



# Ernest William Hallam

**48, 49 & 57 Statham Street; also 58 Park Grove**

Ernest Hallam was teaching at St Paul's School, Chester Green, when war was declared. He had married Alice Fisher in 1905 from his parents' house at 58 Park Grove. Alice and Ernest had two children – John, born in 1908, and Edna born in 1912. From about 1906 to 1914 the family lived at 57 Statham St. Then they moved to number 48 before moving to 49 Statham St. by the end of the war, probably indicating they rented rather than owned their home.



An 8-inch Mk V howitzer in action near Hénin-sur-Cojeul, 27 May 1917. The usual armaments were 6 inch, 8 inch and 9.2 inch howitzers, although there were some huge railway- or road-mounted 12 inch howitzers. ©IWM Q2265



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Ernest was aged 38 when conscription for married men aged between 18 and 41 was introduced in May 1916.

Ernest served with the Royal Garrison Artillery 181 Siege Battery which first went to France on 12 October 1916.

Siege Batteries were equipped with heavy howitzers, sending large calibre high explosive shells over enemy lines. As artillery tactics developed, the Siege Batteries were most often used to destroy or neutralise the enemy artillery, as well as bombarding ammunition dumps, stores, roads and railways behind enemy lines.

Ernest was demobilised in late 1918, returning to 49 Statham Street and teaching. He remained at St Paul's School for the rest of his career, and was appointed headmaster in 1923, retiring in 1932. By the 1930s Alice and Ernest were living at 58 Park Grove which had been his parents' house. The couple moved to Wisbech in Cambridgeshire in the mid 1950s to be near their son, and Ernest died there in December 1960.

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## continued

Ernest's grand-daughter has kindly provided us with more photographs of him. She visited the Six Streets Arts Trail in June 2015 to revisit where her grandparents and father lived. While she was visiting we were able to put her in touch with Little Chester Local History Group who have collected a number of photographs relating to the school where Ernest taught.

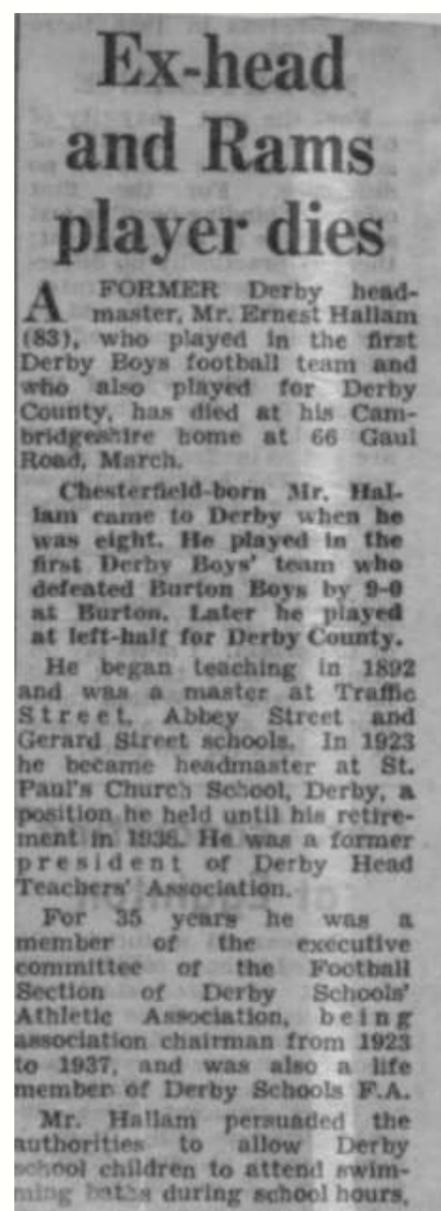


**Top right:** photograph of Ernest believed to have been taken in 1923 when he became headmaster.



**Above:** Ernest and Alice attending a garden party – date unknown, 1920s-1930s.

**Below:** Alice and Ernest in the back garden of their house on Park Grove, summer 1955. The brick wall and blue brick path typical of many houses in the area can be clearly seen.



**Below right:** Ernest's obituary from a local newspaper which gives an insight into his sporting interests.