

Frank William Boddy



Frank William was the third son of Richard Herbert Boddy and Louisa Burgess, who had married on 23rd July 1892 in Brentford. Richard Herbert had been married before but was recorded as a widower, aged 29, and a bricklayer of Town Meadow, the son of Peter Boddy, when he married Louisa, aged 20, the daughter of Bernard Burgess, a plate layer. Originally, Richard Herbert was born in Limehouse, but was baptised in Brentford. In 1871, he was living with his older sister, Sarah Ann and younger brother, Peter John.

The family were residing at 43 Catherine Wheel Yard, Brentford in 1891, and then at 14, Catherine Wheel Yard from then on. On the 1911 census, we learn that the parents had been married for 28 years, had 7 children, three of whom were still alive on that date. These were Frank William, born on August 27th 1897 and baptised at New Brentford in January 1898; Sarah Ethel born on January 27th 1889 and Alice Lucy, born in 1887. Sadly, both parents died in 1914: Louisa's departure was recorded in the first Quarter of 1914 in Brentford and Richard Herbert at the same time.

Frederick William enlisted in Brentford and joined the 4th Battalion, London Regiment. Private Boddy (G/5825), a fireman at the time, was moved to France on 16th March and was killed in action on 26th September 1915, likely defending the La Bassee road area. At the time, he was resident in Dover. He was buried in the Brandhoek Military Cemetery and is also remembered on the memorial in St John's Church, Isleworth. See below for these two photographs. In addition, his sisters ensured that he was remembered in De Ruvigny Roll of Honour. They had moved away from Brentford in the second decade of the C20th. Sarah Ann was a maid, living in Kensington. She later married William Puddifant, a charge hand at the Pears factory in 1917, was living at 100 Linkfield Road, Isleworth in 1939 and died in Hounslow in 1972. Alice Lucy was also a maid servant, living in Wandsworth in 1911.

