

Robert Algernon Brewis

SERVICE

Private

Army Service Corps MT (2) attached to the 221st Army Troops Company Royal Engineers
Motor Transport Driver
130136

Enlisted with the Army Service Corps at Asterly Park in October 1915 aged 25 years old. His service record notes that he was deemed 'fit for service in the field, at home and abroad', but was 'not suitable for infantry'. He therefore enlisted for training as a mechanical transport driver, and passed his motor learners test in December 1915. He is listed as having served as a motor lorry driver.

His address on enlistment was given as Rose Cottage, Ballygraney, Newtownards.

Home	8 October 1915 – 19 January 1916
France with 221 st ATC	20 January 1916 – 21 August 1918
Home	22 August 1918 – 28 September 1918

He was admitted to hospital on 7 July 1918 and sent back to England on 21 August 1918. With 2 years and 356 days service he was discharged as 'no longer physically fit for service' on 28 September 1918. He is recorded as having tuberculosis of the lung. His address on discharge was 25 Cheviot Avenue.

He died just over a year later, on 8 November 1919 in Whiteabbey Sanitorium. The cause of death was tubercular hemorrhage. He was 29 years old.

His 28 year old widow Caroline was paid a widow's pension from 12 November 1919, receiving 36s 8d for herself and her young child Muriel.

FAMILY

Robert's parents were Robert Brewis and Isabella Greenup. The family came from England, and the 1891 census shows that they previously lived in Byker, Newcastle Upon Tyne, where Robert Algernon is listed as a one year old.

Robert senior was a cabinetmaker, and his son Robert would follow his career path.

Robert and Isabella stated that they had 6 children of which 4 were alive in 1911. They were all born in Newcastle.

Margaret Isabella L	born 1878
Reginald H	born 1881
Lilian Adelaide S	born 1882
Macolm Nugent	born 1886
Robert Algernon	born 1890
Ernest James	born 1891

The youngest child Ernest James Brewis is buried in public ground at the City cemetery. He died on 16 June 1897 aged 5 and his address is given as 83 Bright Street.

In 1901, the Brewis family (except Margaret) are living at 83 Bright Street, off the Albertbridge Road.

On the 1911 census, the family home is in Gawn Street, off the Newtownards Road. By this time Robert was the only one of the children still at home with his parents.

On 1 April 1901 Lilian had married John Gowdy in Willowfield Church of Ireland. Lilian died on 2 April 1907 aged only 25 years old. Her husband then remarried to her sister Margaret on 29 August the same year.

Malcolm married Ethel Rhynehart on 21 April 1907 in St Clements Church of Ireland, less than three weeks after the death of his sister. His brother Robert acted as a witness. Malcolm and Ethel had three children, Lilian Isabella and Margaret Lara born in 1909 and Annabella born in 1912.

Reginald married Elizabeth Yaw on 22 December 1908 in St Patrick's, Ballymacarrett.

Aged 23 Robert Algernon Brewis was married in St Mark's Dundela on 14 July 1913 to Caroline Anna Moore and his address given as 7 Clara Crescent. His daughter Muriel was born 14 January 1914 and was baptised at St Mark's.

Robert's brother, Malcolm Nugent Brewis briefly enlisted with the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers (S/N 13724). A rivetter from 21 Frome Street, he enlisted on 24 September 1914, but was discharged as medically unfit with only 35 days service on 28 October 1914. His address at this stage was 37 Chadolly Street, off the Newtownards Road. He died on 1 April 1917 from Pulmonary Tuberculosis. His wife Ethel was pregnant with their fourth daughter when he died. Violet Wood Brewis was born in January 1918 but didn't make it to her first birthday, dying on 20 November 1918. Ethel remarried on 1 October 1921 to George Hume. Ethel lived until she was 87 years old, dying on 7 November 1976 (address 21 Abbey Place, Holywood).

Robert Algernon Brewis is buried in Dundonald Cemetery with his mother Isabella who died on 9 December 1926 aged 74 years (address 104 Montrose Street).

Malcolm Nugent Brewis is buried in Dundonald Cemetery with his baby daughter Violet.

Reginald Brewis died in January 1940 (address 104 Montrose Street) and is buried in Dundonald Cemetery with his sister Lilian Adelaide, sister in law Ethel Alice Hume and her second husband George.

Family member: Dan Schaefer – First cousin twice removed lives in Canada. Robert Algernon's mother Isabella was his great grandfather's sister. It is possible to trace Robert Algernon's Brewis's family line back to circa 1660.

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