–1914," *Ancestry*, entry for Franz Ignatz Martin Klinge

¹⁴ "Bremen, Germany, Military Lists, 1712–1914," *Ancestry*, entry for August Ernst Klinge