



Charles Arthur Spearman (Q2 1891 – 2 May 1915)

Charles was the son of Charles and Alice Spearman (nee Bevan) who married in Bethnal Green, London in the April 1887. Charles (senior) was born in Essex and his wife Alice in Brentford. Charles (senior) was employed as a Coachman or Groom. They had three children but only two survived infancy. They were Charles Arthur born in 1891 and Florence Alice born 1895, both in Lambeth. Sadly their mother Alice died in 1897 at the age of 32. Charles (junior) was aged 5 at the time and his sister Florence was just 2.



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In 1901 Charles, aged 9, was living with his grandparents, John and Harriett Bevan at 91 London Road, Brentford. By 1911, when he was 19, he was working as a Coachman for Dr Smith in Brentford. He was lodging with the Ardley family at 35 Eastbourne Road, Brentford. In 1911 Charles' sister Florence, then aged 15, was undertaking training in an Orphanage in Austral Road, Southwark.

Charles enlisted in Hounslow soon after the outbreak of war on 4 September 1914 at the age of 23. At that time he was living at Brentford End. He joined the 4th Battalion of the Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment) as a Private.

In late April/early May 1915 the 4th Battalion of the Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment) was at the front near Dickebusch in Belgium, south of Ypres. The war diary for that period records heavy shelling all around the area at that time. The Battalion was alternating 3-4 days in the

trenches near St Eloi followed by 2-3 days in huts at Dickebusch, when relieved at the Front by other regiments.

Charles died of wounds on 2 May 1915 at the age of 23. A service of commemoration for those that had died was held at All Saints Church, Isleworth on 31 October 1915 and Charles was one of the servicemen remembered that day. He is buried in Le Treport Military Cemetery in the Seine-Maritime area of northern France. He is also listed on the war memorial in All Saints Church. His next of kin was his widowed grandmother Harriett Bevan. Harriett died in Brentford in August 1923 aged 86. Charles's sister Florence married Alfred Cook in 1925 and lived with her family in Hawthorn Road, Brentford.



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