

## **Albert MAYNE**

Born Dawlish, 16 June 1896  
Private 18321

Died France, 9 August 1917, aged 21  
Coldstream Guards, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion

**Albert Mayne** was the grandson of James Mayne (1822-1891) and Sarah Brook (1818-1895). They had married in the July-Sept quarter of 1847 in Newton Abbot district (vol 10, p 202). James was a farm labourer, born in Dawlish, and Sarah was a laundress, born in Honiton/Kenton (Census records differ) and they lived in 3 Church Cottages, Dawlish. Their children were George (1845- ), John (1848- ), Mary Ann (1851- ), James (1853- ), and Henry (1856-1919) all born in Dawlish.

Henry Mayne married Sarah Ann Cox (1855-1916) in April-June quarter of 1875 (N.A. vol 5b, p 280). Henry was also an agricultural labourer and his wife a laundress. They had nine children between 1876 and 1896, who were:

- Jessie (1876- )
- Henry Charles (1878- )
- William J (1879- )
- Emily J (1883- )
- Ernest J (1885- )
- Alice Mary (1888- )
- Alfred Samuel (1890-1906)
- Frederick T (1893- )

**Albert (1896-1917)**

By 1911 Henry and Sarah Ann were living at 11 Old Town Street with the two youngest children, Fred, 18, a labourer for the railway company, and **Albert**, 14, an errand boy for a draper. The Census record also shows that eight of the nine children survived to that date, Alfred Samuel having died in 1906 at age 16.

**Albert** married Alice Edith Hills in the July-Sept quarter of 1915 (N.A. vol 5b, p 381), when he was 19, and they had one child, Derrick Mayne, who was born on 15 July 1916 (N.A. vol 5b, p 127). Derrick died on 25 August 1996 in Hertfordshire (Hitchin & Stevenage 1c, District 5341C, entry 269). There is a record of a marriage of a Derrick W Mayne to Margaret E Kitto in Exeter in the July-Sept quarter of 1959 (Exeter, vol 7a, p 878), and sight of a marriage certificate will show if he was Albert and Alice's son.

Of **Albert's** military record there is little to tell us when he enlisted. The Medal Roll shows that he was entitled to the Victory Medal and the British War Medal, and the Register of Soldiers' Effects shows that the Death Grant and War Gratuity were paid to his widow Alice E Mayne.

It is possible that **Albert** may have been a conscript and have trained on Salisbury Plain. He had joined the Coldstream Guards, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion.

General Haig ordered General Herbert Plumer, the commander of the British Second Army which occupied the Ypres Salient, to produce a plan in late 1916. Plumer believed that a force of 35 divisions and 5,000 guns would be necessary, which was far beyond the amount of artillery in the British Expeditionary Force.

Haig informed his Army commanders that his objectives were to wear down the German army, secure the Belgian coast and connect with the Dutch frontier by capturing Passchendaele Ridge and advancing on Roulers and Thourout, to cut the railway supplying the German garrisons holding the Western Front north of Ypres and the Belgian coast. An attack by the 4th Army would then begin on the coast, combined with an amphibious landing in support of the main advance to the Dutch frontier.

**Private Albert Mayne** was most likely a member of a scouting party sent out in the week 23-28 July to ascertain the strength and depth of enemy defences. Night patrols attempted to bring back prisoners for interrogation prior to the major assault. Philip Gibbs, official war correspondent, reported that there was not much fighting except "quick raids for body-snatching and machine-gun grabbing."

It is quite likely that a Coldstream Guards patrol had been surprised and the Germans would have criss-crossed the area with machine-gun and rifle fire. His pals would have dragged Albert back to a trench for immediate bandaging of wounds. From there medical orderlies carried him to a Casualty Clearing Station for treatment and assessment. Those who stood a chance of recovery were then loaded on ambulances for bumpy and painful rides away from the battle area to hospital. Albert was taken to a General Hospital at Le Treport, near Dieppe. He died of his wounds on August 9<sup>th</sup> 1917 and is buried in Mont Huon Military Cemetery at Le Treport. He was 20 years old.

### **Casualties**

The British Official History recorded Fifth Army casualties for 31 July – 3 August as 27,001, of whom 3,697 were killed.

Commonwealth War Graves entry: **Albert Mayne**, Private 18321 Coldstream Guards, 1st Bn.

Date of Death: 09/08/1917 Age: 20 (*actually 21*)

Cemetery: [MONT HUON MILITARY CEMETERY, LE TREPORT](#)

### **Location Information**

Le Treport is a small seaport 25 kilometres north-east of Dieppe. The Cemetery is 1.5 kilometres south of the town. Go towards the centre of Le Treport and then follow the Littoral/Dieppe sign. The Cemetery stands on the D940.

### **Historical Information**

During the First World War, Le Treport was an important hospital centre and by July 1916, the town contained three general hospitals (the 3rd, 16th and 2nd Canadian), No.3 Convalescent Depot and Lady Murray's B.R.C.S. Hospital. The 7th Canadian, 47th and 16th USA General Hospitals arrived later, but all of the hospitals had closed by March 1919. As the original military cemetery at Le Treport filled, it became necessary to use the new site at Mont Huon. There are now 2,128 Commonwealth burials of the First World War in the cemetery. The cemetery also contains more than 200 German war graves.

### **Additional Information:**

Son of Henry and Sarah Mayne, of Dawlish, Devonshire; husband of A. E. Mayne, of Stevenage, Herts. The CWGC reference shows that Alice had moved to Stevenage, perhaps to live with her son Derrick. She is elsewhere shown to have died in Letchworth on 28 August 1967.

## Dawlish World War One Project

**Albert Mayne** is recorded on the Devon Roll of Honour with the Christian name "Bert" and without date or location of death. He is also listed on the Dawlish Boys' School Roll of Honour.

Dawlish War memorial inscription: MAYNE.B. PTE. COLDM GDS

Devon Heritage site info: 775210 Gunner Bertie Mayne of "B" Battery, the 245<sup>th</sup> West Riding Brigade of the Royal Field Artillery. Born in Leeds in 1895. Died 1 November 1918 aged 23. *(This information does not correspond with the CWGC entry, nor the regiment shown on Dawlish War Memorial. - ed)*

Last known address: 11 Old Town Street, Dawlish (1911 census)

Next of kin: Alice Edith Mayne, widow

### References:

Free BMD (Birth Marriage Death records)

Commonwealth War Graves Commission website

Subscription sites for :

Census and family tree information.

Medal Rolls and Register of Soldiers' Effects.