

# Frank Alban FRAZER



- Born:** 1876, Clerkenwell, London
- Occupation:** Workhouse Labour Master/warehouseman
- Enlisted:** London: February 1916 (Conscripted)
- Unit:** 1st Devonshire Regt. (1st Company)
- Rank/number:** Corporal: No.49015
- Death:** Died of wounds, 3rd November 1918
- Detail:** Frank died during the last days of the war as the Allies pushed to victory through Picardy. On 20th October the 1st Devons attacked West of the Solesmes - Owillers road and 23 men were killed and 58 wounded. Twelve of those injured were taken to hospital in Rouen and Frank was probably one of these. He died two weeks later, 8 days before the war ended.
- Age at death:** 42
- Military info:** On the outbreak of war Frank was 38 and working as a warehouseman in London. He may have seen himself as too old to enlist. On 28th November 1914 Frank married May Dive, 27, a servant girl from Camber in Sussex, and they set up home in Drayton Gardens, London. In January 1916 conscription was introduced and the following month Frank was called up. Just as he went to war his wife had twins, Charles and Ernest. Frank was posted to the 1st Devons, a battalion that fought in most of the early battles of 1914/15. The Devons joined the Somme offensive in July 1916 and it is possible Frank arrived in their ranks around this time. The battalion, part of 95th Brigade, 5th Division, fought at High Wood, Guillemont, Flers-Courcelette, Morval and Le Transloy. In October that year they moved to Festubert and remained there until March 1917. In April the Devons headed south for the Battle of Arras where in an attack at Fresnoy on 9th May they were all but wiped out. For 5 months the Devons rested in a quiet sector near Arleux before being sent into the hell of Passchendaele. They fought 4 battles - Polygon, Broodseinde, Poelcappelle and 2nd Passchendaele. The 5th Division was ordered to Italy in the wake of the Caporetto disaster, but were hastily recalled when Germany launched its last-ditch offensive on 21st March 1918. The Devons helped win the Battles of the Lys, and after a brief rest fought till the end. Frank was wounded at Solesmes and died days from peace.
- Grave/memorial:** Frank is buried at St Sever Cemetery Extension at Rouen, and commemorated at St Petroc's Church in Padstow and on the Padstow War Memorial.
- Family info:** Father: John Frazer, rail engineer, born London in 1839. Mother: Kate French, born Lewes, Sussex in 1839. Married 1861, they had six children.
- Additional info:** May's father, Albert Dive, a fisherman from Ramsgate in Kent, moved to Padstow in 1915 to escape war disruption. After Frank's death May joined him.



This information was researched by Peter Smith, who is currently writing a book about Padstow's part in the Great War. Anyone wishing to correct errors or supply additional information can write to him at 24 Mallard Drive, Uckfield, East Sussex TN22 5PW. Also phone 01825 762226 or email [smithpeter24@gmail.com](mailto:smithpeter24@gmail.com)

+Lest we forget+