

Lt-Col Frederick Joseph Rice



Born 25th October 1893; Boston; Died 14th September 1976; Camberley. Educated at Boston School and Tonbridge School. Married Kathleen Elizabeth May (nee Howard) 16.12.1922. A daughter Jennifer (born 17.11.1928).ⁱ

Regiment: Royal Field Artillery. 2nd Lt 1.9.14. Lt 9.6.15. Capt. 3.11.17. Major 18.10.33. Lt-Col 16.5.41. Retired 31.5.47 as Colonel.

His WW1 diaries and letters are in the archive of the Imperial War Museum and have often been cited and quoted by historians (ref. 7197)

Military Cross (15.2.1919) and Bar (1.1.1919); Croix de Guerre (Belgium).

Initially in 84th Brigade RFA, XII Corps, 18th Division, until Dec 3rd 1916 promoted to captain and posted to command C battery 82nd Brigade RFA, 18th Division.

1916

- Phases of the Battle of the Somme 1916:
 - Battle of Albert in which the Division captured its objectives near Montauban

- Battle of Bazentin Ridge in which the Division captured Trones Wood
- Battle of Delville Wood
- Battle of Thiepval Ridge (in 2nd Sept 1916 attack, but in hospital (trench fever) for successful attack 26th Sept)
- Joe was liaison officer with 39th Division end Oct – Nov (at Thiepval Wood) in which he was involved in capture of Schwaben Redoubt and St Pierre Divion

1917

- Operations on the Ancre (notably Miraumont and the capture of Irles)
- German retreat to the Hindenburg Line (23 Feb 1917)
- Third Battle of the Scarpe (3rd May 1917), a phase of the Arras offensive
- Phases of the Third Battles of Ypres
 - Battle of Broodseinde. 4 Oct 1917.
 - First Battle of Passchendaele (12 Oct 1917)
 - Second Battle of Passchendaele (26 Oct to 10 Nov 1917) at Poelcappelle

1918

- German St Michael offensive March 1918
 - Battle of St Quentin (21-23 March 1918)
 - Actions at Villers-Brettoneux (24-25 April 1918)
- Second Battles of the Somme 1918
 - Battle of Amiens (8-11 Aug 1918)
 - Battle of Albert (21-23 Aug) in which the Division captured the Tara and Usna hills near La Boisselle and once again captured Trones Wood
 - Second Battle of Bapaume (21 Aug -3 Sept 1918)
- Battles of the Hindenburg Line
 - Battle of Epehy (18-19 Sept 1918)
 - Battle of the St Quentin Canal (29 Sept – 2 Oct 1918)
- Final Advance in Artois
 - Battle of the Selle (17-25 Oct 1918)
 - Battle of the Sambre (4 Nov 1918).
- Immediately after Great War served in Ireland in “Royal Artillery Mounted Rifles”.
- Staff College, Camberley 1927-8 and India 1929-1935.
- 1939-42 commanding 126 Brigade Royal Artillery (51st Highland Division) in Scotland.
- June 1942 – Jan 1944 Gambia/Sierre Leone.
- Jan 1944 onwards various staff posts in UK.
- 1949-55 in retirement was civilian Mess Secretary at Staff College, Camberley.

ⁱ ● Brother of :

- Brigadier Neil Dewar Rice. Born 14th Sep 1894 Boston. Died: Aldershot 6th August 1969. School: Tonbridge. Royal East Kent Regiment (Buffs) 1914-1950. Served in 1st and 8th Battalions in Great War. 1940 Commanding Officer Gambia Area, West Africa. 1942

Commanding Officer Gold Coast Area. 1942 Commanding Officer 5th West African Brigade, West Africa. Served Malaya late 1940s. 1949 mentioned in dispatches

- o Brigadier Francis Walter (Tommy) Rice. Born 19th March 1898. Died Dover 13th July 1968. Tonbridge School. Royal (Field and Garrison) Artillery 1918-1952. B/82nd Brigade France 1918 onwards. In 1939-45 was mainly commanding Home Coast artillery, notably 101 Coast Brigade.

- o Lt-Col Richard (Dick) Rice Royal Artillery 1920-1943. Born 29th April 1901. Killed in Action Tunis 9th May 1943. Tonbridge School. 1939-1940 48th (South Midland) Division - Brigade Major in Divisional Artillery HQ. 14.6.1942- 9.5.1943 commanded 30 Field Regt Royal Artillery (4th Division). Mentions in Dispatches 20.12.40 & 27.1.44.

- o Lt (T Captain) Edward Dewar Rice 1910-1985. Royal Artillery 1939-1945. 51st Highland Division in 126 Field Regiment Royal Artillery.

- Nephew of Lt-Col Hugh Rosceter Rice. 1st April 1867 - 9th July 1942. Educated Boston Grammar School and Repton. 1888 -1920 Essex Regiment. Commanded 1st Battalion Essex Regiment for much of Gallipoli campaign 1915. 1916 Commander 1st Garrison (later 13th) Battalion North Staffordshire Regiment. 1917 Mentioned in Dispatches