

# Codford St. Mary

## Roll of Honour



*Lest we Forget*

### World War I



152634 PRIVATE

**GEORGE ELLIOT GRANT**

MACHINE GUN CORPS

23RD OCTOBER, 1918 AGE 34

## George Elliot GRANT

George Elliot Grant was born at Amesbury, Wiltshire to parents Thomas & Mary Ann Grant (nee Cole) – possibly on 11<sup>th</sup> July, 1884. His birth was registered in the district of Amesbury, Wiltshire in the September quarter of 1884.

The 1891 Census records George Grant as a 6 year old living with his family at Chitterne Rd, (Cheapside) Codford St. Peter. His parents were listed as Thomas Grant (Shepherd, aged 50, born Market Lavington) & Mary A. Grant (aged 42, born Quarley, Hants). George was listed as the second youngest of six children – Herbert J (Shepherd, aged 16, born Ampport, Hants), Emily J. (aged 14, born Thruxton, Hants), Charles E. (aged 11, Agricultural Labourer, born Amesbury, Wilts), Edith M. (aged 8, born Amesbury, Wilts), then George & Reuben W. (aged 2, born Codford St. Mary).

The 1901 Census records George Grant as a 16 year old Under Shepherd, living with his parents at Chitterne Rd, Codford St. Mary. His parents were listed as Thomas Grant (Shepherd, aged 60) & Mary Grant (aged 52). No other children were living at home.

The 1911 Census records George Grant as a 26 year old single, Farm Carter, boarding with the Woods Family at Idmiston Down Farm near Salisbury in a 4 roomed dwelling. The Woods family consisted of Frederick Woods (Farm Carter, aged 38), his wife Emily Woods (aged 31) & their 2 children Sidney (aged 10) & Reginald (aged 8 months).

George's parents were living at Cheapside Codford St. Mary in a 3 roomed dwelling with their son Charles Grant (aged 31) for the 1911 Census.

George Grant married Elizabeth Elton. They had a son – Frederick Arthur Grant born in 1916.

George Grant originally enlisted with the Hampshire Regiment at Basingstoke, Hampshire. He was given the rank of Private & a service number of 18429. Private George Grant's Medal Index Card shows that he was transferred to Machine Gun Corp as a Private with a service number of 152634. Records show that he was attached to 50<sup>th</sup> Battalion of Machine Gun Corps (Infantry).

When the Machine Gun Corps was formed, a selective process was instigated for all volunteers or directed men. They had to be of good build and physically fit for the arduous duties, which would be the lot of the gun teams, this plus the comradeship of six men working as a team and the knowledge of the responsibility that was placed in them, produced units of very high calibre. It was insisted from the first that the personnel of MG companies should be of the finest; despite the opposition of battalion commanders to parting with their cream this was carried out. The strange fact of the Corps was that no man enlisted directly into it, they all had to pass through other formations of the army, even if it was only one day, and were then transferred to the MGC. A total of 170,500 officers and men served in the MGC, of which 62,049 were killed, wounded or missing.

Pte George Grant was killed in action on 23<sup>rd</sup> October, 1918, aged 34 years.

Pte George Elliot Grant is buried in Quietiste Military Cemetery, Le Cateau, France – position C. 2. His death is acknowledged by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Pte George Elliot Grant as the son of Thomas & Mary Ann Grant of Amesbury, Wiltshire; husband of Elizabeth Grant of Fullerton Wherwell, Hampshire.

Pte George Grant was entitled to the British War & Victory Medals. His Medal Index Card does not show a date that he had entered a Theatre of War.

G. Grant is remembered as a Casualty of WW1 in the Diocese of Salisbury Memorial Book for Codford St. Mary.

Pte G. Grant of Machine Gun Corps is remembered on the World War 1 Memorial plaque in St. Mary's Church, Codford, Wiltshire.



(Photo courtesy of Romy Wyeth)

## Quiestiste Military Cemetery, Le Cateau, France

Le Cateau & the country west of it, were the scene of the rearguard battle fought on 26<sup>th</sup> August, 1914 against a superior German force. While in German hands it became a railhead and an important hospital centre. It was stormed by the 5<sup>th</sup> Connaught Rangers on the evening of 10<sup>th</sup> October, 1918 & cleared during the following week.

Quiestiste Military Cemetery was made in October, 1918 by the 50<sup>th</sup> (Northumbrian) Division, as "Farm Cemetery", the present name was acquired before the end of 1918. It is a British Military Cemetery that is maintained by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. The cemetery contains the graves of 59 identified casualties of the First World War – 49 Commonwealth burials & 10 other burials. (CWGC)



(Photograph courtesy of [In Memory](#) by Pierre Vandervelden)



*(Photo courtesy of David Milborrow)*