

Private Wilfred Roy Bartley

Wilfred's great grandfather, Alexander Bartley, was a boot maker from Marylebone, London. His son, Charles Alfred Bartley born on 7th February 1824, became a saddler by trade. He married Jane Hall, daughter of William Hall, a decorator, on 27th May 1848 at the Parish Church of Marylebone, London. The couple lived at 13 Old Quebec Street, off Bryanston Street in the City of London, where they raised five children: Charles Caleb, (b 26.7.1850), Jane Elizabeth, (b 21.1.1852), Henry Edward (b 27.1.1854), Annie Roper, (b 1855) and Maria, (b 3.12.1857).ⁱ On 7th January 1858, just over a month after Maria's birth, Jane, aged 37, died leaving Charles a widower with five children under seven years old.ⁱⁱ Jane's probate papers record that the family lived at 45 Bryanston Street at the time of her death.

On 13th October 1860, Charles remarried. His second wife was Mary Ann Timms, daughter of Emmanuel Timms, an Inspector of the Railway. The 1861 Census records that Charles and his new wife continued to live at the family home in Bryanston Street with Charles' youngest two daughters by his first marriage, a one month old son, Alfred William by Mary, Mary's brother, Caleb, and two domestic servants. Charles eldest three children were housed elsewhere: Charles (junior) and Henry as boarders at Holloway, White Waltham, Berkshire, an educational establishment for boys run by Emily Mantle, and Jane at the equivalent girl's establishment in nearby Woolley Road, run by Emily's sister, Mary Mantle.

On 8th November 1869, Charles (senior) was in Marylebone Police Court as a witness to a fraud (see right).

By the next census in 1871, Charles (junior) had left school and was back living with his father and stepmother, Mary, together with his sisters Jane, Annie and Maria and five half siblings, Alfred (b 10.3.1861), Fanny (b 7.6.1862), Alexander Frederick (b 20.3.1864), Arthur (b 30.3.1867) and one month old Richard (b 26.3.1871). Also living with them was Caleb and one domestic servant. Charles had become a saddler under the tutelage of his father. The family were resident at 20a Portman Street not far from their previous home. Mary had her final child, Clara, on 11th January 1873.

MARYLEBONE POLICE COURT, Nov. 8.
CHARGE OF FORGERY.—ENORMOUS INTEREST.
A stylishly-dressed young man, named *Osborns Garford*, Kent-villa, St. Alban's, was brought up on remand, charged with forgery.
Charles Alfred Bartley said he was a saddler at 20a, Portland-street, and that he knew the prisoner. On the 11th of April the prisoner called upon him and produced a bill of exchange for £50 at three months' date. He said it was drawn by his mother, and accepted by him (prisoner). The signature was "M. W. Garford." He got it cashed for him. The bill was not met when it became due, and an action was brought against the mother. The mother said she would defend the action, and made affidavit stating that the signature was not her handwriting. A subpoena was served upon the prisoner to compel his attendance at the County Court. Prosecutor afterwards saw prisoner at the Opera Hotel, Bow-street. He then said that no one saw him write the signature, and it could not be declared a forgery. He did not attend upon his subpoena at the trial, and a warrant was obtained for his apprehension.

Figure 1; Charles senior appears in court as a witness in a forgery case

Charles (junior) continued working as a saddler and by the 1881 census, aged thirty, had moved into the home of his mother's brother, Caleb then retired from his business as a coal merchant. Also residing there were his full siblings Jane, Henry, Annie, and Maria. Their half sister, Fanny, was noted as a 'visitor'. Caleb's address was 1 Bryanston Street, Marylebone.

On 20th September 1884, Charles (junior) set sail for Boston, America, where he established an export trade in hardware.ⁱⁱⁱ

On his travels between America and Britain, Charles met Sarah Elizabeth Shammon, the eldest daughter of William Shammon, JP of Billesley House, Kings Heath, Birmingham. They were married on 15th August 1891 at the Non-Conformist Church of the Saviour in Edward Street Birmingham by the Reverend J C Street (see below).^{iv} Edward Street Church of the Saviour was opened by George Dawson, former pastor of Mount Zion Baptist chapel. Under Dawson and his successors, it became a centre of a programme for social and municipal improvement known as the Civic Gospel, and was instrumental in launching Joseph Chamberlain's political career.

BARTLEY—SHAMMON.—On the 15th inst., at the Church of the Saviour, Edwards-street, Birmingham, by the Rev. J. C. Street, Charles Caleb Bartley, of 58, Warren-street, and 233, West 77 Street, New York City, to Lizzie, eldest daughter of William Shammon, Esq., J. P., of Billesley House, King's-heath, Worcestershire.

At the time of his marriage, Charles had two addresses in New York, the first at 58 Warren Street, now the site of the 'Mysterious Bookshop' and also 233 West 77 Street.^v



Figure 2
58 Warren Street, New York today



Figure 3
The Non-Conformist Church of the Saviour in Edward Street, Birmingham

The first of Charles and Sarah's children, Ethel, was born in the spring of 1893 but sadly died soon after birth. There followed three other children, Eric Oswald (b 1895), Wilfred Roy (b 12th January 1897) and Ena Marjorie (b 29th November 1898).

By 1901 the family had moved to 32 Park Hill Moseley. They employed a cook for general domestic catering and a nurse to look after the youngest child, Ena.

Wilfred attended Greenhill School, before continuing his last two years of education from 1912-13 at King Edward School, New Street Birmingham by which time the family had moved to Heathercourt, 8 St Agnes Road, Moseley. On leaving school, Wilfred began a two year apprenticeship as an auctioneer's clerk with Trubshaw & Taylors, a firm of Auctioneers and Estate Agents working out of 1 Newhall Street, Birmingham.^{vi}

On 13th January 1916, a day after his nineteenth birthday, Wilfred enlisted at Northampton in the Public Schools Battalion Middlesex Regiment, officially known as the 4th Battalion Duke of Cambridge's Own, for the 'duration of war'. He was posted as a Private, No 3242. After a four month period of training, Wilfred embarked for France from Folkestone on 27th May arriving at Boulogne the following day. On 31st May he was one of a draft of forty-two men taken on strength at La Neuville where his Regiment was based. The Regiment formed part of 21st Division, 63rd Brigade of Lord Kitchener's 'New Army'.

On the 1st day of the Battle of the Somme, the 4th Middlesex were in action at Fricourt but were beaten back within five minutes and forced to retreat. After regrouping they attacked again but only forty men gained the first objective. By 3rd July, the 4th Middlesex had suffered 540 casualties and was pulled from the line. Four days later, the 63rd Brigade was transferred to 37th Division.

From 19th August that year, Wilfred began to suffer from the effects of life in the trenches, initially with 'inflamed connective tissue' (ICT) of the legs', but by October after serving for eleven days in water-logged trenches at Le Boeuf in the Somme region, he was diagnosed with 'Trench Foot'. Wilfred was transferred to a salvage unit with the Royal Engineers, but unfortunately this move to drier terrain did not improve the condition of his feet and within two weeks gangrene had set in on his right big toe. As a consequence, he was admitted to the 36th Casualty Clearing Station at Heilly, about 19 km NE of Amiens on 29th November.



Figure 4: View of the first advanced dressing station in the Somme at Heilly

8. Disability.

French Feet

Statement of Case.

Note.—The answers to the following questions are to be filled in by the Officer in medical charge of the case. In answering them he will carefully discriminate between the man's unsupported statements and evidence recorded in his military and medical documents. He will also carefully distinguish cases entirely due to venereal disease.

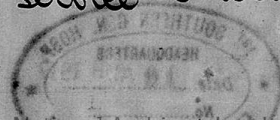
9. Date of origin of disability. *October 1916.*

10. Place of origin of disability. *Le Boeuf - Somme.*

11. Give concisely the essential facts of the history of the disability, noting entries on the Medical History Sheet bearing on the case. *He was exposed to mud and water in the trenches for eleven days; he had pains in the feet and was transferred to a salvage party R.E. - was there a fortnight and gangrene of Right Great Toe started. He was at Boulogne Hospital two days and then sent to England*

12. (a) Give your opinion as to the causation of the disability.
(b) If you consider it to have been caused by active service, climate, or ordinary military service, explain the specific conditions to which you attribute it (See notes on page 3).

Active Service Conditions.



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Figure 5: Wilfred's Trench Foot statement

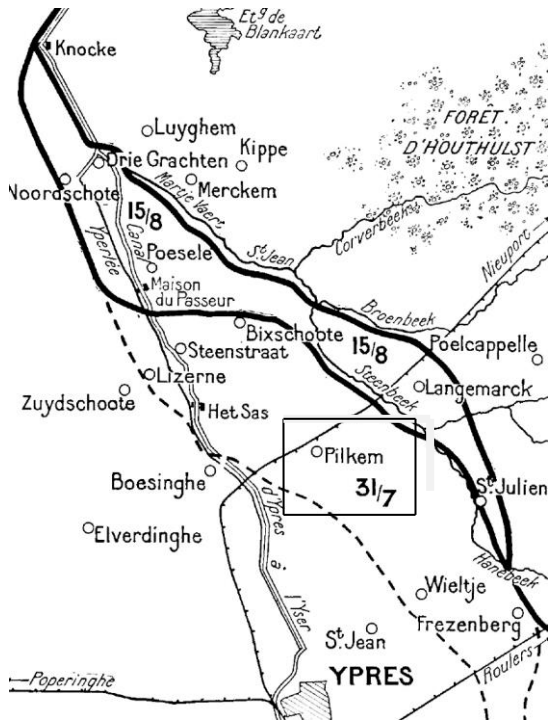
From Heilly, Wilfred was evacuated to Boulogne in preparation for a passage home to England. On 4th December, Wilfred was admitted to Northamptonshire War Hospital at Duston, where he spent fifty-seven days recovering before he was transferred nearer home to the 1st Southern General Hospital in Edgbaston, Birmingham on 29th January 1917.



Figure 6: Two views of Northamptonshire War Hospital, Duston

After a further seventy-three days at the hospital, Wilfred was released on 11th April 1917 and posted to the reserve.

On 25th May, having made a full recovery, Wilfred was posted back to his Regiment based in Matringhem, Pas de Calais, France. On 22nd March, the battalion was on the move to Kemmel, Belgium by foot via Auchy-an-Bois, Thiennes and Caestre.^{vii}



The Third Battle of Ypres (better known as Passchendaele) was launched on 31 July 1917 after a two-week preliminary bombardment that failed to destroy the heavily fortified German positions. The initial Anglo-French attack (the Battle of Pilkem Ridge, see left^{viii}) was hampered by heavy rain and failed to breakthrough, but nonetheless, the Allies captured a substantial amount of ground from which they hoped to renew their assault.

The 4th Battalion Middlesex Regiment was in action on the first day of this battle and suffered heavy casualties in their determination to clear the Germans from May Farm and rebuff any possibility of a counter attack. As a result 15

men were killed, 97 wounded, 69 missing believed wounded and 23 missing believed dead. Wilfred was posted as 'missing believed wounded'. It was later confirmed that Wilfred had been killed by a sniper.^{ix}

The brave and resolute actions of the Battalion did not go unnoticed. On the 31st July the General Officer Commander of 37th Division sent a letter to congratulate the men of the 4th Battalion Middlesex Regiment saying that he:

Wishes to convey to the Officers, NCO's and men of the Battalion his appreciation of their steadfastness and gallantry during the recent operations

He concludes that they have fully maintained their name 'DIE HARD'S'.^x

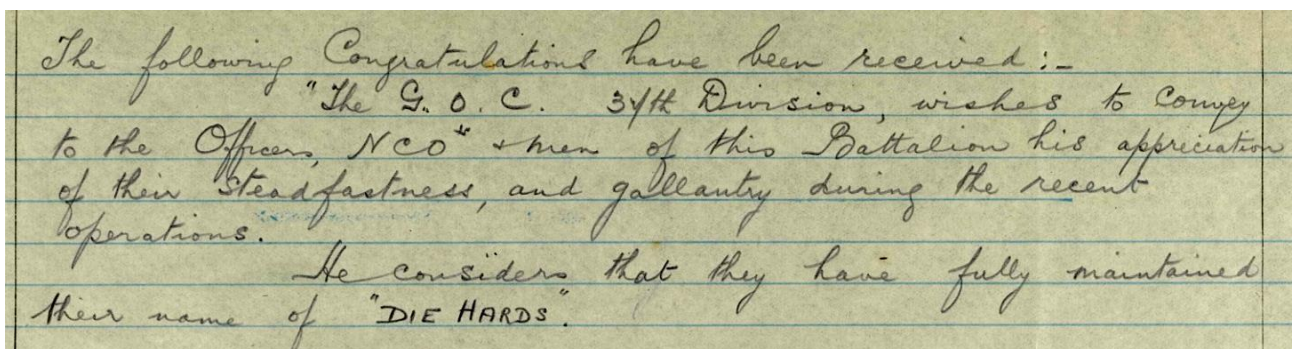


Figure 7: Extract from the War Diary of 4th Battalion Duke of Cambridge's Own (4th Middlesex)

The offensive lasted until the village was taken on 6th November 1917, at a cost of some 310,000 British casualties, and over 260,000 German casualties.



Wilfred has no known grave and is commemorated at Ypres on the Menin Gate memorial in Belgium,

Figure 8
Menin Gate Memorial, Ypres

Wilfred's elder brother, Eric, also served. He enlisted in 16th Royal Warwickshire Regiment for '3 Years with the Colours' on 22nd September 1914. He was posted a Private, No. 16/764 but was discharged the following year due to 'sickness'. He was awarded a Silver War Badge, No 117074. Eric then passed for the Royal Military College, Sandhurst but was subsequently rejected on medical grounds. Eric was nothing but persistent because, when he was awarded a place at Christ's College, Cambridge, he became a cadet in the Officer Cadet Battalion and in June 1918 was promoted to Lieutenant in the Labour Corps where he served out the war at home.^{xi}

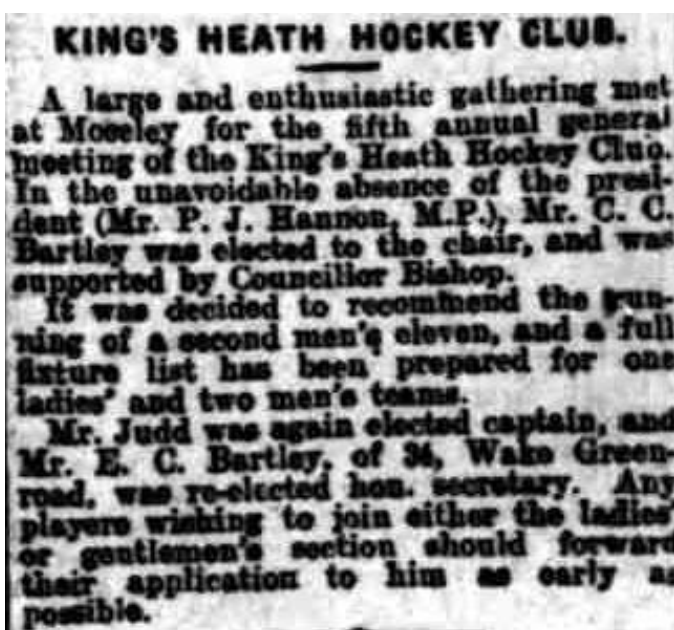


Figure 9: Newspaper item reporting Eric's role as Hon. Sec. of King's Heath Hockey Club

Returning home Eric became an accountant. He remained living with his sister, Ena, and parents, moving with them to Rosslyn, 34 Wake Green Road. In May 1925 Eric sat his Finals for the 'Incorporated Accountants' exam which he successfully passed.^{xii} Both Eric and his father were supporters of the Kings Heath Hockey Club, Charles as Chair and Eric as the Secretary. Sadly, Eric's father died, aged 77, on 28th May 1928.^{xiii} Sarah stayed on in the family home until her death at the Dingle Nursing Home on 6th February 1954, aged 96.^{xiv}

King's Heath's Loss.

The matches between King's Heath and Pickwick first and second teams were cancelled owing to the sudden death of Eric Bartley, the popular secretary of the King's Heath Club. He will be missed. He had taken an active interest in the administration of the club's affairs for the past ten years. He earned and well-merited the affection and respect of all those with whom he came into contact.

Eric, however moved to 32 Park Road, Moseley around 1930 where he died suddenly on 1st January 1932.^{xv}

Figure 10: Newspaper report of Eric's death

JOAN F. SIMPSON, of the Central School of Speech Training and Dramatic Art, London, RECEIVES PUPILS in ELOCUTION and DRAMATIC ART. ENA BARTLEY SCHOOL OF DANCE, 187, Broad Street, Birmingham.

Figure 11: Advert for Ena's Dancing School in Broad Street



MISS BARTLEY'S DOLLS MAKE DANCING EASY

BECAUSE she encountered so much "professional jealousy," Miss Ena Bartley took her new technique of teaching ballroom dancing to America.

"It was an immediate success," said Miss Bartley, a Moseley dance teacher, yesterday. "Now I have come back to spread it in this country."

The B.B.C. has given her a chance by offering her a television programme in the near future.

"My technique—I call it 'Rhythmbar'—is just ideal for television," added Miss Bartley, who ran Birmingham's biggest dance school in Broad Street before the war.

She has broken down the complex ballroom dancing to a few simple, basic steps. These are demonstrated with the aid of dolls.

Pupils are taught to listen to the rhythm of the music and follow her instructions by manipulating dolls of their own.

"Even a child of four can learn," she said. "Once the steps have been mastered, the pupil can then go on a dance floor and dance."

Her method, once scorned by dance teachers and band leaders now interests educational authorities, who consider it an excellent form of occupational therapy combining mind and hand action.

"I have already converted many dance teachers in this country," said Miss Bartley. On Sunday she is to give a demonstration to Birmingham teachers in the Queen's Hotel.

Figure 12: Ena with her dolls used to demonstrate dance steps to children

Ena remained at 34, Wake Green Road after her mother's death. She was a teacher of ballroom dancing and a member of the Imperial Society of Dance Teachers in London.^{xvi} She ran a School of Dancing at 187 Broad Street, Birmingham where the pupils put on an annual display at the Alexandra Theatre and also a regular performance at the Moseley and Balsall Heath Institute.^{xvii} She developed a new technique called Rhythmbar, using dolls to illustrate the basic dancing steps. She demonstrated the

technique at the Moseley and Balsall Heath Institute in 1953 and wrote a book about it before travelling to America to stage a similar demonstration in a New York hotel.



At the age of 60, Ena married Mark Basil Backhouse on 2nd June 1958 at St Mary's Church, Moseley.^{xviii} Her husband, Mark, was a member of HM Forces and had attained the rank of Lieutenant Colonel as a paratrooper in the Airborne Division and had served with the Eighth Army in WW2. After leaving the army he was employed in the Treasury Department of Coventry City Corporation.^{xix}

Figure 13: Ena's engagement notice

Ena died on 28th March 1971, aged 72 and her husband Mark later that year on 20th October aged 60, having endured a very serious illness with great fortitude and courage.^{xx}

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Endnotes

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- i England Select Births and Christenings
 - ii *Globe*, 9th January 1868
 - iii British and Irish Roots Collection

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- iv *Gentlewoman*, 22nd August 1891
- v *Dundee Courier*, 18th August, 1891
- vi *Birmingham Daily Post*, 14th November 1917
- vii British Army Service Records, Find My Past
- viii Third Battle of Ypres map
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Pilckem_Ridge#/media/File:Front_line_after_Battle_of_Langemarck,_16-18_August_1917.jpg
- ix *Birmingham Daily Post*, 14th November 1917
- x War Diaries of 4th Battalion Middlesex Regiment, Ancestry
- xi British Army Service Records, Find My Past
- xii *Birmingham Daily Gazette*, 17th September 1925
- xiii Probate Records
- xiv *Birmingham Weekly Post*, 15th October, 1954
- xv *Birmingham Daily Gazette*, 5th January 1932
- xvi *Birmingham Daily Post*, 29th April 1939
- xvii *Birmingham Daily Gazette*, 30th March 1925
Birmingham Daily Gazette, 28th March 1927
- xviii Birmingham Daily Post, 19th March 1958
- xix *Birmingham Daily Post*, 22nd October 1971
- xx *Birmingham Daily Post*, 22nd October 1971

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- Figure 3 Church of Our Saviour, Edward Street Birmingham, 1890, unknown attribution
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Church_of_the_Saviour,_Birmingham
- Figure 4 Heilly Clearing Station www.ww1cemeteries.com › [heilly-station-cemetery](http://www.ww1cemeteries.com/heilly-station-cemetery)
- Figure 5 Wilfred's Army Service Records

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- Figure 6 Duston War Hospital
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- Figure 7 Extract from the War Diary, 4th Middlesex Regiment for 31st July 1917, Ancestry
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