

Arthur William Clarke

Arthur, born in 1895, was the second son and second of four children born to James Clarke, who died in 1932, recorded in Brentford as aged 83, and Caroline Trusler (1869 -1929) who had married in 1889 in Wandsworth. James, a horsekeeper, working for The Tramway Company was born in Great Wigborough in Essex, and Caroline in Farnham in Surrey.

We know that in 1877, Caroline was a pupil at the Farnham East Street British Board/Council School (Girls and Infants)

By 1891, Arthur's parents were living in 63, Masbro Road, Hammersmith, with their son George, who was born in the September Quarter of 1889, in Clapham. By 1901, they were living at 3 Milo Street in Hammersmith, with Arthur, now aged 5 and Doris, a few months old, born in 1901, both of whom had been born in Hammersmith. The family also had a lodger at this time, Alfred Wright, 23, born in Cambridge and a bricklayer. By 1911, they had moved to 17 Silverhall Street in Isleworth (*see below for a photograph of the house, taken in 2018*). William, aged 16 was a store assistant at a motor works; George, 22, was a railway servant, Doris Ethel, aged 10 and Hilda, aged 8, born in 1902.



William enlisted in Twickenham, on 13th December 1911, giving his occupation as a coach painter with HJ Muliner and Co, Bedford Park. Physically he was in good health with height 5'5"; girth 31 1/2 " and good vision. He was posted 13/12/11- preliminary training and an annual training camp: 4-11/8/12. His embodied service dated from 5/8/14 and he signed again for 4 years in November 1914. He was at home 13/11/14- 9/10/14; in Gibraltar: 10/10/14- 14/2/15; home: 15/2/15-8/3/15 and in France from 9/3/15. We know from the War Diary of the 8th Battalion, Middlesex Regiment, with whom he served as Private Clarke, 1447, what happened after this. "The 8th Battalion had left Hounslow on 8th March, entrained for Southampton with 27 officers and 851 rank and file; 9/10th March, they arrived at Havre, marched to Rest Camp, completed the equipment of the Battalion; 11th March arrived at Bailleul, where the Battalion billeted in a Girls' School and Asylum Farm; On 9th April the Battalion moved to St Jean; and on 12th April took over the trenches from the Middlesex 3rd Battalion. On the 14th April 2 were killed, and 5 wounded in the trenches." William was one of these, dying in action on

14th April 1915 at Zonnebeke in Begium, just over a month since arriving in France. His mother, Caroline, received his effects and his medals; the 1914/15 star and the British War Medal. Arthur is commemorated on the Menin Gate, Panel 49 and 51, and was also remembered at All Saints Church in Isleworth and would have been listed in the Memorial Chapel, see right before it burned down. . On All Souls Day 1915, a Service of Remembrance was held for all of the local servicemen who had died since the start of the war, Arthur was one of these. Arthur's brother, George, and his wife Nellie Dann, whom he had married in Croydon in 1920, were living at 17 Silverhall Street, Isleworth, the family home in 1939. George died in 1968.

