

## Stanley James Clarke



Stanley Clarke's birth was registered in Woolwich in 1895. He was the son of Frank, from Guilden Morden, Cambridgeshire and Nellie (born in 1872-Ellen, née Nippard) from Kinson in Dorset who married on 20<sup>th</sup> November, 1892 in St Mark's Church, Surbiton. By 1901, they had settled in Isleworth, living at 163 Haliburton Road (*see below left for a photo taken in 2017*). Frank was a furniture porter and they had two children, Ethel Jane, aged 7 and Stanley James, aged 6, both born in Plumstead.



According to the 1911 census, Ellen and her daughter Ethel were working in service as a monthly nurse and children's nurse to the family of James Mortlock, a butcher and his wife Caroline, and their three daughters aged 5 and under (Margery, 5; Dorothy 2 ½; Constance 1 month) in Hayes, Middlesex. In 1911, Frank and Stanley were living at 12 Herons Road, St Margaret's (*see right for a photo taken in 2017*) and Frank's profession was now a house painter whilst Stanley was a gardener's boy.

Stanley enlisted into the 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the Bedfordshire Regiment, one of Lord Kitchener's new units aimed at mobilising men for the Western Front.

Stanley rose to Lance Corporal

14567 and saw active service in France and Belgium.

According to the WW1 War Diaries of the 6<sup>th</sup> Bedfordshires, his Battalion was involved in the Battle of Arras in April, specifically the First and Second Battles of the Scarpe and the Battle of Arleux. Later they were engaged in the Battles of Ypres (also referred to as Passchendaele or the Third battle of Ypres) these included the Battle of Polygon Wood in September and the Battle of Broodseinde and the Battle of Poelcapelle in October 1917. On 19<sup>th</sup> September 1917, the diaries record the results of an inspection: "*The Bde Commander desires me to inform you that he was more than satisfied with the splendid turnout of your battn on parade this morning. The cleanliness of every article of kit as well as the general turnout spoke well for the organisation within your battn & was a credit to all concerned. It gave the Bde Commander very great pleasure to see such a fine parade & he feels confident that in any possible offensive operations, your battn will continue to show as it has in the past that good interior economy & organisation are half the battle.*" Stanley was wounded while his Battalion were in trenches at Bois Carré near Ypres, not long after this. On 9<sup>th</sup> October they came under heavy shelling and at the same time the weather broke and the trenches became very wet and cold. The men suffered from exposure to the cold and from trenchfoot. Stanley died from his wounds on 9<sup>th</sup> October, 1917, aged 22. He left his pension to his widow, Jessie (nee Simmons), whom he had married in Brentford in early 1915. Jessie was the daughter of Joseph and Annie Roberta Simmons. In 1911, she was working close to Heron Road, at the Ailsa Tavern. Their first child, Jack Robert, was born in 1915; Stanley never saw his second son, Hector, who was born in early 1918.



Stanley was buried in Bailleul Communal Cemetery Extension Nord, grave ref.111. E. 112. He was awarded the British War Medal, The Star and Victory Medals. Stanley was also remembered in the Memorial Chapel, All Saints Church, Church Street, Isleworth.