



Woodford Remembers



Pte. Arthur Tarrant

12 March 1890 – 20 August 1918

Family

George Tarrant born circa 1824 married Mary Abbott b circa 1822 on 29 March 1847 at St Marys Church Woodford. George was a carpenter and his father Thomas Tarrant a shopkeeper. Mary's father, William (deceased at the time of the marriage) was a labourer. They had four children, the eldest being Thomas Tarrant b 1851, who was Arthur's father. Thomas married Julia Brigstock on 29 March 1875. According to school records Arthur was born on 12 March 1890 to Thomas and Julia. Calculations based upon his army records suggest 24th April, however, his birth was registered no later than 31 March of that year which gives credence to the school record. The 1891 census reveals that Arthur had older siblings: Ernest (15), Annie (13), Kate (10), William (6), and Mary (3). Arthur's father, Thomas had followed his father into the joinery business. The family lived in Spring Gardens Woodford. Arthur was admitted to Woodford Infant school on 19th March 1894. He left the school just three years later on 7th May 1897 when the family left Woodford. The 1901 census reveals that that the family had moved to Denford, and Arthur's father was the innkeeper at the Cock Inn having taken over the licence from Mr Tarry in May 1897; he also worked as a joiner. Elder brothers Ernest and William were both employed as general carpenters. William, Mary (now a teacher) and Arthur still lived at the Cock Inn with their parents in 1911 but in June of 1911 the licence was transferred to Ernest Kirk. Arthur worked as a carpenter in Thrapston for Mr Pettit. He was also a well-known member of the Denford Football Team. When Arthur enlisted, he gave his address as Oundle Road, Thrapston. Arthur's father, Thomas died in 1923.

Army Service

Arthur was passed medically fit for service in September 1916 and enlisted with the Northamptonshire Regiment (regimental number 39912) at Kettering on 26th February 1917 and from 12th April he was posted with the Royal Engineers, (Railway Troops). By the end of the month he was with the 9th Company Middlesex Regiment. On August 14th, he was with the 3rd Battalion Northamptonshire Regiment and later that year to the 329th Company (Regimental No. 177590). He served in the UK until 29th November 1917, before undertaking a voyage to Egypt until 28th December disembarking in Alexandria. On 31 March 1918, he moved to Cairo and on 14th July he was admitted to hospital Kantara with Pyrexia (high fever) for a period of three weeks. Army Records show he was re-admitted on 14th August and on 20th August he died of acute influenza although other records show pneumonia as the cause. The local paper records he had scabies. He was buried that day by Rev W F Harris.

Burial / grave

European War Cemetery, Kantara, Egypt - Grave D158

Dependants

None

War and Victory Medals were granted to his mother

Commemoration

Woodford St Mary's Church Memorial, Thrapston War Memorial

