

Wilfrid Morley Redshaw

Wilfrid Morley was born in 1890 in Stroud, Gloucestershire. His father, Allen, was a congregational minister. His parents married in 1874 in Biggleswade, the birthplace of Mary Jane O'Dell (1851-1922), who married Allen Redshaw (1847-1926) born in Caythorpe, Lincolnshire. The family moved around the country with their children, born in Berkshire, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire. In 1891, Wilfrid's first census, they lived at Granville Villas, Bisley Road, Stroud, Gloucestershire, by 1901 they had moved to 54/56 Charlmont Road, Tooting. In 1911, their address was 10, Tillington Terrace, Hastings. By 1918, they lived at 28 Gordon Avenue, St Margarets, then in Isleworth.



Wilfrid had three sisters, and a brother, Arnold Stanley, born in 1891 in Cirencester who died whilst they were in Tooting, aged 19 in 1901.

Emmeline Adelaide, born in 1878 in Cookham, became a professional nurse. She was living in Willesden in 1939 and died in 1963, aged 86. It's recorded that she donated Wilfrid Morley's casualty record and photograph to the Imperial War Museum on 7th March 1919, when she was living in Gordon Avenue. Daisy Marion, born in 1884 in Malmesbury, was living in Barnes as a shop assistant in a chemist's in 1939. She married Arthur Donnecker in 1946 and died in 1959 aged 74. Wilfrid's youngest sister, Ivy, Susan, Annie, Kate was born in 1892 in Stroud. She married Charles Paddle, a postman, in 1921 in Staines, and was living in Railway Street in Barnes in 1939, as a shop assistant at a stationers. She survived to the age of 75 and died in 1968.

Wilfrid enlisted on November 9th 1914 in Hounslow into the Queens (Royal West Surrey) Regiment. Private Redshaw's army service records (G/3725 in the 1st, 2nd, 8th and finally, the 11th Battalion) have not survived but we know that he was injured on 8th February 1916 in Fricourt, barely a month after he entered France. He returned to France in March 1917 and was wounded again on April 17th. He returned to France a third time on September 2nd and 20 days later was killed in action aged 27, at Bodui Copse and buried in Zillebeke, Ypres, his sister reported. His battalion records during The Third Battle of Ypres, reveal that on 8th September 1917, a few days after Wilfrid returned, his battalion had been involved in significant training, and on that day went to bathe. In the afternoon they marched to the divisional race meeting, where they ran their own tea tents and supplied tea for the Brigade, a period of calm before the storm. The Commander in Chief was present. By the 12th, all ranks had their helmets tested in smoke and gas. Mustard Gas was shown and explained. On the 13th the advance towards Voormezele began, with preparations for the attack on 20th September. On the 19th, rain was falling and motor and horse ambulances were in readiness. There were to be many casualties over the next few days. Wilfrid left his effects to his father, Allen. He was awarded the Victory, British and 1915 Star medals and is honoured on the Tyne Cot Memorial. He is also remembered on the memorial at All Souls Church, Northcote Road, St Margarets and his death was reported in the November 1917 edition of the All Souls parish magazine.



Above: All Souls, Northcote Road, St Margarets.

Right: 28 Gordon Avenue, St Margarets, then Isleworth, photographed in 2017

