

Alfred George Balls



Alfred George Balls (Ball on the Memorial) was born in 1886 in Isleworth the son of James Balls and Jane, nee Allison; James was working as a butler in St George's, Hanover Square; after that he worked as a gardener. James married Jane, born in Yorkshire, in 1874 in Brentford. In 1881, Jane was living in 21, Power Street, Battersea, Wandsworth, with their two children, Alfred's older siblings: Jane Elizabeth (born in 1875 in Battersea) and Matthew Henry (born in 1880 in Battersea too.) Matthew's sister, Florence Mary was born soon after and her birth registered in early 1884 in Wandsworth. In the 1891 census, the family has moved to Isleworth and is living at 8 Queen's Terrace, Worple Road. *See left for a photo taken in 2016.* Jane Elizabeth, aged 15, is staying with her paternal grandfather Matthew, a widower, and Sarah Balls, his daughter, at Jubilee Villas, Haliburton Road, Isleworth. Mathew is a retired gardener. By 1901, they have moved to 6, Holly Road Stuarts Place, Twickenham and Alfred, aged 15, is a jobbing boy to an employer.



Jane Balls died in 1907 in Kingston Upon Thames. By 1911, his father, a widower, was living at 4 Algar Road with his son, Matthew Henry, who was a trenchman working for the Metropolitan Water Board. In June 1912, Matthew married Elsie Elizabeth Gertrude Sims and they lived together at 42 North Street, Isleworth, with their daughter Edith Elsie, born in 1912. Matthew served with the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry and died from wounds on 15th November 1914, aged 34. He is buried in Le Touquet-Paris Plage Communal Cemetery and he was commemorated at the Isleworth Mission Church in North Street. James Balls died on Christmas Eve 1937.

Alfred George had moved to Wales by 1911, and was lodging at 8 Richards Terrace

Trelewis Glam, Gelligaer, Glamorganshire as a quarryman labourer. He enlisted in London and served with the Royal Medical Army Corps (18279) in the 14th Field Ambulance Unit The Royal Army Medical Corps is responsible for maintaining the health of servicemen and women and provides medical support wherever British soldiers are in action. The field ambulance was a mobile front line medical unit, responsible for establishing and operating a number of points along the casualty evacuation chain, taking casualties rearwards through an Advanced Dressing Station (ADS) to the Main Dressing Station (MDS). It also provided a Walking Wounded Collecting Station, as well as various rest areas and local sick rooms. Mametz in Picardie, France was taken on the first day of the Battle of the Somme, 1st July 1916, after very hard fighting at Dantzig Alley, a German trench. The Cemetery was begun later in July and was used by field ambulances and fighting units until the following November. Alfred died on 25th July 1916 and is buried in the Dantzig Alley British Cemetery.

