



Leonard Percy Weston (115330) born in 1882, would probably have played in the fields of Heston where he grew up, before moving to 53 Boston Road Brentford where in 1901 he was learning the trade of stone masonry. He met and married Rhoda (nee Battle) in a civil ceremony in Old Brentford on 1st June 1903 and together they had four daughters - Ruth (b1904), Rhoda (1907), Olive (b1912), and later, Phyllis (b1916). By 1911 Leonard was working as a private drayman at the brewery and the family were living at 81 Castle Road. World War 1 loomed. Leonard was 34 years old and was now working as a commercial traveller when conscription started on 2nd March 1916. The Act included married men from 25th May of that year.

Leonard attested on 1st March 1916, joining the Royal Garrison Artillery. He joined the Army Reserve and later in June, Leonard was called for an Army Medical at Hounslow Barracks. A stamp on his medical form states 'fit for general service' and he was mobilised and posted to the Royal Garrison Artillery in Dover.

However, amongst Leonard's army records was a letter listing the findings of his doctor, Stephen Curry, who had examined him in mid August 1916. It stated that Leonard was 'suffering from the following diseases and disabilities, chronic bronchitis & asthma, TB?, chronic interstitial nephritis, cardiac dilatation, enlarged liver and a very bad left varicocele'. Leonard's case was brought up in the House of Commons by the Labour MP Mr O'Grady. **Leonard was not a well man**

Leonard is now at 'A' Siege Depot in Shoreham. On the 19th Sep'16, the Senior Medical Officer at Shoreham instigates a Medical Board and examines the evidence from Dr Curry. His conclusion - 'The Board is of the opinion that No. 115330 Gunner Leonard Percy Weston RGA is fit for General Service in the Army'.



On 22nd Sep, the day Leonard's fourth daughter Phyllis is born, Leonard is sent to 227th Siege Battery. Siege Artillery operated the large guns that were used to bombard the enemy before a major attack. Leonard's records are difficult to read, but it does appear that in December '16 he moves to 33rd Coy and, at some point, possibly January, he is sent to France. In April '17 he is exposed to a 'mild' gas attack, possibly near Etaples where he is hospitalised. Later, at the end of the year, Leonard is subjected to another gas attack and is hospitalised in Woking hospital for over a month. He is then sent to Eastbourne Convalescent Hospital for nearly five months, eventually being discharged in May 1918 and returned to the Army.

On 21st May '18, this fragile man ended his army career with the 37th Coy in Portsmouth and he saw an end to the war. Leonard Percy Weston died at Alexander Hospital in Cosham on 1st February 1919. He was clearly a very sick man, who had done his very best for his country despite his obvious ill health. He is buried in Isleworth Cemetery with the inscription "*His pain is o'er. He is at rest because God thought it was the best*". He is also commemorated in St John's Church, Isleworth. Rhoda died in 1953 and never remarried.