



## Arthur Richard Gordon Love (7 October 1888 – 21 August 1918)

Arthur was the son of Richard John and Emma Clara Love (nee Kendall) who were married in Kingsbridge, Devon in September 1885. Arthur's father had been born in Somerset and his mother in Devon. His father Richard was employed as a Clerk to the Brentford Board of Guardians that looked after the poor of the area. Arthur himself was born in 1889 in Isleworth as were his two younger brothers, Reginald Kendall Love and Stanley Wilce Love.

In 1901 Arthur, aged 12, was living with his mother, father and two brothers at 47 Steele Road, Isleworth. By 1911 when Arthur was 22, they had moved to 2 Avenue Road, Isleworth. At that time both he and Reginald were working as clerks at the Brentford Gas Works.



During the war Arthur's younger brothers enlisted in the army. Reginald became a Corporal in the Royal Fusiliers and Stanley, a Corporal in the Royal Garrison Artillery. They both survived the war.

Arthur enlisted in the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve (RNVR) in September 1914 at the age of 25. He had already served 5 years with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Company of the London Territorials before war was declared. In the RNVR Arthur served with Benbow Battalion before being transferred to Drake Battalion stationed in Gallipoli in June 1915. In December 1915 he was admitted to hospital in Alexandria with enteritis/dysentery. He was invalided home to Haslar Hospital in Portsmouth from where he was discharged on leave in January 1916. He was in a reserve battalion serving in Fermoy, Ireland by September 1917.

At the start of the war there was a surplus of men reserves for the Royal Navy so two naval brigades and a brigade of marines was

formed for operations on land called the Royal Naval Division (RND). In January 1918 Arthur was given the rank of Sub Lieutenant in the Royal Naval Division. On 20 April 1918 he re-joined Drake Battalion which was sent to Calais in France as part of the British Expeditionary Force.

On 19/20 August 1918 Drake Battalion undertook a night march to an assembly position north west of Bucquoy in northern France. On 21 August at 4.55am the Battalion lined up and advanced north east as far as Ablainzeville meeting little resistance until reaching Logeast Wood, where they encountered machine gun fire. Without additional support they could not hold the advance but retired 200 yards to consolidate their position by 22<sup>nd</sup>. Three officers and 26 sailors of Other Ranks of Drake Battalion were killed over those two days. Arthur was killed in action on 21 August 1918 at age 30. He was buried in Achiet Le Grand Communal Cemetery in the Pas de Calais area of northern France. He is also remembered on the War Memorial for the Brentford Gas Light & Coke Company (now located at Brentford Library) as well as the one at St Mary's Church in Osterley.



Royal Naval Division Drake Battalion Hat Badge