



	Name:	<b>Capt. Mowbray BESSELL 10th (S), Queen's (Royal West Surrey)</b>	
Age			
	Parents:	<b>Frank BESSELL</b> (born about 1847 in Chertsey, SRY, ENG - died in 1919 in Wandsworth, LDN, ENG) and <b>Laura WILMSHURST</b> (born about 1853 in Birmingham, WAR, ENG - died in 1936 in Gosport, HAM, ENG)	
39	<b>Life Range</b>	<b>23 Sep 1876- 15 Sep 1916</b>	
~-29	<b>Abt 1847</b>	<b>Birth of Father:</b>	Frank BESSELL (born about 1847 in Chertsey, SRY, ENG - died in 1919 in Wandsworth, LDN, ENG). In Chertsey, SRY, ENG.
~-23	<b>Abt 1853</b>	<b>Birth of Mother:</b>	Laura WILMSHURST (born about 1853 in Birmingham, WAR, ENG - died in 1936 in Gosport, HAM, ENG). In Birmingham, WAR, ENG.
-0	<b>Abt 1876</b>	<b>Birth of Spouse:</b>	Evelyn MERMAN (born about 1876 in Melbourne, VIC, AUS - died 24 Dec 1949 in Hove, SSX, ENG).
0	<b>23 Sep 1876</b>	<b>Birth:</b>	Kingston, SRY, ENG.
15	<b>1891</b>	<b>Census:</b>	Kingston, SRY, ENG. At 92 Kings Road: Frank Bessell, 44, Clerk, born Chertsy, Surrey Laura Bessell, 38, born Birmingham Frank L. Bessell, 15, Scholar, born Kingston <b>Mowbray Bessell</b> , 14, Scholar, born Kingston Winifred Bessell, 13, Scholar, born Kingston John H. Bessell, 8, Scholar, born Kingston Phillip Bessell, 5, Scholar, born Kingston Ludlow Hounsell, 21, Visitor, Commission Agent, born Catford Bridge, Kent (Plus one servant) [Class: RG12; Piece: 611; Folio 10; Page 19-20; GSU roll: 6095721]
25	<b>1901</b>	<b>Census:</b>	Great Bookham, SRY, ENG. Age 24, Clerk in Stock Exchange, a boarder at a residence in Flushings. [RG13 piece 586 folio 120 page 19]
34	<b>1910</b>	<b>Marriage:</b>	Evelyn MERMAN (born about 1876 in Melbourne, VIC, AUS - died 24 Dec 1949 in Hove, SSX, ENG). In Kingston, SRY, ENG.
35	<b>1911</b>	<b>Census:</b>	Thames Ditton. At Wentworth Kings Drive: John Hulme BESSELL, 28, Stock Exchange Clerk, born Kingston Janet Cunninham Bessell, wife, 29, born Selkirk, Scotland Mowbray Bessell, brother, 34, born Kingston Evelyn Bessell, brother's wife, 35, born Melbourne, Australia (Plus one servant) [RG14PN3553 RG78PN133 RD40 SD4 ED5 SN71]
39	<b>5 May 1916</b>	<b>Overseas:</b>	
39	<b>15 Sep 1916</b>	<b>Death:</b>	France.
		<b>Burial:</b>	Thiepval Memorial.
		<b>Personal File:</b>	339/20470.
		<b>Siblings:</b>	<b>Frank Lighthipe Bessell</b> (died 1966, Hove) Commissioner Chinese Customs. Married 1907 Paddington Edith Mary Moylan. One child a son Mowbray John (Kings African Rifles & Civil

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Service Uganda Administration) born 14 May 1909 China (?), married 1940/41 Margaret Rosemary Hall, daughter of Commander Hall, RN.

**Winifred Bessell**

Married Albion Percy Alderson (Organist, Dr of Music); a son Roderick Garry born abt 1900; Philip Armes born 1908; Winifred Joan born 1911 (age under 1 month in 1911 - occupation says "suffragist"); her father (Journalist) was living with them at Kingston on Thames in 1901.

**From "Who's Who in Music" 1913:**

ALDERSON, Albion Percy, organist, conductor and teacher of music ; b. Newcastle-on-Tyne, 1871 ; s. of the late Thomas Albion Alderson, organist at St. Andrew's Parish Church, New- castle-on-Tyne, 1867 to 1902 ; m., June, 1899, Winifred Bessell ; e. Newcastle Modern School under Dr. Ehrlich ; first prepared for the musical profession by his father and afterwards with Dr. Armes at Durham Cathedral ; from 1899 to 1903 was at the R.C.M. under Franklin Taylor, Sir Walter Parratt and Sir Hubert Parry ; ap- pointed in 1893 organist and choir- master of Parish Church, Kingston-on- Thames, where he also conducts a choral and a Madrigal Society ; gained A.R.C.M. 1903 ; degree of Mus.Bac. Dunelm, 1892 ; Mus. Doc. 1897 ; was the first Mus. Doc. of Durham by examination ; winner of Madrigal Society's medal and Molyneux Prize for five-part Madrigal " Love in Absence," 1906 ; Hon. Examiner for Scholarships, R.C.M., 1904 ; Examiner hi Music, Durham University, 1908-10. Address : " Warkworth," Knight's Park, Kingston-on-Thames.

**John Hulme Bessell, MC, T/Sub-Lt RNVR (died 1957 Western Australia - was in WA by 1936)**

Living with his mother at Kingston on Thames in 1901; married Janet Cunningham Hall; son John Hall born 1911; twins Margaret L. & Winifred L. born 1912 (both died in infancy); son Philip Mowbray Frank (Pte WX7639 2/3 MG Battalion AIF) born 1915, died 30 April 1942 Java (as a Japanese POW) **Son of John Hulme Bessell and Janet Cummingham Bessell, of Margaret River, Western Australia.**

**Philip Bessell, 2/Lt Queens Royal West Surrey**

Living with his mother at Kingston on Thames in 1901; married June 1911 Elsie Clara Whitewood; a son Philip born 1911; Rex born 1918; Eric born 1920; Valerie born 1921.

**Father's Status:** Living (died 1919).

**Father's Occupation:** Journalist/Commission Agent.

**Probate:** £25. To his widow.

**Probate:** Father. Not found. His mother died in 1936 leaving an estate of £677.

**General Notes:**

His parents were living apart from at least 1901. In 1911 his mother Laura was living at 33 Grange Road, Kingston on Thames, age 58, "Supported by Son" and gave her occupation as "suffragist".

From <http://www.roll-of-honour.com/London/StockExchange.html>

Captain, 10th Battalion, The Queen's (Royal West Surrey Regiment). Killed in action between 15th and 17th September 1916. No known grave. Commemorated on THIEPVAL MEMORIAL, Somme, France. Pier and Face 5 D and 6 D. Member of the Exchange.

**Extract from the Stock Exchange Memorial Book:**

**CAPTAIN MOWBRAY BESSELL**, The Queen's (Royal West Surrey) Regiment, was born on 23 September 1876. He became a member of the Stock Exchange in 1902. A keen supporter of the Volunteer movement, he was for many years a captain in the 3rd Volunteer Battalion, Royal Fusiliers.

On the outbreak of war he applied for a commission and was gazetted Lieutenant in the East Surrey Regiment, being promoted Captain on 1 January 1915 and transferred to The Queen's Regiment.

He was one of the many victims of the battle of the Somme, being killed in Manion on 15 September 1916 at Flers.

His Colonel wrote: "You know how much we all loved him, and personally I feel I have lost a real and dear friend; never

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was there a more loyal and hardworking officer. I can't tell you what I and all the Regiment owe him. He loved his Company and was always working for them, and it was through him that they were able to do what they did last Friday, and go through everything with the greatest dash and in a manner unsurpassed by any Regiment in the British Army." Captain Bessell was married, and resided at Indian Farm, Effingham, Surrey.

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There is someone with a research interest in this family on Ancestry.

From <http://trees.ancestry.co.uk/tree/22415043/person/1235218343>

A captain in East Surrey and was killed in France (Somme), 1915. He married a wealthy Australian widow named Evelyn Bauman. She had a daughter from her 1<sup>st</sup> marriage. Mowbray rented a farm at Etherton from the Earl of Effingham. He spent great amounts of money on the S.E.C and race horses. He never got his money back. He had no children of his own so when he died his widow, Evelyn, went to Paris to live with a doctor. They never got married.

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#### **Suffragists & the 1911 Census**

The 1911 census hit a peak period for the Suffragette movement. The Women's Freedom League organized a boycott of the event as a peaceful protest. Charlotte Despard announced the plan saying: 'I am not going to tell whether I am a wife or a widow ...until I am a citizen'. In doing so, supporters of the cause risked prosecution and a hefty £5 fine. As a result, many Suffragettes and their male supporters avoided the enumerators by holding open air meetings in large towns and attending all night parties and some went ice-skating! Others left their forms blank or defaced their schedules with posters and slogans, or gave 'Suffragist' as their occupation: 'Votes for Women', 'No Votes for Women- No Census'. Their protest was mentioned in the Times the next morning but the true extent of the action was not known, and the numbers of those who abstained remained undiscovered, although several thousand are estimated.

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