

Frank Leslie Cartwright



Driver Frank Cartwright was the seventh of nine surviving children of George Charles Cartwright (1855-1935), born in Wandsworth and widowed after one year of marriage to Hellen Jane Thompson, and Ellen Louisa Driver (1856-1942), who married George on 25th December 1874 in Christ Church, Battersea. Frank Leslie was born in Hounslow and was baptised on 25th October 1891 at Wandsworth St Anne's. His brothers and sisters were: George William (1876-1958), Matilda Elizabeth (1879-1941), Emily Alice (1882- 1962), Ethel Louisa (1884-1954), Mabel Agnes (1886- 1964), Henry Charles (1889-1973), Arthur Ernest (1895-1962) and Doris Constance (1899- 1974). Frank's father, George Charles Cartwright, was a greengrocer, a coal agent and later a milkman; Frank also worked as a milkman prior to joining the Royal Engineers. In the 1891 census the family lived in Hounslow, the civil parish being Isleworth; in 1901, they lived in Wimbledon but by the 1911 census however, the family were residing in Aldershot Surrey at 46 Elms Road. By 1918, the family had then moved to 54 Talbot Road, Isleworth, Middlesex (see left for a photo of this house. By 1935, Frank's parents were living in Raynes Park.



There is little information to be found regarding Frank's regimental career: he enlisted in Chelsea as a driver in the Royal Engineers, the 2nd London Field Company, which would have provided technical skill and know-how in support of the fighting units of each Division. He died 'at home' on the 20th April, 1915 aged 23, in Croydon Rural Isolation Hospital in Carshalton, of epidemic cerebro- spinal meningitis. Frank is buried at Wandsworth (Earlsfield) Cemetery (see below) with the words: "His earthly king needed him; his heavenly king claimed him. Peace. Perfect Peace. "

His parents are buried there too:- George Charles (December 9th 1935, aged 80) and Ellen Louisa (November 17th 1942, aged 85) - 'reunited'. Frank is also remembered on the memorial in All Souls Church, Haliburton Road, St Margarets, then in Isleworth.

Frank's siblings lived long lives. George William married Martha Amelia Maddams in 1898, was a dairyman and emigrated to Ontario in 1913. Matilda married Frank Ernest Last in 1901 and by 1939 was living in Fulham. Emily Alice married Walter Thomas Soar in Kingston in 1904 and by 1911 was a Matron at a Public Baths. Ethel Louisa, a draper's assistant, married Horace Thomas Maiden in 1911 in Tongham in Surrey. Mabel Agnes, a waitress, married William Henry Teat, a police officer in 1914, and by 1939 was living in Sutton and Cheam. Henry Charles married Agnes Lockhart in 1911 and by 1939 was a fruit and vegetable retailer. Arthur married Edith Kathleen Pink in 1920 and by 1939 was a messenger and muniment clerk, living in Wandsworth. Doris Constance married Ernest Arthur Carr in 1921. By 1939 Ernest was a commercial traveller with books, technical and school. Mabel, Arthur and Doris were married in All Souls Church, Isleworth too.

