

John Styles



John Styles was born in North Hyde, Southall on June 30th 1887. He was baptised on July 31st at St John, Southall. He was the son of James Styles, a canal boatman and Eliza Styles, nee Jeffs, who married at St Mary the Virgin, Norwood Green on March 14th 1870. Eliza also came from a canal boat family. In 1891, John (James) is living with his parents and family at 4 Rowe's Cottages, Norwood. In 1901, he is living with an uncle, John Bucks, a master lighterman, his wife and two children, in 19, Boars Head Yard, Brentford. In 1911, he is living at 27, London Road, Isleworth with his married brother Alfred, Alfred's wife, Charlotte and two daughters, Eliza working at a sweet factory, and Rose at school, and he is working as a waterman.

John married Alice Tolley in St Lawrence's Brentford on Christmas Day 1912. Alice was from a bargee family. In 1913, they had a daughter also named Alice. Very tragically, John's wife, Alice, fell off the canal boat, 'Harry', and drowned near Springwell Lock in May 1914. According to the inquest, her husband nearly died trying to save her. John enlisted soon after that and their daughter, Alice, was brought up by John's brother, Alfred and family.

We don't know when John enlisted, but he was eligible for the 1914/15 Star which indicates that he was in France in the early days of the war. He enlisted in Hounslow and was posted to the Middlesex Regiment. His death occurred on or around 25th September 1915. The regiment suffered heavy losses on that day. The Register of Soldiers' Effects records £2, 3 shillings and 2 pence being given to his brother, Alfred.



London Road, Brentford. Ordnance Survey C1915

Certificate included with the permission of the CWGC

John Styles is remembered on the Loos Memorial and in All Saints Church, Isleworth.

