

Lance Corporal Frederick George Yates®

Regimental number: 3/7168

5th Battalion, Dorsetshire Regiment

born: 1897–died: 2 October 1918

Lance Corporal Frederick George Yates was born in 1897 in Hackney, London, Middlesex,¹ the son of James and Alice Yates.² James, a house decorator, had married Alice Seabrook on 10 April 1887 at St Peter's Church in Bethnal Green, Tower Hamlets, in London.³ They were both born in London—James father on 8 February 1868 in Hackney and Alice on 28 July 1867 in Stepney.⁴ They went on to have 12 children:⁵

- Alice Florence (born on 16 April 1888),⁶
- James William, known as William (born in 1889),⁷
- Emily (born in 1891),⁸
- Ada (born in 1892),⁹
- Ethel May (born in 1893),¹⁰
- Daisy Sophia (born on 29 October 1895),¹¹
- Frederick,
- Ada Rosina (born in 1900),¹²
- Annie (born on 24 June 1902),¹³
- Lillian (born in 1904),¹⁴
- Walter George (born in 1906)¹⁵ and
- Arthur Thomas (born on 30 May 1907).¹⁶

In the 1911 Census, James reported that four of their twelve children had died. Three children died very young: Emily soon after birth,¹⁷ Ada at a few months of age¹⁸ and Walter at about a year.¹⁹ The identity of the fourth child who died before 1911 could not be confirmed. Eight children were living with their parents in 1911²⁰ and a ninth child, their eldest daughter, had married and was living with her husband in Bethnal Green.²¹

In 1891, James and Alice were living with their first two children at 15 Sandford Lane in Hackney. By 1901, they had six children and were living at 23 Maclaren Street in the same house as another family—Henry and Fanny Wakefield and their adult daughter.²² Ten years later the family was living at 34 Holmbrook Street, Homerton, in Hackney.²³

One of Frederick's sisters, Ada Rosina, died in Hackney a few years later, in 1914 (at the age of 13) and was buried on 2 May 1914 in Newham, London.²⁴

A few months later Frederick enlisted to serve in the Great War. He signed up early—in about September 1914²⁵ in Stratford, Essex.²⁶ He went to France on 22 January 1915. Various military records show that he served only with the 5th Battalion of the Dorsetshire Regiment.²⁷ However, the 5th (Service) Battalion, after six months of training in England, went to Gallipoli in July 1915.²⁸ So, with which unit did Frederick go to France?

When he died, he was with the 5th Battalion.²⁹ At the end of September 1918, this battalion was stationed in Vis-en-Artois, east of Arras, in northern France. On 27 September, the unit moved 7 kilometres to the southeast and, when it reached Villers-le-Cagnicourt, established the battalion headquarters in the trenches. On the 28th, it relieved another unit in front of Oisy-le-Verger. The

next day the battalion patrols reconnoitered, coming under machine gun fire, and two companies took part in minor operations. The situation was normal on the 30th, with occasional shelling, including gas shells. The battalion was relieved and returned to Marquoin, finishing the move at 3:20 a.m. No sooner had it arrived than the battalion was called to assist the 32nd Battalion near Épinoy. It left Marquoin about 11:30 a.m. on 1 October and made a successful advance, but that came at a price. Among other casualties, 209 Other Ranks (non-officers) were wounded and one suffered from a gas attack.

It is not known how Frederick was wounded, but he was admitted to No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station on 1 October 1918 and died there the following day.³⁰ A casualty clearing station (CCS) was a military medical unit behind the front lines, usually located near transportation. Casualties who did not die or could not be adequately treated in the CCS were stabilized before being transported to a field or military hospital.³¹

Frederick was buried on 3 October 1918 in Duisans British Military Cemetery (Plot 8, Row A, Grave 67) with the Canadian chaplain W. Fisher presiding.³² Duisans British Military Cemetery is located in Étrun, near Arras, France. The first burials in the cemetery took place in March 1917. No. 1 CCCS arrived at the beginning of September 1918 and was stationed near Duisans for two months in the autumn of 1918.³³ As a result of the serious and urgent nature of the cases admitted to No. 1 CCCS, the death rate was considered to be high in October—a total of 83 deaths occurred during the month.³⁴

A letter was sent to his mother, who was living at 5 Cottage Lane, Homerton, to notify the family of his death. She also received the monies owing to Frederick by the army upon his death.³⁵

Frederick was awarded posthumously the British War Medal (for service overseas between 1914 and 1918), the Victory Medal (for service in an operational theatre) and the 1914–15 Star (for service in the war against Germany between 5 August 1914 and 31 December 1915).³⁶

At the outbreak of the Second World War, Frederick's parents and his brother Arthur were living together at 43 Mundford Road in Hackney. His father was retired, but Arthur, like his father before him, was a house painter.³⁷ Frederick's parents had been born within a year of each other and probably died within a year of each other in Hackney—James in 1941³⁸ and Alice in 1942.³⁹

Limited information is known about only a few of Frederick's siblings after the war.

Alice married George Gable on 25 March 1911 at St Jude's Church in Bethnal Green. Alice was a shirt presser and George, like Alice's father, was a decorator.⁴⁰ A week after their marriage, they were living at 77 Sewardstone Road in Bethnal Green.⁴¹ George (regimental number 18760) enlisted in 1917 to serve in the Great War and went to France on 28 March.⁴² He first served in the 8th Infantry Labour Corps and remained in France until 13 August 1918. After the war, he returned to continental Europe as part of the Army of the Rhine. He was discharged on 27 March 1920. In 1939, Alice and George were living at 55 Canterbury Road in Leyton, Essex,⁴³ where George was a butcher's cutter. Alice probably died in 1978 in Wallingford, Oxfordshire.⁴⁴

Daisy married Louis R. Hindes in 1921 in West Ham, Essex.⁴⁵ In 1939, they were living at 17 Blyth Road in Leyton, Essex.⁴⁶ Daisy probably died in September 1990 in Wycombe, Buckinghamshire.⁴⁷

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- ¹ "GRO online index–birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 5 May 2020), entry for Yates, Frederick George, Registration district: Hackney, Volume 01B, Page 560
- ² "1911 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 5 May 2020), entry for Fredick [sic] Yates, Registration district: Hackney, Registration district number: 11, Sub-registration district: Central Hackney, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 12, Piece: 1085
- ³ "London, England, Church of England Marriages and Banns, 1754–1932," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 5 May 2020), entry for James Yates
- ⁴ "1911 England Census," entry for Fredick [sic] Yates; "1939 England and Wales Register," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 8 May 2020), entry for James Yates, Schedule number: 145, Sub-schedule Number: 1, Enumeration district: AIAB, Registration district: 12-1
- ⁵ Ibid.
- ⁶ "1939 England and Wales Register," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 10 May 2020), entry for Alice F. Gable, Schedule number: 149, Sub-schedule Number: 2, Enumeration district: CDFN, Registration district: 188B-3
- ⁷ "GRO online index–birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 5 May 2020), entry for Yates, James William, Registration district: Hackney, Volume 01B, Page 549
- ⁸ "GRO online index–birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 5 May 2020), entry for Yates, Emily, Registration district: Edmonton, Volume 03A, Page 415
- ⁹ "GRO online index–birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 5 May 2020), entry for Yates, Ada, Registration district: Hackney, Volume 01B, Page 464
- ¹⁰ "GRO online index–birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 5 May 2020), entry for Yates, Ethel May, Registration district: Hackney, Volume 01B, Page 55
- ¹¹ "1939 England and Wales Register," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 10 May 2020), entry for Daisy Sophia Hindes, Schedule number: 9, Sub-schedule number: 2, Enumeration district: CDET, Registration district: 188B-3
- ¹² "GRO online index–birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 5 May 2020), entry for Yates, Ada Rosina, Registration district: Hackney, Volume 01B, Page 426
- ¹³ "GRO online index–birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 5 May 2020), entry for Yates, Annie, Registration district: Hackney, Volume 01B, Page 474
- ¹⁴ "GRO online index–birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 5 May 2020) entry for Yates, Lillian, Registration district: Hackney, Volume 01B, Page 492
- ¹⁵ "GRO online index–birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 5 May 2020), entry for Yates, Walter George, Registration district: Hackney, Volume 01B, Page 451
- ¹⁶ "1939 England and Wales Register," *Ancestry*, entry for James Yates
- ¹⁷ "GRO online index–death," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 5 May 2020), entry for Yates, Emily, Volume 03A, Page 189
- ¹⁸ "GRO online index–death," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 5 May 2020), entry for Yates, Ada, Volume 01B, Page 358
- ¹⁹ "GRO online index–death," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 5 May 2020), entry for Yates, Walter , Volume 01B, Page 254
- ²⁰ "1911 England Census," *Ancestry*, entry for Fredick [sic] Yates
- ²¹ "1911 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 5 May 2020), entry for Florence Gable, Registration district: Bethnal Green, Registration district number: 11, Sub-registration district: Bethnal Green North East, Registration district number: 17, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 33, Piece: 1414
- ²² "1901 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 5 May 2020), entry for James Yates, Registration district: Hackney, Sub-registration district: Central Hackney, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 25, Piece: 220, Folio: 121, Page: 63, Household schedule number: 362
- ²³ "1911 England Census," *Ancestry*, entry for Fredick [sic] Yates

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- ²⁴ "England & Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk; accessed 7 May 2020), entry for Ada R. Yates, Registration district: Hackney, Inferred county: London, Volume: 1b, Page: 507
- ²⁵ 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 7 May 2020), entry for Frederick George Yates
- ²⁶ "UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War, 1914–1919," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk; accessed 8 May 2020), entry for Frederick George Yates
- ²⁷ "UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War, 1914–1919," entry for Frederick George Yates; "British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914–1920," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk; accessed 8 May 2020), entry for Frederick G. Yates
- ²⁸ "The 5th (Service) Battalion The Dorsetshire Regiment in World War One," *The Keep Military Museum* (<https://www.keepmilitarymuseum.org/history/first+world+war/the+dorsetshire+regiment/the+fifth+battalion>; accessed 8 May 2020)
- ²⁹ "UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War, 1914–1919," entry for Frederick George Yates. The journal maintained by the chaplains at No. 1 CCCS indicates that Frederick was with the 8th Battalion of the Dorsetshire Regiment. However, all other records indicate the 5th Battalion. There is also no evidence that there was an 8th Battalion.
- ³⁰ "No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station," *British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa* (www.bifhsgo.ca; accessed 8 May 2020), entry for Yates, F.
- ³¹ "Casualty Clearing Station," *Wikipedia* (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Casualty_Clearing_Station; accessed 2 May 2020)
- ³² "No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station," *British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa*, entry for Yates, F
- ³³ "Duisans British Cemetery, Etrun," *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* (www.cwgc.org; accessed 7 October 2015)
- ³⁴ "War Diaries of the First World War: 1st Canadian Casualty Clearing Station 1914/08/13–1919/03/31," *Library and Archives Canada* (<http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca>; accessed 26 March 2018)
- ³⁵ "UK, Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects, 1901–1929," *Ancestry*, entry for Frederick George Yates
- ³⁶ "British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914–1920," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk; accessed 8 May 2020), entry for Frederick G. Yates
- ³⁷ "1939 England and Wales Register," *Ancestry*, entry for James Yates
- ³⁸ "England & Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk; accessed 8 May 2020), entry for James Yates, Registration district: Hackney, Inferred county: London, Volume: 1b, Page: 525
- ³⁹ "England & Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk; accessed 8 May 2020), entry for Alice Yates, Registration district: Hackney, Inferred county: London, Volume: 1b, Page: 434
- ⁴⁰ "London, England, Church of England Marriages and Banns, 1754–1932," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk; accessed 5 May 2020), entry for Alice Florence Yates
- ⁴¹ "1911 England Census," *Ancestry*, entry for Florence Gable,
- ⁴² "British Army WWI Service Records, 1914–1920," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk; accessed 10 May 2020), entry for Alice Florence Yates
- ⁴³ "1939 England and Wales Register," *Ancestry*, entry for Alice F. Gable
- ⁴⁴ "England & Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk; accessed 8 May 2020), entry for Alice Florence Yates, Registration district: Wallingford, Inferred county: Oxfordshire, Volume: 20, Page: 3087

⁴⁵ "England & Wales, Civil Registration Marriage Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 9 May 2020), entry for Daisy S. Yates, Registration district: West Ham, Inferred county: Essex, Volume: 4a, Page: 849

⁴⁶ "1939 England and Wales Register," entry for Daisy Sophia Hindes

⁴⁷ "England & Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 8 May 2020), entry for Daisy Sophia Hindes, Registration district: Wycombe, Inferred county: Buckinghamshire, Volume: 19, Page: 1263