

# FREDERICK GEORGE AYLOTT

---

Frederick George Aylott was born on the 16<sup>th</sup> January 1896 and was the fourth son of John and Harriet Aylott. John was born in Braughing, Sawbridgeworth, Hertfordshire in 1864 and his wife Harriet Elizabeth Aylott (née Page) was born in Plaistow, Essex in 1862. Their four sons were all born in Stratford, Essex. They were Alfred Page Aylott born in 1884, (died aged 10 in 1895), John Henry born in 1891, Thomas Sidney born in 1892, and Frederick George born in 1896.

In 1901, the Aylott family were living at no 5, East Road, New Wanstead in Essex; John was at that time working as an agricultural labourer. One of John's relatives, William Aylott, aged 24, was living with them at East Road and was working locally as a carrier. He was born in Ipswich, Suffolk.



*The Wanstead Congregational Church Sunday School Superintendent's Outing*

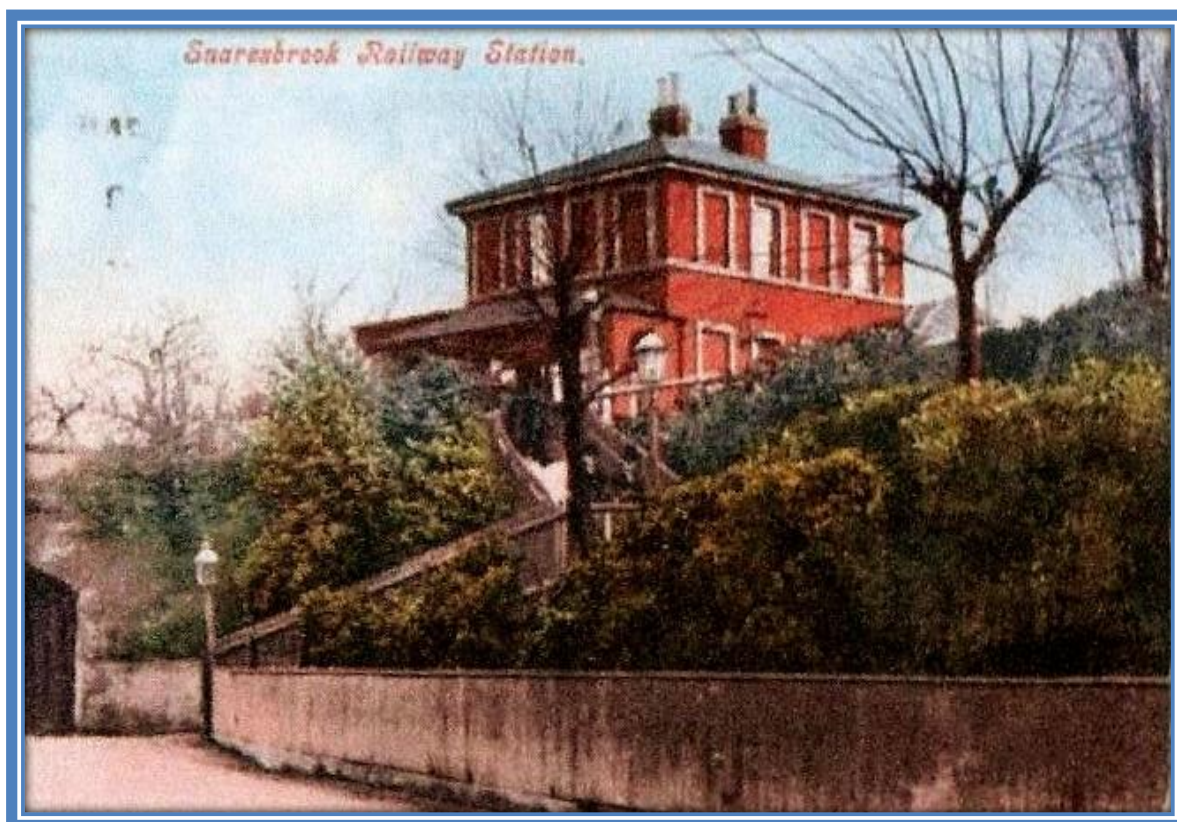
*Mr Percy Newman was the Superintendent and the outing was in Epping Forest in 1903. Top Right in the photo is Thomas Sidney Aylott and second from the right in the bottom row is John Henry Aylott, Frederick's older brothers.*

*Photo courtesy of the Forster Family.*

In 1911, John Aylott was employed as a labourer in drain work for the District Council. Thomas Sidney, now aged 19 was employed as a motor driver for a House Furnishing Company. John Henry aged 20 had left home and was employed as a kitchen porter and was living-in at 14, Onslow Place in South Kensington.

Frederick now aged 15 had been employed since May 1910 by the Underground Electric Railway of London (Great Eastern Railway). Frederick entered the Company's service as a parcels van lad at Snaresbrook Station. He helped load and unload parcels from the trains onto a horse-drawn van for delivery to and from local businesses and homes in the Wanstead area.

Frederick subsequently served as a gate-lad at Leytonstone Station, lad porter at Stratford Station, and at the time of his enlistment, as a porter at Forest Gate Station.



*Postcard courtesy of Redbridge Museum*





*Snaresbrook Station Platform and Bridge*



*A typical Great Eastern Railway horse-drawn parcels cart c 1908*



*Photo 'Great Eastern Railway Staff Magazine' 1919 p165*

Frederick enlisted in January 1916 at Shoreditch into the 2<sup>nd</sup> / 10<sup>th</sup> (County of London) Battalion of the London Regiment (Hackney). In May 1916, the Battalion was stationed at Bromeswell Heath near Woodbridge and then at Longbridge Deverill.

On 25<sup>th</sup> January 1917, Private Frederick Aylott and his Battalion were mobilised for war and landed at Le Havre. They were engaged in various actions on the Western Front including:-

In 1917, the pursuit of the German retreat to the Hindenburg Line, the Battle of Bullecourt, the action of the Hindenburg Line, the Battle of the Menin Road Ridge, the Battle of Polygon Wood and the Second Battle of Passchendaele.

In 1918, the Battle of St Quentin, the Battle of Avre, the Battle of Villers-Bretonneux, the Battle of Amiens and the Battle of Albert.

On the 21<sup>st</sup> August 1918, the Second Battle of Bapaume began. The town was re-captured from the Germans on 29<sup>th</sup> August. It was during this battle, on August 24<sup>th</sup>, that Frederick was killed in action, aged 22.

Frederick was buried in Grave 1A 26 at the Bray Hill British Cemetery, Bray-sur-Somme, a village 9 kilometres S.E. of Albert. He died just 48 days before the Armistice and the end of the war. Frederick earned the War and Victory Medals.

Frederick is commemorated on the Wanstead United Reformed Church War Memorial and on the Wanstead War Memorial.

## The Aylott Family

In August 1918, John and Harriet Aylott were living at 49, Cowley Road, Wanstead when they received the terrible news that their youngest son Frederick had been killed in action.

On 3<sup>rd</sup> July 1914, Frederick's older brother Thomas had enlisted in the Army at Stratford just weeks before Great Britain declared war on Germany. Private Thomas Sidney Aylott of the Army Service Corps landed in France on the 23<sup>rd</sup> September 1914 and went on to earn the War and Victory Medals with the 1914 Star.

Thomas was appointed Acting L/Cpl. (unpaid) on the 4<sup>th</sup> August 1915, only being paid for the rank from the 11<sup>th</sup> May 1916. He reverted to Private once more on the 8<sup>th</sup> February 1917, being "surplus to requirements", and he came home on leave from 8<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> January 1918. However, he was given his stripe again on the 11<sup>th</sup> January but was only paid for this from 10<sup>th</sup> May 1918.

Thomas finally returned to his family and his home at no 21, Cowley Road, Wanstead on the 29<sup>th</sup> September 1918 and was eventually discharged on 8<sup>th</sup> October of that year, earning a Silver War Badge.

Thomas had married his wife Mabel Aylott née Mussett on 21<sup>st</sup> April 1913 and the couple had two daughters, Phyllis Mabel born on 24<sup>th</sup> March 1914 and Doris Vera born on 10<sup>th</sup> February 1917. Phyllis was baptised by the Revd John Jermyn in Wanstead Congregational Church on the 15<sup>th</sup> April 1914. At this time, the family were living at no 27, Cowley Road. Doris Vera was baptised by the Revd Jermyn on 21<sup>st</sup> March 1917 and the family were then living at no 47, Cowley Road, next door to Thomas's parents.

Thomas Aylott was a casualty of World War One. He had contracted tuberculosis during his time in the Army and did not recover, eventually dying from the disease on the 3<sup>rd</sup> July 1920 when he was just 29 years old.

The last surviving son, John Henry Aylott, married Gertrude née Clark in 1915. They had two daughters but sadly John died in June 1925 at the age of 34. Gertrude B. Aylott of 50, Cowley Road became a member of Wanstead Congregational Church in January 1926 and she is still remembered by some current Church Members. Her daughter Eileen became a member of the Church in August 1932 when she was 16 years old.

*Every effort has been made to contact all copyright holders of the material in the profiles of these young men. We will be glad to make good any errors or omissions brought to our attention.*

*You may download this resource at no cost for personal use as long as you are not publishing it for sale. All we ask is that you acknowledge the source of this material.*

*Margaretha Pollitt Brown for Wanstead United Reformed Church.*