



Woodford Remembers



Cprl. Alfred Richard Waite

28 July 1895 – 6 October 1917

Family

Alfred Richard Waite was born in Grantham, Lincolnshire on 1 August 1895 to Charles (b 1868 - Hull) and Eliza (b1873 – Croydon Cambridgeshire) Waite (nee Bradshaw – married 1893). In 1901 the family lived at St Dunstan's Road Leicester. Alfred was the oldest of six children and he and his sister Edith (b18 August 1898, were admitted to the Infant School on 30 March 1903 from Mantle Road School Leicester. Alfred was there until 22 May when he moved to the Junior school. Ruby (dob 6 Jul 1900) started school in May 1905 giving her address as the Brickyard and Elizabeth (dob 24 May 1902) started school in May 1906 Younger brother Charles was born in 1908. Woodford Parish and lived in Woodwell. By this time both Charles (carpenter and joiner) and Alfred (trainee electrical engineer) worked on a local private estate – most probably that known as Woodford House. (1911 census)

Army Service

Alfred Joined the Royal Flying Corps (19580) on 28 January 1916 aged 20 years 180 days, and based on postcard evidence had his initial training at the Curragh Camp in Ireland. It appears that Alfred / Dick (as he signed his postcard) was trained as a gunner / observer. His message home included a request for more woollen socks and a complaint that it rained a lot. He moved to the front in France on 10 March 1917

On April 8th Acting Corporal Waite was "acting as an observer in an aeroplane. The machine was just rising from the ground when it nosed into a tree and was wrecked." "Patient was rendered unconscious" and moved to CCS#27. 12 days later moved by stage to a hospital in Boulogne. On 23rd April 1917 he was repatriated and by 24th April he was in hospital in Epsom. A medical board on 16 July recommended discharge and on 6th August his service was concluded as a result of contusion of the spine and paraplegia and was awarded a pension initially 27/6 (£1 - 37 ½ pence) for six months convalescence after 1 year and 191 days service.

He was moved to Kettering General Hospital on 21st August 1917.

The Northampton Mercury of 20 April 1917 records that Alfred Waite son of C T H Waite Woodwell Villa, Woodford had been dangerously injured in France where he had been for a matter of a few weeks.

The Northampton Mercury 12 October 1917 recorded that Corporal Waite died of his injuries in Kettering Hospital where he had been for five or six weeks.

The funeral service held at Woodford was a full military exercise. The coffin draped in the Union Flag was paraded through the village, curtains were closed and many came out to show respect.

Burial / grave

St Mary's Churchyard Woodford

Dependants

None

Commemoration

Woodford War Memorial Village Green

Woodford St Mary's Church Memorial



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