

Wounded Frank

"I have been admitted into hospital wounded and am going on well". So wrote Frank in a Field Service Postcard on the 18th September, 1916 to a Miss A Le Liard in the parish of St Brelade in Jersey. But who was Frank?

NOTHING is to be written on this side except the date and signature of the sender. Sentences not required may be erased. If anything else is added the post card will be destroyed.

~~I am quite well.~~

I have been admitted into hospital
{ ~~sick~~ } and am going on well.
{ ~~wounded~~ } and ~~hope to be discharged soon.~~

~~I am being sent down to the base.~~

I have received your { letter dated 7/9/16
telegram ,,
parcel ,,

Letter follows at first opportunity.

~~I have received no letter from you~~
{ lately
for a long time.

Signature } Frank
only

Date 18/9/16

[Postage must be prepaid on any letter or post card addressed to the sender of this card.]

Wt. W4434. 600m. 8/1d. C. & Co., Grange Mills, S.W.

As best as can be determined, Miss Le Liard's forename was Ann (Marie), the daughter of Jean François and Anne Marie Liard, who had come to Jersey from France. According to the 1901 Census, Ann was 5 years old, but she does not appear to feature in the 1911 Census. However, it was possible that she was with either of her parents' families in France at that time. Meanwhile, among Ann's siblings in 1901, there was also listed Jean François, aged 7, and Yves Marie, aged 6. All three were born in St Saviour.

We find Yves Marie in Jersey's 1919 Roll of Service, and he was a Rifleman with the King's Royal Rifle Corps (KRRC). On investigation, his regimental number was R/16823, he was from St Saviour, had been wounded.

A.F.A. 2042.
114/Gen.No./5248.

FIELD SERVICE
POST CARD.

The address only to be written on this side. If anything else is added the post card will be destroyed.

Miss. A Le Liard
Sea View
St Brelades.
Jersey

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There was also Francis John Le Liard listed. He also served with the KRRC, rising to the rank of Corporal and with the regimental number R/6102, while the 1919 Roll of Service shows that he was also from St Saviour. He had also been wounded, but in his case, the record card showing his medal entitlement also notes that he was discharged. Apart from the medal record card, no other service or pension records appear to exist. Incidentally, both brothers received the Silver War Badge.

In trying to identify Frank, it is most likely therefore that Jean François was also Francis John, who adopted the anglicised version of his forenames when he enlisted. So, it is suggested that Francis John was the writer of the Field Service Postcard that was sent to his sister and which is pictured. Furthermore, looking at the dates, it is likely that Frank was wounded in early-September, 1916. While there is no indication of which Battalion of the KRRC Francis John belonged to, a number were in action, at that time, at Delville Wood, Guillemont and Pozières, all phases of the Battle of the Somme.

However, if this analysis is incorrect, it would be interesting to find out who Frank was?

Thanks go to Andrew Brooks, a member of the Western Front Association's North Lancashire Branch, for providing the postcard.