

This extract is taken from an article ‘*A Remarkable Coincidence*’ by Philippa McCray which appeared in the spring 2011 issue of Caveman.

Born on the 2nd July 1876 to Samuel James Cave and Alice Helena (nee New), [Ernest Mulgrave Cave](#) was baptised at St. Mary’s Church in the Parish of St. Marylebone, Middlesex, the eldest of eight children, two of whom died in infancy. His brother [John Walter](#) (also commemorated on the plaque) being fourteen years his junior. At the time of Ernest’s baptism his father Samuel was a Riding Master, but he appears to have had other occupations throughout his life, including Billiard maker and Warden at HM Convict Prisons in Chatham and Dartmoor! Whilst unsubstantiated his occupation was recorded as ‘Late’ Soldier RHA (Royal Horse Artillery) on his daughter Helena Harriett’s marriage certificate. This would link to his occupation as Riding Master and might account for Ernest serving with the RHA during his service.

At the age of 18 years and four months, (June 1894) Ernest enlisted in the Army; he was a printer by trade. He joined the Royal Artillery and from the physical description recorded at his Primary Military Examination we know he was dark haired, with a dark complexion and hazel eyes. Just over 5’ 7” tall, he weighed 128 lbs. He bore a scar on his wrist and back of his left hand and had moles on the back of his neck and on his left ribs!

Ernest had a successful army career, being promoted to Sergeant by the time of his discharge which was at his own request. He fought in the Boer War and was awarded the South Africa medal with clasps.

Whilst serving he married Annie Cullen on 12th October 1899 and the couple had four children, Ernest (1900), Alice (1902), William Edward Mulgrave (1905) and Vera Kathleen (1907).

On leaving the army he was said to be accustomed to the care of horses and could ride as well as drive and was of very good character.

Civilian life was comparatively short lived, having been discharged from the regular army for just four years, he rejoined in July 1916. His entry in the National Roll of the Great War 1914-1918 states:

“He rejoined in July 1916, after having previously served for twenty one years and in the same year was drafted to the Western Front where he took part in many important engagements. Later he was sent to India, where he died from heart failure on August 6th 1918. He was entitled to the General Service and Victory Medals. 42 Fordingley Road, Maida Vale W9”.

Ernest’s brother **John Walter Cave** was killed on 25th February 1917.

John was serving with the Cameronians (Scottish Rifles) and left a widow Harriet Helen (nee Moyne) his wife of less than one year.