



Nicholas Alan (Randal) Taylor

21 Park Grove

Nicholas , or Alan as he seems to have been known, was the son of Ethel Taylor, a nurse. Born in July 1896 it would appear from his birth certificate that his parents were not married and by the 1901 census he is listed as the adopted son of his grandparents, Samuel and Sarah Taylor. In the past this was not an uncommon step to mask a child's illegitimate status.

By 1907 Samuel, a railway signalman, was living at 21 Park Grove with his family – the first people to live in the newly built house.

Alan volunteered for military service at the outbreak for war aged just 18 years old - his service dates from 2 September 1914. He was drafted with the Royal Dublin Fusiliers. Because we don't have his full military record we don't know where he served. Some battalions served in Gallipoli and Egypt, others in France or on the home front. Alan certainly did not serve abroad in 1914 or 1915 because he did not receive the 1914 or 1914-15 star – a medal only awarded to those on active service overseas. Theoretically men had to be 19 years of age to serve abroad.

In February 1917 Alan was wounded and it may have been after he recovered that he was transferred to the 4th Company of Hussars. This regiment had a home base at the Curragh in Ireland but spent the whole war on the Western Front. Although the Hussars were ostensibly a cavalry regiment,

many of the men associated with such regiments actually served with infantry or other corps. The Curragh Camp in Kildare, about 25 miles south-west of Dublin, was a massive army camp used for training troops: by October 1914 about 14,000 men were camped there for training.

On 7 March 1919 Alan was discharged from the army as "surplus to military requirements (having suffered impairment since entry into the service)". This discharge entitled him to wear the Silver War Badge. By this date he was a lance corporal.

Alan returned to Park Grove and his pre-war job in the accountant's department of the Midland Railway. He seems to have enjoyed playing tennis – a partner at tennis was HKW Allen from Bromley Street, and Alan became engaged to Miss B Gelsthorpe.

Sadly on 3 August 1922, aged just 26, he died at the Derby Royal Infirmary after an illness of several weeks with the cause of death given as Pneumonia and Pulmonary thrombosis (a blood clot blocking an artery of the lungs).

Alan is buried at Nottingham Road cemetery. His funeral was attended by ex-servicemen from the Midland Railway with military comrades from the Curragh paying their respects alongside family, friends and neighbours.