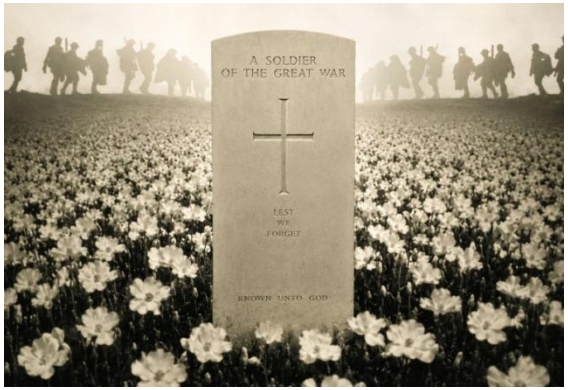






Gilbert Carlyle Mason Prince

1898 – 1918

Civilian Research

Field Name	Field Data	Source of data
Casualty Name	Gilbert Carlyle Mason Prince, Private	CWGC
Date of Birth	6/3/1898 Willesden	https://www.natwestgroupremembers.com/our-fallen/our-fallen-ww1/p/gilbert-prince.html
Date of Death (from Spreadsheet)	24/8/1918 Why is he listed as a Somme casualty?	CWGC
Age at death (from Spreadsheet	20	CWGC
Marital Status	I believe him to be single – no wife was mentioned by CWGC	
Children (if any)	none	
Occupation prior to Call up	Worked as a clerk for London County &	https://www.natwestgroupremembers.com/our-

	Westminster Bank, Hemel Hempstead Branch	fallen/our-fallen-ww1/p/gilbert-prince.html
Parents	George James and Flora Gertrude	CWGC
Listed Address(s)	The Homestead, Southcliff Park, Clacton on Sea is listed on CWGC as his parents' address However, the personal inscription states his parents lived in Frinton on Sea (as per his entry in ER in 1918 – see below)	CWGC CWGC
Parents /Fathers occupation	Undertaker's Clerk	1911 census on FMP
Brothers and Sisters	Stanley, Gertrude E, Charles H, Olive Lilian, Harold John, Doris Winnifred, living at Hazelmere, Love Lane, Pinner in 1911 In 1901 they were living at 40 Ashburnham Road, Willesden	1901 & 1911 census on FMP Gilbert is 13 on the census and a student
Years at John Lyon School		
University (if any)		
Obituary	I haven't located one yet in the newspapers	
Additional sources of data		
Address in 1918 (and his parents too?)	Living at Woodgrange, Queen's Road, Frinton, 1918 as a military voter	Electoral Register on FMP

Military Research

JLS WWI RoH	PRINCE G.C.M.
CWGC Reference	Private Gilbert Carlyle Mason Prince | War Casualty Details 541927 | CWGC
Age	20
DoD	24-Aug-18
Rank	Pte
Regiment	The Queen's (Royal West Surrey Regiment) "C" Coy. 6th Bn
	MEAULTE MILITARY CEMETERY
Location	Somme, France
Military details	Son of George James and Flora Gertrude Prince, of The Homestead, Southcliff Park, Clacton-on-Sea. Born at Willesden, London. Private Gilbert Carlyle Mason Prince (Service Number 265686) died on August 24, 1918, at the age of 20. He served with "C" Company, 6th (Service) Battalion of the Queen's (Royal West Surrey Regiment), which fought as part of the 37th Brigade within the 12th (Eastern) Division.(Note: His name is occasionally spelled "Carlyle" in military records rather than "Carliyle"). Private Prince is buried at the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) Méaulte Military Cemetery in France (Grave Reference: Plot V, Row F, Grave 12).The cemetery is located in the village of Méaulte, just south of Albert, in the Somme department of northern France. He was killed in action during the opening weeks of the Second Battle of Bapaume (part of the major Allied counter-offensive known as the Hundred Days Offensive). On August 24, 1918, the 6th Battalion of the Queen's Regiment was heavily engaged in a rapidly moving push to drive back German forces east of Albert. The battalion was tasked with advancing across the old, heavily cratered 1916 Somme battlefields near the villages of Méaulte and Becordel-Becourt. As they pushed forward to clear tactical high ground and enemy trenches, the advancing British waves were subjected to fierce German rearguard resistance, marked by intense machine-gun crossfire and direct artillery shelling designed to slow down the Allied momentum. Private Prince was killed in the field amidst this chaotic forward advance. Because a casualty clearing station and field ambulances were actively operating out of Méaulte to handle the high influx of frontline casualties during this push, his body was successfully recovered from the immediate battlefield and laid to rest in the village military cemetery.

Story of Sacrifice

Gilbert Carlyle Mason Prince (1898 – 1918)

Gilbert Prince worked as a bank clerk at the London County & Westminster Bank before leaving his employment to enlist in the Queen's (Royal West Surrey) Regiment. He was killed in action aged 20 near Méaulte, France, on 24 August 1918, during the Allied advance in the opening weeks of the Second Battle of Bapaume.

Civilian Life

Gilbert Carlyle Mason Prince was born in Willesden, London, on 6 March 1898, the son of George James (an Undertaker's Clerk) and Flora Gertrude Prince. In 1901, the family lived in Ashburnham Road, Willesden, where his father worked as an undertaker's clerk. By 1911, the family had moved to Hazlemere, Love Lane, Pinner, and Gilbert, aged 13, was recorded as a scholar. After leaving school, Gilbert worked as a clerk at the London County & Westminster Bank's branch in Hemel Hempstead. He remained in this employment until the outbreak of the First World War, when he left his position to join the Army.

Military Life

Gilbert enlisted at Watford and served as Private 265686 with C Company, 6th Battalion, Queen's (Royal West Surrey) Regiment, part of the 37th Brigade of the 12th (Eastern) Division.

In August 1918, his battalion was involved in the Allied advance during the Hundred Days Offensive.

On 24 August, during the opening weeks of the Second Battle of Bapaume (part of the major Allied counter-offensive known as the Hundred Days Offensive) the 6th Battalion was engaged near Méaulte, south of Albert in the Somme region, advancing across the old Somme battlefields towards German positions. The advance met German machine-gun and artillery fire as the British troops moved forward. The 6th Battalion of the Queen's Regiment was heavily engaged in a rapidly moving push to drive back German forces east of Albert. The battalion was tasked with advancing across the old, heavily cratered 1916 Somme battlefields near the villages of Méaulte and Becordel-Becourt. As they pushed forward to clear tactical high ground and enemy trenches, the advancing British waves were subjected to fierce German rearguard resistance, marked by intense machine-gun crossfire and direct artillery shelling designed to slow down the Allied momentum.

Prince was killed in the field amidst this chaotic forward advance. Because a casualty clearing station and field ambulances were actively operating out of Méaulte to handle the high influx of frontline casualties during this push, his body was successfully recovered from the immediate battlefield and laid to rest at Méaulte Military Cemetery, France, Grave V.F.12. The cemetery is located in the village of Méaulte, just south of Albert, in the Somme department of northern France.

His headstone carries the inscription chosen by his father: "THE BELOVED SON OF GEO. & F. PRINCE FRINTON-ON-SEA, ESSEX, HE YET LIVETH."

Notes:

His baptism and biographical information from Nat West Group Remembers

“Gilbert Carlyle Mason Prince was born in Willesden, London, on 6 March 1898, the son of George James Prince and his wife Flora Gertrude. He worked for London County & Westminster Bank.

During the First World War Prince left his job as a clerk at the bank's Hemel Hempstead branch to join the army, becoming a Private in The Queen's (Royal West Surrey Regiment). He died in France on 24 August 1918. He was 20 years old.”

War memorials – he is not on Clacton war memorial (parents address at one time) and I haven’t found anything for Frinton.
He is not on the Willesden war memorial. Nor Harrow on the Hill war memorial.

Further research from Herts at War	http://hertsatwar.co.uk/biographies/723627/gilbert-carlyle-mason-prince
Gilbert Carlyle Mason Prince 1898 Date of Death / Age 24/08/1918 20 Rank, Service Number & Service Details Private 265686 The Queen's (Royal West Surrey Regiment) 6th Bn. 'C' Coy. Awards: Service Medals/Honour Awards British War and Victory medals Cemetery/Memorial: Name/Reference/Country MEAULTE MILITARY CEMETERY G. 40. France Headstone Inscription THE BELOVED SON OF GEO. & F. PRINCE FRINTON-ON-SEA, ESSEX, HE YET LIVETH UK & Other Memorials Not on the Hemel Hempstead Memorials Pre War Gilbert Carlyle Mason Prince was born on 6 March 1898 in Willesden,	

Middx, the son of George and Flora Prince. On the 1901 Census the family were living at 40 Ashburnham Road, Willesden, where his father was working as an Undertaker's Clerk. His father remained in the same occupation on the 1911 Census, but they had moved to Hazlemere, Love Lane, Pinner, Middx, and Gilbert was a 13 year old scholar.

He worked as a clerk for the London County & Westminster Bank at their Hemel Hempstead branch prior to enlistment.

His parents later lived at Clacton on Sea, Essex.

Wartime Service

He enlisted in Watford, Herts and served with the 6th Battalion, Queen's (Royal West Surrey) Regiment.

He was killed in action on 24 August 1918, age 20, when the battalion were in position near Meaulte, Somme. He is buried at Meaulte Military Cemetery, France.

Additional Information

His father, G J Prince Esq, The Homestead, Southcliff Park, Clacton-on-Sea, Essex, ordered his headstone inscription: "THE BELOVED SON OF GEO. & F. PRINCE FRINTON-ON-SEA, ESSEX, HE YET LIVETH". His father received a war gratuity of £8 and pay owing of £9 13s.

Acknowledgments

Brenda Palmer

www.natwestgroupremembers.com