

Patrick Cullinane



Patrick was born in Brentford in 1896, the son of David Daniel Cullinane and Mary Ann Alexander, who had married in Brentford in 1895. Daniel is recorded as living in 6 Syon Place, Brentford End from 1900 until his untimely death in 1906 at the age of 38. He is not present in that same house on the 1901 census, when the family's address is given as 6, The Gateway, London Road. Mary Ann was born in Isleworth, and in 1891, she resided at Prospect Cottages, not far away in Brentford, with her parents, Charles and Mary Ann, and siblings Charles and Frederick.

By 1911, Mary Ann, a widow, and working in the market gardens, was still living in the family home in Syon Place, or The Gateway, and she declared that she had four children who were still alive out of the six that she had brought into the world. The oldest of Patrick's siblings was Bridget, born in 1902, then Daniel, born in 1903 and Michael born in 1906, the year that his father died. Life must have been very difficult for the family. In 1911, Patrick was living away from home at the St Nicholas's Industrial School for Roman Catholic Boys in Walthamstow. Industrial schools had been established in the mid C19th with the aim of helping vulnerable children before they committed a crime and introducing them to activities that would help them in their working lives. The regime would have been very strict. Manor House, Manor Park had been bought by the Roman Catholic Church and converted in 1866 into St Nicholas's Industrial School. Records show that many of the children who were sent there started a new life in Canada. One particular 1908 photograph showed boys with the Catholic Emigration Association's party set off to march to Euston Station with their luggage, led by a band; others were accepted in to the army. Patrick chose, or more likely was directed, to take the second route and his early army career refers to him as a drummer.

Very few of Patrick's army records have survived, but we know from his Medal Card, that he served with the Royal Dublin Fusiliers and that he entered France with them on August 20th 1915. His Medal Roll shows that he was attached to the 2nd Battalion, and later the 7th. His Soldier's Effects record also refers to his connection with the 6th Battalion, but this would have been difficult as they did not serve in France. As a part of the 2nd Battalion, he would have been involved in the aftermath of the 2nd Battle

of Ypres, then Messines and St. Quentin. He was wounded in September 1917, and entitled after recovery to wear a "Wound Stripe" as authorised under Army Order 204 of 6th July 1916. He survived all of this but succumbed to bronchopneumonia on 5th March 1919, and was buried in Dunkirk Town Cemetery. He was also honoured on St Bridget's Memorial in Isleworth- see left. His mother, Mary Ann, was his sole beneficiary and he was awarded the 1915 Star, and the British and Victory medals.

Mary Ann married Thomas Allen in 1913 and continued to live in the Brentford area until her death in 1930. Her daughter, Bridget, was described as 'incapacitated' on the 1939 Register, when she was living with her step father at 13 Brickfield Yard and died in 1943. Patrick's brother, Michael John (1906-1978), married Caroline Elizabeth Millard in 1929; in 1939 he was living at 40 Epworth Rd. Isleworth with Caroline and his son, Alan Henry, and employed as a Docker and Inland Water Transport Worker Heavy Worker. Caroline also died in 1978.

