

FRANK HILTON

BENPORATH

(1885-1916)

Cyclist, Electrician, Family man, Hero

Birth and Parents

Frank Hilton BENPORATH was born on the 17 February 1885 in Kent, England. He was one of 14 children born to parents George Hilton BENPORATH and Frances Grace LANCASTER. In 1895 George, his wife Frances and six children immigrated to Western Australia aboard the "S. S. Orient".

Marriage and Fatherhood

On 7 March 1905 Frank Hilton BENPORATH married Stella Rose GORMAN at St Brigid's Catholic Church in West Perth and fathered six children.

Life in Victoria Park

Frank was an electrician by trade, which seems to have run in the family. His brother Clement, after returning from the war, set up an electrical business called Benporath & Sons. It is not known at present if Frank worked on his own or for a company.

Frank and Stella lived for a while on Colin Street, Perth. They moved to Egham Street, Victoria Park (now Burswood) sometime in 1913. Stella and her family are listed as living in Egham Street up to and including 1918.

War Service

Frank enlisted in the Australian Imperial Force at Blackboy Hill on 17 August 1914, just weeks after war was declared and with his youngest daughter Eileen not quite six months old.

On 2 November 1914 Frank embarked from Fremantle on the transport ship "Medic". He saw action with the 16th Battalion and was wounded at Gallipoli. Hospitalised for a short while he was back at the front only to be wounded again on the 4 September 1915, this time with a shrapnel wound

to the head. He recovered at hospital in Malta and returned to action on the Gallipoli Peninsula, on 30 September 1915.

Frank served at Gallipoli until the last days of the ill-fated campaign to take the peninsula and the efforts of many hundreds of thousands of brave men.

He was transferred to the 48th Battalion in early March of 1916 and promoted to Regimental Sergeant Major on the 24 March 1916 at Tel-el-Kabir, Egypt. By June 1916, Frank had joined the British Expedition Forces at Marseilles, France.

On 7 August 1916, during the Battle of Pozieres, Frank was wounded for a third time, this time with a severe wound to the abdomen. After suffering these wounds for ten days, Frank succumbed to his injuries on 16 August 1916. He was 31 years old.

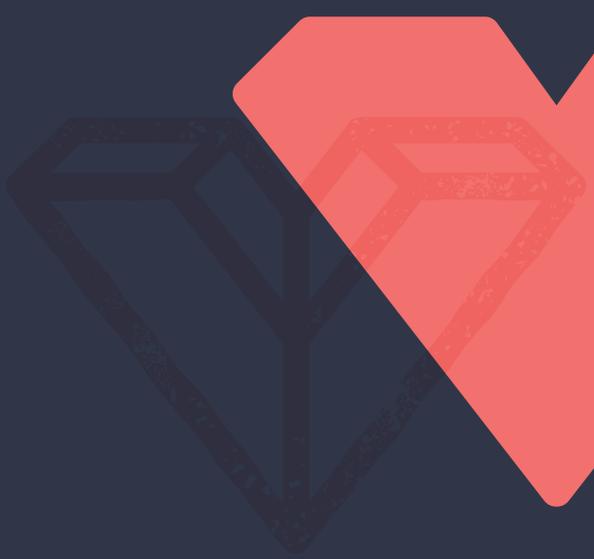
Frank was buried in the Warloy-Baillon Communal Cemetery Extension in the Somme region of France alongside 1350 other brave men and women who died in service to their country.

Legacy

In 1918 the Perth City Council renamed many streets in honour of fallen war heroes. They renamed Duke Street to Benporath Street in honour of Frank Hilton BENPORATH.

Three generations of Frank Hilton Benporath's descendants have also served Australian in conflicts since his heroic service in World War I. His son Stanley Frank BENPORATH in World War II, His great nephew in Vietnam and his great-great nephew Sean has served in Cambodia, Iraq and Afghanistan.

Lest We Forget



This article was first published in the *Victoria Park Dictionary of Biography*, Town of Victoria Park Library, October 2020.

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victoriapark.wa.gov.au/RemembranceDay