

## Alfred Charles Pratt



Alfred Charles (1877-1917) was the son of Marriner Pratt (1835- 1886), a harness maker born in Northamptonshire and Rebecca Ann Austin (1852-1917), born in Richmond. Marriner's first wife was Mary Priestley who died when she was only 36 in 1872, leaving him with a young family: Harriet Louisa, born in 1859 in Lincolnshire, later a laundress, Samuel Robert, a stone mason by trade (1866-1894) and George Henry Marshall (1870-1925), a stoker in the gas works in Richmond. Marriner moved to Richmond from Uxbridge and married Rebecca Ann on 6<sup>th</sup> December 1874 in Richmond. Rebecca's first husband, Edward John Every Penn, had died in 1873, aged just 22; they had been married for two years and had a child- Edward William John Penn (1872-1926), who served in the Royal Marines and was a hospital warder in the Prison Service; he had married Norah Edith Turner in 1909 in Hampshire.



Alfred Charles's other siblings were: Joseph William (1875-1959) and Frederick Albert (1884-1948) and in 1881, they were all living at 12 Columbia Square, Mortlake, Surrey. After Marriner's untimely death in 1886, the family split up and Alfred's siblings and mother endured significant hardship, including several applications to the workhouse in Mortlake between March 1886 and January 1887. Alfred's mother married William Ayres Thompson, a waterman, in 1898 in Richmond. In 1891, Alfred was attending the Newport Market Refuge/ Industrial School/ Army Bands School. By 7<sup>th</sup> August that year, aged 14, he had enlisted in the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers (service number 3622) for a 12 year period, occupation: musician, 4'9 inches and 79 lbs. He was appointed as a drummer in 1893; then a bandsman in 1896; and appointed lance corporal; he was

discharged in 1903. He served in campaigns in the East Indies 1893-1902 and South Africa 1902-03. In 1907 Alfred married Ethel Louise Blanche Witcher, a dressmaker, (1888- 1969) in Isleworth and they had a child, Alfred Charles Mariner that same year. By 1911, the family was living at 24 Napier Road, Isleworth and Alfred was a postman. By 1913 they had moved to 29 Eve Road Isleworth. (See above left for a photo of the property taken in 2017) Alfred enlisted in Hounslow and joined the Royal Fusiliers, 9<sup>th</sup> Battalion (60952), he had also served earlier with the 6<sup>th</sup> Middlesex Regiment. He was killed in action, aged 39, and is commemorated on the Arras Memorial. He is also remembered on the Twickenham Post Office Memorial (see right), as well as at All Souls' Church, Northcote Road, St Margarets. His younger brother, Frederick Albert, a gardener, enlisted in 1916 and served with the 49<sup>th</sup> Company. He survived the war but would have been in France at the same time his brother was killed. He married his sister in law, Ethel, in 1921, and they continued to live at 29 Eve Road. In 1939, their extended family lived there too. His brother Joseph, originally a butcher's assistant, also served with the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, enlisting aged 14, then the Devonshire Regiment in 1917. By 1939, he was living in Richmond with his wife, Esther Amelia and family and was a retired civil servant and a porter at the flats.

