



Frank F Kenton

Frank Frederick Kenton was born in 1878, in Winchester, the home town of his mother Sarah Piper. His father, William, was born in Heston. Two more boys were born: William Henry (1878) and James (1891) and by 1881, William and Sarah's family had moved to Ellis Cottages, Ordnance Road, in Hounslow. Ten years later, the 1891 Census records a 13 year old Frank living with Hariett Kenton, his grandmother, in White Marsh Cottages,

Inwood Road Hounslow.

Interestingly, and years before World War 1 began, Frank, now 18, enlisted in the army. On the 19th Feb 1895 he joined The Royal Fusiliers. His father purchased a discharge a year later. Perhaps army life was not for him; perhaps he had tired of working as a labourer in Hounslow for a Mr Westbrook; or perhaps Frank had met his girlfriend, Alice Eliza. He married Alice in 1899, the marriage producing two sons Frank (Junior) and Charles, and a daughter, Alice (Junior). The 1901 Census shows Frank (now 24) and his family living in Lionel Mews Kensington, where he worked as a 'carman' for a green grocers – a job that he held for ten years.

It is not clear when Frank re-joined the Army. His regimental number MS/234 tells us that he 'was specially enlisted for his trade': in other words, he came from civilian employment in a trade that was of direct value to work in the Mechanical Transport section. Given his previous line of work, Frank probably knew a car engine very well! Frank first served abroad on 13th October 1914 when he was sent to France. At some point, and we do not know when or where, Frank was injured. He was taken to Bulford Army Camp in Wiltshire and died 29th January 1915.

However, Frank did not die from his injuries. His death certificate states that he died from 'Natural Causes. viz:- Heart Failure whilst under the influence of chloroform properly administered in the course of a surgical operation'.

Frank is buried in Kensington Cemetery, Hanwell, Plot 121 Grave 53. He was awarded the British War Medal, the Victory Medal and the 1914 Star which was given for service in France and Belgium between 5th August & 22nd November 1914

