

Frederick Arthur Lane

Sapper 1022 Port Operating Coy., Royal Engineers

Service number 14366288

Died on 16 December 1944 Age 20

Son of Albert William and Florence May Lane, of Gedling, Nottinghamshire

Remembered with Honour Schoonselhof Cemetery

Inscription 'He gave the greatest gift of all, his own unfinished life; Mam and Dad'

<https://www.cwgc.org/find-war-dead/casualty/2255561/lane,-frederick-arthur/>

Frederick was the fifth child of Albert (born 6 April 1893) and Florence May (nee Oakland born 29 April 1892) married in 1913 registered in Basford R. D. In the September quarter.

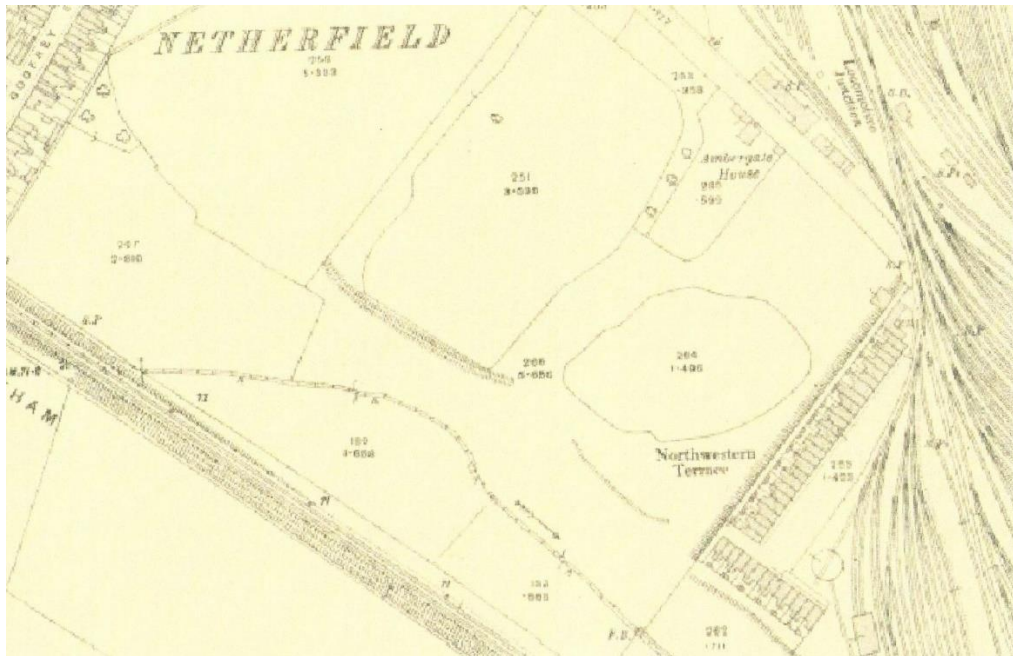
They had 6 children

- Wilfred A - Birth registered in Basford RD in December quarter 1913
- Gladys M - Birth registered in Basford RD in June quarter of 1916
- Albert Birth - Born 24 November 1919, registered in Basford RD.
- Margaret I - Birth registered in Basford RD in December quarter 1921
- Frederick A - Birth registered in Basford RD in March quarter 1924
- Eric - Birth registered in Basford RD in March quarter 1929



London and North
Western Terrace
Netherfield.

When Frederick was born the family were living at 18, London and North Western Terrace Netherfield



1914
Ordnance
Survey Map

Around 1937 the Lane family moved to live on Linden Grove, Gedling. Frederick attended Chandos Street School and was then employed as a joiner for Mr T. J. Walker a local builder, before employment as a telegraph clerk at Nottingham Victoria Railway station.

On the 1939 Register his parents are living on Linden Grove Gedling.

Albert William is a Locomotive Driver, and son Albert is a Loco Apprentice Fitter.

Frederick Arthur was called up on December 4th 1942 aged 18. The first 18 months were spent training in England but on June 6th (D Day) he crossed with his regiment to France, The landings were difficult and he would have encountered fierce fighting Frederick was in the 1022 Port Operating Company, responsible for the construction, maintenance, and operation of ports so that the flow of men vehicles and supplies were maintained. One of the great achievements of the RE's were the construction and operation of the Mulberry Harbour to support the Battle of Normandy 1944.

Frederick Lane was killed six months later, on 16 December 1944 as the Allies were working their way through Holland to Germany. He is buried in the Schoonselhof Cemetery near Antwerp which has 1.455 second world war memorials. Antwerp was liberated by the Allies on 4th September 1944 but there continued to be German resistance and it took some weeks before the approaches from the North Sea were cleared.

His memorial is in the Schoonselhof Cemetery near Antwerp. For information and photographs please see the website.

<https://www.findagrave.com/cemetery/639528/antwerpen-schoonselhof-communal-cemetery>

South Notts Echo

13 January 1945

KILLED IN ACTION

Commanding Officer's Sympathetic Letter To Gedling Parents

"It is with profound regret I have to inform you of the death of your son, who was killed in action in Western Europe. There is little I can say to comfort you in your sad bereavement, but may I convey a personal expression of sympathy concerning the loss of one very dear to you.

"Your son died in the service of his King and country. His unit, corps and country may well be proud of him. If there is anything in which you think I may be able to advise you, do not hesitate to write me. Enclosed please find an official notification of this casualty."

The above is the substance of a letter which Mrs. A. Lane, of Linden Grove, Gedling, discovered in her letter-box one morning. It was written by the Officer of Records. The official notification merely stated that her son, Sapper Frederick Arthur Lane, was killed in action in Western Europe on December 16, 1944.

Did Not Suffer

Later a letter was received from Major L. S. Beck, the officer in command of their son's regiment.

Major Beck wrote:—"You will have learned by this time that your son, Sapper F. A. Lane, has been killed by enemy action. I would, however, like you to know that he did not suffer in any way, as his death was instantaneous. May I tender, on behalf of myself and of the personnel of the company, deepest sympathy and condolence to you in your bereavement. His loss, too, will be keenly felt by his comrades. Your son has been with this company for quite a long time, and was most highly thought of by his colleagues and officers at all times. He will be remembered as a good friend and soldier."

Sapper Lane was called up on December 4, 1942, so that his Army career lasted only a few days over two years. The first eighteen months were spent in Great Britain, but on that memorable June 6 he crossed with his regiment to France; but despite the fact that the first landings were hard going, and Sapper Lane saw fierce fighting at that time, yet he won through, and it was not until six months later, when the Allies had made steady progress towards Germany, that he met his end, at the age of 20.

Fred was born at L.N.W.-terrace, Netherfield, but had lived at Gedling since 1937. He attended the Chandos-street Schools, and on leaving worked for a time as a joiner for Mr. T. J. Walker, a local builder. Later, however, he was employed as a telegraph clerk in the Nottingham Victoria Station telegraph office.

Brother A Prisoner

The third son of Mr. and Mrs. A. Lane, Fred had one older brother also in the Forces. He is P./O. Albert Lane, of the Royal Navy, who is a prisoner of war in Germany. Joining the senior service in October, 1939, Albert was captured when his ship, H.M.S. Hereward, was sunk off Crete. He was held in Italy until the Italians capitulated, and was then transferred to Germany. His parents hear from him regularly, however, and he appears to be in good health and spirits.

Another brother (Wilfred) is employed on the railway in Herts. His father also works on the L.N.E.R., being stationed at Colwick.

The youngest of four brothers, Eric is 15, and is a clerk at the L.N.E.R. Goods Office, Queens-walk, Nottingham.

The two married daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Lane, Mrs. M. Cherry and Mrs. M. Davey, are living together in Curzon-street, Netherfield, as their husbands are serving in the R.A.F. and the Royal Navy respectively.