



Frank Allsop, died 1 January 1915, aged 20

Frank Allsop was born in Snelstone near Ashbourne in Derbyshire and spent much of his childhood there. In 1901 Frank's father (also Frank) was a farmer running the Home Farm in Snelstone, and apart from his wife Eva and their four children the household included a domestic servant, two cattlemen, a waggoner and a boarder. By 1911 the family had moved to North London and lived at 49D Long Lane, which was near Victoria Park in Church End.

That house is no longer there, replaced by an estate built in the 1920s. Frank's father was now a night watchman, his 18 year old sister May was a GPO telephonist, and he was 17 and a mechanic. Margery (13) and Willie (11) were still at school. Frank joined a Territorial Regiment, the London Regiment (Queen Victoria's Rifles) before the war started. He was in the same battalion as Edward Wilson (see below), and they would almost certainly have trained together.

As soon as war was declared Frank was called up, and he was sent to Le Havre on 5 November 1914 as part of the British Expeditionary Force. They moved across country towards the Belgian border – in early 1915 his battalion was engaged in heavy fighting south of Ypres, particularly around the notorious Hill 60 where Edward Wilson died. But by then Frank had died on 1 January 1915. There are no longer any details available about what happened to him. He has no known grave; he is commemorated on the Menin Gate in Ypres.

It has been difficult to find information about the Allsop family, or determine what connection Frank Allsop had with All Saints' Church, but he is named on our memorial and we will remember him.

“... when peace came and the last ray of hope had been extinguished the void seemed deeper and the outlook more forlorn for those who had no grave to visit, no place where they could lay tokens of loving remembrance. ... It was resolved that here at Ypres, where so many of the ‘Missing’ are known to have fallen, there should be erected a memorial worthy of them which should give expression to the nation’s gratitude for their sacrifice and its sympathy with those who mourned them. A memorial has been erected which, in its simple grandeur, fulfils this object, and now it can be said of each one in whose honour we are assembled here today: ‘He is not missing; he is here’.”

Lord Plumer inaugurating the Menin Gate
24th July 1927