

Joel Clark



Joel was born in Rawalpindi on 28th March 1892 and baptised the following month on 19th April. His parents were Joel Clark, a plumber (1863-1838 and born in Guilden Morden in Cambridgeshire) and Theresa Eliza Gilbert (1861-1954, born in Wandsworth), who had married in the Brentford area in 1895. Joel's father was a soldier, serving with the 2nd Battalion of the Seaforth Highlanders in India and received the India General Service Medal and clasps for his contribution to the campaigns in Hazara in 1888 and 1891. The family lived in 13, Coles Buildings, Twickenham Road, Isleworth from 1899; 69, St Margaret's Grove from 1903 and 1, Bridge Road, Isleworth from 1912.

Joel had five siblings: one brother and four sisters. Archibald Leonard (1885-1984) was born in the Brentford area and brought up by his maternal grandmother when his parents went to India. He was baptised on October 4th 1885 at Holy Trinity Twickenham, was a stationer's assistant in 1901, and an engineer's labourer, working with the Metropolitan Water Board in 1911. He married Ethel Brown in Winchester in 1913 and by 1938 was an engine driver for MWB. In 1957, he and Ethel returned from time in Canada; we know that he also travelled there as a young man, as Joel visited him in 1912, sailing from Liverpool to Quebec. Theresa Elizabeth (1888-1977) was born and baptised in Bareilly, Bengal, India. She married Fife Charles Downs, a soldier, in 1917 at St Stephens, Twickenham. Tragically he died on 12th November 1940, as a Firewatcher during the Blitz. Theresa married George H Corby in 1942 in Surrey. Lydia (1890-1978) and Sarah Ann were also born in India and both in domestic service locally in 1911: Sarah Ann at Richmond Palace Buildings. Lydia married Victor Arthur West in Wesleyan Chapel, Dewsbury on 1st June 1918; by 1939 she was a private nurse living in Lincoln and her husband, a chief inspector with the GPO. Marion (born Maryam, in Surbiton in 1897) married Charles John Eke in 1921 in the Brentford area. In 1939, she was living at 1 Bridge Road with family and her mother, Theresa; in the fifties she returned to live in Surbiton.

Joel was a plumber's assistant in 1911, and in 1912 he made a transatlantic voyage from Liverpool to Quebec. He married Jane Littleton in Montreal on July 3rd 1915, and returned to England in November 1915, on the 'Philadelphia', as an ornamental iron worker, giving 2 Youngs Cottages, South Street, Isleworth as their address. By 1918, they were living at 10 Algar Road, Isleworth in 1918. *Please see left for a 2018 photo of that property.* By 28th December 1915, he had enlisted with the Scots Guards (15027) and had transferred to the East Surrey Depot on 15/04/16 registered as 19057, The rest of his service records have not survived but we know that he was serving in France with the Royal West Surrey Regiment and 2nd/4th Battalion (G/21894) by 1918. By June 1918, his battalion had transferred to the 101st Brigade, 34th Division and was part of the action on the 28th/ 29th July to capture German ground by making an advance uphill and then across the high ground marked by Point 189 and Orme du Grand Rozoy. Joel was killed in action during this Battle of the Soissonais and of the Ourcq, part of the Battle of the Marne on July 29th and is commemorated on the Soissons Memorial, which honours almost 4,000 officers and men of the United Kingdom forces who died during the Battles of the Aisne and the Marne in 1918 and who have no known grave

