

Laurence Edwin Sealy



Frederic Sealy was born in Walworth in South London in 1870. He married Emily Burgess, born in 1867, in her hometown of Brighton. In 1891 they lived in the Old Kent Road but by 1896 they had moved to Newry Road in Isleworth. Their first son Ronald Frederic was born in 1896, followed by Lawrence Edwin in 1898, Frederic Daniel in 1903 and Leslie Jack in 1906. By 1901 the family had settled in 69, Talbot Road in Isleworth, moving to 67 by 1911, then number 63; living in the street for over 40 years.

His father and his uncle were piano tuners and his grandfather was a musician but Laurence decided to be a postman when he left school.



When he was eighteen and old enough to join the armed forces, he enlisted in the Royal Flying Corps on 2nd January 1917. His airman's service record states that he was 5' 9" with brown hair, blue eyes and a fresh complexion. His rank was Air Mechanic class 2 and his specific job was to be a wireless operator. Lawrence was initially in the Royal Flying Corps training unit, based in Farnborough. He was posted to France on 17th May 1917.

On 1st August 1918 the Royal Air Force was formed with the intention of fully integrating air power into the ground offensive. The Royal Flying Corps was incorporated into the new organization and Laurence's unit became the 15th Squadron. During the last months of the war the RAF carried out a wide range of tasks to ensure that the ground forces could sustain their advance. On 2nd November 1918 Laurence was killed in action in France. Tragically for the family this was just three months since his older brother Ronald had also been killed in action. Their father Frederic collected both their effects. They were both awarded the British War medal and the Victory medal.

Laurence is buried in the Poix du Nord Communal Cemetery, south east of Lille, in France. He is also remembered in All Souls Church, Northcote Road, St Margarets. Just nine days after he died, the Armistice was signed and the Great War was over.

Laurence's parents continued to live in Talbot Road. By 1918, they had moved to number 63. They were recorded on the 1939 register living with their son, Frederic Daniel, and his wife, Ethel. Frederick died in 1949 and Emily in 1956



Top left: 67 Talbot Road, Isleworth
Above: Royal Flying Corps cap badge
Right: All Souls Church in Northcote Road, St Margarets