

157: Joseph Price

Basic Information [as recorded on local memorial or by CWGC]

Name as recorded on local memorial or by CWGC: Joseph Price

Rank: Private

Battalion / Regiment: 133rd Field Ambulance, Royal Army Medical Corps.

Service Number: 39393

Date of Death: 25 September 1917

Age at Death: 21

Buried / Commemorated at: Voormezele Cemetery Enclosures #01 and #02, Ypres (Ieper), West Flanders, Belgium

Additional information given by CWGC: The son of Joseph and Annie Price, of Liverpool Road, Neston. Born Runcorn.

Joseph Price jnr was born in late 1896 in Runcorn, the son of Joseph and Annie Price.

Joseph Price married Annie Powell at Holy Trinity Church, Runcorn, in late 1890. In the 1891 census Joseph (34, born Halton) was a stationary engine driver and he and Annie (25) were living in Belvedere, Runcorn. In 1901 the family was still in Runcorn although, at the time of the census, Joseph snr was not at home and has not been traced:

37	D	1	Annie Price	Wife	M	31	✓	born Liverpool
			Lilly D.	Daughter		5	✓	born Runcorn
			Eleanor D.	Daughter		6	✓	born Runcorn
			Joseph D.	Son		4	✓	born Runcorn
			George W. D.	Son		3	✓	born Runcorn

1901 census (extract) – 37 Brackley Street, Runcorn

Annie Price	31	born Liverpool
Lilly	8	born Runcorn
Eleanor	6	born Runcorn
Joseph	4	born Runcorn
George W.	3	born Runcorn

Joseph Price snr died in Runcorn in about July 1909 and, in the 1911 census, Annie Price (45, widow), Joseph jnr (14) and George William Price (13) are recorded as 'inmates' at the Runcorn Union Workhouse at Dutton, a village about 4 miles to the south-east of the town. It is clear that, following the death of Joseph snr, the family had fallen on hard times. It is understood also that Joseph had two other brothers, William and John.

The workhouse, which accommodated around 230 inmates, was built in 1857 and was a plain structure of red brick with an Elizabethan-style frontage, surmounted by a turret with a clock. Both Lilly and Eleanor had avoided the workhouse; Lilly (18) was a domestic servant in the home of retired grocer William Henry Henderson (69) and Rebecca at 258 Anfield Road, Liverpool, and Eleanor Price (17) was recorded as a general servant at a 'Girls' Training Home' in Netherfield Road, Everton.

Nothing specific is known of Joseph's war service (although he enlisted in Liverpool) or the circumstances of his death, although it is recorded both that he died of wounds and was killed in action.



Runcorn Union Workhouse [Source :
freepages.history.rootsweb.ancestry.com]

The 133rd Field Ambulance, Royal Army Medical Corps. served with the 39th Division. The Division was formed in the Winchester area in early August 1915 moving to the Marlborough Lines at Aldershot on 28 September where

additional units joined before they moved to Witley in October, where the full complement was reached. The Division, minus the 118th Brigade who were behind with their training, proceeded to France in late February 1916, concentrating near Blaringham and receiving five battalions from other divisions to replace those of the 118th Brigade.

On 30 June 1916 they were in action in an attack near Richebourg l'Avoue with the Sussex battalions suffered heavy casualties. They were in action during the Battles of the Somme, including, the fighting on the Ancre, The Battle of Thiepval Ridge, The Battle of the Ancre heights and The Capture of Schwaben Redoubt and Stuff Trench as well as The Battle of the Ancre.

In 1917 they fought in The Battle of Pilckem Ridge, The Battle of Langemarck, The Battle of the Menin Road Ridge (20 September - 26 September) and The Battle of Polygon Wood (26 September - 3 October).

[Source: <http://www.wartimememoriesproject.com/>]

The War Diary extracts for the Royal Army Medical Corps. 39th Division 133 Field Ambulance for the time around Joseph's death are shown on a following page - it is likely that he died in an action associated with The Battle of the Menin Road Ridge. *The Battle of the Menin Road Ridge, sometimes called "Battle of the Menin Road", was the third British general attack of The Third Battle of Ypres in the First World War. The battle took place from 20 - 25*



Injured soldiers lying by the roadside after
The Battle of the Menin Road Ridge

September 1917, in the Ypres Salient in Belgium on the Western Front. During the pause in British and French general attacks between late August and 20 September, the British changed some infantry tactics, adopting the leap-frog method of advance, where waves of infantry stopped once they reached their objective and consolidated the ground, while other waves passed through the objective to attack the next one and the earlier waves became the tactical reserve.

General adoption of the method was made possible when more artillery was brought into the salient, by increasing the number of aircraft involved in close air support and by specialising the tasks of air defence, contact-patrol, counter-attack patrol, artillery observation and ground-attack.

In early September, optimism increased among German commanders that the Flanders offensive had been defeated and several divisions and air units were transferred elsewhere. Drier weather and extensive road repairs made it much easier for the British to move vast amounts of supplies forward from the original front line. Visibility increased except for frequent ground fog around dawn, which helped conceal British infantry during the attack, before clearing to expose German troop movements to British observation and attack. The British infantry succeeded in capturing most of their objectives and then holding them against German counter-attacks, inflicting many casualties on the local German defenders and Eingreifdivisionen sent to reinforce them by massed artillery and small-arms fire. German defences on the Gheluvelt Plateau, which had been retained or quickly recaptured in July and August were lost and the British began a run of success which lasted into early October.

[Text and photo: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_the_Menin_Road_Ridge]

601029	460342	Price Joseph	Pl. C. 259.17. Alder 4 133 Fa. Div 11-17 Plc action 39393 France Pals:	3 2	1.5 11. m. 5. 2. 18 1.3 10 " " 25. 2. 18 1.3 10 " " "	13 11 m. 6. 18 19. 6. 18 no Annie. 11. 3. 20 bur Annie 7. 5. 20	Bro. William " Eleanor Bro. George W. Bro. William " " Bro. John	13 11 13 10 13 10 13 11 9 6 8 13 10 2 6 8 13 10	
		A.F.W. Sergeant							
		21 JUN 1919	WAR GRATUITY 19/20 1919 Transf. 1919 Regr. 1919 Serial no. 2296						

Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects, 1901-1929

In Summer 1919 the army paid outstanding credits – mainly remaining wages – to soldiers or, in the case of those who had died, their family or nominated representatives. At the same time a War Gratuity was often paid. In June 1919 Joseph's mother Annie, and his siblings, received a payment of outstanding wages of £4 3s 2d from the army and a War Gratuity of £14. This, a total value of £18 3s 3d, is equivalent to a *labour value* (wages) of around £2820 in 2016.

The total payments made were:	mother Annie	13s 11d + £9 6s 8d
	sister Lillian	13s 11d
	sister Eleanor	13s 10d
	brother George W.	13s 10d
	brother William	13s 10d + £2 6s 8d
	brother John	13s 10d + £2 6s 8d

The War Gratuity was introduced in December 1918 as a payment to be made to those men who had served in WW1 for a period of 6 months or more home service or for any length of service if a man had served overseas. The rules governing the gratuity were implemented under Army Order 17 of 1919 but the amount paid was related to the length of war service.

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in P. S. Regs., Part II, and the S&I Manual respectively. Title pages will be prepared in manuscript.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Chippewa Camp H 6 a b e.	23/9/17		Weather conditions perfect. Work on the Standings of Horse Lines continued. Capt. K. T. Limbrey returned from the FORWARD AREA for one night only. One Horse Amb ^o wagon was returned from 134 134 F. A. today.	
	24/9/17		Climatic conditions good: visibility low. Work on horselines continued. Serg ^t WELCH P. G. reported for duty from 69 th F. A. via Q. M. S. SMITH J. A. who is to proceed to that unit. Capt. CRASSWELLER H. reported for duty and is taken on the strength of the unit from today. One Sunbeam car & driver reported for duty from the Base. A large number of "gassed" cases passed through the C. M. D. S. during the evening and last night.	
	25/9/17		Climatic conditions perfect. Capt. Boag & Mr. Staggars of 33 rd Div. (and attached here for temporary duty) reported to A. D. M. S. 33 rd Div. in the forenoon. Capt. FERGUSON L. C. returned from the FORWARD AREA for duty at the C. M. D. S. Work on horse lines & on the painting of the timbered wagons continued. All preparations for Active Operations completed.	
Chippewa Camp H 6 a b e	26/9/17		Climatic conditions perfect. Active operations began at dawn this morning. The first batch of wounded after zero hour reached the C. M. D. S. about 8.30 AM. The number of wounded admitted throughout was small compared with the operations of the 20 th . During the morning the D. D. M. S. I Corps visited the C. M. D. S. Everything was satisfactory. The A. D. M. S. 39 th Div. made a visit in the afternoon. Capt. FERGUSON L. C. & Capt. CRASSWELLER H. proceeded to report to D. 2 134 FIELD Amb ^o for temporary duty. Capt. Caithness reported from 132 FIELD Amb ^o for temporary duty at C. M. D. S. Colonel Gordon-Watson C. M. G. Consulting Surgeon II Army visited the C. M. D. S. in the evening. The night was quiet.	

Chippewa Camp 23/9/17 Weather conditions perfect. Work on the Standings of Horse Lines continued. Capt. K. T. Limbrey returned from the FORWARD AREA for one night only. One Horse Amb. wagon returned from 134 F.A. today. [Note: Chippewa Camp was located south-east of Poperinge, on the road to Kemmel]

24/9/17 Climatic conditions good: visibility low. Work on horselines continued. Serg^t WELCH P.G. reported for duty from 69th F.A. via Q.M.S. SMITH J. A. who is to proceed to that unit. Capt. CRASSWELLER H. reported for duty and is taken on the strength of the unit from today. One Sunbeam car & driver reported for duty from the Base. A large number of "gassed" cases passed through the C.M.D.S. during the evening and last night.

25/9/17 Climatic conditions perfect. Capt. Boag & Mj. Staggars of 33rd Div. (and attached here for temporary duty) reported to A.D.M.S. 33rd Div. in the forenoon. Capt. Ferguson L. C. returned from the FORWARD AREA for duty at this C.M.D.S. Work on horse lines and on the painting of the timbered wagons continued. All preparations for Active Operations completed.

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[Abbreviations: C.M.D.S. – Corps Main Dressing Station A.D.M.S. – Assistant Director of Medical services
D.D.M.S. – Deputy Director of Medical Services]

Name.	Corps.	Rank.	Regt. No.
PRICE	R.A.M.C.	Sgt.	39293
Joseph			
Medal.	Roll.	Page.	Remarks.
VICTORY	R.A.M.C. for B106	8185	
BRITISH	do		
15 STAR	R.A.M.C. 1914	1586	
Theatre of War first served in		U. France	
Date of entry therein		20.6.15	
E/460342/5. 67/3/4540. K. 1389.			

Correspondence.

U. France. Recs. requests instructions re disposal of medals. 18.1.21.

Address.
*Woking
18.1.21.*

(25454-14a) Wt. W 3347—H.P. 6451 100mm. 10/19 EL St. Est. 6451/1922

British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914-1920



The war grave of Joseph Price at Voormezele Cemetery Enclosures, Ypres, West Flanders, Belgium

Joseph Price is buried at Voormezele Cemetery Enclosures #01 and #02, 4 km south-west of Ieper town centre.

The Voormizeele Enclosures (at one time, there were a total of four, but now reduced to three) were originally regimental groups of graves, begun very early in the First World War and gradually increased until the village and the cemeteries were captured by the Germans after very heavy fighting on 29 April 1918. N^o.1 and N^o.2 are now treated as a single cemetery. Enclosure N^o.1, Plot I of the current cemetery, was begun by the 28th Division in March 1915 and carried on by the 17th, 3rd and other Divisions (and later by the Artillery) until April 1918. A few graves in Row N were added by the Germans, and a few more by Commonwealth forces in September and October 1918. One grave was brought into Row F after the Armistice from a position in the village. Enclosure N^o.2, now Plot II, was begun in March 1915 and used until April 1917. After the Armistice, 42 graves from Enclosure N^o.4 were brought into Rows B, C and D. Enclosure N^o.4 was behind a brewery a little south of N^{os}.1 and 2. It was begun by the French 3rd Regiment of Zouaves in December 1914 and used by the 4th Rifle Brigade and other Commonwealth units from January to November 1915. There are now 593 Commonwealth servicemen of the First World War buried or commemorated in this cemetery. [CWGC]

It is not known why Annie Price moved to Liverpool Road, Neston, but it is believed that she moved to Wirral with her daughters Lilly and Eleanor (nothing is known of George, Annie's son) as Lilly and Eleanor married and died here.

Lilly Price married Charles Henry Smith at the Trinity Methodist Church (Whitby Road), Ellesmere Port, in early 1920 and she died in early 1960 aged 68. Charles and Lilly have not been located in the 1939 Register.

Eleanor Price (born 5 March 1895) married John Oswald Sowden (born 21 December 1897) at a Civil Marriage on Wirral in July / September 1921 and both are buried, with Annie at Neston Cemetery (although Eleanor died in the Wallasey area, aged 84).

At the time of the 1939 Register (29 September) John, a self-employed window cleaner and Eleanor were living at 'Halstead', West Vale, Little Neston. With them was their son Samuel John Sowden (born 4 August 1922 in Neston), a *dairy boy, bottling milk*. Two further lines of the Register have been redacted - these will record the details of the other two known children, Edward Arthur Philip (registered late 1929) and Eleanor Sylvia Margaret (registered late 1934).



The grave of Annie Price, her daughter Eleanor and son-in law John in Neston Cemetery.

Annie Price died 22 November 1935.

John Oswald Sowden died 22 August 1968.

Eleanor Sowden died 10 January 1979.