

## Account of the last days of Alfred Erlebach, as recorded in the diary of his brother Eustace in 1899

Eustace Erlebach was also brother to H. Arthur (known to the family as Art) and was Vivian Erlebach's grandfather.

Items in square brackets [.....] are the Editor's insertions.

After that good time, Eustace had some bad news. On Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> September 1899 he "called on Alf who is unwell at 23 Highbury Hill - glands swollen - Art comes to see Alf at H. H. then comes to us to sleep" And the next day, "Art returns to Kent [Birchington]". On Sunday "Wood told me Alf's condition, he had learnt from Harold Barnard, was very serious - in the evening, whilst others went to St Paul's Cathedral - I went to Dr Ironside - met him at Highbury Station - went to Camden Town in the same train - Dr. I aware of Alf's serious condition. "Next day" Wilfred and L. called to see Alf, who wants to go to Birch'n."

On Monday 18<sup>th</sup>, Mima with Cyril and self - cab to Holborn to see Wilfred and Donald off to Düsseldorf - went in good spirits." When in afternoon saw Cyril off from Holborn - Art & Annie [his wife] there - Doctor at Margate, only gives Alf 7 weeks more to live!!" On Monday 25<sup>th</sup> [September] there was a "letter from Annie by last post - Alf keeping about the same (Tuesday) "Wood [another brother, Woodland] goes to Birch'n to see Alf, who seems to be getting worse." (Wednesday) "Tgm: from Art that Alf easier - 10.40 Holborn to Birch'n - went at once to School - saw Alf in bed - Mary (their sister) had come by previous train - Alf able to join in conversation - 6.4 Birch'n to St Paul's - Cyril saw me off"

"(Friday) Mima goes to Birch'n by 10.40" "(Saturday) Telegram from Cyril - Mima returns from Birch'n - not expecting this - had written to her." She went again on the 5<sup>th</sup> of October, then Saturday the 7<sup>th</sup>. "Telephone by Arthur from Westgate at 7.40 to say Alf had passed away at 3.30. Present, Mary (Collard) Art & Annie, also Mima - Asked me to go to Clifton Hill - went to Wood at 8 o'clock. 8.40 **Clanclub** to office - left 9.40 for Marlboro' Road, called at 36 Clifton Hill to tell Lizzie, also Tottie - back at office - then wrote Wilfred also Con - P-Card to Nettie Young. Cab to Holborn - lunch then 12.30 to Birch'n - arrived about 3. Had to settle regarding funeral etc - Wood already there - Wood, Mima and self left for the City at 9.45 to arrange insertion of Advert in Times tomorrow and Tuesday."

Finally on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> [October] Eustace caught "10.57 from London Bridge to Wandsworth Common - Funeral of my brother Alf'd - Revd. Griffith Jones also Rev. King - Art arrived with Elsie and Edith - Wood & Millie & Mima present also all the Collards - left house at 12.30 - cemetery arrived 12.30 - F/ Adams there, also Will Bolton - Dr Weymouth & others - came back to dinner at Mary's - Will read - nearly everything left to Art & Annie, which is just as Mima and I wished it to be."