

Albert Edward Long



Albert, or Bertie as his family called him, was born in Liphook, Bramshott, Hampshire on 1st November, 1882 to Ellen (née Pestell) from Liphook and Henry Edward Long, an artist (painter of nature) from Jersey. In 1881 the family had moved from Liphook to South Hackney with their children: Maude (aged 7); Florence (aged 5, born in Liphook); Henrietta (aged 4); Alfred (aged 2) and a one-month old daughter, subsequently named Nellie. By 1891 Ellen (42) is a widow and living on her own means with her younger brother William Pestell (26), a commercial traveller, at 19 Penschurst, South Hackney. Maude, now 17, is working as a milliner; Alfred is 12; Nellie 10 and Bertie 8. In 1898 Maude married Frederick Dore and they are listed in 1901 living at 34 Bentham Road, Hackney with Alfred, now 22 and working as a distiller's cellarman. Frederick is a brewer's manager. By 1911 Maude and Frederick have moved to Southampton and are living at 78 High Street, Southampton with Muriel (aged 9); Frederick (aged 6) and Eunice (aged 4) who had all been born in Southampton.

Bertie married Rose Geary in Brentford in 1910. In 1911 they were living at 123 Haliburton Road, St Margarets and Bertie, aged 28, was working as an assurance agent. Rose had been born in Farm House, Haliburton Road, St Margarets in 1888. She was the youngest of 9 children. Her father James was a gardener from Isleworth and her mother, Mary and 2 of her sisters were laundresses. Bertie and Rose had two children: Phyllis Eleanor born in 1911 and Albert Clifford born in 1912 and baptised at All Souls' Church on 30th March, 1912. Bertie was listed as a boatman. They were living at 130 Haliburton Road- see left for a photo of their house taken in 2018



Bertie joined up to the 2nd Dragoon Guards, the Queen's Bays. His service number, 6268, indicates he may have joined as early as 1903. He reached the rank of Lance Corporal and received the 1914 Star, Victory and British War medals. His first entry into the field of battle was 15th August, 1914, just 11 days after Britain declared war on Germany. The Queen's Bays, 2nd Dragoon Guards were stationed at Aldershot and formed part of the 1st Cavalry Brigade in the Expeditionary

Force which went to France in August 1914. They served on the western front at the Battle of le Cateau (Aug 1914), the 1st Battle of the Marne (Sept 1914), Messines (Oct 1914) and the 1st Battle of Ypres (Oct 1914). They spent the winter in billets at Fletres then in February 1915 they were sent to Ypres. On 13th May, 1915 the Bays were active at Potijze, on the line south of Belwarde Lake. Albert was killed in action on Friday 28th May, 1915 and is buried in Isleworth Cemetery- see right for a picture of his headstone. He is also remembered on the memorial in All Saints Church, Haliburton Road, St Margarets, then in Isleworth.

