

Arthur Phipps - (1899-1919)

Arthur had a strong link to the parish of St Aldates as he was not only born and baptised in the parish, but he lived his entire life in Chilswell Road (*now in St Matthew's parish*) and his funeral and burial took place at St Aldates Church, with his body laid to rest in the St Aldates section of Osney Cemetery, yet despite all this it appears that his name was not considered for inclusion on the St Aldates Memorial, possibly because he had died after the war had ended, and also possibly because he had died of illness at a Military Hospital in London.

Born as Arthur George Phipps on Monday 4 December 1899, Arthur was born at 50 Chilswell Road in Grandpont the only son of Arthur and Annie Phipps, and it was soon after the turn of the new century that young Arthur was taken to St Aldates for his baptism, which took place on Sunday 4 February 1900. His parents had married at St Matthew's Church in Grandpont on 31 March 1894, although only one of them was born in Oxford, with his father Arthur Phipps Snr born at Blackfriars Road in St Ebbes, circa 1868. Annie Phipps appears to have originated from much further a-field, when she was born as Annie Putt, the daughter of a shoe-maker in the London borough of Islington on Thursday 20 June 1867.

Arthur Phipps would have been educated in the local area, possibly at St Matthew Infants, followed by either St Aldates School, or the recently opened South Oxford Council Schools in Thames Street. In-fact Arthur was described as '*at school*' on the 1911 census, by which time the Phipps family had moved to 86 Chilswell Road, and his parents are recorded as Arthur Phipps, a forty-three year-old bricklayer from Oxford, and his wife Annie Phipps aged forty-four, who came from Hornsey Rise (*Islington*) in London. Shortly after the census was taken, young Arthur suffered the death of his father who had passed-away early in September 1911 with his funeral held at St Aldates Church on 6 September followed his internment at Osney.

Unfortunately very little is known about the life of Arthur Phipps as few records survive, and even the news of his untimely death was not reported in the local newspapers. Despite the fact that Arthur's service records were later destroyed in an enemy bombing raid of the Second World War; due to his age it's probably fair to assume that Arthur had been conscripted towards the end of the war, when he was attached to the Royal Warwickshire Regiment with the rank of private, and the service No 260385. It's unlikely that Arthur Phipps had served much longer than twelve months with the Warwickshire Regiment, yet during that period he must have seen at least some overseas service, as shortly after his death, Arthur was posthumously awarded the British War and the Victory Medals for his military service.

Taken to a Military Hospital at Endell Street (*close to Covent Garden*) in London suffering the effects of the *Spanish Flu epidemic* which had been sweeping throughout Western Europe, Arthur died on 12 April 1919 and after his untimely death, his body was almost immediately returned home to Oxford, where after a funeral service held at St Aldates Church on Thursday 17 April 1919, his body was later interred at the Osney (*St Mary*) Cemetery in Oxford.

CWGC Details.

Phipps, Arthur George,
Depot, Royal Warwickshire Regiment,
Rank, - Private, Service No, - 260385.
Date of Death, - 12/4/1919, Aged, - 19.
Memorial, Buried, Oxford (*Osney St Mary*) Cemetery.

Medal Entitlement.

R-Warwick Reg, Pte, 260385,
Medals awarded, Victory Medal,
British War Medal.
Date of Entry, None,
Remarks, None.

Although he wasn't to be commemorated on the St Aldates Memorial, Arthur's name was in-fact recorded on the War Memorial of St Matthew's Church in Grandpont.