

Reginald Cross

Reginald Josiah Nelson Cross was the son of Josiah William Cross (1870-1933) a bus stage conductor, born in Mere in Wiltshire and Mabel Victoria Alma Smith (1868-1929) born in Acton. They had married on July 17th, 1897 in All Saints Church, Tufnell Park, Islington. Reginald was born on 3rd June 1898 in Chiswick, and baptised at St Michael and All Angels, Chiswick, July 10th 1898. The family were living at 71 Windmill Road, Castle Place, Chiswick in 1901 and by 1911, had moved to 21 Aylett Road, Isleworth (see 2018 photo below left) off St John's Road. Reginald's father was then a Conductor for London United Tramway and an army pensioner.



Reginald had six younger siblings recorded on the 1911 census; all seven of his parents' children had survived the perils of infancy. His brothers were: Josiah William Cross, born 1901 December Quarter, Brentford, married Mary Emily Mahoney, 1927, Brentford, died 1982, Hounslow; Hector Owen Cross who married Betty Nutbeam, June 17th 1928, at St Faith's Church, Brentford, born 1905, 3rd Q, Brentford, died 1993, served with the WW1 Cameron Highlanders and John Horace Cross born in 1906, D Quarter, Brentford, and died 1996 in Waveney, Suffolk. His sisters were:- Annie Delisha, Edith Cross, born

in 1899 September Quarter, married 1930 Frederick C Helps, Brentford and died in 1996, Cornwall; Doris Emma Cross, born in 1903 D Quarter Brentford, married Henry Vincent Williamson, 1927, in Brentford, and died in Hounslow, 1981 and Ellen Alma Cross born in 1908 December Quarter in Kingston, married Norman Cecil Scott, 1928, St Faiths Church, Brentford, and died 1954 Ealing. This was Mabel Burnett's second marriage. In 1890, she had wed William Henry Smith, a baker, (born in Devon 1864-1909) in Turnham Green Church, Chiswick. They had three children who were living with Mabel, Josiah and Reginald and Mabel's mother in 1901: Henry George Clark Smith, 1890 S Q, Newton Abbott, in 1939 he was living with his sister, Iris, and husband in Lateward Road, Brentford, Leading Labourer Building Department (Lptb) (Heavy Worker) died 1961, Ealing; Letitia Iris Mabel, 1891, December Q, Brentford, married Henry Pickton, Brentford, 1918, 3rd Q, Henry was a trolley bus driver, Iris died in Hounslow in 1974 and Blanche Smith, born in 1893 March Quarter Brentford, married Edward W Bell 1915, Brentford, and in 1939 was living in Southall with husband, Edward, a watchman, and their children.

Reginald enlisted in Hounslow, after the start of the war, initially serving with the 3rd Battalion, Middlesex Regiment (5655), then with the 1st Battalion, King's (Liverpool Regiment 95188), as a private and also an Acting Sergeant. His army records have not survived but from his medal rolls and Soldier's Effects, we know that he was in France by 5th October 1915, was awarded the Star, Victory and British War Medals, and that his regiment were involved in First Battles of the Somme, Operation Michael, March-April 1918. Earlier that same year, Reginald was able to marry Elizabeth Hill in the Parish Church, Hanwell, on February 3rd; just over two months later on 16th April 1918, he had died of wounds in France. Reginald was buried at Bac-Du-Sud British Cemetery, Bailleulval, a cemetery made in March 1918 by the 7th, 20th and 43rd Casualty Clearing Stations, about 13K from Arras. He is also honoured on the St Bridget's Church Memorial, in Isleworth- see above.

