

Sergeant Alfred George Telford[©]

Regimental number: 49015

"A" Battery, 155th Brigade, Royal Field Artillery

born: 1887–died: 3 October 1918

Private Alfred Telford was born in 1887 in Athy, County Kildare, Ireland.¹ He was one of probably six children of Richard Daniel Telford (born in about 1849)² and Alicia Armstrong. Richard (born in about 1850).³ Their marriage was registered in Dublin South, Ireland, in 1880.⁴ Their children were probably:

- John Armstrong (born on 6 June 1884),⁵
- Charlotte (born on 20 August 1885),⁶
- Alfred George,
- Edward Thomas (born on 29 January 1889),⁷
- Isabel Gertrude (born in 1890 but died the following year)⁸ and
- Grace Evelyn (born in 1892).⁹

In 1901, the family was living at 1 Southfield, Ballyadams, in Queen's County, where Richard was a farmer. He died four years later in Athy.¹⁰ Six years later, his wife Alicia was living with her mother, Alicia Armstrong, at 10 Barrack Street in Athy. Her youngest child Grace was living with them.

By then Alfred had already enlisted in the army—in 1911, he was a gunner in the 132rd Battery of the Royal Field Artillery and stationed in Hartley Wintney in Hampshire, England.¹¹ He joined the British Expeditionary Force at the very beginning of the war,¹² enlisting in Naas, Ireland. He first served as a private with the Royal Dublin Fusiliers (regimental number 9690)¹³ and, at some point, transferred to the "A" Battery of the 155th Brigade, Royal Field Artillery as a gunner. He had been promoted to sergeant when he died.

Alfred received shrapnel wounds to both his legs and his left hand and forearm and his left leg had to be amputated. It happened very quickly—he was admitted to No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station on 3 October 1918, died and was buried the same day. He was buried in Duisans British Military Cemetery (Plot 8, Row A, Grave 68) with the Canadian chaplain W. Fisher presiding.¹⁴

Duisans British Military Cemetery is located in Etrun, near Arras, France. The first burials took place in the cemetery in March 1917.¹⁵ No. 1 CCCS arrived at the beginning of September 1918 and was stationed near Duisans for two months in the autumn of 1918.¹⁶ As a result of the serious and urgent nature of the cases admitted to the No. 1 CCCS in October, the death rate was high—a total of 83 deaths during the month.¹⁷

Alfred was awarded posthumously the British War Medal (for service overseas between 1914 and 1918), the Victory Medal (for service in an operational theatre) and the 1914–15 Star (for service in the war against Germany between 5 August 1914 and 31 December 1915).¹⁸

Alfred's mother was notified of his death by letter. At the time she was living at 9 Woodstock Street in Athy and she continued to live in Athy until her death in 1939.¹⁹ However, all her children, except one, left Ireland. Her youngest, **Grace**, married Reginald Richardson Hannon (known as Rex) in Athy in 1915.²⁰ She probably remained there, because Reginald was still there in 1942.²¹ According to an online family tree, both Grace and Reginald died in 1962 in Athy.

Alfred's brother **John** married Lily Eastwood in Dublin in 1916²² but, by 1939, they were possibly living at 10 West Park in Harrogate, Yorkshire (West Riding), where John was an agricultural machinery engineer and an air raid precautions warden.²³ He died on 2 July 1969 in Bedford, Bedfordshire.²⁴

Alfred's sister **Charlotte** married Harold Roy Frost, a railway agent, on 16 August 1910 in Powerstock, Dorset.²⁵ The following year, they were living on South Walks Road in Dorchester.²⁶ Sadly, Harold died on 14 December 1918. He was a private in the Machine Gun Corps and died at the Rugeley Military Camp in Brerton, Staffordshire,²⁷ leaving Charlotte with probably five children—Roy Telford (born 1912),²⁸ Eileen Mary Telford (born 1913),²⁹ Maureen Grace (born 1915),³⁰ John Armstrong Anthony Roy (born 1916)³¹ and Harold Desmond (born 1918).³² Two years later Charlotte remarried, marrying John Henry Jennings on 10 September 1920 in Broadstone, Dorset.³³ They had at least one son—John Edward Telford, born in 1921.³⁴ John Sr. died on 28 February 1933 and, in 1939, Charlotte was a widow, living alone at “Sylvandene” on Avebury Avenue in Bournemouth.³⁵ Three years later, she would lose two sons three months apart. Paymaster Lieutenant Roy Desmond Frost died on 8 January 1942 on the Isle of Arran, in North Ayrshire, Scotland,³⁶ and Sub-Lieutenant John Edward Telford Jennings died on 5 April 1942, while serving on H.M.S. *Dorchester*.³⁷ When Charlotte herself died in 1957 at the age of 72, she had lost a brother, a husband and two sons to war.

In 1911, **Edward** was living near his sister Charlotte and working as a shepherd on Glebe Farm in Powerstock.³⁸ At the end of the following year he sailed on the *Lusitania* from Queenstown, Ireland, to New York, arriving on 21 December 1912.³⁹ In 1915, he declared his intention to become an American citizen. On 19 August 1916, he married Ellen Anna Morin in Bennington, Vermont; as a result, he claimed an exemption from the draft in World War I because he was the main support for his wife.⁴⁰ It is not known whether he served. In 1930, he and Ellen were living on South Jefferson Street in Bennington, where he was a foreman at the E. Z. Waist Company in Bennington,⁴¹ a company making children's knitted underwear.⁴² At the end of the war, he and Ellen separated and on 12 July 1948 they divorced.⁴³ Edward died just a few months later, on 27 September 1948, and was buried in Graceland Cemetery in Albany, New York.⁴⁴

© 2020 BIFHSGO

¹ “Ireland, Civil Registration Births Index, 1864–1958,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 21 March 2020), entry for Alfred George Telford, Volume: 3, Page: 287, FHL film number: 101061

² “Ireland, Civil Registration Deaths Index, 1864–1958,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 19 March 2020), entry for Richard D Telford, Registration district: Athy, Volume: 3, Page: 252, FHL film number: 101602

³ “Ireland, Civil Registration Deaths Index, 1864–1958,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 19 March 2020), entry for Alicia Telford, Registration district: Athy, Volume: 3, Page: 185, FHL Film Number: 101741

⁴ “Ireland, Civil Registration Marriages Index, 1845–1958,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 19 March 2020), entry for Richard Daniel Telford, Registration district: Dublin South, Ireland, Volume: 2, Page number: 507, FHL film number: 101253

⁵ “1939 England and Wales Register,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 21 March 2020), entry for John A. Telford, Schedule number: 72, Sub-schedule number: 1, Enumeration district: KNBY, Registration district: 489/2

-
- ⁶ "1939 England and Wales Register," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 21 March 2020), entry for Charlotte E Jennings, Schedule number: 75, Sub-schedule number: 1, Enumeration district: EAPC, Registration district: 94/2
- ⁷ "Vermont, State and Federal Naturalization Records, 1790–1954," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 21 March 2020), entry for Edward Thomas Telford, Declaration number: 2110
- ⁸ "Ireland, Civil Registration Births Index, 1864–1958," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 21 March 2020), entry for Isabel Gertrude Telford, Volume: 3, Page: 133, FHL film number: 101063; "Ireland, Civil Registration Deaths Index, 1864–1958," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 19 March 2020), entry for Isabel Gertrude Telford, Registration district: Athy, Volume: 3, Page: 207, FHL film number: 101596
- ⁹ "Ireland, Civil Registration Births Index, 1864–1958," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 21 March 2020), entry for Grace Evelyn Telford, Volume: 3, Page: 292, FHL film number: 101064
- ¹⁰ "Ireland, Civil Registration Deaths Index, 1864–1958," *Ancestry*, entry for Richard D Telford
- ¹¹ "1911 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 21 March 2020), entry for Alfred Telford, Registration district: Hartley Wintney, Registration district number: 109, Sub-registration district: Odiman, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 02, Piece: 6250
- ¹² Based on "War Gratuity Calculator" (<https://wargratiuity.wordpress.com/2015/08/16/gratuity-calculator/>: accessed 18 May 2017); "UK, Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects, 1901–1929," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 19 March 2020), entry for Alfred Telford
- ¹³ "Soldiers Died in the Great War 1914–1919," *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 19 March 2020), entry for Alfred Telford
- ¹⁴ "No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station," *British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa* (www.bifhsgo.ca: accessed 24 February 2020), entry for Telford, A.
- ¹⁵ "Duisans British Cemetery, Etrun," *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* (www.cwgc.org: accessed 7 October 2015)
- ¹⁶ "War Diaries of the First World War: 1st Canadian Casualty Clearing Station 1914/08/13–1919/03/31," *Library and Archives Canada* (http://data4.collectionscanada.gc.ca/netacgi/nph-brs?s1=casualty+clearing&s13=&s12=&l=20&s9=RG9&s7=9-52&Sect1=IMAGE&Sect2=THESOFF&Sect4=AND&Sect5=WARDPEN&Sect6=HITOFF&d=FINDD&p=1&u=http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/archivianet/02015202_e.html&r=1&f=G; accessed 17 June 2015)
- ¹⁷ "War Diaries of the First World War: 1st Canadian Casualty Clearing Station 1914/08/13–1919/03/31," *Library and Archives Canada* (<http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca>: accessed 26 March 2018)
- ¹⁸ "British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914–1920," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 19 March 2020), entry for Alfred Telford
- ¹⁹ "Ireland, Civil Registration Deaths Index, 1864–1958," *Ancestry*, entry for Alicia Telford
- ²⁰ "Ireland, Civil Registration Marriages Index, 1845–1958," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 19 March 2020), entry for Grace Evelyn Telford, Registration district: Dublin South, Ireland, Volume: 3, Page number: 245, FHL film number: 101263
- ²¹ "Ireland, City and Regional Directories, 1836–1947," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 19 March 2020), entry for Reginald R. Hannon
- ²² "Ireland, Civil Registration Marriages Index, 1845–1958," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 19 March 2020), entry for John Armstrong Telford, Registration district: Dublin South, Ireland, Volume: 2, Page number: 533, FHL film number: 101263
- ²³ "1939 England and Wales Register," *Ancestry*, entry for John A. Telford
- ²⁴ "England & Wales, National Probate Calendar (Index of Wills and Administrations), 1858–1995," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 21 March 2020), entry for John Armstrong Telford
- ²⁵ "Dorset, England, Church of England Marriages and Banns, 1813–1921," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 21 March 2020), entry for Charlotte Ellen Telford
- ²⁶ "1911 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 21 March 2020), entry for Charlotte Ellen Frost, Registration district: Dorchester, Registration district number: 264, Sub-registration district: Dorchester, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 06, Piece: 12383

-
- ²⁷ "England & Wales, National Probate Calendar (Index of Wills and Administrations), 1858–1995," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 21 March 2020), entry for Harold Roy Frost
- ²⁸ "GRO online index–birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 10 November 2020), entry for Frost, Roy Telford, Registration district: Dorchester, Volume 05A, Page 553
- ²⁹ "GRO online index–birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 10 November 2020), entry for Frost, Eileen Mary Telford, Registration district: Dorchester, Volume 05A, Page 503
- ³⁰ "GRO online index–birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 10 November 2020), entry for Frost, Maureen Grace, Registration district: Dorchester, Volume 05A, Page 515
- ³¹ "GRO online index–birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 10 November 2020) entry for Frost, John Armstrong Anthony Roy, Registration district: Dorchester, Volume 05A, Page 502
- ³² "GRO online index–birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 10 November 2020) entry for Frost, Harold Desmond, Registration district: Dorchester, Volume 05A, Page 466
- ³³ "Dorset, England, Church of England Marriages and Banns, 1813–1921," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 21 March 2020), entry for Charlotte Ellen Frost
- ³⁴ "England & Wales, Civil Registration Birth Index 1916–2007," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 21 March 2020), entry for John E. T. Jennings, Registration district: Poole, Inferred county: Dorset, Volume: 5a, Page: 453
- ³⁵ "1939 England and Wales Register," *Ancestry*, entry for Charlotte E Jennings
- ³⁶ *FindaGrave* (<https://www.findagrave.com/>: accessed 21 March 2020), entry for Harold Desmond Frost
- ³⁷ "UK, Commonwealth War Graves, 1914–1921 and 1939–1947," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 21 March 2020), entry for John Edward Telford Jennings, Memorial ID:143928641
- ³⁸ "1911 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 21 March 2020), entry for Edward Telford, Registration district: Beaminster, Registration district number: 266, Sub-registration district: Beaminster, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 07, Piece: 12475
- ³⁹ "New York, Passenger and Crew Lists (including Castle Garden and Ellis Island), 1820–1957," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 21 March 2020), entry for Edward T Telford
- ⁴⁰ "U.S., World War I Draft Registration Cards, 1917–1918," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 21 March 2020), entry for Edward Thomas Telford
- ⁴¹ "1930 United States Federal Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 21 March 2020), entry for Edward Telford
- ⁴² *iBerkshires.com* (<https://www.iberkshires.com/story/2895/Bennington-s-extensive-but-little-known-industrial-history.html>: accessed 21 March 2020)
- ⁴³ "Vermont, Divorce Index, 1925–2003," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 21 March 2020), entry for Edward T Telford
- ⁴⁴ "U.S., Find a Grave Index, 1600s–Current," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 21 March 2020), entry for Edward Thomas Telford