

# Rifleman Stanley Alfred Augustus Marriott



MILTON MALSOR CHURCH, FROM THE SOUTH-EAST

**Figure 1: Milton Malsor Parish Church**

Stanley's grandfather was Josiah Marriott. Josiah and his twin brother, William, were born in 1825 to William (born 1791), a farmer, and his wife Elizabeth (born 1796).<sup>i</sup> The twins were baptised on Christmas day at Milton Malsor Parish Church, Hardington, Northamptonshire.<sup>ii</sup>

Josiah became a shoemaker. He married a local girl, Elizabeth Bushell, in the first quarter of 1845.<sup>iii</sup> The census for 1851, recorded that the couple had two children, Elizabeth Ann, and William born in 1848<sup>iv</sup> and 1849<sup>v</sup> respectively. Josiah's widowed father, William, and a cousin also resided with them.

Soon after the 1851 census was taken another child, Sarah was born followed by Thomas in 1853 and Martha in 1854.<sup>vi</sup>

After Martha was born, Josiah moved his family to Northampton where a sixth child, Louisa, was born on 11<sup>th</sup> August 1858.<sup>vii</sup>

After Louisa's birth, Josiah relocated to the town of Dudley (about 10 miles NW of Birmingham) where a son, John, was born in 1860.<sup>viii</sup> The 1861 census confirms the move to Dudley. It recorded the family as resident in Campbell Street, where Josiah continued to make shoes along with several of his neighbours for a living. A year later, another son, Charles, was born.

Sometime after Charles' birth in 1862, Josiah moved his family to Aston, Birmingham where a daughter, Hannah, was born in 1866.<sup>ix</sup> The 1871 census confirms the move to Aston where the family resided in Palmer Street.<sup>x</sup>

Louisa was baptised at St Matthews Church on 7<sup>th</sup> April 1878 at the age of nineteen.<sup>xi</sup> Josiah and Elizabeth's address on the Baptismal register was recorded as Cato Street, Duddeston, Birmingham. The Electoral Register for 1885 was more precise and noted Josiah's address as number 50 Cato Street. Josiah continued to live in Aston until his death in 1903.

Josiah's second eldest son, Thomas, married Caroline Keay at St Phillip's Parish Church (now Birmingham Cathedral) on 13<sup>th</sup> February 1876.<sup>xii</sup> Caroline worked as a servant for John Earle and his family at Great Court House, Hampton Street, Birmingham before her marriage.<sup>xiii</sup> The marriage certificate records Thomas as a tool maker.

The couple settled down to married life at 47 Lombard Street, Aston.<sup>xiv</sup> Thomas and Caroline had four children. The first three, Caroline Eleanor, Thomas Josiah and William Robert were born close together in 1877, 1879 and 1880. Their fourth child Stanley Alfred Augustus was born nine years later in the first quarter of 1899 after the family moved to 1 Albert Place, Edward Road, Balsall Heath Birmingham. Shortly after Stanley's birth, his father died aged only forty-six.<sup>xv</sup>

In 1901 Caroline is noted as a 'widow' in the census. Her children all lived with her. The eldest three were in full time work but not Stanley who was just two years old. Harriet Jane Giles, Caroline's niece was also living with them at 42 Edward Road, Balsall Heath together with a lodger.

By 1911 just Caroline, her daughter and Stanley together with Caroline's niece, Harriet, lived at 88 Westfield Road, Kings Heath, Birmingham. William and Thomas were resident in Canada. Thomas had married Ruth Cherry in New Westminster, British Columbia, Canada on 27<sup>th</sup> December 1905.<sup>xvi</sup> William married Mamie Coffman Dawson from Seattle on 30<sup>th</sup> June 1912.<sup>xvii</sup>

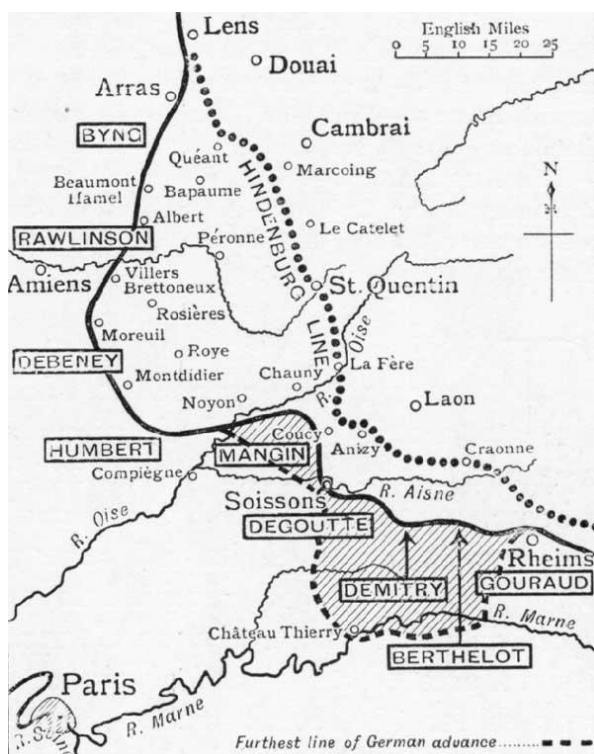
After war was declared in 1914, Stanley initially enlisted in the Army Service Corps and was designated the regimental number, M/314562. The prefix 'M' indicates that he served in the Mechanical Transport.

Stanley was later transferred to the Kings Royal Rifle Corps.<sup>xviii</sup> Following the transfer he was posted to the 6<sup>th</sup> (City of London Battalion) London Regiment and designated a new service number, No 45845.<sup>xix</sup> The service number records for the 6<sup>th</sup> London Battalion indicates that this number was allocated between 10<sup>th</sup> June 1915 and 12<sup>th</sup> July 1915 which would make Stanley only sixteen and therefore under age when he enlisted.<sup>xx</sup>

In the spring of 1918, Stanley would have been nineteen and old enough to 'officially' serve abroad. At that time the 6<sup>th</sup> London Regiment was stationed in the Somme region of France, and on the back foot fending off Germany's Spring Offensive or 'Kaiserschlacht' (Kaiser's Battle) that commenced on 21<sup>st</sup> March 1918. After years of stalemate, the Germans had broken through the Allied

defences following the release of more than half a million troops from the Eastern Front after an armistice with Russia in December 1917.

At the time of Stanley's death, on 23<sup>rd</sup> July 1918, the 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion London Regiment was based SW of Albert in the front line trenches. The Battalion was about to be relieved by A, B, C and D Coys of 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 132<sup>nd</sup> American Regiment (an infantry regiment part of the Illinois Army National Guard) and was to take over from the 2/2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion London Regiment in reserve at Brigade HQ. During the night of the relief the war diary for the 6<sup>th</sup> London Regiment records '1 OR died of wounds and 1 OR wounded. The OR or 'Other Rank' who died was Stanley. The circumstances of his death are not known.<sup>xxi</sup>



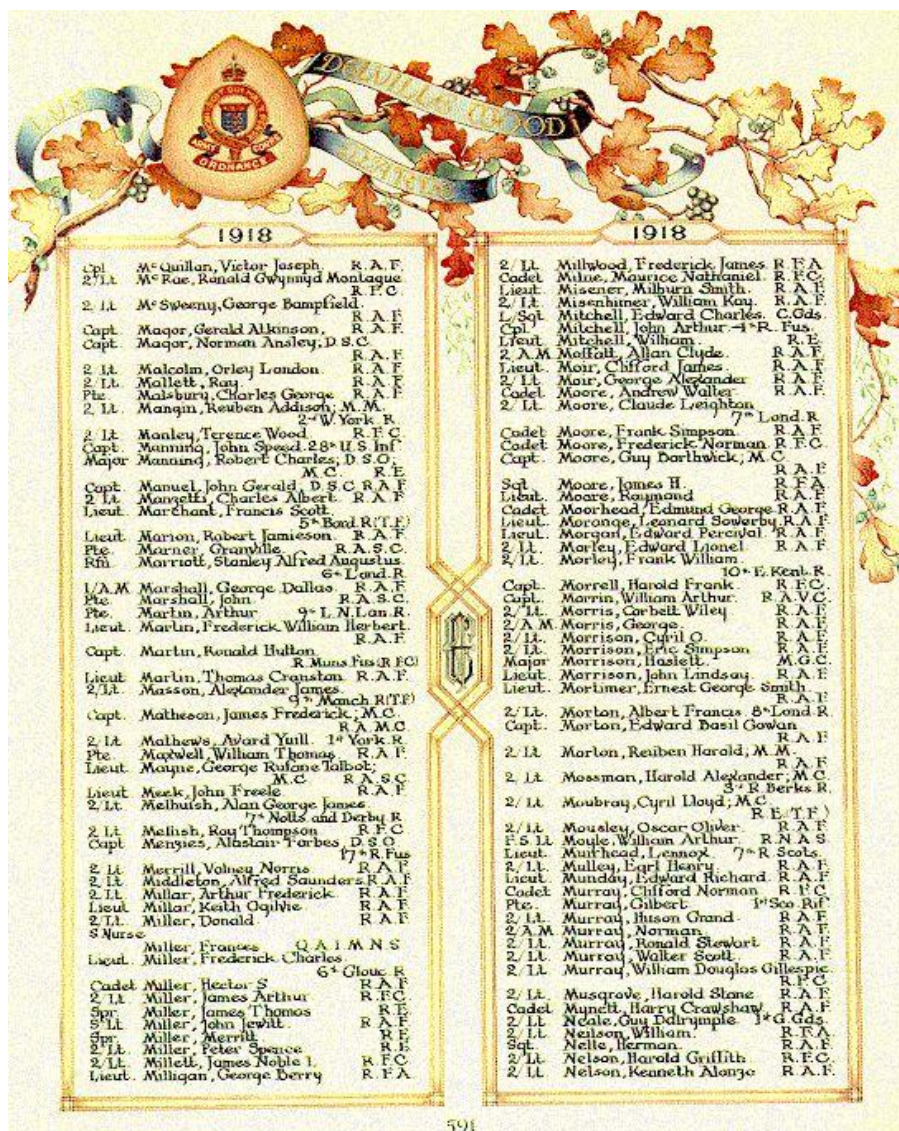
**Figure 2: The black line on the map shows the furthest line of the German advance in the Spring Offensive of 1918**

Two weeks later the tide had turned against Germany and despite their sweeping early gains, the Germans had exhausted themselves during the fighting and the stage was set for the Allied counter-offensives of the summer and the final defeat of Germany.

Stanley was just nineteen years old when he died. He was buried in Derancourt Communal Cemetery Extension, 3km SW of Albert (below left). He is also commemorated at St Mary's Church, Moseley (below right) and is named on the Roll of Honour at Birmingham's Hall of Memory.



There is an enigma regarding where Stanley was living at the time he enlisted. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission records him as 'the son of Mr and Mrs Thomas Marriott of 1677 Robson Street, Vancouver, British Columbia'. However, the *Birmingham Daily Post* reporting Stanley's death in September 1918 reports that he was in the employ of Felton & Co accountants, Edmund Street, Birmingham and makes no mention of his residence in Canada.<sup>xxii</sup> The absent voters list for Moseley in 1918 and 1919 recorded Stanley living with his widowed mother at 178 Alcester Road, Moseley, Birmingham. However, his name appears on the Canadian Virtual War memorial (see below). One possible explanation is that Stanley visited his brother Thomas in Canada after leaving school around 1913 and took up residency there, the address recorded by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission being that of his brother Thomas and his wife. Stanley must have returned to England around 1914/1915 to enlist.



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### Footnotes

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- i 1841 census
- ii Northamptonshire, Church of England Baptisms, 1813-1912
- iii England & Wales, Civil Registration Marriage Index, 1837-1915.
- iv England & Wales Births 1837-2006, 1848, Hardingstone, 1/4, volume 15, page 264 (mother's maiden name Bushel)
- v England & Wales Births 1837-2006, 1849, Hardingstone, 3/4, volume 15, page 259 (mother's maiden name Bushel)
- vi Sarah was born in 1851, 2/4, Hardingstone, volume 15, page 297. The 1861 census has transcribed incorrectly her DOB as 1846, misreading her age on the census as '15' not '10'. Both Thomas and Martha have Hardingstone as their place of birth
- vii Birmingham, England, Church of England Baptisms, 1813-1912
- viii John was born in Dudley
- ix England & Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1916-2007, 1866, Aston, 3/4
- x The 'Ancestry' census for 1871 incorrectly spells 'Marriott' as 'Manwill'. The 'Find My Past' census spells the family name correctly
- xi Birmingham, England, Church of England Baptisms, 1813-1912. Marriott was spelt incorrectly as 'Marryott'.

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- xii Birmingham, England, Church of England Marriages and Banns, 1754-1937  
The marriage certificate spells Caroline's name as 'Keay'. As both Thomas and Caroline were illiterate at the time of their marriage (note the mark of) it could explain why in some records later on the name is spelt 'Key'.
- xiii 1871 census
- xiv In the 1881 census Thomas' wife was recorded as 'Ellen'. As Thomas and the children's names, birth dates and places of birth match subsequent censuses, 'Ellen' is either a familiar name she was known by or an error by the census taker.
- xv England & Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1837-1915, 1899, 2/4, Kings Norton, volume 6c , page 231
- xvi Lintz family tree, Ancestry
- xvii Certificate of Marriage, Seattle, Washington State Certificate of Marriage No 35327
- xviii *Birmingham Daily Post*, 4<sup>th</sup> September 1918
- xix See xviii
- xx Service Numbers 6th (City of London) Battalion, the London Regiment (City of London Rifles)  
<http://armyservicenumbers.blogspot.com/2008/08/6th-city-of-london-bn-london-regiment.html>
- xxi War diary of 6<sup>th</sup> London Battalion London Regiment, Ref WO 3005/3, pp 69-71
- xxii See xviii

## Illustrations

Figure 1 Milton Malsor Parish Church

[http://www.prestoungrange.org/prestoungrange/html/milton\\_malsor/milton\\_malsor.html#](http://www.prestoungrange.org/prestoungrange/html/milton_malsor/milton_malsor.html#)

Figure 2 The Long, Long Trail, Allied maps 1918

<http://www.longlongtrail.co.uk/maps/allied18g.jpg>

Figure 3 Canadian Virtual War Memorial First World War Book of Remembrance

<http://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/remembrance/memorials/canadian-virtual-war-memorial/detail/426970?Stanley%20Alfred%20Augustus%20Marriott>