



## Lawrence Frank Richards (Q2 1898 – 30 Dec 1917)

Lawrence was the son of Albany and Mary Eleanor Richards (nee Newton) who married in West Ham, London in the autumn of 1882. Albany was born in Wandsworth and his wife Mary in Southwark, London. In 1901 the family were living in East Ham and Albany was a stevedore in the Docks. By 1911 they had moved to Isleworth and were living at 41 Gordon Avenue, St Margarets. At that time Albany gave his occupation as a Seaman in the Merchant Naval Service.



**41 Gordon Avenue, St Margarets**

3/4<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment) and became a Corporal. Both Stanley and Ernest survived the war.

Albany and Mary had 5 children that survived infancy. The eldest was Mary Christina (born 1888), then came Ernest Albany (born 1889), followed by Catherine Rosa (born 1891), then Stanley Arthur (born 1896 ) and finally the youngest, Lawrence Frank born in 1898. Mary and Ernest were born in Poplar but the 3 younger children in the family were all born in East Ham. Lawrence was a pupil at Isleworth County School (now Isleworth and Syon School). By 1911 both Ernest and Stanley, then aged 21 and 15 respectively, were working as clerks while Lawrence was still at school. Mary Christina aged 23 was working as a shorthand typist.

All three brothers served in the army during World War I. Ernest was a Private in the 1/4<sup>th</sup> Battalion Norfolk Regiment while Stanley initially served in the 2/9<sup>th</sup> London Regiment but later transferred to the Royal Engineers, finally reaching the rank of Second Lieutenant. Lawrence joined

In August 1917 Lawrence's regiment became part of the 52<sup>nd</sup> Brigade in the 17<sup>th</sup> (Northern) Division. The Division took part in the Battle of Passchendaele in October 1917 and then was moved to the Cambrai area of France. Here the Division was holding trenches astride the Canal du Nord on the north shoulder of the Cambrai Salient. Lawrence was killed in action on 30 December 1917 at the age of 19. He is commemorated at the Flesquieres Hill British Cemetery near Cambrai in northern France. His personal effects were returned to his father, Albany, as his next of kin.

Name.	Corps.	Regt. No.
RICHARDS.	R W Kent R	41st 924040
Lawrence F.		
Medal.	Boil.	Page.
VICTORY	GSE/2/103613	1106
BARBARIC		
GRAN		
Theatre of War first served in		
Date of entry therein		
Remarks.		

**British Army WW1 Medal Roll Index Card**