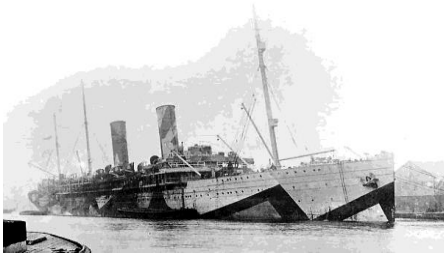


James Antill Aldridge



James Antill Aldridge was born in Mortlake on 26th July 1875 and baptised at St Mary's Church, Mortlake on October 3rd 1875. His father, James, born in Mortlake around 1848, married Louisa Antill recorded as the same age, at St Mary's Church, Mortlake on September 12th 1874; Louisa died in 1879, aged 32. The family lived at different addresses in Mortlake, where James's father was a car man and then a school caretaker: Ship Lane 1881, Rose Cottage, Nelson Terrace, 1891 and 6 Industry Row 1901, before moving to 14 Ailsa Avenue, St Margarets, 1911. James Antill shared the family address earlier, but in 1901 he was a boarder, living at 2 Rosemary Terrace, Mortlake. His occupation was listed as a green grocer's assistant. He had 8 siblings: Jesse (3 in 1881), Ernest (2 in 1881), and in 1891: Emma S (10), Annie E (9), Alice (8), William (6), Arthur (4), Fanny (1)- all born in Mortlake. In 1901 William and Arthur were telegraph boys, and in 1911, postman and law clerk respectively. Annie Ellen had by 1911 married and had a child, Charles Walter White, aged 1 and born in Teddington.

James Antill served in the Anglo- Boer War as a private in the Cape Police (2203) and then as a Corporal in the Midlandse Ruiters, 5th South African Mounted Rifles, (1857) in WW1. He married Emily Elizabeth Sarah Aubrey in 1909 in St Cyprian's Church, Kimberley, after she travelled from England on the Kildonan Castle from Southampton earlier in 1909. They had three children; Joyce (1910), James Aubrey (1911) and George (1914). James was killed in action at the Battle of Sandfontein on 26th September 1914, aged 39 and is commemorated in Warmbad Cemetery, Namibia. His wife and children sailed back to England in 1915 on the RMS Saxon, and later settled in Ealing. James Antill is also remembered at All Souls Church, St Margarets and in Mortlake Cemetery



*Kildonan Castle,
camouflaged in service
during WW1*



RMS Saxon



*James Antill Aldridge's
headstone and grave in
Warmbad, Namibia,
courtesy of South Africa
War Graves Project*



***Right:** James Antill
Aldridge, courtesy of his
family.*

