

Name: Francois Marie **MESSAGER**

Also known as Leon Francois Marie Messenger & Franciscus Messenger OMI

Reverend Priest OMI (Oblate de Marie Immaculee) Ordained 1913

Student at Liege Belgium and then resident in Jersey prior to WW1

Born: 22 Jan 1889 Sizan, Finistere

Parents: Francois Louis Marie Messenger & Marie Jeanne Croguennec

Service: Caporal 65e RI (Regiment d'Infanterie) & Voluntary Chaplin

Matricule au recruitment: #3339, Brest Finistere, Class 1909

Shot in the head whilst under gas attack in the trenches. His body was carried to Mailly-Maillet by his fellow soldiers who did not want to leave him where he fell.

Awards: Medaille Militaire & Croix de guerre

Death: KIA 9 Jun 1915 Hebuterne, Pas de Calais

Grave: Buried in an empty donated caveau with two other priests and a seminarian in the Communal Cemetery at Mailly-Maillet, Somme in June 1915. The grave has been located by local authorities in Section C grave no 75 in the Communal Cemetery at Mailly-Maillet. (See cemetery map and picture of the grave below). Miss Cotton who was born in 1845 is also buried in this grave. There are no visible markers or commemoration for the four religious who are also buried in the grave. Miss Cotton donated the extra space in her newly created caveau to clergy or stretcher bearers that died in war service.

The Jesuit Archives have no record of their priest Reverend Father Fournier being exhumed after the war, and they record him as being buried in Mailly-Maillet. No other records of graves have been found for the four religious that are believed to be still buried in this grave at Mailley-Maillet along with Miss Cotton.

Memorial: Remembered on the WW1 Memorial at St Mathew's Church, St Peter, Jersey and on the French Consul Board of Honour in Jersey (now located St Thomas' Church) under the first name Leon. Also remembered on the War Memorial at St Pol de Leon, Finistere.

NOTE: Francois Marie Messenger's name has been mistranscribed as Francois Maurice Messenger in the Official French online records of soldiers that died for France, and this error has been replicated on many websites. His name does not appear on the War Memorial at Sizun where he was born.

PARTIE À REMPLIR PAR LE CORPS.

Nom M E S S A G E R

Prénoms Francis Maurice

Grade capitaine

Corps 65^e Régiment d'Infanterie

N^o 5763 au Corps. — Cl. 1901

Matricule. 3839 au Recrutement Prés

Mort pour la France le 15 Juin 1915
à Heuberville (Pas de Calais)

Genre de mort "Crise de l'ennemi"

Né le 22 Janvier 1889
à Saint-Basle Département Finistère

Arr^s municipal (p^r Paris et Lyon),
à défaut rue et N^o.

Cette partie n'est pas à remplir par le Corps.

Jugement rendu le _____
par le Tribunal de _____
acte ou jugement transcrit le 27 Mars 1916
à Saint-Pol-de-Léon (Finistère)

N^o du registre d'état civil _____

CCO-708-1922. [26434]

MILITARY DEATH RECORDS

Name Incorrectly Mistranscribed as Francois Maurice Messenger in official indexing.

Note: Leon has been crossed out and place of birth has been changed on official military death record yet his military service record gives his name and place of birth as originally stated.



BRIGADIERS-CAPORAUX QUARTIERS-MTR			
MENEZ J.F.	BRIG. 22 ^e ART COL.		27-10-18
MESSAGER F.M.	CAP. 65 ^e INF.		9-6-15
PERROT T.	Q.M. 'BOUVET'		18-3-15
PRIGENT A.	CAP. 146 ^e INF.		16-7-17
PRIGENT J.M.	CAP. 71 ^e INF.		22-8-16
QUEMENER A.	CAP. 339 ^e INF.		4-11-18
SALIOU P.	Q.M. 'SUFFREN'		26-11-16
SEITE F.	CAP. 147 ^e INF.		20-8-16
SEITE G.	CAP. 337 ^e INF.		7-6-16
TRIVIDIC J.	CAP. 2 ^e INF.		25-12-16
SOLDATS ET MARINS			
ABJEAN F.	6 ^e INF. COL.		6-10-14
ABJEAN F.M.	70 ^e INF.		19-7-18
AUFFRET J.M.	78 ^e ART.		26-8-18
BERNARD P.	2 ^e INF. COL.		20-1-15

REMEMBERED ON THE WAR MEMORIAL AT ST POL DE LEON, FINISTERE (ABOVE) & ON THE WW1 MEMORIAL AT ST MATHEW'S CHURCH, ST PETER, JERSEY (BELOW)



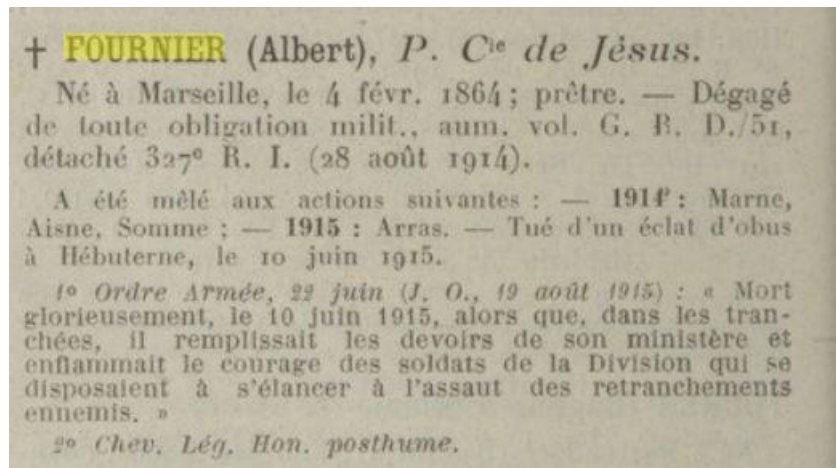
THE GRAVE

The grave information was discovered in an article written in a French religious journal by a Priest in 1915 who was at Mailly-Maillet and attended the funerals of the four religious buried in the same caveau in the cemetery over the space of five days. The account was replicated in other parish news journals at the time. There are no other official graves or burial records found for the four deceased men. Spaces in the newly built empty caveau had been offered to deceased priests or stretcher bearers via a note left in the Catholic Church in Mailly-Maillet by a local woman named Mademoiselle Cotton (who was born in 1845). The four names have been identified by cross referencing numerous sources of information, some of which were wrongly transcribed.

OTHERS BURIED IN THE SAME GRAVE AT MAILLY-MAILLET

1) Albert Felix **FOURNIER** Jesuit Priest born 4 Feb 1864 Marseille.

Volunteer Chaplain and stretcher bearer. G.B.D./51 Detached 327e RI Died Hebuterne 10 Jun 1915

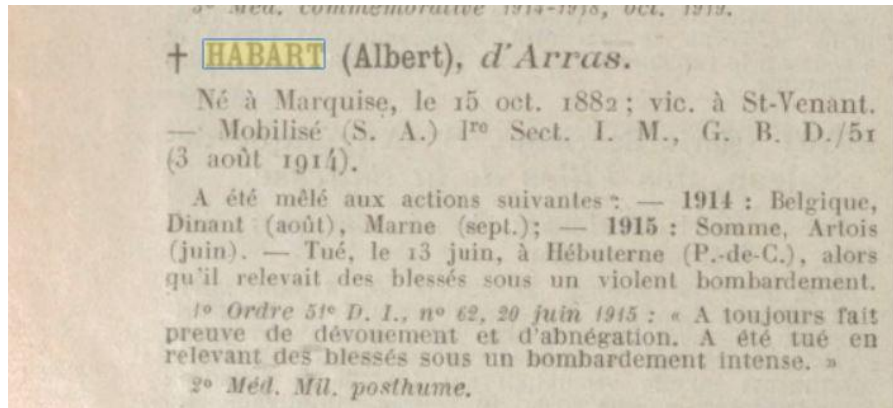


2) Albert Eugene Moise **HABART** Born 15 Oct 1882 Marquise.

Served 1re SIM

Died Mailly-Maillet 13 Jun 1915

Pretre Vicaire de St Venant, Arras Diocese



PARTIE À REMPLIR PAR LE CORPS.

Nom **HABART**

Prénoms *Albert Eugène Moise*

Grade *Soldat de 2e classe*

Corps *1^{re} Section d'Infirmiers Militaires*

N° Matricule. { *0378* au Corps. — Cl. *1912*
1256 au Recrutement *de Saint. Emmer*

Mort pour la France le *13 Juin 1915*
à *Mailly-Maillet (Somme)*

Genre de mort *Tué à l'ennemi*

Né le *15 Octobre 1882*
à *Marquise* Département *du Pas-de-Calais*

Arr' municipal (p' Paris et Lyon),
à défaut rue et N°.

Jugement rendu le _____
par le Tribunal, de _____
acte ou jugement transcrit le *11 août 1915*
à *Marquise (Pas-de-Calais)*

N° du registre d'état civil _____

101-708-1922. [26434]

Cette partie n'est pas à remplir par le Corps.

3) Rene Leonce Joseph **VILTART** Seminarian in Italy & Minor Cleric in Arras

Born 9 Jul 1885 Arras. Parents Leonce Auguste Louis Viltart & Marie Marie Catherin de Charruey

Sous-Lieutenant 233e RI

Died Mailly-Maillet 13 Jun 1915

19946

PARTIE À REMPLIR PAR LE CORPS.

VILTART

Nom.....

Prénoms..... René Leonce, Joseph

Grade..... Sous-Lieutenant

Corps..... 233^e Régiment d'Infanterie

N° Matricule. { 215033 au Corps. -- Cl. 1905.
..... 740 au Recrutement Arras.

Mort pour la France le 13 Juin 1915
à Mailly-Maillet (Somme)

Genre de mort Mort à l'ennemi

Né le 9 Juillet 1885.
à Arras Département Pas de Calais

Arr^s municipal (p^s Paris et Lyon), }
à défaut rue et N°.

Cette partie n'est pas à remplir par le Corps.

Jugement rendu le
par le Tribunal de
acte de jugement transcrit le 19 Juin 1916
à Arras (Pas-de-Calais)
N° du registre d'état civil 4647/29

260-703-1922. [26434]



MAP OF CEMETERY COURTESY OF MAILLY MAILLET LOCAL AUTHORITY – THE GRAVE IS C75 (ZOOM IN)

THE GRAVE



**RESEARCHED BY LARA POLLARD JUL-OCT 2021 FOR THE
CHANNEL ISLAND GREAT WAR STUDY GROUP**

**WITH MANY THANKS TO ROSEMARY CALAZEL AND ELISABETH
LEVRIEN SECRETARIAT DE LA MAIRIE DE MAILLY MAILLET
FOR THEIR ASSISTANCE IN LOCATING THE GRAVE IN THE
CEMETERY.**

**THANKS ALSO TO FRANCOIS DUBOIS AT THE JESUIT ARCHIVES
VANVES FOR HIS HELP CONFIRMING THE RECORDED PLACE OF
BURIAL FOR JESUIT REVEREND FATHER FOURNIER.**