

Richard George DALE



Born: 1889, Padstow, Cornwall
Occupation: Farm labourer
Enlisted: Padstow: 4th August 1914 (Pre-war Territorial)
Unit: Various batteries, Royal Garrison Artillery
Rank/number: Gunner: No.137390
Death: Died, 11th October 1918
Detail: Richard died of Spanish Flu at his home in Chapel Court, Padstow when the pandemic struck the town in the last year of the war. A few months earlier he had been invalided out of the RGA after his childhood epilepsy, which had been manageable throughout adulthood, suddenly got worse. Both his wife and mother were with him when he died.

Age at death: 29

Military info: Richard was a pre-war Territorial with the Cornwall RGA in Padstow. He joined up on 14th June 1910, aged 21. He was 5ft 4ins tall and of good physique. On 5th August 1914 he was embodied for war service in the Territorial RGA as a gunner, but he never served overseas, perhaps through ill health. On 10th October 1916 Richard was posted to 266th Siege Battery in the UK. On 16th February the following year he was transferred to 268th SB. The unit left for France 12 days later, but Richard remained in England and was posted to 298th SB. On 2nd April 1917 he was posted to 37th Company, RGA, part of the Southern Coast Defences at Portsmouth, Hants. Eight days later he went to the Isle of Wight to join 33rd Company at Golden Hill. On 3rd May he was sent to 1st Reinforcement Depot, Bexhill, East Sussex. In February 1918 Richard, 28, was invalided out of the army after suffering frequent epileptic attacks. A doctor noted: "He has had fits since infancy but after puberty they became infrequent and he managed to follow his occupation as farm labourer. In October 1916 he had 13 teeth extracted and then his fits became more frequent." Richard, described by the army as "sober, steady and hardworking," was settling back into civilian life when Spanish Flu claimed him.

Grave/memorial: Richard is buried in Padstow Cemetery, and is commemorated at St Petroc's Church and on the Padstow War Memorial.

Family info: Father: Not known. Mother: Alice Dale, born Padstow, Cornwall in 1870. She was 19 when Richard was born and gave him her family name. In 1894 Alice married Frederick Bryant. Richard took his name, but reverted to Dale when he enlisted. Frederick died in the 1890s and in 1910 Alice married Thomas Broad, 53, a stone mason from Duloc, Cornwall. Wife: Agnes Mackintosh, born Edinburgh, Scotland in 1881. A dressmaker.



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

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