



Woodford Remembers



Pte. Arthur King

12 August 1887 – 23 April 1917

Family

Arthur's mother was born in Whittlesey in an area known as Coates in 1850, and was the third child to James and Elizabeth Robinson (listed as Robertson on the 1851 census). At the age of 10 years Ann was an agricultural labourer. Ann married George Reed of Lidlington, Bedfordshire on 13 June 1870 at village Parish Church, and in 1871 they were living in Whittlesey where George was employed as a horse keeper. Their first daughter Emma was born in the summer of 1872 at Stanground Huntingdonshire, Alfred was born in the spring of 1874 and he was baptised on 10 May 1874 in Mountsorrel in Leicestershire, followed a year later by Elizabeth who was baptised on 2 January 1876 at Normanton le Heath, Leicestershire. James was born in 1878 at Twywell Northants and baptised at Woodford on 16 February 1879. Just three months later, at age of just 29 in May 1879 George Reed died and was buried on 22 May in St Mary's Churchyard Woodford.

In 1881 his widow, Ann Reed lived in Woodford High Street working as a charwoman with her four children.

The birth of Charles King Reed was registered between July and September 1883, and on 10 December 1883 at St Mary's Church, Ann married Charles King, who had, according to the 1881 census been a lodger living next door to her. Charles King was the son of John King of Essex. Charles King Reed was christened at St Mary's Church on 1 June the following year. Thomas was born in Woodford on 19 September 1885 and Arthur on 12 August 1887. He was baptised at Woodford St Mary's Church on 25 September 1887. Arthur's mother, Ann, was widowed again when Arthur's father, Charles died in 1889 at the age of 59 years of age. Arthur attended Woodford Infant School from 10 August 1892 and in 1896 moved to the Junior School where he would have remained until fourteen years of age. In 1901 Ann and her two youngest, Thomas and Arthur lived at the bottom end of Club Lane Woodford. Arthur was a boot and shoe riveter (learner), however by 1911 he had changed his trade to that of a Blast Furnace worker. Arthur was also a member of the Woodford WMC Band.

Arthur's mother, Ann died in 1924

Army Service

Arthur Joined the 4th Batt Suffolk Regiment 201912 in March 1916 crossing to France in the following September. He received wounds to his head and face, but recovered in France and re-joined his regiment. In April 1917 his lieutenant wrote to his mother advising that Private King had been reported to him as being injured but nothing definite was known at the time. Inquiries were made of the Red Cross Society and according to their report Pte King appears to have fallen during the attack on Fontaine Croiselles on April 23rd 1917 However, nothing seems to have been known of him individually. The letter from the Army Council concluded that Pte King had fallen and had written again to his mother expressing this view. *(source Kettering Guardian)*

N.B Some service records incorrectly name Arthur King as 201912 enlisting at Thropton Northumberland, rather than Thrapston Northamptonshire

Burial / grave

Unknown

Dependants

Unknown

Commemoration

Woodford War Memorial Village Green
Woodford St Mary's Church Memorial
Arras Memorial Bay 4

