

Arthur William Mulford



Arthur William was born in the 3rd Quarter of 1894 to Arthur Allen Mulford and Emma Elizabeth Hardy, who had married on September 30th 1893 in the Parish Church of St Pauls Grove Park West, Chiswick. Arthur Allen (1867-1945) was born in Reading in Berkshire, and a master baker, listed in Kelly's Directory. Emma (1871-1946) was born in Norfolk. Arthur William was the oldest child and had three siblings: Albert Walter (1899-1982), Gladys May (1902-1988) and Allen Robert Richard (1906-2001). The family lived at 16 Black Lion Lane in Hammersmith, where Arthur employed three other bakers and a domestic servant, before moving to Isleworth, to 42 St John's Road, around 1918.

Arthur William was appointed as an assistant postman in June 1910 (301363), and worked at the Post Office as a trade- boy messenger in Blythe Road, Hammersmith. The

headquarters of the Post Office Savings Bank was at in Blythe House, Blythe Road (*see left for a photo of the listed building*). He enlisted on 31st January 1911 in Kensington, and was registered with the regimental number 1158. His height was 5' 7 1/2" and he underwent annual training – in 1911 in Dover, and in 1912, Frith Hill near Frimley. On August 5th 1914, and with the London Regiment, and 1st/13th Princess Louise's Kensington Battalion, he began his embodied service, serving at home until 2nd November, then embarking from Southampton on 3rd November. His regiment landed at Le Havre, and joined the Expeditionary Force in France. One of his service records refers to him as a drummer. *See right for a family photograph of Arthur William.* Just over three weeks



later, on 26th November 1914, he was wounded in action and died from these wounds, aged 20, at the Number 11 General Hospital in Boulogne. He was buried in Boulogne Eastern Cemetery; his father arranged for these words to be placed on his headstone: 'Thank God. I have done my duty.' He was awarded the 1914 Star, the Victory and British War Medals and his mother, as his beneficiary, received his personal effects.

Arthur's death must have had a devastating effect on his younger brothers and sister and his parents. Albert Walter continued in Arthur's footsteps and was appointed to the post office as a male learner in 1916, and enlisted in January 1918. By then he was a skilled telegraphist and transferred to the Army Reserve. He married Molly Clayden in the Brentford area in 1940 and in 1948, flew with his wife, two children and mother in law from California to Sydney on flight 111/7 for a new life in Australia. In 1949, and as a mail carrier, they were living in New South Wales; in 1982- in the Australian Capital Territory.

Gladys May married Robert Winterbourne in 1926. Allen Robert Richard was appointed as a postman in Paddington in January 1926. He married Rose Hopkins in 1931 in the Brentford area and lived to be 95. By 1939, Arthur's parents (and Albert Walter) were living at Sunnymede, Osterley Court, 643, Great West Road. They continued the rest of their lives there and died within a few months of each other. Arthur Allen must have run a very successful business as a baker and was able to bequeathe £6, 549. 6s 6d.

