

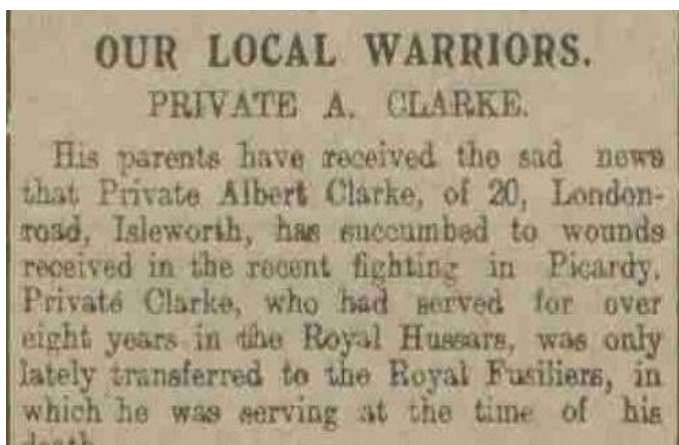
Albert Clarke (or Clark) born Brassley



Albert Brassley was born in Ludlow in Shropshire in 1890, in the June quarter. His parents were Emily Wellbelove (1863-1934) born in Egham Surrey and William Gelsthorp Brassley (born C1858-1900), in Great Gonerbury, Lincolnshire. Albert's father was a stonemason, and came from a large family of stonemasons; he travelled around the country and in 1883 married Ellen Louisa Symons in Truro, Cornwall. They had a child, William James Brassley born in 1883 but tragically both Ellen Louisa, aged 18, and their son, William, died that same year. William married Albert's mother, Emily Wellbelove in 1887 in the Parish Church in Egham in Surrey. Emily was working as a servant at 1 High Street Staines, and was aged 18 in 1881. They had six children together, but only two survived beyond 1911: Albert and his sister Edith. Albert's older brother, William Charles, was born in Portsea in Hampshire in 1888 but died in Fulham in 1900; his younger brother, George Edward, was born in 1898 and baptised in their local church, St Albans in Fulham, close to where they were living at 56, Claxton Grove, Fulham; he died in 1900, too. Albert's younger sisters: Elizabeth Sarah (1894-1895) and Emily Alice (1900-1900), both died in Fulham too. Elizabeth was baptised in Egham, and Emily in St Albans, Fulham; the church dated from 1895-97. This must have been a deeply traumatic time for Albert, not only to experience the death of his siblings, but also in 1900, the death of his own father.

By 1911, Edith was living with her grandparents in Egham, his mother Emily was working as a servant

and cook for Colonel EG Lloyd in Surbiton, and Albert had enlisted with the Rifle Brigade in Kingston on 7th January (4093) and by the time of the census was serving with them in Hampshire. He gave his occupation as a labourer; apparent age 20 years and 11 months; he had a fresh complexion, brown eyes, auburn hair, a pulse rate of 74, weight of 141 lbs, height of 5' 6 3/4", no distinguishing marks and his religion as C of E. Unfortunately, by May 5th, 1911, he was discharged as 'not likely to be an efficient soldier'. Determined to pursue an army career, he enlisted again at the end of 1911, and joined the 8th Hussars, registered as 8107, Household Cavalry and Cavalry of the Line, also known as the 8th



(King's Royal Irish) Hussars. At the time of his enlistment, again in Kingston, he calls himself Albert Clark(e), declares an age of 19 years and 9 months, born in Fulham, occupation- a hawker, height 5ft 6 3/4", weight 134lbs, chest 35.1/2inches, expansion 2.1/2inches, complexion fresh, eyes brown, hair auburn and distinguishing marks- a scar. He gave his employer as :E Jillett 33 Kenway Rd Earls Court. Sadly, the army accepted him and he served with the Hussars, until at least 1915, gaining the 1914 Star, and then he was transferred to the Royal Fusiliers. We know that he landed in France in November 1914, and that his regiment had served in India, stationed at Lucknow and Ambala since 1909. The Middlesex Chronicle report above, dated July 6th 1918 provides useful information about his army service and his death from wounds in Picardy (on June 15th 1918) , also an Isleworth address, which we discover was also connected with his sole legatee, Rose Langley.

Private Albert Clarke (L17321) was buried in the Pernes British Cemetery in Pas de Calais, France, and was also honoured in the Memorial Chapel at All Saints Church, Church Road in Isleworth, an awarded the Victory and British War medals. His mother, Emily Brassley, applied to the War Pensions Office, and received some remuneration by 1926. Her daughter, and Albert's sister, Edith, married Charles Thomas Clark in 1927 in King's Lynn, Norfolk and when Emily died in 1934 in King's Lynn, she left the sum of £115. 11s and 6d to Edith. It is not clear how Albert knew Rose Langley, named as his beneficiary on his Soldier's Effects record, but we do know that she was born in 1896 in the Brentford area, lived at 15 Ferry Lane, Isleworth in 1911, as the daughter of Rosina and George Langley, deceased, and the step daughter of Robert Henry Merritt. By 1918, her family was living at 20 London Road, Isleworth, the house mentioned in the Middlesex Chronicle report above. Rose married James Langley in 1922, and lived to the age of 71.