



Frederick Edwin Cope

37 Bromley Street

Frederick Cope was born in 1886, and lived on Kedleston Road in his early years (now 6 Broadway). He was the only son of Edwin and Ellen Cope. He and his mother moved to 37 Bromley Street shortly after his father died in 1908. Frederick was in the printing trade most of his working life, starting off as an apprentice at Messrs. Bemrose Ltd where his father was stationery manager. He then joined the firm of Sir Joseph Canston in London until the war.

Cope signed up in February 1916 'for the duration of the war'. By this time he was 34 and an existing medical condition meant that he was listed as B1 –not fit enough for front line fighting. He was on active duty from May 1916 as a gunner in the Royal Garrison Artillery, and was posted to Great Yarmouth, the East Yorkshire coast and then to Rock Perch Battery, Liverpool.



Rock Perch Battery which was built to defend the Port of Liverpool in the early 1800s (Photo by Brooke, John Warwick, via Wikimedia Commons)

In July 1918 he was transferred to an AA ("Anti-Aircraft") Section of the Royal

Garrison Artillery responsible for shooting down enemy aircraft, and was posted abroad, probably to France. A Section comprised of 43 men split into two gun detachments.



Lorry mounted 13-pounder anti-aircraft gun of No.11 Anti-Aircraft Section, Royal Garrison Artillery, ready for action, 1915. © IWM (HU 108149)

The AA was more of a deterrent than an effective weapon against enemy aircraft – they were using guns that had not been designed for the purpose of hitting a fast moving object.

He was demobilised and returned to civilian life in March 1919 and he joined Messrs. Rippin's Books Ltd (printers). Frederick married Agnes Rodgers in 1921 and they had two daughters - Barbara (born 1922) and Freda (born 1930). He was a keen stamp collector and member of the Derby Philatelic Society. Also an accomplished pianist, he wrote a waltz called 'Souvenirs' which was published. He continued to live at 37 Bromley Street until his death in September 1938.